



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 West Coast Region
 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-100
 Sacramento, California 95814-4700

January 25, 2021

Letter of Invitation:

NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is issuing a proposed rule to authorize the future reintroduction of Central Valley (CV) spring-run Chinook salmon to the upper Yuba River. This proposed rule would designate reintroduced CV spring-run Chinook salmon as a nonessential experimental population under Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 10(j). A nonessential experimental population designation allows us to support reintroduction of listed species into historical, but currently unoccupied habitats, while minimizing regulatory burdens on landowners and other user groups.

The Yuba River is a tributary to the Feather River, located in the Sierra-Nevada mountain range in northern California. Currently, dams on the Yuba River form barriers that prevent CV spring-run Chinook salmon from reaching upstream spawning and rearing habitats. NOAA Fisheries is proposing to issue this rule in advance of a reintroduction program, which is currently in the early planning stages. Reintroduction to these upstream habitats will support conservation and recovery of this species (see Attachment for geographic scope of the proposed nonessential experimental designation).

To learn more, we invite you to participate in a presentation where we will provide an overview of the proposed rule and answer your questions. Additionally, staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be available to provide information on the State’s approval process of the proposed rule pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act. Two virtual presentations are scheduled with dates, times, and links listed below:

Meeting #1	
February 3, 2021	11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Web Link:	https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=mc90d4ef95beede08888559cc49a3670f Meeting #: 199 133 6271 Password: 5033437777
Call-in number:	1-414-527-5035 US Toll Access code: 199 133 6271

Meeting #2	
February 11, 2021	1:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Web Link:	https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=mc0f5bab6e677be033a7ec15483bc8352 Meeting #: 199 788 7880 Password: 5033437777
Call-in number:	1-415-527-5035 US Toll Access code: 199 788 7880



Additional information on the proposed rule can be found at:
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/proposed-rule-authorize-reintroduction-central-valley-spring-run-chinook-salmon-upper-yuba>. For more information please contact Jon Ambrose at jonathan.ambrose@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Catharine Marcinkevage".

Cathy Marcinkevage
Assistant Regional Administrator
California Central Valley Office

Attachment: Proposed nonessential experimental population area in the upper Yuba River watershed for CV spring-run Chinook salmon

