

TABLE 2—PROJECT SUMMARY—Continued

Project title	Filling gaps and expanding opportunities in the tilefish fishery through fishermen-collected data
Trip duration (days)	1–4 days.
Total number of days	Up to 144 days.
Gear type(s)	Rod and reel; bottom longline.
Number of tows or sets	8–12 sets/day.
Duration of tows or sets	30 minutes to 2 hours.

Project Narrative

This project seeks to leverage the knowledge and experience of the commercial fishing industry to pilot a targeted tilefish research fleet to establish a new data stream for these data-poor, commercially important species. The expected outcomes of the project include the development of a model approach for fishery-dependent data collection involving the commercial fishing industry, as well as a consistent conversion factor, to inform a potential regulatory change that would allow commercial tilefish fishermen to process these species at sea. The specific objectives include: 1. Collect and communicate tilefish data (length and weight) in a cost-effective way using modern electronic technology and fishermen's time on the water, 2. contribute to the improvement of tilefish stock assessment, 3. extract and analyze biological data from images of individual tilefish, and 4. calculate an accurate and reproducible conversion factor that is representative of the ratio of fillet length and weight to whole fish length and weight.

The project would consist of 3 participants conducting field sampling once per month, during their regular fishing activity, for a total of 12 trips per vessel, and 36 total trips for the project duration. Participants would use their standard commercial tilefish rod and reel or bottom longline gear and be required to adhere to their existing whole-fish weight limits, depending on their specific tilefish permit. The overall goal for the project would be to sample 450–500 total tilefish (both golden and blueline combined); this would be an average of approximately 12–15 tilefish per vessel per trip. Participants would be required to keep the skin on all fillets, to enable identification between species. Fillets of each species would be stored separately from one another, in accordance with their regular catch handling activities. This project would not create additional catch or effort.

To record the size and length of individual fish and their resulting fillets, electronic monitoring camera systems would be installed aboard each participant vessel. The system would

have two cameras: One to obtain images with a field of view large enough to contain a mature golden tilefish, and one focused on a nearby weight scale. Once a tilefish was caught, it would be placed whole on a length board and scale beneath the camera. The captain would then fillet the fish in full view of the camera, place the fillets on the length board and scale, and record those measurements. After each trip, the video and associated data would be transferred for review and analysis by CFRF. Data would be used to calculate a conversion factor for whole fish to fillet for each species; the conversion factor would be calculated as a ratio of both halves of a fish fillet's length and weight compared against the whole fish's length and weight.

If approved, the applicant may request minor modifications and extensions to the EFP throughout the year. EFP modifications and extensions may be granted without further notice if they are deemed essential to facilitate completion of the proposed research and have minimal impacts that do not change the scope or impact of the initially approved EFP request. Any fishing activity conducted outside the scope of the exempted fishing activity would be prohibited.

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

Dated: July 15, 2026.

Shannon Bettridge,

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

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648–XF850]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that NMFS has received two applications for renewal pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for operation of the Snake River Sockeye Salmon Hatchery Program. The applications from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and NMFS's Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) include a Hatchery and Genetic Management Plan (HGMP). The HGMP describes the hatchery program operated by IDFG, NWFSC, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe (SBT), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). This document serves to notify the public of the availability and opportunity to comment on the HGMP on the proposed hatchery program.

DATES: Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific time on August 17, 2026.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2026–1784, by electronic submission:

- **Electronic submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Visit <https://www.regulations.gov> and type NOAA–NMFS–2026–1784 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on <https://www.regulations.gov> without change. All personal identifying information (*e.g.*, name, address, *etc.*), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

The HGMP available for public comment is available on the internet at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/snake-river-sockeye-salmon-production-program>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Andreas Raisch at (503) 230-5405 or by email at andreas.raisch@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice**

- Sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*): endangered, naturally and artificially propagated Snake River Sockeye Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU);
- Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated Snake River Spring/Summer-run ESU;
- Steelhead (*O. mykiss*): threatened, naturally and artificially propagated Snake River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment.

Background

Section 9 of the ESA and Federal regulations prohibit the “taking” of a species listed as endangered or threatened. The term “take” is defined under the ESA to mean harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. NMFS may make exceptions to the take prohibitions in section 9 of the ESA for programs that are approved by NMFS under section 10(a)(1)(A) of the ESA (50 CFR 222.308).

