

channel form and function efforts are not feasible.

Hydroelectric operations: Upper Columbia spring Chinook and steelhead migrate through four federally owned projects and three to five projects owned by PUDs. These projects are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Plan acknowledges that hydropower strategies and actions are being implemented, reviewed, and considered in several ongoing processes, including Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) EA section 7 consultations (for the lower four federal dams on the Columbia River), the AFAHCPs and relicensing agreements. The Plan's recommended actions are intended to be consistent with these processes. The Plan emphasizes continued implementation of the actions identified in the AFAHCPs, which adopted a standard of no net impact (NNI) on the Upper Columbia Spring Chinook Salmon ESU and steelhead DPS.

Harvest: Harvest objectives for treaty and non-treaty salmon and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia River Basin are set by the applicable state, tribal, and Federal agencies. Fishery objectives from McNary Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River (fishing zones 1–6) are established by state, tribal, and Federal parties in *U.S. v. Oregon*. While recognizing the role of the treaty and non-treaty co-managers, the Plan proposes that the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties incorporate Upper Columbia recovery goals when formulating fishery plans affecting Upper Columbia spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. The appropriate co-managers and fishery management agencies are also asked to work together with local stakeholders to develop tributary fisheries management goals and plans.

Hatcheries: The hatchery strategies and actions in the Plan are being reviewed and considered in several ongoing processes, including in the Chelan County and Douglas County Public Utility District AFAHCPs, the Grant County biological opinion, and *U.S. v. Oregon*. NMFS hopes the Plan's recommended goals and actions will be implemented through these ongoing processes. The Plan emphasizes that hatchery programs play an essential role in spring Chinook salmon and steelhead recovery. Among other measures, the Plan proposes that hatchery programs employ mechanisms to manage hatchery returns on spawning grounds in balance with naturally produced fish, while maintaining production levels identified in various agreements. It also proposes that, as the populations recover, hatchery programs should be modified

to minimize adverse impacts of hatchery fish on naturally produced fish.

Integration: The Plan states that recovery will depend on integrating actions that address habitat, harvest, and hydroelectric operations; moreover, it emphasizes that recovery actions must be implemented at both the ESU/DPS and the population scales.

Time and Cost Estimates

The ESA section 4(f)(1) requires that the recovery plan include "estimates of the time required and the cost to carry out those measures needed to achieve the Plan's goal and to achieve intermediate steps toward that goal" (16 U.S.C. 1533[f](1)). Currently, the plan provides an overall cost estimate of \$138 million, which represents the estimated cost of implementing the tributary actions for habitat, hatcheries, and research, monitoring, and evaluation, over 10 years.

Cost estimates for Columbia mainstem hydropower and estuary actions are included in two modules that NMFS developed because of the regional scope and applicability of the actions. These modules are incorporated into the Upper Columbia Plan by reference and are available on the NMFS Web site, www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/Other-Documents.cfm. The hydropower cost estimates will be updated over time, as the section 7 consultation on the remanded 2004 FCRPS BiOp is completed. The estuary recovery costs could be further refined following public comment on the ESA recovery plan for the three listed lower Columbia ESUs and one listed Lower Columbia steelhead DPS in 2007. There are virtually no estimated costs for recovery actions associated with harvest to report at this time. This is because no actions are currently proposed that go beyond those already being implemented through *U.S. v. Oregon* and other harvest management forums. In the event that additional harvest actions are implemented through these forums, those costs will be added during the implementation phase of this recovery plan. All cost estimates will be refined and updated over time.

The Plan states that if its recommended actions are implemented, recovery of the spring Chinook salmon ESU and the steelhead DPS is likely to occur within 10 to 30 years. The cost estimates cover capital projects and non-capital work projected to occur within the first 10-year period. NMFS supports the policy determination to include 30 years of implementation, with the proviso that before the end of the first 10-year implementation period,

specific actions and costs will be estimated for the subsequent years to achieve long-term goals and to proceed until a determination is made that listing is no longer necessary. NMFS agrees that a 10- to 30-year range is a reasonable period of time during which to implement and evaluate the actions identified in the Plan.

Conclusion

NMFS concludes that the Plan meets the requirements of ESA section 4(f) and thus is proposing it as an ESA recovery plan.

Copies of the **Federal Register** notices and related materials cited in this document are available on the internet at www.nwr.noaa.gov/Salmon-Recovery-Planning/ESA-Recovery-Plans/Draft-Plans.cfm.

NMFS solicits written comments on the proposed Plan. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to NMFS' decision whether to adopt the Plan. Additionally, NMFS will work with the UCSRB to provide a summary of the comments and responses through its regional Web site and provide a news release for the public announcing the availability of the response to comments. NMFS seeks comments particularly in the following areas: (1) The analysis of limiting factors and threats; (2) the recovery objectives, strategies, and actions; (3) the criteria for removing the ESU and DPS from the Federal list of endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; and (4) estimates of time and cost to implement recovery actions, including the intent to be even more specific by soliciting implementation schedules.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: November 20, 2006.

