

Comment Letter 6. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service. Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Regional Administrator

h/vd/T
FMP


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Southwest Region
 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4800
 Long Beach, California 90802-4213

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In Response Refer To:
 151422SWR04SR9246:PF

CC -
 W. Probst

Don L. Neubacher
 Superintendent
 Point Reyes National Seashore
 Point Reyes, CA 94956

Dear Mr. Neubacher:

Thank you for your letter requesting concurrence with your determination that the actions proposed in the Point Reyes National Seashore (PRNS) Fire Management Plan may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, Central California Coast (CCC) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and CCC steelhead (*O. mykiss*). In addition, the PRNS has determined that the proposed action is not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat designated for CCC coho salmon. The PRNS has also determined that the project will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as designated under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCM) for Pacific salmon, including coho salmon and Chinook salmon.

The PRNS proposes a framework for all fire management activities, including wildfire suppression, on land managed by PRNS and the Northern Districts of Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The seashore and the recreation area are located along the California coast within Marin County. The fire management plan is anticipated to guide the fire management program for the next 10 to 15 years. Information on proposed management activities and potential effects to salmonids have been provided to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) by the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, consultation initiation letter, and through oral communication with PRNS staff.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Based on the information provided, I concur with PRNS that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect threatened CCC steelhead, CCC coho salmon, or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat designated for CCC coho salmon. This concludes consultation for the PRNS Fire Management Plan in accordance with 50 CFR section 402.14(b)(1). However, if new information becomes available indicating that listed species may be adversely affected by the project in a manner not previously considered, or if the project plans change, further consultation may be necessary.

**Comment
6-1**



Comment 6-1. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurs that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect threatened fish species or adversely modified critical fish habitat. If the project plans change or new information on the listed species indicates a potential adverse effect, further consultation may be necessary.

Response to Comment 6-1. The following text for mitigation measure SS-7 is added to the FMP Final EIS.

SS-7 The annual work plan for FMP implementation will be provided to NOAA Fisheries each year to allow that agency to monitor the types of project proposed.

Mamoon-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

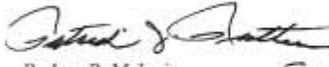
Amendments to the MSFCMA in 1996 require Federal agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries regarding any action or proposed action that may adversely affect EFH for Federally-managed fish species. For more information on EFH, see our website at "<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>."

**Comment
6-2**

NOAA Fisheries has evaluated the proposed project for potential adverse effects to EFH pursuant to section 305(b)(2) of the MSFCMA. The area affected by the project is part of EFH designated by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council for Pacific Salmon. Based on the information provided by PRNS, EFH Conservation Recommendations are not necessary. However, if the proposed action is modified in a manner that may adversely affect EFH, PRNS will need to reinitiate EFH consultation with NOAA Fisheries.

If you have any questions concerning this consultation, please contact Mr. Peter Johnsen at (707) 468-4063.

Sincerely,


Rodney R. McInnis
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Jim Lecky, NOAA Fisheries

Comment 6-2. NMFS administers section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requiring federal agencies to consult with NMFS regarding the potential of projects to adversely affect “essential fish habitat.” The project area is part of the EFH for Pacific Salmon. The FMP as proposed does not require conservation recommendations but if the proposed work plan is modified, PRNS will need to reinitiate consultation with NMFS.

Response to Comment 6-2. See response to Comment 6-1.