title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, is amended as follows:

1. The heading for chapter III is revised to read as follows:

CHAPTER III—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PART 301—[REMOVED AND RESERVED]

2. Remove and reserve part 301. Issued on: December 22, 1999

Rosalind A. Knapp,

Acting General Counsel, Office of the Secretary of Transportation. [FR Doc. 99–33808 Filed 12–28–99; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–62–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17 RIN 1018-AF82

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for Two Chinook Salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) in California

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,

Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) are adding the Central Valley spring-run Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) and the California Coastal ESU of the west coast chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife as threatened.

This amendment to the list, authorized by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), is based on a determination by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which has jurisdiction for this species.

EFFECTIVE DATE: November 15, 1999. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nancy Gloman, Chief, Division of Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703/358–2171).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with Reorganization Plan No. 4 of 1970, the NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, is responsible for the decisions regarding the Central Valley spring-run and the California Coastal, both are ESUs of the west coast chinook salmon as defined in the Act. Under section 4(a)(2) of the Act. NMFS must decide whether a species under its jurisdiction should be classified as endangered or threatened, and the Service is responsible for the actual addition of these species to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in 50 CFR 17.11(h).

The NMFS published its determination of threatened status for the Central Valley spring-run ESU and the California Coastal ESU of the west coast chinook salmon on September 16, 1999 (64 FR 50394). Accordingly, we are now adding both ESUs to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, as threatened species. This addition is effective as of November 15, 1999, as indicated in the NMFS determination. Because this action is nondiscretionary, and in view of the public comment period provided by NMFS on the March 9, 1998, proposed listing (63 FR 11482),

we find that good cause exists to omit the notice and public comment procedures of 5 U.S.C. 553(b).

National Environmental Policy Act

We have determined that an environmental assessment, as defined under the authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Act. We published a notice outlining our reasons for this determination in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Export, Import, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, we amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter 1, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. Amend § 17.11(h) by adding the following to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, in alphabetical order under FISHES:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * * (h) * * *

Species		Historia rango	Vertebrate population	Status	When listed	Critical	Special
Common name	Scientific name	Historic range	where endangered or threatened	Status	vviien listed	habitat	Rules
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Fishes							
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Salmon, chinook	Oncorhynchus (=Salmo) tshawytscha.	North Pacific Basin from U.S.A. (CA) to Japan.	U.S.A. (CA) all naturally spawned spring-run populations from the Sacramento San Joaquin R. mainstem and its tributaries	Т	674	NA	NA
Salmon, chinook	Oncorhynchus tshawytscha.	North Pacific Basin from U.S.A. (CA) to Japan.	U.S.A. (CA) from Redwood Creek south to Russian R., inclusive, all naturally spawn populations in mainstems and tribu- taries.	Т	674	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Jamie Rappaport Clark,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service. [FR Doc. 99–33782 Filed 12–28–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 300

[Docket No.991207319-9319-01; I.D. 120899A]

Pacific Tuna Fisheries; Closure of U.S. Purse Seine Fishery for Yellowfin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean

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

ACTION: Fishing restrictions; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that the 1999 yellowfin tuna quota has been reached and the 1999 U.S. purse seine fishery for yellowfin tuna in the Commission Yellowfin Regulatory Area (CYRA) of the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (IATTC) is closed. In accordance with a resolution adopted by the IATTC and approved by the Department of State, several restrictions on fishing for yellowfin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean (EPO) are now in effect.

DATES: Effective at 12:01 a.m. on November 24, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments to Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator, Southwest Region (Regional Administrator), NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802–4213.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Svein Fougner at 562–980–4040.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This action is taken under the authority of the regulations at 50 CFR part 300, subpart C, which implement the Tuna Conventions Act (16 U.S.C. § 955). The United States is a member of the IATTC, which was established under the Convention for the Establishment of an Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission signed in 1949. The IATTC was established to provide an international arrangement to ensure the effective international conservation and

management of tunas and tuna-like fishes in the convention area. The IATTC has maintained a scientific research and fishery monitoring program for many years, and annually assesses the status of stocks of tuna and the fisheries to determine appropriate harvest limits or other measures to prevent overexploitation of the stocks and promote viable fisheries. The Convention Area is all waters of the EPO between 40° N. lat. and 40° S. lat. out to 150° W. long. The boundary of the CYRA was described in the announcement of the 1999 harvest quotas that was published in the Federal Register on December 14, 1999 (64 FR 69672).

At its annual meeting in June 1999, the IATTC adopted a resolution (which was subsequently agreed to by the Department of State) recommending that action be taken by member nations and other fishing nations to limit the catch of yellowfin tuna in 1999 to 225,000 metric tons (mt), with the potential to increase the quota to up to 270,000 mt if the Director of IATTC concluded that, based on catch and effort data, that level of harvest would not adversely affect the vellowfin tuna stock. Subsequently, the IATTC met in October 1999 and agreed to measures that would set the final quota at 265,000 mt.

Under regulations promulgated earlier this year (64 FR 44428, August 16, 1999), the Regional Administrator is authorized to notify the U.S. tuna industry (industry) directly of any quotas and associated regulatory measures that have been recommended by the IATTC and approved by the Department of State. In a separate action, the Regional Administrator announced the 1999 yellowfin tuna quota directly to the industry. The Regional Administrator also announced the 1999 yellowfin tuna quota to the industry and the public in the Federal Register on December 14. In another separate action, the Regional Administrator advised the industry directly of the management measures contained in this Federal Register document.

The IATTC Director advised the Regional Administrator on November 16, 1999, that the 1999 quota was projected to be reached on November 23, 1999. Accordingly, the measures agreed to in the October 1999 resolution were implemented. Those measures are as follows:

1. Purse seine vessels with an observer aboard from the On-Board

Observer Program established under the Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program must refrain from fishing for yellowfin in the CYRA.

- 2. The landings of fish caught while fishing for other species of tunas in the CYRA after the date established for the CYRA closure by any individual purse seiner with an observer aboard may include a maximum of 15—percent yellowfin (relative to its total catch of all species of fish during those periods).
- 3. Vessels with an observer aboard which are at sea on December 31, 1999, will not be subject to the 15-percent maximum after that date during the remainder of that trip.
- 4. Purse seine vessels and baitboats without an observer aboard which are at sea on the closure date may continue to fish for yellowfin without restriction until they return to port for unloading.
- 5. Purse seine vessels and baitboats without an observer aboard which are not at sea on the closure date, but which depart from port to fish for tunas after November 23, 1999, must refrain from fishing for yellowfin. The landings by vessels in this category, regardless of the date the trip is completed, may include a maximum of 15 percent yellowfin caught while fishing for other species of tunas.

For the reasons stated here and in accordance with the regulations at 64 FR 44428, August 16, 1999, NMFS herein announces that, after midnight on November 23, 1999, no U.S. vessel may fish unless in compliance with the above measures.

Classification This action is authorized by the regulations implementing the Tuna Conventions Act. The determination to take this action is based on the most recent data available. The aggregate data upon which the determination is based are available for public inspection at the Office of the Acting Regional Administrator (see ADDRESSES) during business hours. This action is taken under the authority of 50 CFR part 300, subpart C and is exempt from review under Executive Order 12866.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 951–961 and 971 *et sea*.

Dated: December 22, 1999.

Bruce C. Morehead,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 99–33852 Filed 12–28–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-F