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NOAA Fisheries Seeks Public Input on a Multispecies Recovery Plan to Restore Salmon and Steelhead Along California's North and Central Coast

Informational workshops planned in Arcata, Santa Cruz, Ukiah, Oakland and Santa Rosa

NOAA's Fisheries Service announced in today's federal register the availability of a draft [recovery plan](#) for public comment on three species of salmonids that spawn and rear in streams and rivers along the central and northern California coast, and in tributaries to San Francisco Bay. The fish, all listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), are the [California Coastal Chinook salmon](#), and [Northern California](#) and [Central California Coast steelhead](#).

The ESA requires development of a recovery plan when a species is listed as either threatened or endangered. A recovery plan is not a regulatory document but acts as a framework to rebuild a species to a sustainable level that no longer requires federal protection. The process encourages the public to comment and participate before the plan is finalized.

"We hope to get as much public participation and build as many partnerships as possible," said Lisa Van Atta, NOAA Fisheries Acting Assistant Regional Administrator for California Coastal Office in Santa Rosa, Calif. "Over 80 percent of the 8 million acres covered by this plan are privately owned, and cooperation among all stakeholders, private and public, will be crucial in achieving the plan's goals."

The decline for the species covered by this plan is a result of degraded habitat caused in part by water diversions, cannabis, forestry, agriculture, and several other factors associated with urbanization. This recovery plan will help categorize and prioritize those threats.

The multispecies recovery plan covers a geographic area extending from the Redwood Creek watershed in Humboldt County south to the Aptos Creek watershed in Santa Cruz County including tributaries into Humboldt and San Francisco Bays, excluding the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

A series of public workshops will be held to help inform interested parties on the Draft Recovery Plan. Written comments will also be accepted at the workshops. These include:

- UKIAH--October 14, 2015, UC Cooperative Extension Mendocino, 890 N. Bush Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, from 6-8 pm
- ARCATA--October 15, 2015, Humboldt Area Foundation, 363 Indianola Road, Bayside, CA 95524, from 6-8 pm
- SANTA CRUZ--October 20, 2015, Southwest Fisheries Science Center, 110 Shaffer Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, from 3-5 pm
- OAKLAND--November 3, 2015, Elihu M Harris State Building, 1515 Clay St. Oakland, CA 94612, from 1-3 pm
- SANTA ROSA--November 5, 2015, Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403, from 1-3 pm

Public comment and information relevant to this recovery plan may be submitted at the workshops or by any of the methods listed below before 5:00 p.m., December 4, 2015.

Electronic Submissions:

WCR_CMSRecoveryPlan.Comments@NOAA.gov

Mail:

Recovery Team
National Marine Fisheries Service
777 Sonoma Avenue, Room 325
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Electronic copies of this draft plan may be downloaded from the following internet site:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementation/north_central_california_coast/north_central_california_coast_salmon_recovery_domain.html

If you do not have online access, you can receive a CD copy by emailing a request to Andrea Berry at andrea.berry@noaa.gov.

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On the web: ["Proposed plan seeks to restore salmon and steelhead across 8 million acres of California's north-central coast"](#)