

hatchery operations, along with conservation measures and monitoring plan described therein. The hatchery programs are designed to contribute to the survival and recovery of Nooksack River Chinook salmon and provide salmon for harvest augmentation purposes. These hatchery programs are intended to contribute to fulfilling federal tribal treaty rights affirmed in *U.S. v. Washington (1974)* by enhancing future fishing opportunities for Chinook, coho, and chum salmon. Included in the hatchery plans are research and monitoring activities to study the effect of the programs on the recovery of Puget Sound Chinook salmon and steelhead.

We have concluded that adherence to the components of these HGMPs would provide effective protection to the Nooksack Chinook salmon and steelhead populations. Implementation of the hatchery programs as described would not jeopardize the Puget Sound Chinook Salmon Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) or the Puget Sound Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) based on parameters defining a viable salmonid population in terms of overall abundance and productivity, as well as the diversity and spatial structure of the populations within the Nooksack River basin and the role of the populations to the larger ESU or DPS. The HGMPs will provide for the proposed harvest opportunities while not appreciably slowing any listed population's achievement of viable function or appreciably reducing the likelihood of the survival and recovery of the Puget Sound Chinook salmon ESU and Puget Sound Steelhead DPS.

NMFS' determination on these 12 HGMPs depends upon implementation of all of the monitoring, evaluation, reporting tasks or assignments, and enforcement activities included within. Reporting and inclusion of new information derived from research, monitoring, and evaluation activities described within will provide assurance that performance standards will be achieved in future seasons. NMFS' evaluation is available on the West Coast Region website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/twelve-hatchery-and-genetic-management-plans-nooksack-river-basin-and-georgia-strait-salmon>.

#### Summary of Comments Received in the Response to the Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination

NMFS published notice of its Proposed Evaluation and Pending Determination (PEPD) on the plan for public review and comment on May 12, 2025 (90 FR 20156). The PEPD was

available for public review and comment for 30 days.

During the public comment period, four comments were received, all by email. These came in the form of: individual, unique comments, and letters from conservation organizations. NMFS thoroughly reviewed and considered all of the substantive comments received from the public and the additional literature cited. This review of new information and data informed NMFS's subsequent analysis but did not lead to any changes to the HGMPs, as submitted, or to SFD's determination that the plan adequately addresses the 4(d), Limit 6 criteria. A section summarizing and responding to the substantive comments received during the public comment period on the PEPD is included as part of the final evaluation document, available on the West Coast Region website.

#### Authority

Under section 4 of the ESA, the Secretary of Commerce is required to adopt such regulations as deemed necessary and advisable for the conservation of species listed as threatened. The ESA salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (50 CFR 223.203(b)) specifies categories of activities that contribute to the conservation of listed salmonids and sets out the criteria for such activities. The rule further provides that the prohibitions of paragraph (a) of the rule do not apply to actions undertaken in compliance with a plan developed jointly by a state and a tribe and determined by NMFS to be in accordance with the salmon and steelhead 4(d) Rule (65 FR 42422, July 10, 2000).

16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*; 16 U.S.C. 742a *et seq.*

Dated: August 22, 2025.

**Jennifer Quan,**

*Regional Administrator, West Coast Region,  
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF086]

##### Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will hold a public meeting.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 2 p.m.–5 p.m. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.**

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. Connection information will be posted to the Council's calendar prior to the meeting at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).  
*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331; [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Christopher M. Moore, Ph.D., Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, telephone: (302) 526-5255.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Joint Spiny Dogfish Committee will meet via webinar on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is for the Committee to provide recommendations regarding the framework adjustment action that would modify spiny dogfish fishery accountability measures (including catch overage paybacks) and set upcoming (2026+) specifications. More information on this action is available at <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/spiny-dogfish-accountability-measures-fw>.

The meeting is physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Shelley Spedden, (302) 526-5251 at least 5 days prior to the meeting date.

*Authority:* 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: August 22, 2025.

**Rey Israel Marquez,**

*Acting Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2025-16359 Filed 8-26-25; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XF138]

##### North Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meeting

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

**ACTION:** Notice of web conference.