Jim Lecky,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 111606A]

General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission; Meeting Announcement

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a meeting, via teleconference, of the General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) in January 2007. Meeting topics are provided under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

DATES: The meeting will be held on January 18, 2007, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (or until business is concluded), Pacific time.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held via teleconference. Please notify Allison Rott prior to January 11, 2007, to receive dial in information and of your intent to participate in this teleconference.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Allison Rott at (562) 980-4019 or (562) 980-4030.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Tuna Conventions Act, as amended, the Department of State has appointed a General Advisory Committee to the United States Section to the IATTC. The U.S. Section consists of the four U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC and the representative of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries. The Advisory Committee supports the work of the U.S. Section in a solely advisory capacity with respect to U.S. participation in the work of the IATTC, with particular reference to the development of policies and negotiating positions pursued at meetings of the IATTC. NMFS, Southwest Region, administers the Advisory Committee in cooperation with the Department of State.

Meeting Topics

The General Advisory Committee will meet to receive and discuss information on: (1) 2006 and 2007 IATTC activities, (2) activities of the Commerce and State Departments and the Pacific Fishery Management Council and Western Pacific Fishery Management Council as they relate to the IATTC, including scientific developments, (3) upcoming meetings of the IATTC and its working groups, including issues such as: conservation and management measures for yellowfin, bigeye, and albacore tuna for 2007 and beyond, measures to be taken in cases of noncompliance with the IATTC's conservation and management measures, management of fishing capacity, financing the IATTC, and measures to address bycatch and other issues, (4) IATTC cooperation with other regional fishery management organizations, and (5) administrative

matters pertaining to the General Advisory Committee.

Special Accommodations

The meeting is via teleconference. Requests for special accommodations, issues, and needs should be directed to Allison Rott at (562) 980-4019 or (562) 980-4030 by January 2, 2007.

Dated: November 20 2006.

James P. Burgess,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Docket No. 060419105-6105-01]

Privacy Act of 1974; System of Records

AGENCY: Department of Commerce, NOAA.

ACTION: Notice of a new Privacy Act System of Records: COMMERCE/NOAA System-18; permits and registrations for fisheries in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon, and California and permits and registrations for vessels fishing outside of the EEZ (High Seas).

SUMMARY: This notice announces the Department of Commerce (Department's) proposal for a new system of records under the Privacy Act. NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region is creating a new system of records for permits and non-permit registrations is for use with a variety of fisheries management programs. NOAA Fisheries requires the use of permits or registrations by participants in certain fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon, and California and on the high seas outside of the EEZ. Applications for various permits and registrations are collected from individuals under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act. This new record system is necessary to identify participants in the fishery and to evaluate whether the applicants/participants meet the established requirements for such fishing privileges.

DATES: To be considered, written comments must be submitted on or before December 28, 2006. Unless comments are received, the new system of records will become effective as proposed on the date of publication of a subsequent notice in the **Federal Register**.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Frank Lockhart, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Bldg. #1, Seattle, WA 98115; Attn: Maryanne Nickerson.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kevin Ford, 206-526-6115.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region is creating a new system of records for permit and non-permit registrations for use with a variety of fisheries management programs. NOAA Fisheries requires the use of permits or registration by some participants in fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon, and California and in the High Seas outside of the EEZ. Information collections would be requested from individuals under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and the High Seas Fishing Compliance Act. The collection of information is necessary to identify participants in these fisheries and to evaluate whether the applicants or current permit owners/holders are eligible for certain fishing privileges and benefits. NOAA Fisheries, Northwest Region would collect information from individuals in order to issue, renew, or transfer fishing permits or to make non-permit registrations. Where the SSN is requested, bracketed information indicates whether the response to the request is voluntary [SSN voluntary] or mandatory [SSN mandatory]. The authority for the mandatory collection of SSN is the Debt Collection Act Improvement Act, 31 U.S.C. 7701. Specifically, the Northwest Region issues permits or registrations for the following programs:

Pacific Coast Groundfish Limited Entry Permits [SSN mandatory],
Exempted Fisheries Permit (NOAA approved research and data collection activities) [SSN mandatory],
High Seas Fishing Compliance Act Permits (for those individuals electing to obtain a high seas permit through the NMFS, Northwest Region) [SSN mandatory],
Registration of Sablefish Vessels with an Exemption from At-Sea Processing [SSN mandatory].

COMMERCE/NOAA-18

SYSTEM NAME:

Permits and Registrations for Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Washington, Oregon and California and Permits and Registrations for Vessels Fishing outside of the EEZ (High Seas).