

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket No. 01-082-1]

Declaration of Emergency Because of Infectious Salmon Anemia

Infectious salmon anemia (ISA) is a foreign animal disease of Atlantic salmon caused by an orthomyxovirus. While this virus appears to only cause disease in Atlantic salmon, both wild and farmed, sea run brown trout, rainbow trout, and other wild fish such as herring may act as carriers or reservoirs of the virus. Since its first isolation in Norway in 1984, it has also been found in Canada and Scotland. ISA may also be called hemorrhagic kidney syndrome (HKS) in Atlantic salmon. The first case of ISA in the United States was confirmed on February 15, 2001. As of June 25, 2001, eight cases have been confirmed in Maine.

Clinical signs of ISA generally appear within 2 to 4 weeks after infection and include lethargy, swelling and hemorrhaging of the kidneys and other organs, protruding eyes, pale gills, darkening of the posterior gut, and swelling of the spleen. Mortality is highly variable and can range from 3 percent to over 50 percent over one production cycle, depending on a number of factors.

Transmission occurs by direct contact, through parts from infected fish (mucus, blood, viscera, trimmings, feces), contact with equipment contaminated with parts from infected fish, people who handled infected fish, and sea lice. Salmon pens within 3 miles of infected farms or processing plants handling infected fish without adequate waste treatment have up to 13 times greater risk of becoming infected with ISA.

The State of Maine has taken steps to prevent further spread of ISA; however, the State lacks sufficient funding and personnel to effectively control this

disease, which poses a potentially serious threat to animal health and the U.S. economy. Therefore, State officials have asked the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to assist with epidemiology, surveillance, and indemnification programs. Our goal is to control and contain the disease through rapid detection and depopulation of salmon that have been infected with or exposed to ISA.

We believe the virus can be controlled and contained within high-risk zones through surveillance, vaccination, and best management practices. Control of ISA requires depopulation of all pens holding infected fish, but the risk of loss of stock without indemnification makes it less likely that farmers will report outbreaks, and currently, farmers are under no obligation to report the occurrence of fish disease to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the USDA. Indemnification is necessary to provide an incentive for farmers to report diseased fish and to continue testing.

Vaccination appears to be a potentially effective means of controlling ISA. If vaccines now being tested prove to be efficacious, restocking affected zones with vaccinated smolts could reduce the incidence and spread of ISA. APHIS could be instrumental in vaccine development and providing permits for vaccine distribution.

Successful control of ISA also requires extensive surveillance. Current surveillance in the high-risk zones of Maine's Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bays has been limited to once per month because of that State's budgetary and personnel considerations. Elsewhere, surveillance has been limited to a quarterly basis. To control ISA, it is vital that all sites, both high- and low-risk, undergo monthly surveillance.

Canada has been seriously affected by ISA. Fish farmers in that country have lost \$70 million (in U.S. dollars) as a result of the virus, and Canada's Federal and Provincial governments have contributed over \$29.5 million (in U.S. dollars) to compensate salmon farmers. As a result of a comprehensive ISA program that includes indemnification, Canada has reduced the incidence of ISA from 18 infected sites in 1998 to 4 infected sites in 2001.

In addition to posing a significant worldwide risk to the economic

viability and sustainability of salmon aquaculture, ISA poses a specific threat to the United States. Salmon production in Maine exceeds 36.2 million pounds annually, with a value of \$101 million. Outbreaks of ISA in Maine have already cost that State's salmonid industry approximately \$11 million due to the depopulation of infected or exposed salmon. This loss is greater when capital expenditures such as labor costs and equipment are considered.

These lost revenues have more significant effects. Resulting budgetary effects have compromised efforts by the State of Maine and by the salmonid industry to control ISA. Additionally, the devastating effects of the virus reach the economies of other States and have serious ramifications for international trade. For example, when ISA emerged in Maine, Chile and the European Union prohibited the importation of trout and salmon eggs from the States of Washington, Maine, and Idaho. The resulting trade loss is estimated at \$2 million for 2001.

Therefore, in order to address the ISA threat to the U.S. salmonid industry, APHIS has determined that additional funds are needed for an ISA control program. In addition to the payment of indemnity, these funds will be used for program activities such as depopulation and disposal, clean-up and disinfection, establishment of surveillance programs, epidemiology and diagnostic support, and training for producers and veterinarians. These activities will reduce the spread of ISA and should save the Federal Government and salmonid industry from having to deal with a more costly and widespread problem in the future.

Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of September 25, 1981, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147b), I declare that there is an emergency that threatens the livestock industry of this country and hereby authorize the transfer and use of such funds as may be necessary from appropriations or other funds available to the agencies or corporations of the United States Department of Agriculture to establish an ISA control program in the United States.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This declaration of emergency shall become effective December 13, 2001.

Ann M. Veneman,

Secretary of Agriculture.

[FR Doc. 01-31365 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-U

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC); Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet on Thursday and Friday, January 24-25, 2001. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday and 8 a.m. on Friday, and will conclude at approximately 5 p.m. on Thursday and 12 p.m. on Friday. The meeting will be held at the Linn County Fair and Expo Center; 3700 Knox Butte Road; Albany, Oregon; (541) 926-4314. The tentative agenda includes: (1) Training on Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations; (2) Orientation on operation, roles, and responsibilities of the RAC; (3) Project submission and approval process; (4) Public Forum; (5) Training on collaboration; (6) Election of RAC chairperson.

The Public Forum is tentatively scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday. Time allotted for individual presentations will be limited to 3-4 minutes. Written comments are encouraged, particularly if the material cannot be presented within the time limits for the Public Forum. Written comments may be submitted prior to the January 24th meeting by sending them to Designated Federal Official Donna Short at the address given below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For more information regarding this meeting, contact Designated Federal Official Donna Short; Sweet Home Ranger District; 3225 Highway 20; Sweet Home, Oregon 97386; (541) 367-9220.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

Y. Robert Iwamoto,

Acting Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-31324 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Madera and Fresno County Resource Advisory Committees; Meeting

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Resource Advisory Committee meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authorities in the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (Pub. L. 92-463) and under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) the Sierra National Forest's Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) for Madera and Fresno Counties will meet on January 12, 2002. The Madera Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Mariposa/Minarets Ranger Station in North Fork, CA. The Fresno County Resource Advisory Committee will meet at the Pineridge/Kings River Ranger Station in Prather, CA. The purpose of the meetings is to provide an overview of Resource Advisory Committee roles and responsibilities and to determine how the RAC will conduct business for future meetings.

DATES: Both the Madera and the Fresno meetings will be held on January 12, 2002. The meetings will be held from 8 a.m. To 4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The Madera County RAC meeting will be held at the Mariposa/Minarets Ranger Station, 57003 Road 225, North Fork CA. The Fresno County RAC meeting will be held at the Pineridge/Kings River Ranger Station, 29688 Auberry Road, Prather CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sue Exline, USDA, Sierra National Forest, 1600 Tollhouse Road, Clovis, CA 93611 (559) 297-0706 ext. 4804 e-MAIL skexline@fs.fed.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Roles and responsibility of Advisory Committee; (2) Flow of work; (3) Project process, submission forms and deadlines; (4) Election of RAC chairperson; (5) Public comment. The meeting is open to the public. Public input opportunity will be provided and individuals will have the opportunity to address the Committee at that time.

Dated: December 14, 2001.

James L. Boynton,

Forest Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 01-31323 Filed 12-19-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-11-M

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 121401D]

Proposed Information Collection; Comment Request; Alaska Region Logbook Family of Forms

AGENCY: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing information collections, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Pub. L. 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506 (c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before February 19, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Madeleine Clayton, Departmental Paperwork Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 6086, 14th and Constitution Avenue NW, Washington DC 20230 (or via Internet at MClayton@doc.gov).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information or copies of the information collection instrument(s) and instructions should be directed to Patsy A. Bearden, F/ AKR2, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802-1668 (telephone 907-586-7008).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

NMFS manages the U.S. groundfish fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) off Alaska under the Fishery Management Plan for Groundfish of the Gulf of Alaska and the Fishery Management Plan for the Groundfish Fishery of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (FMPs). The North Pacific Fishery Management Council prepared the FMPs pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Regulations implementing the FMPs are at 50 CFR part 679.

The recordkeeping and reporting requirements at 50 CFR part 679.5 form the basis for this collection of information. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Alaska Region requests information from participating groundfish fishermen which, upon receipt, results in an increasingly more efficient and accurate database. The collection is necessary for the management and monitoring of the groundfish fisheries of the EEZ off