

NOAA Fisheries
Southwest Region
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News Release

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For Immediate Release
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Comment Period for Proposed Critical Habitat Designations for Salmon and Steelhead Extended Until March 14, 2005

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has extended the comment period on proposed critical habitat designations for 20 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of Pacific salmon and steelhead (inclusive of anadromous steelhead and resident rainbow trout) listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

A recent court-approved change to the schedule for completing these designations will extend the comment period until 5:00 p.m. on March 14, 2005. The original completion date was February 8, 2005.

Comments pertaining to California ESUs must include reference to docket number [041123329-4329-01] and RIN number [0648-AO04]. Comments pertaining to ESUs in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho must include reference to docket number [030716175-4327-03] and RIN number [0648-AQ77]. Comments may be made by any of the following methods:

- \$ E-mail: For California ESUs, send e-mail comments to critical.habitat.swr@noaa.gov. For ESUs in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho, send e-mail comments to critical.habitat.nwr@noaa.gov. In the subject line of your e-mail please include the pertinent docket and RIN numbers specified above.
- \$ Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.
- \$ Agency Web Site: <http://ocio.nmfs.noaa.gov/ibrm-ssi/index.shtml>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments at <http://ocio.nmfs.noaa.gov/ibrm-ssi/process.shtml>.
- \$ Mail: For California ESUs, submit written comments and information to: Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802-4213. For ESUs in Washington, Oregon, or Idaho, submit written comments and information to: Chief, NMFS, Protected Resources Division, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR, 97232-2737. You may hand-deliver written comments to our offices during normal business hours at the addresses given above.
- \$ Fax: Submit fax comments to the NMFS Southwest Regional Office at 562-980-4027, or the NMFS Northwest Regional Office at 503-230-5435.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: In California, contact Craig Wingert at the address above or at 562-980-4021. In Washington, Oregon, and Idaho, contact Steve Stone at the above address or at 503-231-2317. The proposed rules, maps, and other materials relating to these proposals can be found on the agency's Southwest Region website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov> and the Northwest Region website at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1salmon/salmesa/crithab/CHsite.htm>.

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