

(ESA). As stated in the proposals to list, designation of critical habitat for these species is being undertaken in a separate proceeding. By this notice, NMFS is requesting information on the economic impacts of a critical habitat designation. Scientific information on the areas qualifying as critical habitat is requested in a separate notice (see notice of request for scientific data on critical habitat published in this issue of the **Federal Register**).

DATES: Information must be received by November 14, 1991.

ADDRESSES: Information should be sent to the Environmental and Technical Services Division, NMFS, Northwest Region, 911 NE 11th Avenue, room 620, Portland, OR 97232.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rob Jones, Environmental and Technical Services Division, NMFS, Portland, OR, 503/230-5429 or FTS/429-5429.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The definition of critical habitat, the designation process, and examples of potential critical habitat for Snake River sockeye, spring/summer chinook, and fall chinook salmon are contained in the notice of request for scientific data on critical habitat. Persons considering responding to this notice are encouraged to read first that notice, which is published in this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Economic Information Sought

For areas potentially qualifying as critical habitat, NMFS is requesting information describing (1) the activities that could be affected by the designation, and (2) the economic costs and benefits of additional requirements or management measures likely to result from the designation. Those responding to this request should first project specified areas as potential critical habitat for proposed Snake River salmon and then project the economic consequences of designating those areas as critical habitat. With these stated assumptions, the corresponding economic information and analysis will be of maximum use to NMFS in carrying out its economic impact analysis for proposing critical habitat.

The economic cost to be considered in critical habitat designations under the ESA is the probable economic impact "of the (critical habitat) designation upon proposed or ongoing activities" (50 CFR 424.19). Therefore, NMFS must consider the incremental net costs specifically resulting from a critical habitat designation, above the economic effects attributable to listing the species.

Economic impacts attributable to listing include actions resulting from section 7 consultations under the ESA to avoid jeopardy to the species and from the taking prohibitions under section 9 of the ESA. As a consequence, although information estimating the total economic impact of listing a species is welcome, comments most useful in determining critical habitat must clearly distinguish the incremental costs directly attributable to the designation of specified areas as critical habitat.

Dated: October 8, 1991.

William W. Fox, Jr.

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Endangered and Threatened Species; Critical Habitat Designation for Snake River Sockeye, Spring/Summer Chinook, and Fall Chinook Salmon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), NOAA, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for economic information on critical habitat.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposed to list Snake River sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) as Endangered (April 5, 1991; 56 FR 14055), and Snake River spring/summer and fall chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) as threatened (June 27, 1991; 56 FR 29542) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*