The operators and funding agencies, including IDFG, SBT, ODFW, NMFS’s NWFSC and BPA, submitted an HGMP to NMFS pursuant to NMFS’ ESA Section 10(a)(1)(A) for hatchery activities in the Snake River basin.

The programs are intended to contribute to the survival and recovery of Snake River Sockeye salmon in the Snake River basin. The proposed program would maintain the Snake River sockeye salmon captive broodstock, collect and spawn adult sockeye salmon returning to the Snake River basin, rear juveniles, and release eggs, juveniles, and adult fish in upper Salmon River basin lakes, as well as into Tanner Creek, Oregon. Adult fish that return to Tanner Creek, would be transported to Eagle Fish Hatchery, Idaho for processing, and released to spawn upstream in Redfish and Pettit Lake. The proposed continuation of the program would indicate best management practices to minimize adverse effects on the ESU.

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

Dated: July 14, 2026.

Jennifer Quan,

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

[FR Doc. 2026-14451 Filed 7-16-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for Review and Approval; Comment Request; Alaska License Limitation Program for Groundfish, Crab, and Scallops

The Department of Commerce will submit the following information collection request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review and clearance in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, on or after the date of publication of this notice. We invite the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on proposed, and continuing information collections, which helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. Public comments were previously requested via the **Federal Register** on December 30, 2025, during a 60-day comment period. This notice allows for an additional 30 days for public comments.

Agency: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce.

Title: Alaska License Limitation Program for Groundfish, Crab, and Scallops.

OMB Control Number: 0648-0334.

Form Number(s): None.

Type of Request: Regular submission (extension of a current information collection).

Number of Respondents: 68.

Average Hours per Response: 1 hour for Application for the transfer of groundfish and crab LLP licenses; 1 hour for the Application for the transfer of scallop LLP licenses; 4 hours for the Transfer appeal.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 38.

Needs and Uses: This is a request for renewal of an approved information collection. The collection is sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Alaska Regional Office (AKR) and is authorized under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.* and at 50 CFR parts 679 and 680.

This collection contains collection-of-information requirements necessary for the transfer of License Limitation Program (LLP) licenses for the commercial groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries. The purpose of this collection is to determine whether a transfer is eligible and if endorsements

meet regulatory requirements for licensing and permits. An essential feature of the LLP is the ability for participants to transfer their LLP license. Without the ability to track the movement of LLP licenses, NMFS would be unable to effectively manage the LLP. The LLP restricts access to the commercial groundfish, crab, and scallop fisheries in the exclusive economic zone off Alaska, except for certain areas where alternative programs exist. The intended effect of the LLP is to limit the number of participants and reduce fishing capacity in fisheries off Alaska. More information on the LLP can be found on the NMFS Alaska Region website and at 50 CFR part 679.

An LLP license is required for vessels participating in directed fishing for LLP groundfish species in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands (BSAI) or Gulf of Alaska (GOA), or fishing in any BSAI LLP crab fisheries. An LLP license is also required for any vessel deployed in scallop fisheries in Federal waters off Alaska except for some diving operations.

Vessels participating in directed fishing for LLP groundfish species in the GOA or BSAI, or fishing in any BSAI LLP crab fisheries, must be named on a valid copy of the LLP license that is on board the vessel, with some exceptions. An LLP groundfish or crab license authorizes the license holder to deploy the vessel in fisheries in accordance with the specific area and species endorsements, the vessel and gear designations, the maximum length overall (MLOA) specified on the license, and any exemption from the MLOA specified on the license.

An LLP scallop license authorizes the person named on the license to catch and retain scallops in compliance with State of Alaska regulations using a vessel that does not exceed the MLOA specified on the license and the gear designation specified on the license. Unlike the LLP groundfish license, the scallop license is not vessel specific. A valid copy of the LLP scallop license must be on board the vessel.

For program definitions, refer to 50 CFR 679.2, for permit and licensing requirements for scallop refer to 50 CFR 679.4(g), for permit and licensing requirements for groundfish and crab refer to 50 CFR 679.4(k), and for prohibitions refer to 50 CFR 679.7(i). Additional information on the LLP can be found on the NMFS Alaska Region website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/alaska/sustainable-fisheries/license-limitation-program-alaska>.

This collection contains the Application for the transfer of groundfish and crab LLP licenses, the