

hatchery operations rearing and releasing Chinook salmon, coho salmon, and chum salmon in the Stillaguamish River basin, Washington. The four plans are submitted pursuant to the Section 4(d), Limit 6. The plans describe programs operated by the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians (STI). This document serves to notify the public of the availability and opportunity to comment on a draft Environmental Assessment and proposed evaluation and pending determination (PEPD) on the proposed Hatchery and Genetic Management Plans (HGMPs).

**DATES:** Comments must be received at the appropriate address (see **ADDRESSES**) no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on July 29, 2019. Comments received after this date may not be considered.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the draft Environmental Assessment or PEPD should be addressed to Alan Olson; NMFS, West Coast Region; 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 107; Lacey, WA 98503. Comments may be submitted by email. The mailbox address for providing email comments is [hatcheries.public.comment@noaa.gov](mailto:hatcheries.public.comment@noaa.gov). Include in the subject line of the email comment the following identifier: Comments on Stillaguamish River hatchery programs. The documents can be found at [www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/](http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Alan Olson, at phone number: (360) 753-4062, or via email: [alan.olson@noaa.gov](mailto:alan.olson@noaa.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Puget Sound Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated
- Puget Sound Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated

#### Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term “take” is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The ESA prohibits the take of endangered salmonids and, pursuant to ESA section 4(d), ESA regulations can be extended to prohibit the take of threatened salmonids. However, NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions for hatchery programs that are approved by NMFS under the limits on the

prohibitions outlined in 50 CFR 223.203(b). STI and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (collectively the co-managers) have submitted HGMPs to NMFS pursuant to the ESA 4(d) Rule for salmon and steelhead.

The hatchery programs are intended to contribute to the survival and recovery of Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, provide information on exploitation rates, and support returns of coho salmon and chum salmon to the Stillaguamish River basin.

#### Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as he deems necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. Limit 6 of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)(6)) further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the updated 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(a)) do not apply to activities described in a joint management plan provided that it has been approved by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000, as updated in 70 FR 37160, June 28, 2005).

Dated: June 7, 2019.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XH073**

#### Caribbean Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of a public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Caribbean Fishery Management Council’s (Council) Outreach and Education Advisory Panel (OEAP) will hold a 2-day meeting in August to discuss the items contained in

the agenda in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The meetings will be held on August 7, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on August 8, 2019, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the CFMC Headquarters, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-1903, telephone: (787) 766-5926.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### August 07, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda
- OEAP Chairperson’s Report
- Status of:
  - OEAP members meeting attendance
  - CFMC Report 165th Regular Meeting
  - USVI activities
  - Island-Based Fisheries Management Plans (IBFMPs)
  - Fishery Ecosystem Plan (FEP)
    - Stakeholders engagement
    - Ecosystem Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Work Group
  - Outreach & Education initiatives for fishers and consumers
  - Responsible Seafood Consumption Campaign
  - Posters and placemats

##### August 08, 2019, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

- 2020 Calendar
- Marine Fisheries Ecosystem Book
- CFMC Facebook and YouTube communications with Stakeholders
- PEPD
- Other Business

The order of business may be adjusted as necessary to accommodate the completion of agenda items. The meeting will begin on August 7, 2019 at 10 a.m. and will end on August 8, 2019 at 4 p.m. Other than the start time, interested parties should be aware that discussions may start earlier or later than indicated. In addition, the meeting may be extended from, or completed prior to the date established in this notice.

#### Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. For more information or request for sign language interpretation and other auxiliary aids, please contact Mr. Miguel A. Rolón, Executive Director, Caribbean Fishery Management Council, 270 Muñoz Rivera Avenue, Suite 401, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00918-1903,

telephone: (787) 766-5926, at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

Dated: June 25, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XH075**

#### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Hearings

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) will hold 4 public hearings, including one webinar hearing, to solicit public comments on the Draft Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

**DATES:** Written public comments must be received on or before 11:59 p.m. EST, September 14, 2019. The public hearings will be held between August 1, 2019 and September 10, 2019. For specific dates and times, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The hearing document is accessible electronically via the internet at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment> or by request to Dr. Chris Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331.

**Meeting addresses:** The public hearings will be held in Cape May, NJ; Salisbury, MD; Warwick, RI. One additional hearing will be held by internet webinar. For specific locations, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**Public comments:** Written comments may be sent by any of the following methods:

- *Email to:* [jmontanez@mafmc.org](mailto:jmontanez@mafmc.org). Include "SCOQ Excessive Shares Amendment Comments" in the subject line.
- *Via web form at:* <http://www.mafmc.org/comments/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment>.
- *Mail to:* Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic

Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope "SCOQ Excessive Shares Amendment Comments."

- *Fax to:* (302) 674-5399.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is preparing an amendment to the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP, known as the "Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog Excessive Shares Amendment."

This amendment considers a variety of approaches to ensure that no individual, corporation, or other entity acquires an excessive share of the Atlantic surfclam and ocean quahog individual transferrable quota (ITQ) privileges. In addition, this action includes measures to revise the process for specifying multi-year management measures, require periodic review of the excessive share cap level, and allow adjustments to be made under the frameworkable provisions of the FMP. Lastly, this action may also revise the management objectives for the Atlantic Surfclam and Ocean Quahog FMP.

Additional information, including the amendment document are available at: <http://www.mafmc.org/actions/scoq-excessive-shares-amendment>.

The Council will hold 4 public hearings on this amendment, during which Council staff will brief the public on the contents of the amendment document and alternatives under consideration, prior to opening the hearing for public comments. The hearings schedule is as follows:

1. *Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.:* The Grand Hotel, 1045 Beach Avenue, Cape May, NJ 08204; telephone: (609) 884-5611.
2. *Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.:* Internet webinar. Connection information to be posted at [www.mafmc.org/council-events](http://www.mafmc.org/council-events) prior to the meeting.
3. *Monday, September 9, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.:* LaQuinta Inns & Suites, 300 S Salisbury Blvd., Salisbury, MD 21801; telephone: (410) 546-4400.
4. *Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.:* Radisson Hotel Providence Airport, 2081 Post Rd., Warwick, RI 02886; telephone: (401) 739-3000.

#### Special Accommodations

These hearings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language

interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to M. Jan Saunders at the Mid-Atlantic Council Office (302) 526-5251 at least 5 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: June 25, 2019.

**Tracey L. Thompson,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2019-13897 Filed 6-27-19; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648-XG612**

#### Takes of Marine Mammals Incidental to Specified Activities; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Site Characterization Surveys Off the Coast of North Carolina

**AGENCY:** National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice; issuance of an incidental harassment authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) as amended, notification is hereby given that we have issued an incidental harassment authorization (IHA) to Avangrid Renewables, LLC (Avangrid) to take small numbers of marine mammals, by harassment, incidental to high-resolution geophysical (HRG) survey investigations associated with marine site characterization activities off the coast of North Carolina in the area of the Commercial Lease of Submerged Lands for Renewable Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS-A 0508) (the Lease Area) and the coastal waters off North Carolina and Virginia where one or more cable route corridors will be established.

**DATES:** This authorization is effective from June 1, 2019, through May 31, 2020.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Rob Pauline, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, (301) 427-8401. Electronic copies of the application and supporting documents, as well as the issued IHA, may be obtained online at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/permit/incidental-take-authorizations-under-marine-mammal-protection-act>. In case of problems accessing these documents, please call the contact listed above.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**