

interferes with the clarity? (3) Does the format of the notice (grouping and order of the sections, use of headings, paragraphing, etc.) Aid or reduce its clarity? (4) Is the description of the notice in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of the preamble helpful in understanding the notice? What else could we do to make the notice easier to understand?

Send a copy of any comments that concern how we could make this notice easier to understand to: Office of Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Interior, Room 7229, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240. You may e-mail your comments to this address: Exsec@ios.doi.gov.

Required Determinations

We have examined this regulation under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and found it to contain no information collection requirements.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this proposed rule is available upon request from the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Author: The primary author of this notice is Diane Steeck, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

For the reasons given in the preamble, we propose to amend part 17 as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4205; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.12(h) is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order under FLOWERING PLANTS, to the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants to read as follows:

§ 17.12 Endangered and threatened plants.
 * * * * *
 (h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Family	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Scientific name	Common name						
FLOWERING PLANTS							
* <i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i> .	* Ventura marsh milk-veitch.	* U.S.A. (CA)	* Fabaceae—Pea	* E	*	NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: April 28, 1999.
Jamie Rappaport Clark,
 Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
 [FR Doc. 99–12991 Filed 5–24–99; 8:45 am]
 BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Public Hearing and Extension of Comment Period on the Proposed Rule to List the Alabama Sturgeon as Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.
ACTION: Proposed rule; notice of public hearing and extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the Fish and Wildlife Service, give notice that we are extending the comment period and holding a public hearing on the proposed rule to list the Alabama sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkusi*) as endangered. We invite all interested

parties to submit comments on this proposal.
DATES: We will hold the public hearing from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 1999, in Montgomery, Alabama. The comment period now closes on July 5, 1999. We will consider any comments received by the closing date in the final decision on this proposal.
ADDRESSES: We will hold the public hearing at the Montgomery Civic Center, 300 Bibb Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104. You may submit written comments and materials concerning the proposal at the hearing or send them directly to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Jackson, Mississippi 39213. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Hartfield (see ADDRESSES section), 601/965–4900, extension 25; facsimile 601/965–4340.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Alabama sturgeon is a small freshwater sturgeon that was historically

found only in the Mobile River Basin of Alabama and Mississippi. The Alabama sturgeon's historic range once included about 1,600 kilometers (km) (1,000 miles (mi)) of the Mobile River system in Alabama (Black Warrior, Tombigbee, Alabama, Coosa, Tallapoosa, Mobile, Tensaw, and Cahaba rivers) and Mississippi (Tombigbee River). Since 1985, all confirmed captures of this fish have been from a short, free-flowing reach of the Alabama River below Miller's Ferry and Claiborne locks and dams in Clarke, Monroe, and Wilcox counties, Alabama. The historic decline of the Alabama sturgeon is attributed to over-fishing, loss and fragmentation of habitat as a result of navigation-related development, and water quality degradation. Current threats primarily result from its small population numbers and its inability to offset mortality rates with reproduction and recruitment.

On March 26, 1999, we published a rule proposing endangered status for the Alabama sturgeon in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 14676). Section 4(b)(5)(E) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires that we hold a public hearing if it is requested within 45 days of the publication of the proposed rule. Sheldon Morgan, Chairman, Alabama-

Tombigbee Rivers Coalition, requested a public hearing within the allotted time period. Public hearings are designed to gather relevant information that the public may have that we should consider in determining the status of and threats to this species. During the hearing, we will present information about the proposed action of listing the Alabama sturgeon as endangered. We invite the public to submit information and comments either at the hearing on June 24, 1999, or in writing.

The hearing will be at the Montgomery Civic Center in Montgomery, Alabama, on Thursday, June 24, 1999, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. We may have to limit the time allotted for oral statements, if the number of people who wish to comment necessitates such a limitation. We encourage persons wishing to comment at the hearing to provide a written copy of their statement at the start of the hearing. There is no limit on the length of written comments. Persons may also send written comments to our office in the ADDRESSES section at any time during the open comment period. We will give equal consideration to oral and written comments. We are publishing legal notices announcing the date, time, and location of the hearing in newspapers, concurrently with this **Federal Register** notice. The comment period on the proposal initially closed on May 26, 1999. To accommodate the hearing, we are extending the public comment period upon publication of this notice. The public comment period will close on July 5, 1999.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Paul Hartfield (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 18, 1999.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 99-13143 Filed 5-24-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 660

[Docket No. 990430115-9115-01; I.D. 030299B]

RIN 0648-AL48

Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Northern Anchovy Fishery; Amendment 8

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes regulations to implement Amendment 8 to the Northern Anchovy Fishery Management Plan (FMP), which has been submitted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) to NMFS for review and approval by the Secretary of Commerce. This proposed rule to implement Amendment 8 would: Change the name of the FMP to the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS); remove jack mackerel north of 39° N. lat. from the Pacific Coast Groundfish FMP and add four species to the management unit of the CPS FMP; define a new fishery management area and divide it into a limited entry zone and two new subareas; establish a procedure for setting annual specifications including harvest guidelines and quotas; provide for closure of the directed fishery when the directed portion of a harvest guideline or quota is taken; identify fishing seasons for Pacific sardine and Pacific mackerel; establish catch restrictions in the limited entry zone and, when the directed fishery for a CPS is closed, limit harvest of that species to an incidental trip limit set by the Southwest Regional Administrator, NMFS (Regional Administrator); implement a limited entry program; authorize the Regional Administrator to issue exempted fishing permits for the harvest of CPS that otherwise would be prohibited; and establish a framework process by which management decisions could be made without amending the FMP.

As discussed here in the preamble to this proposed rule, Amendment 8 would also: Establish Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) control rules and define optimum yield (OY) and overfishing; and address requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

regarding Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), bycatch, and fishing communities. No changes in the regulations implementing the FMP are required to implement these measures, if approved by NMFS.

DATES: Comments must be submitted in writing by July 9, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Send comments on the proposed rule to Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802. Copies of the FMP, which includes the final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS)/regulatory impact review/initial regulatory flexibility analysis may be obtained from Larry Six, Executive Director, Pacific Fishery Management Council, 2130 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 224, Portland, Oregon, 97201. Send comments regarding the reporting burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection-of-information requirements in this proposed rule to Rodney R. McInnis, Acting Administrator, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200, Long Beach, CA 90802, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Washington, DC 00503 (Attn: NOAA Desk Officer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James Morgan, Sustainable Fisheries Division, NMFS, at 562-980-4036 or Julie Walker, Pacific Fishery Management Council, at 503-326-6352.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 4, 1998 (63 FR 47288), a notice of availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) on Amendment 8 to the FMP was published in the **Federal Register**. The Council held public hearings on the amendment from September 8 to 11 in Washington, Oregon, and California. On September 15, 1998, at its meeting in Sacramento, California, the Council reviewed public comments received on the amendment at the hearings, considered written comments, adopted preferred options and voted to submit Amendment 8 for Secretarial review. The Council submitted Amendment 8 for Secretarial review by a letter dated December 11, 1998. On March 12, 1999, a notice of availability of the FSEIS on Amendment 8 was published in the **Federal Register** (64 FR 12279).

The impetus for Amendment 8 and this proposed rule is the increasing abundance of Pacific sardine, which now extends from Mexico to Canada, and the recent high demand for squid. Pacific sardine was overfished in the