



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
West Coast Region  
1201 NE Lloyd Boulevard, Suite 1100  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97232

November 23, 2020

Dear Recipient:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we announce the availability for review of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) to designate and authorize the reintroduction of a nonessential experimental population (NEP) of Central Valley (CV) spring-run Chinook salmon in the upper Yuba River under Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 10(j).

The proposed action is the establishment of rules pursuant to section 10(j) and 4(d) of the ESA to designate and authorize the release of a NEP of CV spring-run Chinook salmon in the upper Yuba River upstream of Englebright Dam, California. The proposal includes establishment of take prohibitions for the NEP with exceptions for particular activities. The proposed action would support reintroduction of CV spring-run Chinook salmon to key areas above Englebright Dam. Reintroduction is consistent with recommendations in our 2014 Recovery Plan for the Evolutionarily Significant Units of Sacramento River Winter-Run Chinook Salmon and Central Valley Spring-Run Chinook Salmon and the Distinct Population Segment of California Central Valley Steelhead.


The document is accessible electronically through the following website at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/laws-and-policies/west-coast-region-national-environmental-policy-act-documents>.

Written comments may be submitted to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service via electronic mail or physical mail to the comment coordinator during the public-comment period (the closing date for the public comment period is noted at the above website). When submitting comments, please include the identifier "NOAA-NMFS-2020-0139" on the subject line.

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Thank you in advance for your input and assistance in finalizing the Environmental Assessment.

Sincerely,

  
Barry A. Thom  
Regional Administrator

