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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

RIN 0648-XC469

Pacific Fishery Management Council; Public Meetings and Hearings

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

ACTION: Notice of opportunities to submit public comments.

SUMMARY: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) has announced its annual preseason management process for the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries. This notice informs the public of opportunities to provide comments on the 2013 ocean salmon management measures which will publish as a final rule and be effective May 1, 2013.

DATES: Written comments on the salmon management alternatives adopted by the Pacific Council at its March 2013 meeting, and described in Preseason Report II, submitted electronically or in hard copy by 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2013 will be considered in the Pacific Council's final recommendation for the 2013 management measures.

ADDRESSES: Documents will be available from Mr. Dan Wolford, Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384, telephone: 503-820-2280 (voice) or 503-820-2299 (fax), and posted on the Pacific Council web site at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. You may submit comments, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2012-0248, by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2012-0248>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Mr. Dan Wolford, Chairman, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101, Portland, OR 97220-1384.
- Fax: 503-820-2299, Attn: Mr. Mike Burner.
- Comments can also be submitted via email at PFMC.comments@noaa.gov.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual may not be considered by NMFS or the Pacific Council. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on 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 and the Pacific Council will accept anonymous comments (enter "N/A" in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mike Burner, telephone: 503-820-2280.

For information on submitting comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking portal, contact Peggy Mundy, telephone: 206-526-4323.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Pacific Council has published its annual notice of availability of reports; public meetings, and hearings for the 2013 ocean salmon fisheries (77 FR 73987, December 12, 2012).

The Pacific Council will adopt alternatives for 2013 ocean salmon fisheries at its meeting, March 6-11, 2013 at the Hotel Murano in Tacoma, Washington. Details of this meeting are available on the Pacific Council's website (www.pcouncil.org) and will be published in the Federal Register in February 2013. On March 20, 2013, "Preseason Report II-Proposed Alternatives and Environmental Assessment Part 2 for 2013 Ocean Salmon Fishery Regulations" and public hearing schedule will be mailed to the public that have requested to receive these documents (see ADDRESSES) and posted on the Pacific Council website at <http://www.pcouncil.org>. The report will include a description of the salmon management alternatives and a summary of their biological and economic impacts.

Comments on the alternatives the Pacific Council adopts at its March 2013 meeting, and described in Preseason Report II, may be submitted in writing or electronically as described under Addresses, above, or verbally or in writing at any of the public hearings held on March 25-26, 2013, or at the Pacific Council's meeting, April 5-11, 2013, at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Written and electronically submitted comments must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, March 31, 2013 in order to be included in the briefing book for the April Council meeting where they will be considered in the adoption of the Pacific Council's final recommendation for the 2013 salmon fishery management measures. All comments received accordingly will be reviewed and considered by the Pacific Council and NMFS.

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

Dated: February 20, 2013

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

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