

California Coast (SONCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit

Authority

Enhancement permits are issued in accordance with section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) and regulations governing listed fish and wildlife permits (50 CFR part 222). NMFS issues permits based on findings that such permits: (1) are applied for in good faith; (2) if granted and exercised, would not operate to the disadvantage of the listed species that are the subject of the permit; (3) are consistent with the purposes and policies of Section 2 of the ESA; (4) whether the permit would further a bona fide and necessary or desirable scientific purpose or enhance the propagation or survival of the endangered species, taking into account the benefits anticipated to be derived on behalf of the endangered species; and additional issuance criteria as listed at 50 CFR 222.308(c)(5–12). The authority to take listed species is subject to conditions set forth in the permit.

Anyone requesting a hearing on the application included in this notice should set out the specific reasons why a hearing on that application would be appropriate (see **ADDRESSES**). Such hearings are held at the discretion of NMFS Assistant Administrator for Fisheries.

Permit Application Received

Permit 15755–2M

The CDFW is applying for ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A) permit 15755–2M for the Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon HGMP for a period of 8 years following removal of the mainstem Klamath River dams in 2024. CDFW and PacifiCorp anticipated that the 2014 HGMP would cover hatchery operations until mainstem Klamath River dams of the Klamath Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project Nos. 14803–001, 2082–063) were removed. Dam removal is expected to occur in 2024. By that time, the existing Iron Gate Hatchery will cease operations and a new hatchery will be constructed at Fall Creek upstream of the current hatchery facility. To ensure that hatchery operations continue without interruption in the year of dam removal, the Fall Creek Hatchery will be operational in the months prior to dam removal.

The HGMP covers activities related to the artificial production of coho salmon at Fall Creek Hatchery during the transition of the hatchery coho salmon program from Iron Gate Hatchery, and for 8 years after dam removal. NMFS will use the information in this HGMP

to evaluate hatchery impacts on salmon listed under the ESA. Hatchery activities would be permitted pursuant to the final HGMP, which is attached to the permit application. Monitoring and in-river research activities, also included in the application, could result in take of SONCC coho salmon. The primary goal of an HGMP is to devise biologically based hatchery management strategies that ensure the conservation and recovery of salmon and steelhead species. Through implementation of this HGMP, and compliance with the ESA section 10(a)(1)(A) permit, the Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon program will operate to conserve ESA listed SONCC coho salmon.

The Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon program will culture coho salmon of the Upper Klamath Population Unit. This unit is part of the SONCC Evolutionarily Significant Unit that is listed as Threatened under ESA. The HGMP incorporates principles of hatchery operations developed by the Hatchery Scientific Review Groups of the Columbia River and California. The primary purpose of the Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon program is to protect the genetic resources of the Upper Klamath Population Unit and reduce extinction risks prior to and eight years after the removal of the four Klamath River dams. The purpose would be achieved by integrating natural origin adults into broodstock and using a genetically based spawning matrix to reduce inbreeding. The natural origin fish required to integrate the Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon program will be obtained from Bogus Creek, the Iron Gate Hatchery auxiliary fish ladder, Fall Creek (*e.g.*, via seine or dip net), and fish voluntarily entering the Fall Creek Hatchery as described in the broodstock collection document and the Terms and Conditions of NMFS' 2021 Biological Opinion for the Surrender and Decommissioning of the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

The secondary purpose of the Fall Creek Hatchery coho salmon program is to provide adult coho salmon that could disperse to newly accessible habitat (76 miles or about 122.31 km) made available following dam removal. The potential dispersal of adult coho salmon results from Fall Creek Hatchery origin coho salmon straying to other tributaries and by releasing surplus adult coho salmon back to the mainstem Klamath River near Fall Creek.

Public Comments Solicited

NMFS invites the public to comment on the permit application and associated HGMP during a 30-day public comment period beginning on

the date of this notice. This notice is provided pursuant to section 10(c) of the ESA (16 U.S.C. 1529(c)). All comments and materials received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be released to the public. We provide this notice in order to allow the public, agencies, or other organizations to review and comment on these documents.

Next Steps

NMFS will evaluate the application, associated documents, and comments submitted to determine whether the application meets the requirements of section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA and its implementing regulations. The final permit decisions will not be made until after the end of the 30-day public comment period and after NMFS has fully considered all relevant comments received. NMFS will publish notice of its final action in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 21, 2023.

Angela Somma,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XC773]

31st General Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and 16th Scientific Advisory Subcommittee to the General Advisory Committee; Meeting Announcement

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces a public meeting of the 31st General Advisory Committee (GAC) to the U.S. Section to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) and the 16th Scientific Advisory Subcommittee (SAS) to the GAC. This meeting will be held as a combined SAS and GAC meeting on Thursday, June 15th, 2023, via webinar. The meeting topics are described under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this notice.

