



# Nor'wester newsletter

Issue #646 July 20, 2018

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## State Department announces Columbia River Treaty town hall in Portland

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The U.S. State Department has announced it will hold a Town Hall on September 6, 2018 in Portland at the Bonneville Power Administration's Rates Hearing Room from 5:30 -7:30 pm. U.S. government representatives will provide a general overview of the negotiations and take questions from the public. Questions can be emailed in advance to [ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov](mailto:ColumbiaRiverTreaty@state.gov) and additional information, including call-in information, can be found on the [Federal Register Notice](#). The Town Hall will be open to the public and free of charge. PNWA staff will be attending to ensure the [navigation perspective](#) is well represented, and we encourage other interested parties to attend as well. If you have any questions, please contact [Kristin Meira](#).

## Proposed revisions to Endangered Species Act implementation

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) have jointly proposed revisions to regulations that implement portions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The goal of the revisions is to ensure clarity and consistency of implementation, ultimately providing a more predictable regulatory process.

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The proposed rule will be published in the Federal Register shortly, and comments will be due within 60 days. PNWA will be submitting comments, and encourages our members to review the proposed revisions and provide feedback to [Heather Stebbings](#) in the coming weeks.

To learn more about the proposed revisions, visit [https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving\\_ESA/regulation-revisions.html](https://www.fws.gov/endangered/improving_ESA/regulation-revisions.html).

A conference call and webinar will be held on the proposed revisions, details can be found below:

When: July 30, 2018; 2:30 PM EST  
Number: 800-369-1967  
Passcode: 4386820

Participants can join the event directly at:  
<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?pi=PWXW7841469&p=4386820&t=c>

## Comment period extended for Administration's maritime regulatory reform request for information

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As [previously reported](#), the Administration's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is seeking input on how the Federal government can better manage regulatory costs imposed on the maritime sector. The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) within OMB would specifically like comments to address how existing agency requirements affecting the maritime sector can be modified or repealed to increase efficiency, reduce or eliminate unnecessary or unjustified regulatory burdens, or simplify regulatory compliance while continuing to meet statutory missions. The request is in response to the Administration's regulatory reform initiative, and focused on reducing regulation and controlling overall regulatory costs.

The comment deadline has been extended to August 30th. PNWA requests that you send any information you would like included in our comments to [Heather Stebbings](#) by August 3rd. For more

information, including details on submitting comments, visit the [federal register](#).

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