

### Nature of Decision To Be Made

NMFS will use a combination of best available scientific information and public engagement to evaluate and consider identifying areas that may be environmentally, socially, and economically suitable for commercial aquaculture as AOAs. Geographic areas proposed as AOAs will be described in the draft and final PEIS along with the no action alternative. Selection of AOAs will follow evaluation in the draft and final PEIS with the agency's issuance of a ROD explaining the factors considered in making the final decision. The identification of an AOA in the ROD is not a regulatory action and does not bind NMFS or the cooperating agencies to take any specific action related to an AOA.

No specific aquaculture projects are being proposed or will be permitted through the PEIS. The analysis presented in the draft and final PEIS and the identification of AOAs in the ROD will serve to guide and inform future decision-making (e.g., environmental review and permitting processes) if and when specific proposals to conduct aquaculture operations are proposed within these areas.

Future aquaculture operations proposed within an AOA would be required to comply with all applicable Federal and state laws and regulations, including but not limited to the Clean Water Act, Rivers and Harbors Act, Endangered Species Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Compliance may include Endangered Species Act and essential fish habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act) consultations, and Marine Mammal Protection Act authorizations. Additional NEPA analysis may be required as part of permitting and authorization processes. Cooperating agencies may adopt the PEIS and utilize the information in their permitting decisions.

Identifying AOAs is an opportunity for NMFS to use best available science-based guidance on sustainable aquaculture management, meaningfully take into account the views of the public and stakeholders, and support the "triple bottom line" of environmental, economic, and social sustainability.

(Authority: Executive Order on Promoting American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth, E.O. 13921)

Dated: May 13, 2022.

**Danielle Blacklock,**

*Director, Office of Aquaculture, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC055]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Take of Anadromous Fish

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

**ACTION:** NMFS is notifying the public of the issuance of a permit for implementation of the Rescue and Rearing Management Plan (RRMP) for Petaluma River Steelhead.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that NMFS has issued a permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the implementation of the RRMP by the United Anglers of Casa Grande (UACG).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Jodi Charrier, Santa Rosa, California (ph.: 707-575-6069; email: [jodi.charrier@noaa.gov](mailto:jodi.charrier@noaa.gov)).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### ESA-Listed Species Covered in This Notice

- Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)—Central California Coast (CCC) distinct population segment (DPS)

#### Discussion of the Biological Analysis Underlying Permit Issuance

NMFS has issued a permit for UACG to implement the RRMP, which is intended to increase adult CCC steelhead DPS abundance in the Petaluma River Watershed. Fish rearing will occur at the UACG Hatchery and will be run by Casa Grande High School located in Petaluma, California. The RRMP has two main components: (1) Rescue and translocate wild steelhead from drying stream reaches; and (2) captively rear wild fry at the UACG Hatchery to be released as smolts into natal tributaries. There is no spawning of steelhead at the Hatchery. These management actions should result in higher survival rates; thereby increasing the abundance of the population over time.

The program uses natural-origin fish, and the permit for this program is issued under ESA section 10(a)(1)(A).

Description of the programs was provided in the RRMP submitted by the UACG. NMFS has analyzed the effects of the RRMP on CCC DPS steelhead listed under the ESA, and has concluded that the program is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of CCC steelhead or destroy or adversely modify its designated critical habitat. Authorization of the activities is contingent upon implementation of all of the monitoring, evaluation, reporting tasks or assignments, and enforcement activities included in the permit.

#### Summary of Comments Received on the RRMP

NMFS made the permit application available for public comment on February 16, 2022 (87 FR 8787) for 30 days, as required by the ESA. No comments were received.

Dated: May 26, 2022.

**Angela Somma,**

*Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XC073]

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

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

**ACTION:** Notice; public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel will hold a public meeting, jointly with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. EDT. For agenda details, see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held via webinar. Webinar connection, agenda items, and any additional information will be available at [www.mafmc.org/council-events](http://www.mafmc.org/council-events).

*Council address:* Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, 800 N State Street, Suite 201, Dover, DE 19901; telephone: (302) 674-2331 or on their website at [www.mafmc.org](http://www.mafmc.org).