

Species		Historic range	Family name	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Scientific name	Common name						
<i>Malacothrix indecora</i>	Santa Cruz Island malacothrix.	U.S.A. (CA) .....	Asteraceae—Aster .	E	*	NA	NA
<i>Malacothrix squalida</i>	Island malacothrix ...	U.S.A. (CA) .....	Asteraceae—Aster .	E	*	NA	NA
<i>Phacelia insularis</i> <i>ssp. insularis.</i>	Island phacelia .....	U.S.A. (CA) .....	Hydrophyllaceae .... —Waterleaf .....	E	*	NA	NA
<i>Thysanocarpus conchuliferus.</i>	Santa Cruz Island lacepod.	U.S.A. (CA) .....	Brassicaceae—Mustard.	E	*	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Dated: July 7, 1995.

**Mollie H. Beattie,**

*Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 227

[Docket No. 950407093-5179-02; I.D. 012595A]

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Proposed Threatened Status for Three Contiguous ESUs of Coho Salmon Ranging From Oregon Through Central California

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS has completed a comprehensive status review of coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) populations from southern British Columbia to southern California, and has identified six evolutionarily significant units (ESUs) within this range. NMFS is now issuing a proposed rule to list three of these ESUs as threatened (Oregon coast, southern Oregon/northern California, and central California coast). NMFS is also adding two ESUs (Puget Sound/Strait of Georgia, lower Columbia River/southwest Washington coast) to the candidate species list because, while there is not sufficient information available at this time to indicate that coho salmon in either ESU warrant protection under the Endangered

Species Act (ESA), NMFS has identified specific risk factors and concerns that need to be resolved prior to assessing the overall health of the ESUs.

NMFS is requesting public comments and input on the biological issues pertaining to the proposal. NMFS also is soliciting suggestions and input on integrated local/state/federal conservation measures that might best achieve the purposes of the ESA relative to recovering the health of coho salmon populations and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Should the proposed listings be made final, protective regulations under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) would be put into effect and a recovery program(s) would be implemented.

**DATES:** Comments must be received by October 23, 1995. NMFS will announce the dates and locations of public hearings in Washington, Oregon, and California in a separate **Federal Register** document. Requests for additional public hearings must be received by September 8, 1995.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments on this proposed rule and requests for public hearings should be sent to the Environmental and Technical Services Division, NMFS, Northwest Region, 525 NE Oregon Street, Suite 500, Portland, OR 97232-2737.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Garth Griffin, 503-230-5430, Craig Wingert, 310-980-4021, or Marta Nammack, 301-713-1401.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Petition Background

On July 21, 1993, NMFS received a petition from Oregon Trout, Portland Audubon Society, and Siskiyou Regional Educational Project (Oregon Trout et al.) to list five or more ESUs (See Consideration as a "Species" under

the ESA) of indigenous, naturally spawning coho salmon in Oregon and to designate critical habitat under the ESA. The five ESUs identified by the petitioners included coho salmon populations from rivers south of Cape Blanco, the Coquille and Coos Rivers, the Umpqua River, rivers between the Umpqua and Nehalem rivers, and the Columbia River. On October 27, 1993, NMFS published a notice of finding (58 FR 57770) that a listing may be warranted, soliciting information about the status of all populations of coho salmon in Washington, Oregon, and California. NMFS determined that such an expanded status review was warranted due to the general decline in many West Coast coho salmon populations.

Supplemental to the July 21, 1993, petition, on October 20, 1993, NMFS received a petition from Pacific Rivers Council and 22 co-petitioners (PRC et al.) to list under the ESA, either on an emergency basis or through normal listing procedures, all coho salmon populations in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California, and to designate critical habitat. On January 26, 1994, NMFS published a notice of finding (59 FR 3662) that a non-emergency listing may be warranted, soliciting information about the status of all populations of coho salmon "coastwide" (hereinafter defined as populations in the southern portion of the species' range inhabiting rivers south of Queen Charlotte Strait, British Columbia). The notice also announced that information submitted in response to the PRC et al. petition would be used in NMFS' coastwide review of coho salmon populations already underway (58 FR 57770, October 27, 1993).

Prior to the Oregon Trout et al. and PRC et al. petitions, NMFS received two