

(1) Water withdrawal at Tacoma Water's Headworks for Municipal and Industrial Water Supply, which will reduce flows and have concomitant habitat effects downstream, including the bypass of fish at the Headworks intake, and inundate the impoundment area;

(2) Water withdrawal from the North Fork Well Field for Municipal and Industrial Water Supply, which will potentially reduce flows in the North Fork Green River above Howard Hanson Dam reservoir;

(3) Construction of Headworks improvements (anticipated to occur during a 2-year period from the third quarter of 1999 through the third quarter of 2001). Such construction will cause:

(a) Bypassing of fish at the Headworks intake during construction;

(b) Raising the Headworks diversion dam by about 6.5 feet (2 meters) which will extend the inundation pool to about 2,570 feet (811 meters) upstream of the Headworks diversion;

(c) Realigning and enlarging the existing intake and adding upgraded fish screens and bypass facilities for downstream passage;

(d) Reshaping the Green River channel downstream of the existing diversion to accommodate the future installation of an efficient trap and haul facility for upstream fish passage; and

(e) Installing, monitoring, and maintaining the instream structures in the impoundment for fisheries mitigation for raising the Headworks dam;

(4) Fish and water quality impacts related to the Headworks improvement construction;

(5) Operation and maintenance of a wetland restoration project at Auburns Narrows associated with the Second Supply Project;

(6) Operation of a downstream fish bypass facility at the Headworks;

(7) Tacoma watershed forest management activities;

(8) Monitoring of downstream fish passage through a proposed fish passage facility at Howard Hanson Dam associated with the Additional Water Supply Project;

(9) Monitoring and maintenance of Additional Water Supply Project fish habitat restoration projects and Additional Water Supply Project fish and wildlife habitat mitigation projects; and

(10) Restoration of anadromous fish above Howard Hanson Dam by trapping and hauling of adults returning to the Headworks and, if found beneficial to restoration efforts, possible planting of hatchery juveniles.

Alternatives for the environmental review cover two distinct sets of activities: (1) The withdrawal of water at the Tacoma Water Supply Intake (Headworks) at River Mile 61.0 and associated water withdrawal activities and (2) the management of City-owned forestlands in the upper Green River watershed above the Headworks. For the purposes of clarity, the alternatives for water withdrawal are considered separate from the alternatives for forestland management.

Water withdrawal alternatives include (1) No Action (continue current water withdrawal practices); (2) Proposed Action (with primary features including upstream and downstream fish passage, water flow management for anadromous fish, and riparian habitat restoration); (3) Reduced Withdrawal Alternative (supply Tacoma's service area only); (4) Reduced Withdrawal Alternative (supply Tacoma Water's current service area and the Lakehaven Utility District); and (5) supply Tacoma, Seattle, and South King County communities without the Howard Hanson Dam Additional Water Storage Project.

Forestland management alternatives include (1) No Action (continue current forest management and timber harvest practices); (2) Proposed Action (with primary features including species-specific protection measures for wildlife species of interest); (3) Management of Tacoma City Lands in the Upper Green River Watershed with no timber harvest; and (4) Management of Tacoma City Lands in the Upper Green River Watershed with timber harvesting to create or enhance fish and/or wildlife habitat only.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), National Environmental Policy Act Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508), other appropriate Federal laws and regulations, and policies and procedures of the Services for compliance with those regulations.

Dated: January 13, 1999.

Kevin Collins,

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

Dated: January 11, 1999.

Thomas Dwyer,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 010799B]

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of an Annual Report on Implementation of the Conservation Plan for Atlantic Salmon in Seven Maine Rivers

AGENCIES: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The State of Maine has submitted to NMFS and FWS (the Services) the draft annual report on its 1998 implementation of the *Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan for Seven Maine Rivers* (Conservation Plan).

DATES: Written comments should be received on or before March 8, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mary Colligan, NMFS, Protected Resources Division, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Written comments may also be sent by facsimile to (978) 281-9394.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Colligan, NMFS, at the same address (978-281-9116) or Paul Nickerson, FWS, Region 5, Endangered Species Division, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035 (413-253-8615).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Services are soliciting comments from the public on the adequacy of the protective measures in place, implementation activities during 1998, and the effect of these protective measures on Atlantic salmon and their habitat. The Services are particularly interested in assistance in determining whether the protective measures in place, including the provisions of the Conservation Plan, remain adequate to protect the species in light of current knowledge. After public comments and comments from the Services are addressed by the State of Maine in the final annual report, the Services will update the 1995 Atlantic salmon status review. If that update indicates that the species is now in danger of extinction or likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, the Services will promptly issue a proposed listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Availability of Documents

Copies of the draft annual report on implementation of the Conservation Plan may be obtained from the individuals identified under the preceding **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** heading.