DATES: The virtual meeting of the SAS and GAC will be held on Thursday, June 15th, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. PDT (or until business is concluded). You

must complete the registration process by June 1, 2023, if you plan to attend the meeting (see **ADDRESSES**).

ADDRESSES: If you plan to attend the meeting, which will be held by webinar, please register at <https://forms.gle/ejQ6t8K5RqGBX6iv7>. Instructions for attending the meeting will be emailed to meeting participants before the meeting occurs. This meeting may be audio recorded for the purposes of generating notes of the meeting. As public comments will be made publicly available, participants and public commenters are urged not to provide personally identifiable information (PII) at this meeting. Participation in the meeting, in person, by web conference, or by telephone constitutes consent to the audio recording.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amanda Munro, NMFS West Coast Region, at amanda.munro@noaa.gov or (619) 407-9284.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The timing of U.S. SAS and GAC meetings are adjusted based on the dates of the IATTC Annual Meeting. This year, the IATTC will convene its 14th Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) in May 2023, and the 101st Annual Meeting of the IATTC will be held on August 7–11, 2023. For 2023, the combined U.S. SAS and GAC Meeting will be held on June 15th, after the IATTC SAC Meeting and before the IATTC Annual Meeting. This timing allows for scientific topics presented at the IATTC SAC Meeting, including stock assessments, to be discussed and used to inform U.S. positions at the combined U.S. SAS and GAC Meeting. This meeting will also include updates from IATTC working groups and is expected to include presentations of draft U.S. proposals to be submitted to the IATTC. An executive session may be called in order to discuss sensitive information, including possible U.S. negotiating positions for the upcoming IATTC Annual Meeting.

In accordance with the Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*) (TCA), the U.S. Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Department of State (the State Department), appoints a GAC to the U.S. Section to the IATTC and a SAS that advises the GAC. The U.S. Section consists of the four U.S. Commissioners and alternate U.S. Commissioners to the IATTC and representatives of the State Department, NOAA, Department of Commerce, other U.S. Government agencies, and stakeholders. The GAC provides recommendations to the U.S. section of the IATTC. The purpose of the SAS is to advise the GAC on

scientific matters and provide recommendations to the GAC. Per the TCA, the SAS advises the GAC on matters including the conservation of ecosystems, the sustainable uses of living marine resources related to the tuna fishery in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and the long-term conservation and management of stocks of living marine resources in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean. NMFS West Coast Region staff provides administrative and technical support services as necessary for the effective functioning of the SAS and GAC.

The meetings of the SAS and GAC are open to the public, unless in executive session. The time and manner of public comment will be at the discretion of the Chairs for the SAS and GAC. For more information and updates on these upcoming meetings, please visit the IATTC's website: <https://www.iattc.org/MeetingsENG.htm>.

SAS and GAC Meeting Topics

Given the virtual nature of these meetings, the agenda will be concise. The SAS and GAC meeting to prepare for the 101st IATTC Annual Meeting is expected to cover a broad spectrum of topics including but not limited to:

- (1) Outcomes of the most recent IATTC stock assessments and updates for tuna, tuna-like species, and other species caught in association with those fisheries in the eastern Pacific Ocean;
- (2) Evaluation of the IATTC Staff's Recommendations to the Commission for 2023;
- (3) Potential proposal(s) to the IATTC;
- (4) Updates for upcoming Joint IATTC-Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Northern Committee Working Group on Pacific Bluefin Tuna meeting;
- (5) Recommendations and evaluations by the SAS and GAC; and
- (6) Other issues as they arise.

Special Accommodations

Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Amanda Munro (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 951 *et seq.*

Dated: March 21, 2023.

Jennifer M. Wallace,
Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.
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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC869]

New England Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The New England Fishery Management Council (Council) is scheduling a public meeting of its Groundfish Committee via webinar to consider actions affecting New England fisheries in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ). Recommendations from this group will be brought to the full Council for formal consideration and action, if appropriate.

DATES: This webinar will be held on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 9 a.m.

ADDRESSES: Webinar registration URL information: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4228038253685367648>.

Council address: New England Fishery Management Council, 50 Water Street, Mill 2, Newburyport, MA 01950.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas A. Nies, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council; telephone: (978) 465-0492.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Agenda

The Groundfish Committee will meet receive recommendations from the Recreational Advisory Panel and Groundfish Advisory Panel. They will also receive an update on progress to develop metrics and indicators in Amendment 23. The Committee will receive an update on progress to revise the Council's ABC control rule for groundfish stocks and the plan for a facilitated process between the Scientific and Statistical Committee, Groundfish Committee, and Groundfish Plan Development Team as well as receive an update on developing a transition plan for Atlantic cod management from the current two management units to up to five management units, including addressing allocation issues and considering potential new measures to protect Atlantic cod spawning. The Committee will also receive an update on developing alternatives on how to address impacts of large swings in Canadian halibut catch in U.S. halibut management as well as make