

to annually take adult S green sturgeon and juvenile and adult CC, CVS, LCR, PS, SacR winter-run, SR fall-run, SR spr/sum, and UCR Chinook salmon; CR and HCS chum salmon; CCC, LCR, OC, and SONCC coho salmon; OL and SR sockeye salmon; and LCR, MCR, PS, SR, and UCR steelhead while conducting a study in the Columbia River plume and surrounding ocean environment off of the Oregon and Washington coasts. The NWFSC research may also cause them to take S eulachon, a species for which there are currently no ESA take prohibitions. The purposes of the study are to (1) determine the ocean distribution and behaviors of smolt and sub-adult salmonids including Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead; (2) understand the degree to which fish from different origins use near-shore habitats; (3) synthesize the early ocean ecology of juvenile Columbia River salmon, test mechanisms that control salmonid growth and survival, and produce ecological indices that forecast juvenile salmonid survival; and (4) use simulation models, statistical analyses of climate, ocean and biological time series data, and indices to produce improved river and salmon management. The research would benefit the affected species by improving knowledge of salmonid spatial distribution and behavior during the marine portion of their life cycle. This study would work in conjunction with another NWFSC study (permit 1410–12R) by capturing salmonids using different capture methods at shallower locations and by tracking salmonids through acoustic and satellite tags. The NWFSC proposes to capture fish using microtrawling, purse seines, beach seines, and Kodiak trawls. Non-target species (eulachon and green sturgeon) would be handled with a knotless rubber net, identified to species, and released. All salmonid adults and a subset of the juveniles would be placed in an aerated holding tank, identified to species, measured for length, and anesthetized using AQUI–S. Once anesthetized, the fish would be weighed, fin clipped, sampled for scales, and have either an acoustic tag surgically implanted or satellite pop-up tag attached via a dorsal muscle tether. The remaining juvenile salmonids would be held in an aerated holding tank, identified to species, and euthanized using an overdose of AQUI–S. Blood samples would be taken, and the fish would be frozen for further analysis (e.g., diet, caudal fin clip for genetics, otoliths removed, scales taken, and dorsal muscle sample for stable isotopes).

Permit 22417

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians (PTI) is seeking a five-year permit that would allow them to annually take juvenile PS Chinook salmon and PS steelhead in the Puyallup and White rivers (Pierce County, WA). The PTI research may also cause them to take adult S eulachon, a species for which there are currently no ESA take prohibitions. The purpose of the study is to estimate abundance, collect biometric and run timing data, and aide in productivity analyses of ESA-listed salmonids. The research would benefit the affected species by evaluating trends and statuses of individual populations that are critical for monitoring species recovery and evaluating the success of current and future habitat recovery in the watersheds. The PTI proposes to use rotary screw traps in the Puyallup and White rivers (one in each river) to capture fish. Captured fish would be anesthetized with MS–222, measured for length, tissue sampled (scales and anal fin clip), PIT-tagged, and released after recovery. The researchers do not intend to kill any listed fish, but some may die as an inadvertent result of the research.

Permit 22482

The NWFSC is seeking a new, five-year permit that would allow them to take juvenile LCR, SR fall-run, UCR spring-run, and UWR Chinook salmon; CR chum salmon; LCR coho salmon; SR sockeye salmon; and LCR, MCR, SR Basin, UCR, and UWR steelhead. The purpose of the study is to measure contaminant levels in resident sculpin in the lower Willamette River (Oregon) near a Superfund site with high levels of pollutants. The target species for sampling, prickly sculpin, is benthic-feeding and has a small home range, thus contaminant analysis of its tissues reflects environmental conditions at a localized area. Listed salmonids could be unintentionally captured during sampling activities. The study results would support an ongoing Natural Resource Damage Assessment, the purpose of which is to document and quantify injuries to natural resources resulting from exposure to hazardous substances. The proposed research study would benefit listed species that occur in the project area by improving understanding of the extent of contamination and informing habitat restoration activities.

The researchers propose to collect fish between river miles 2 and 11 of the Willamette River, and at appropriate reference sites nearby in the Lower Willamette River. The researchers

would conduct sampling from August through October. The researchers would use vinyl-coated wire shrimp traps with 1.0 cm x 0.5 cm openings and baited with canned meat and bait scent. Any listed salmonids that are unintentionally captured would be transferred to buckets of aerated water, identified, counted, checked for fin clips, passive integrated transponder, and coded wire tags, and then gently released near the site of capture.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA. NMFS will evaluate the applications, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the applications meet the requirements of section 10(a) of the ESA and Federal regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day comment period. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: February 12, 2019.