Background Information

On December 18, 1997, the Services withdrew a proposed rule to list a distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon in seven Maine Rivers as "threatened" under the ESA (62 FR 66325). In reaching the determination, the Services considered the status of the Atlantic salmon in the seven Maine Rivers. This evaluation took into account the efforts being made to protect the species, the extent of implementation of the Conservation Plan, private and Federal efforts to restore the species, and international efforts to control ocean harvest through the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization. The Services determined that ongoing actions, including those identified in the Conservation Plan, substantially reduced threats to the species and that these ongoing actions would rehabilitate the seven rivers DPS. Based on this analysis, the Services determined that the seven rivers DPS of Atlantic salmon was not likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, and, therefore, listing under the ESA was not warranted. In addition, the Services renamed the seven rivers DPS the "Gulf of Maine DPS" in recognition of the possibility that other populations of Atlantic salmon could be added to the DPS in the future. The Services stated that other populations of Atlantic salmon would be added if they were found to be naturally reproducing and to have historical river-specific characteristics. The area within which populations of Atlantic salmon would be most likely to meet the criteria for inclusion was identified as ranging from the Kennebec River north to, but not including, the St. Croix River.

In the withdrawal notice, the Services committed to making the annual report on Conservation Plan implementation available for review to the public in order to keep interested parties informed and to provide an opportunity for review and comment. The NMFS retained the Gulf of Maine DPS of Atlantic salmon on its list of candidate species, and the Services committed to maintaining oversight over the species under the ESA. Specifically, the Services stated that the process for listing the Gulf of Maine DPS would be reinitiated if (1) an emergency which poses a significant risk to the well-being

of the Gulf of Maine DPS is identified and not immediately and adequately addressed, (2) the biological status of the Gulf of Maine DPS is such that the DPS is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, or (3) the biological status of the Gulf of Maine DPS is such that the DPS is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Further, the notice stated that the circumstances described under (1), (2), and (3) could be the result of insufficient progress in implementation of the Conservation Plan; a failure to modify the Conservation Plan to address new threats or an increase in the severity of threats; a failure to modify the Conservation Plan, if necessary, to address threats facing any other populations added to the Gulf of Maine DPS in the future; or the inability of the State of Maine to address threats. The notice stated that a decision to reinitiate the listing process would be made shortly after the end of an annual reporting period.

The annual review of the Conservation Plan is part of the Services' broader comprehensive review of the species' status relative to the ESA. In determining whether a species is threatened or endangered, the Services examine the effect of five factors on the species' status. These five factors are: (1) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

In order to assist the Services in their review, specific information is requested on how these threats may have changed in severity since December, 1997. The Services are requesting specific suggestions for appropriate modifications to the Conservation Plan and request that those suggestions be accompanied with justification as to how the proposed actions benefit Atlantic salmon. In addition to the draft annual report on the Conservation Plan, comments are requested on the adequacy of the other protective measures in place for Atlantic salmon and whether these measures remain adequate to protect the species in light of current knowledge. The principal other protective measures include the river-specific hatchery stocking program and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) ocean harvest agreements. All comments received, including names

and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and may be made available to the public.

The Services will review all comments on the draft annual report submitted by the public and provide a summary of those, along with their own comments, to the State of Maine in early March, shortly after the close of the comment period. The Services have requested a final annual report from the State of Maine by March 31, 1999. By April 30, 1999, the Services will update the 1995 Atlantic salmon status review. If that update indicates that the species is now in danger of extinction or likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future, the Services will promptly issue a proposed listing under the ESA.

Dated: January 14, 1999.

Ann D. Terbush,

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

Dated: January 12, 1999.

Gerry A. Jackson,

Assistant Director - Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Proposed Information Collection: Comment Request

AGENCY: Corporation for National and Community Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Corporation for National and Community Service (hereinafter the "Corporation"), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a preclearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and/or continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA95) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)). This program helps to ensure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Corporation is soliciting comments concerning its new Performance Standards Assessment Form. This form will be used by the Corporation to determine the adequacy and quality of state commission administrative systems.