

in the Clearwater River would be expanded to include the South Fork Clearwater River. The fishery area in the Little Salmon River would be expanded from the current 4 mi (6.4 km) upstream to approximately 25 mi (40.2 km). Two additional areas would be opened for chinook fishing: The Salmon River from its mouth 30 mi (48.3 km) upstream to the mouth of the Little Salmon River, and approximately 60 mi (96.6 km) of the Snake River from the mouth of the Imnaha River upstream to Hells Canyon Dam. For modification 1, IDFG also requests an additional incidental take of adult, threatened, Snake River spring/summer chinook salmon associated with the requested expanded and additional fishery areas.

IDFG also requests authorization for take of adult, threatened, naturally produced Snake River steelhead incidental to the currently authorized fisheries and the requested modification. At the time permit 1233 was originally issued, protective regulations for threatened Snake River steelhead under section 4(d) of the ESA had not been promulgated by NMFS. Protective regulations were subsequently issued (July 10, 2000, 65 FR 42422). When NMFS issued the current permit, impacts of the proposed fisheries to listed Snake River steelhead were assessed in a biological opinion, and NMFS determined that the fisheries would not jeopardize the continued existence of threatened Snake River steelhead. The proposed modification would authorize levels of take consistent with that analysis and opinion.

In its Plan, IDFG is proposing to limit state recreational fisheries such that the incidental impacts on ESA-listed salmonids will be minimized. Three alternatives for the IDFG fisheries are provided in the Plan: (1) The no action alternative; (2) the proposed conservation plan alternative (based on continuing fisheries at levels similar to those permitted since 1995); and (3) historic fishing levels.

#### **Environmental Assessment/finding of No Significant Impact**

The EA package includes a draft EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact which concludes that issuing the modification to the incidental take permit is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. Three Federal action alternatives have been analyzed in the draft EA: (1) The no action alternative; (2) issue a permit

without conditions; and (3) issue a permit with conditions.

This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA and the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1506.6). NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted thereon to determine whether the application meets the requirements of the NEPA regulations and section 10(a) of the ESA. If it is determined that the requirements are met, a modified permit will be issued for incidental takes of ESA-listed anadromous salmonids under the jurisdiction of NMFS. The final NEPA and permit determinations will not be completed until after the end of the 30-day comment period and will fully consider all public comments received during the comment period. NMFS will publish a record of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: April 10, 2001.

**Karen Salvini,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 041001B]

#### **Re-opening of Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP's) proposed for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, WA, and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, WA**

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

**ACTION:** Re-opening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS is re-opening the comment period for the DEIS for the HCP's proposed for Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, WA, and the Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County, WA. NMFS has received several requests to extend the comment period. NMFS has determined that these requests are reasonable and has re-opened the comment period to facilitate the receipt of the public's views on the DEIS. The original announcement of the notice of availability of the DEIS for the HCP's was published in the **Federal Register** on December 29, 2000.

**DATES:** Written comments on the DEIS must be received on or before May 1, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** For copies of the DEIS, or to provide written comments, contact: Robert Dach, National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, Hydro Program, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 420, Portland, OR 97232-2737. Comments may also be sent via fax to 503/231-2318. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

The DEIS and the proposed HCPs are available for review via the Internet at [www.nwr.noaa.gov/1hydro/hydroweb/ferc.htm](http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/1hydro/hydroweb/ferc.htm) (under the "Related Documents" heading).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Robert Dach at phone number: 503/736-4734, or e-mail: [Robert.Dach@noaa.gov](mailto:Robert.Dach@noaa.gov).

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

The notice of availability of the DEIS for comment was published on December 29, 2000 (65 FR 82976-82977). Since that time, NMFS had received numerous requests to extend the comment period. Requests have been received from the Department of Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency, several non-governmental organizations, and Native American Tribes. NMFS determined that these requests were reasonable, is re-opening the comment period, and is soliciting specific information, comments, data, and/or recommendations on any aspect of the DEIS.

Dated: April 10, 2001.

**Karen Salvini,**

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

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## **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

### **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[I.D. 040501A]

#### **Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee; Public Meetings**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of meetings of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) from April 24-26, 2001.

**DATES:** The meetings are scheduled as follows:

1. April 24, 2001, 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.