Catherine G. Marzin,
Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648–XG780

North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting; Correction

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

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) published a document on February 11, 2019, announcing the agenda for upcoming meetings of the Council and its advisory committees. The announcement omitted an item from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Diana Evans, Council staff; telephone: (907) 271–2809.

Correction

In the **Federal Register** of February 11, 2019, in FR Doc. 2019–01886, in the section entitled Agenda, add the following to the list of items for the Council Plenary Session: “(29) BSAI Trawl Catcher Vessel Pacific Cod Mothership Adjustments—Final Action.” Additionally, the sentence that

reads “The Advisory Panel will address Council agenda items (12) through (28)” should be removed and replaced with “The Advisory Panel will address Council agenda items (10), and (12) through (29).”

Dated: February 13, 2019.

Tracey L. Thompson,

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

[FR Doc. 2019-02669 Filed 2-15-19; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XG723

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Scoping Process

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

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS); notice of initiation of scoping process; notice of public scoping meetings; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council announces its intent to prepare, in cooperation with NMFS, an amendment to the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan. An environmental impact statement may be necessary for the amendment to analyze the impacts of potential management measures in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The Council has initiated this amendment to review and consider modifications to both the permitting system for *Illex* squid and the fishery management plan goals and objectives. This notice announces a public process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed, and for identifying the significant issues related to this action. This notice alerts the interested public of the scoping process, the potential development of a draft environmental impact statement, and to provide for public participation in that process.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before 11:59 p.m., EST, on April 12, 2019. Public scoping meetings will be held during this comment period. See **SUPPLEMENTARY**

INFORMATION for dates, times, and locations.

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

- *Email* to the following address: nmfs.gar.illexpermitandgoals@noaa.gov.

Include “*Illex* Permits and FMP Goals Amendment Scoping Comments” in the subject line;

- *Mail* or hand deliver to Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, Delaware 19901. Mark the outside of the envelope “*Illex* Permits and FMP Goals Amendment Scoping Comments”; or
- *Fax* to (302) 674-5399.

Comments may also be provided at the April 2019 Council meeting. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** for the meeting date, time, and location.

The scoping document may be obtained from the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council office at the previously provided address, by request to the Council by telephone (302) 674-2331, or at <http://www.mafmc.org/msb/>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 North State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone (302) 674-2331.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Council initiated this action to review and consider modifications to both the permitting system for *Illex* squid and the goals and objectives of the entire Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fishery Management Plan (FMP). In June 2017, the Council considered, but did not adopt, revisions to *Illex* squid permits as part of Amendment 20 to the FMP (December 14, 2018; 83 FR 64257). Since then, effort has increased and the fishery has been closed in both 2017 and 2018 after fully harvesting available *Illex* squid quota. Given recent fishery performance, the Council is evaluating if permitted access to the *Illex* fishery should be modified based on recent and historical participation. Existing FMP goals and objectives have not been revised since they were originally established in 1983. The Council is seeking input whether these goals and objectives are still appropriate for managing the Atlantic mackerel, squid, and butterfish fisheries or if they should be modified. More details may be found

in the Scoping Document (see **ADDRESSES** for how to obtain scoping document) and on the Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish page of the Council’s website at <http://www.mafmc.org/msb/>.

The scoping period is an important opportunity for members of the public to raise concerns related to the scope of issues that will be considered in the amendment. The Council needs public input to identify management issues, develop effective alternatives, and identify possible impacts to be considered. Public comments early in the amendment development process will help the Council address issues of public concern in a thorough and appropriate manner. Comments can be made during the scoping hearings or as described above (see **ADDRESSES**).

After this initial phase of information gathering, if the Council decides to proceed with the amendment the Council will evaluate potential management alternatives. The Council will then develop a draft amendment, incorporating the identified management alternatives, for public review. The Council will also prepare draft environmental analyses, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, and provide those analyses for review and comment by the public as appropriate. Finally, the Council will choose preferred management measures for submission with the appropriate environmental analyses to the Secretary of Commerce to publish a proposed and then final rule, both of which have additional comment periods. While there are many opportunities for public comment in the process, this initial scoping comment opportunity is particularly important for assisting the Council in establishing the overall focus and direction of the amendment.

Scoping Hearings

Although the Council did not ultimately revise *Illex* squid permits as part of Amendment 20 to the FMP, the public provided scoping comments during the development of that action in response to a Notice of Intent published in the **Federal Register** on March 26, 2015 (80 FR 15991), which the Council considered as part of that action. To solicit further public comment on *Illex* squid permits and potential updates to the FMP objectives, the Council accepted additional comments at the following four meetings: