

Fax: 503-230-5441. Please identify the fax comment as regarding the "Oregon's Draft Coho Project Report."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Rumsey, NMFS, Northwest Region, Protected Resources Division by phone at (503) 872-2791. Copies of the **Federal Register** notices cited herein and additional salmon-related materials are available on the Internet at <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the ESA requires NMFS to make listing determinations based solely on the best scientific and commercial data available after conducting a review of the status of the species and after taking into account efforts being made to protect the species. In judging the efficacy of existing protective efforts, NMFS relies on the joint NMFS-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "Policy for Evaluation of Conservation Efforts When Making Listing Decisions" ("PECE;" 68 FR 15100; March 28, 2003). PECE provides direction for the consideration of protective efforts identified in conservation agreements, conservation plans, management plans, or similar documents that have not yet been implemented, or have been implemented but have not yet demonstrated effectiveness. The policy articulates several criteria for evaluating the certainty of implementation and effectiveness of protective efforts to aid in determination of whether a species should be listed as threatened or endangered. NMFS lists as endangered "any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range," and lists as threatened any species "which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

On June 14, 2004, NMFS published proposed ESA listing determinations for 27 Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) of salmon and *O. mykiss* (69 FR 33101), including a proposal to list the Oregon Coast ESU as "threatened" under the ESA. In concluding that the ESU is "likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future," NMFS evaluated the status of the species, noting that recent strong returns (in 2000-2002) are extremely encouraging, but that these strong returns follow 3 years of successive recruitment failure (in 1997-1999). The recent increases in Oregon Coast coho returns are largely attributed to highly productive ocean conditions favoring high rates of coho marine survival. NMFS concluded that

the recent increases need to be sustained through additional brood years to resolve remaining uncertainties regarding ESU viability, particularly during unfavorable ocean conditions. NMFS noted that additional information demonstrating that the freshwater habitat can support high abundances of natural spawners and sustain recent abundance levels would also help resolve these uncertainties.

As part of its June 2004 listing proposals, NMFS evaluated, pursuant to the ESA and consistent with PECE, available information regarding efforts being made to protect the species. In its proposed listing determination for the Oregon Coast coho ESU, NMFS determined that, given the best information available at the time of the proposal, OPSW and other protective efforts do not provide sufficient certainty of implementation and effectiveness to alter the conclusion that the ESU is "likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range." However, NMFS noted that the State was initiating a comprehensive analysis of the adequacy of actions under OPSW, specifically in the context of contributing to the conservation and recovery of the Oregon Coast coho ESU. At the time of the proposal the State's OPSW assessment had just recently been initiated, and no new information was available to further inform NMFS' proposed listing determination for the Oregon Coast coho ESU. However, NMFS noted that "if information is made available to NMFS suggesting that the Oregon Plan [OPSW] and/or other conservation efforts substantially mitigate ESU extinction risk, NMFS may take such opportunity to re-initiate a status review for the Oregon Coast coho ESU to consider the best and most recent scientific and commercial information available."

Following an initial public comment period of 90 days, the public comment period was extended twice for an additional 36 and 22 days, respectively (69 FR 53031; August 31, 2004; 69 FR 61348; October 18, 2004).

The State has recently made a draft report publicly available (available on the Internet at: <ftp://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/OregonPlan/>) assessing the viability of Oregon Coast coho and the contributions of OPSW to the conservation of the ESU. NMFS will consider the information presented in the draft and final Coho Project Report in developing a final listing determination for the Oregon Coast coho ESU. To that end, NMFS is soliciting

public comment on the State's draft Coho Project Report.

Information Solicited

NMFS is soliciting public comment on whether the State's draft Coho Project Report provides new information and analyses concerning the viability of Oregon Coast coho to alter the NMFS' extinction risk assessment and proposed determination that the ESU is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range (i.e., "threatened"). Additionally, NMFS is soliciting comment on whether the draft Coho Project Report presents information and analyses demonstrating, consistent with PECE, that the OPSW provides sufficient certainty of implementation and effectiveness to alter NMFS' proposed determination that efforts being made to protect the Oregon Coast coho ESU do not substantially mitigate the assessed level of extinction risk. NMFS will also consider, in making a final listing decision for the Oregon Coast coho ESU, any information provided pursuant to this notice concerning the viability of Oregon Coast coho and any efforts being made to protect that ESU.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: February 3, 2005.

Laurie K. Allen,

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

[FR Doc. 05-2530 Filed 2-8-05; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Joint Navigation Conference

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice informs the public that the Joint Services Data Exchange (JSDE), in conjunction with the Air Force Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) NAVSTAR GPS Joint Program Office and the Embedded GPS INS {Inertial Navigation System} (EGI) Program Office, will host a U.S. Government-wide Joint Navigation Conference (JNC) at the Rosen Centre, Orlando, FL, 11-14 April 2005. The 2005 JNC will be the largest U.S. military navigation conference of the year. This conference will focus on battlefield applications of GPS and other navigation solutions, as well as advances in Guidance, Navigation, and

Control (GN&C), with emphasis on joint development, test, and support, logistics, and integration of the affordable GN&C systems. This is the only Navigation Systems Conference focused exclusively on Warfighter needs, issues, and experiences. Operational user participation is vital to the overall understanding of navigation warfare and is critical to the success of the JNC. The Conference will be held at the For Official Use Only (FOUO) designation and Secret levels. Attendance is restricted to U.S. Government, contractors, and invited Allied personnel. Advance visit requests and approvals are required of all attendees. Additional information, registration and security forms are provided for your convenience at the following Web site: <http://www.jointnavigation.org>. The Web site is the preferred method for registering to attend the conference. Visitors Access Request (VAR) may also be sent by fax to SMC/GPES 1-310-363-6387.

DATES: The suspense date for advance registration is 25 March 2005.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Point of Contact: GPUI at 1-310-363-6283 or 3145, GPS JPO User Integration Branch.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The civilian and military communities will focus on the use the battlefield applications of GPS and other navigation solutions; as well as advances in Guidance, Navigation, and Control (GN&C), with emphasis on joint development, test, and support, logistics, and integration of the affordable GN&C systems.

Albert F. Bodnar,

Federal Register, Federal Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 5001-5-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Availability of Draft Tiered Environmental Impact Statement for the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Plan, MD

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DOD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District has prepared a Draft Tiered Environmental Impact statement

(TEIS) and Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) to analyze dredged material placement for the Port of Baltimore for 20 years of maintenance and new work dredging. USACE is making the document available to the public for review and comment through a Notice of Availability published in the Federal Register. The overall goal of the DMMP is to develop a plan to maintain, in an economically and environmentally sound manner, channels necessary for navigation for the Port of Baltimore, conduct dredged material placement in the most environmentally sound manner, and maximize the use of dredged material as a beneficial resource. The recommendations which will provide a minimum of 20 years of dredged material placement capacity for the Port of Baltimore are:

- Continued use of open water placement in Virginia (Dam Neck Open Water Placement; Rappahannock Shoal Deep Alternate Open Water Placement; and Wolf Trap Alternate Open Water Placement).
- Optimized use of existing dredged material management sites in Maryland, including Pooles Island Open Water Site, Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility, Cox Creek Confined Disposal Facility and Poplar Island Environmental Restoration Project (PIERP).
- Multiple confined disposal facilities for harbor material in Patapsco River.
- Large Island Restoration-Middle Chesapeake Bay.
- PIERP Expansion.
- Wetland Restoration-Dorchester County.

We are making the Draft TEIS available to the public for a 45-day review and comment period.

DATES: We must receive comments on or before March 28, 2005, to ensure consideration in final plan development. See **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section for meeting dates.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments concerning this proposed project to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, Attn: Mr. Mark Mendelsohn, Planning Division, P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203-1715. Please submit electronic comments to Mark.Mendelsohn@usace.army.mil.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mark Mendelsohn, Biologist, USACE Baltimore District, Planning Division, (410) 962-9499 or (800) 295-1610.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: A key mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is to provide safe, reliable, and efficient waterborne transportation systems (channels, harbors, and waterways) for movement of commerce,

national security needs, and recreation. Accomplishing this successfully requires dredging of channels to adequately meet the needs of waterborne transportation. Operating and maintaining the nation's harbors and waterways, which includes the placement and/or management of dredged material, is an increasingly challenging task. USACE continues its priority mission to plan and implement sound management of dredged materials.

The USACE Engineering Regulation (ER) 1105-100 mandates that the USACE Districts develop a DMMP for all federally maintained navigation harbor projects where there is an indication of insufficient placement capacity to accommodate maintenance dredging for the next 20 years.

Two public meetings will be held for the Baltimore Harbor and Channels Dredged Material Management Plan. The first public meeting will be held at Queen Anne's Public Library, Stevensville Branch on March 7, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m. The second public meeting will be held at Essex Community College, in the Lecture Hall Building J on the first floor, on March 10, 2005 beginning at 7 p.m. Staff will be available one hour prior to meeting time. A map showing the location on the Essex Community College can be found at <http://www.ccbcmd.edu/directory/essex/index.html>. Both meetings will provide an opportunity for the public to present oral and/or written comments. All persons and organizations that have an interest in the DMMP are urged to attend the meeting and provide comments. Your comment must be contained in the body of your message; please do not send attached files. Please include your name and address in your message.

You may view the Draft TEIS and related information on our Web page at <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/projects/DMMP/index.html>. USACE has distributed copies of the Draft TEIS to appropriate members of Congress, State and local government officials, Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Copies are available for public review at the following locations:

(1) Queen Anne's County Public Library, Stevensville Branch, 200 Library Circle, Stevensville, MD 21666.

(2) Essex County Public Library, 1110 Eastern Boulevard Baltimore, MD 21221.

(3) Anne Arundel County Public Library, 1410 West Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

(4) St. Mary's County Public Library, 23250 Hollywood Road, Leonardtown, MD 20650.