Washington, and Idaho be conducted to determine if the petitioned action is warranted. Information received during this status review will be used in NMFS ongoing review of West Coast chinook salmon populations (59 FR 46808, September 12, 1994).

Listing Factors and Basis for Determination

Under section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, a species can be determined to be endangered or threatened for any of the following reasons: (1) Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or (5) other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence. In addition, under section 4(b)(7) of the ESA, the Secretary may at any time issue an emergency regulation if there exists a significant risk to the well-being of the species. In such a case, the Secretary must publish a Federal **Register** notice detailing the reasons for an emergency listing. Listing determinations are made solely on the best scientific and commercial data available.

Information Solicited

To ensure that the chinook salmon status review is complete and is based on the best available scientific and commercial data, NMFS is soliciting information and comments concerning: (1) Whether or not the populations qualify as "species" under the ESA in accordance with NMFS' Policy on Applying the Definition of Species Under the Endangered Species Act (56 FR 58612, November 20, 1991); and (2) whether or not the populations are endangered or threatened based on the above listing criteria. Specifically, NMFS is soliciting information in the following areas: Influence of historical

and present hatchery fish releases on naturally spawning populations of chinook salmon, separation of hatchery and natural chinook salmon escapement, alteration of chinook salmon freshwater and marine habitats, disease epizootiology of chinook salmon, age structure of chinook salmon populations, migration timing and behavior of juvenile and adult chinook salmon, and interactions of chinook salmon with other salmonids. This information should address all chinook salmon populations in California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. NMFS is also soliciting information regarding factors which have contributed to the decline of west coast chinook salmon populations, and any efforts being made to protect this species. In conducting this status review, NMFS will consider information received in response to a very similar request for information published in the Federal Register (59 FR 46808, September 12, 1994) in conjunction with NMFS' decision to conduct a review of West Coast chinook salmon populations. Consequently, it is not necessary for parties to submit the same information for this request. Copies of the petition are available (see ADDRESSES).

Critical Habitat

NMFS is also requesting information on areas that may qualify as critical habitat for California, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho populations of chinook salmon. Areas that include the physical and biological features essential to the recovery of the species should be identified. Areas outside the present range should also be identified if such areas are essential to the recovery of the species. Essential features should include, but are not limited to: (1) Space for individual and population growth, and for normal behavior; (2) food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements; (3) cover or shelter; (4) sites for reproduction and rearing of offspring; and (5) habitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historic geographical and ecological distributions of the species.

For areas potentially qualifying as critical habitat, NMFS is requesting information describing: (1) The activities that affect the area or could be affected by the designation, and (2) the economic costs and benefits of additional requirements of management measures likely to result from the designation.

The economic cost to be considered in the critical habitat designation under the ESA is the probable economic impact of the (critical habitat) designation upon proposed or ongoing activities (50 CFR 424.19). NMFS must consider the incremental costs specifically resulting from a critical habitat designation that are above the economic effects attributable to listing the species. Economic effects attributable to listing include actions resulting from section 7 consultations under the ESA to avoid jeopardy to the species and from the taking prohibitions under section 9 of the ESA. Comments concerning economic impacts should distinguish the costs of listing from the incremental costs that can be directly attributed to the designation of specific areas as critical habitat.

Data, information, and comments should include: (1) Supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications; and (2) the person's name, address, and association, institution, or business.

Dated: June 2, 1995.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service. [FR Doc. 95–13965 Filed 6–7–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 3510–22–F