

1200 Pennsylvania, Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460, Attention Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0049.

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Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. OAR-2003-0049. EPA's policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through EDOCKET, regulations.gov, or e-mail. The EPA EDOCKET and the federal regulations.gov websites are "anonymous access" systems, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an e-mail comment directly to EPA without going through EDOCKET or regulations.gov, your e-mail address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket visit EDOCKET on-line or see the **Federal Register** of May 31, 2002 (67 FR 38102). For additional instructions on submitting comments, go to Unit I.C. of the Supplementary Information section of this document.

Docket: All documents in the docket are listed in the EDOCKET index at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, i.e., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other material, such as copyrighted material, is not placed on the Internet and will be

publicly available only in hard copy form. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in EDOCKET or in hard copy at the Air Docket, EPA/DC, EPA West, Room B102, 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC. The Public Reading Room is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Public Reading Room is (202) 566-1744, and the telephone number for the Air Docket is (202) 566-1742.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Rudy Kapichak, State Measures and Conformity Group, Transportation and Regional Programs Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Traverwood Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, e-mail address:

kapichak.rudolph@epa.gov, telephone number: (734) 214-4574, fax number 734-214-4052; or Laura Berry, State Measures and Conformity Group, Transportation and Regional Programs Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2000 Traverwood Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, e-mail address: berry.laura@epa.gov, telephone number: (734) 214-4858, fax number 734-214-4052.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: EPA published a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking (SNPRM) in the **Federal Register** on December 13, 2004 (69 FR 72140). That notice included a deadline for written comments of January 12, 2005. Since that time we have received requests for an extension of that deadline to allow additional time to review and comment on the proposed options for hot-spot analyses in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ nonattainment and maintenance areas. As a result of these requests, EPA is extending the comment period on the supplemental proposal to January 27, 2005.

The requests received by EPA regarding an extension of the comment period focus on the ability of transportation conformity stakeholder groups to coordinate with their members and prepare meaningful comments during a 30-day comment period which includes two federal holidays. Stakeholder groups representing state and local air quality and transportation agencies and environmental and transportation advocacy groups frequently submit significant comments on proposed changes to the transportation conformity rule.

In the SNPRM, EPA requested comment on a wide range of options for hot-spot analyses in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ nonattainment and maintenance areas

both before and after state implementation plans are submitted. Specifically, we asked commenters to submit research and data that indicate the existence and prevalence of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ hot-spots as well as legal rationale to support options that they preferred. Many of the options proposed in the SNPRM require state and local agencies to make decisions regarding the existence of hot-spots in their area as well as decisions regarding the specific types of locations within a nonattainment or maintenance area that are most susceptible to a localized violation of the PM_{2.5} or PM₁₀ air quality standard. As such, commenters were requested to submit information indicating whether or not they would have sufficient data to make the decisions required by each of these options. Finally, commenters were asked to submit information on whether the U.S. Department of Transportation should be allowed to make categorical conformity determinations for certain types of highway projects and on what types of highway projects could be eligible for a categorical conformity determination.

It should be noted that EPA was requested to extend the comment period by 30 days to February 11, 2005. EPA believes that it is necessary to strike a balance between the additional time that was requested to complete and submit comments and the need to finalize these requirements in sufficient time so that state and local transportation planners are prepared to implement them by the end of the one year conformity grace period that applies in PM_{2.5} nonattainment areas. Given the timing of the publication of the SNPRM and the significant amount of information that is requested from commenters, EPA is extending the comment period to January 27, 2005.

Dated: December 28, 2004.

Jeffrey Holmstead,

Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 226**

[I.D. 110904F]

Endangered and Threatened Species: Notice of Public Hearings on Proposed Designation of Critical Habitat for Seven Evolutionarily Significant Units of Pacific Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Steelhead (*O. mykiss*) in California

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

ACTION: Notice of public hearings.

SUMMARY: On December 10, 2004, NMFS proposed critical habitat designations for two Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and five ESUs of *O. mykiss* (inclusive of anadromous steelhead and resident rainbow trout) in California that are listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The public comment period for this proposal presently closes on February 8, 2005. In this document, NMFS is announcing that public hearings have been scheduled at four locations in California in January and early February 2005 to provide additional opportunities for the public and other interested parties to comment on the subject proposals.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed critical habitat designations must be received by February 8, 2005. In order to provide the public additional opportunity to comment on these critical habitat designation proposals, NMFS will be holding four public hearings in California at the specific dates and locations listed below:

January 13, 2005; 6:30–9:30pm at the North Coast Inn, 4975 Valley West Blvd., Arcata, CA 95521; January 19,

2005; 6:30–9:30pm at the DoubleTree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, One DoubleTree Drive, Rohnert Park, CA 94928;

January 20, 2005; 6:30–9:30pm at the Radisson Hotel Sacramento, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, CA 95815;

February 1, 2005; 6:30–9:30pm at Fess Parker's DoubleTree Resort, 633 East Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the proposed critical habitat designations, identified by docket number [041123329–4329–01] and RIN number [0648–AO04], by any of the following methods:

- E-mail:

critical.habitat.swr@noaa.gov. Include docket number and RIN number in the subject line of the message.

- Mail: Submit written comments and information to Assistant Regional Administrator, NMFS, Protected Resources Division, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213. You may hand-deliver written comments to our office during normal business hours at the address given above.

- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>

- Fax: 562–980–4027.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Craig Wingert, NMFS, Southwest Region, 562/ 980–4021; or Marta Nammack at 301/713–1401. The proposed rule, maps and other materials related to the proposal can be found on the Southwest Region's website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

On December 10, 2004, NMFS proposed critical habitat designations for two Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and five ESUs of *O. mykiss* (inclusive of anadromous steelhead and resident rainbow trout) in California that are listed as threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species

Act of 1973 (69 FR 71880). The seven ESU of salmon and *O. mykiss* include: (1) California Coastal chinook salmon, (2) Northern California *O. mykiss*, (3) Central California Coast *O. mykiss*, (4) South-Central California Coast *O. mykiss*, (5) Southern California *O. mykiss*, (6) Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon, and (7) Central Valley *O. mykiss*. The public comment period for these proposals opened on December 10, 2004 and closes on February 8, 2005.

Public Hearings

Joint Commerce-Interior ESA implementing regulations state that the Secretary shall promptly hold at least one public hearing if any person requests one within 45 days of publication of a proposed regulation to list a species or to designate critical habitat (see 50 CFR 424.16(c)(3)). NMFS has already scheduled hearings to allow affected stakeholders and members of the public the opportunity to provide comments directly to agency staff during the comment period (see **DATES**, above). However, these public meetings are not the only opportunity for the public to provide input on these proposals. The public and stakeholders are encouraged to continue to comment and provide input to NMFS on the proposals (via correspondence, e-mail, and the Internet; see **ADDRESSES**, above) up until the scheduled close of the comment period on February 8, 2005.

References

Copies of the **Federal Register** notices and related materials cited herein are available on the Southwest Region's website at <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov> or upon request (see **ADDRESSES** section above).

Dated: December 29, 2004.

P. Michael Payne,

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

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