

Section 589—Notice on Treatment of Occupancy Standards. This notice was developed and published in the **Federal Register** on December 18, 1998 (63 FR 70256) as required. No further regulation is necessary.

Section 592—Use of Assisted Housing by Aliens. Section 592 of the Public Housing Reform Act, which clarified the scope of PHA "opt outs" for determining alien status, was implemented by the final rule on "Revised Restriction on Assistance to Noncitizens," published on May 12, 1999.

Section 595—Native American Housing Assistance. Section 595 of the Public Housing Reform Act made various changes affecting public housing and other housing assistance for Native Americans. The provisions of this section have been implemented by notice. No regulations are necessary or anticipated.

Section 596—Community Development Block Grants Public Services Cap. Section 596 of the Public Housing Reform Act extends a waiver from the cap on public services spending for Los Angeles. No regulations are necessary.

Section 597—Moderate Rehabilitation Terms for Contract Renewals. These terms were implemented in the February 18, 1999 Notice of Initial Guidance and by Notice PIH 98-62. No regulations are necessary or anticipated.

Section 599—Tenant Participation. Section 599 of the Public Housing Reform Act largely covers project-based assisted housing tenant participation rules, but also covers moderate rehabilitation projects and certain projects which receive enhanced vouchers. A proposed rule was published on June 17, 1999 (64 FR 32782). HUD received 73 public comments on the proposed rule.

Section 599H—Miscellaneous. Section 599H of the Public Housing Reform Act covers various matters largely relating to particular communities. This section was effective October 21, 1998. None of the matters covered require further regulations.

Conclusion

Implementation of the Public Housing Reform Act has presented a challenge to HUD and its partners. HUD appreciates the comments submitted to date on its proposed and interim rules (over 600 apart from the proposed rule on pet policies), and those provided at the public forums. HUD also appreciates the hard work of the three negotiated rulemaking committees that were formed to assist in the development of three important formula rules. The

input of HUD's partners, program participants and other interested members of the public has greatly assisted HUD in the promulgation of the rules and notices issued to date under the Public Housing Reform Act.

HUD is committed to working closely with its public housing and Section 8 partners to make the changes in its public housing and Section 8 programs a success. HUD will continue to provide additional guidance and seek public involvement through all appropriate means, so that the purposes and promise of this important legislation may be fulfilled.

Dated: December 15, 1999.

Rod Solomon,

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Program and Legislative Initiatives.

[FR Doc. 99-33106 Filed 12-21-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Dates and Location for Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

ACTION: Notice of dates and locations for public scoping meetings on supplemental environmental impact statement for a sea lamprey control proposal in Lake Champlain.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announces its intention to hold four public scoping meetings on the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain. The SEIS will evaluate a proposal to continue sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain, to maintain reduced levels of sea lamprey and achieve further reductions. The SEIS will be prepared pursuant to section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in accordance with the Council on environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500-1508). The Service invites other Federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, local governments, and the general public to attend the meetings and submit comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed, alternatives to be analyzed, and the environmental impacts to be

addressed in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the DSEIS. Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the DSEIS for review, should send a request to Mr. Dave Tilton at the address given below.

DATES AND LOCATIONS: All written comments related to the scope and content of the DSEIS should be submitted to the Service by February 4, 2000, to the address given below. The scoping meetings will be held at the following times and locations. All meetings will start at 7 p.m. and run until 9:30 p.m.

New York Locations

Date: January 5, 2000.

Location: Clinton County Government Center, Old Court House, 2nd Floor Meeting Room, 1333 Margaret Street, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Date: January 6, 2000.

Location: Ticonderoga High School, Calkins Place, Ticonderoga, NY 12883.

Vermont Locations

Date: January 10, 2000

Location: Middlebury Union High School, 73 Charles Avenue, Middlebury, VT 05753.

Date: January 11, 2000

Location: Milton High School, 17 Rebecca Lander Drive, Milton, VT 05468.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to be included on a mailing list of persons interested in receiving the DSEIS should be sent to Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452. Alternatively, comments may be submitted electronically to the following address: dave_tilton@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452, 802-951-6313. FAX 802-951-6315. New York contact person is Mr. Lary Nashett, Supervising Aquatic Biologist, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Region, 5, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, New York 12977, 518-897-1333. Vermont contact person is Mr. Tim Hess, Director of Fisheries, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05671, 802-241-3700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sea lamprey are primitive marine invaders to Lake Champlain. They are parasitic fish that feed on the body fluid of other fish resulting in reduced growth and often the death of host fish. A substantial body of information collected on Lake Champlain indicates sea lamprey have a profound negative impact upon the lake's fishery resources and have suppressed efforts to establish new and historical sportfisheries. In 1990, the Service, NYSDEC, and VTDFW initiated an eight-year experimental sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain. The experiment program treated tributaries and deltas of Lake Champlain with the chemical lampricides TFM and Bayer 73, which substantially reduced larval sea lamprey numbers in treated waters. The program included monitoring and assessment of the effects of sea lamprey reduction on the characteristics of certain fish populations, the sport fishery and the area's growth and economy. A set of thirty evaluation standards were established. Overall, the experimental sea lamprey control program met or exceeded the majority of the standards. In addition to this evaluation, the cooperating agencies assessed the effects of the program on nontarget organisms.

Two rounds of treatments were planned for each significantly infested stream and delta. From 1990 through 1996 24 TFM treatments were conducted on 14 Lake Champlain tributaries, and 9 Bayer 73 (5% granular) treatments were conducted on five deltas. A cumulative total of approximately 141 miles and 1,220 delta acres were treated.

In summary, trap catches of spawning-phase sea lamprey declined by 80–90%; nest counts were reduced by 57%. Sixteen of twenty-two TFM treatments reduced ammocoetes at index stations to less than 10% of pre-treatment levels. Eight of the 9 Bayer treatments resulted in mean mortality rates over 85% among caged ammocoetes. Relatively small numbers of nontarget amphibian and fish species were killed. Adverse effects on nontarget species were higher for Bayer treatments than TFM. Native mussels, snails and some other macroinvertebrates were significantly affected after the 1991 Bayer 73 treatments of the Ausable and Little Ausable deltas in New York. However, they recovered to pre-treatment levels within 4 years. American brook lamprey also experienced substantial treatment-related mortality. Yet, the finding of dead American brook lamprey in

second-round treatments in each stream where they were negatively affected during the first-round suggested survival or immigration was adequate to maintain their populations. Wounding rates on lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon were reduced in the main lake basin, and catches of both species increased. A significant increase in survival of 3–4 year lake trout was noted; survival of older fish improved but did not change significantly. Returns of Atlantic salmon to tributaries increased significantly after treatment. Changes in wounding rates on brown and rainbow trout could not be evaluated, but angler catches increased since 1990. Catch per unit effort of rainbow smelt, the major forage species for salmonids, decreased significantly at 1 or 2 sampling stations in the main lake basin and in Malletts Bay, but not at other locations; length-at-age also decreased at most sites. Evaluation of angler responses to the program indicated a favorable, 3.5:1 economic benefit:cost ratio.

A comprehensive Evaluation of an Eight-Year Program of Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Champlain provides a detailed description of the results of the project. It is available on the FWS web-sites at—

www.fws.gov/r51cfwro/lamprey/lamprey.html, or from any of the contacts for further information listed above.

Decision To Be Made

The responsible officials in the FWS, NYSDEC, and VTDFW must decide whether to continue sea lamprey control for Lake Champlain. In addition, if sea lamprey control will continue, the agencies must also consider the following:

(1) Should the following list be established as the long-term program objectives?

(a) Maintain reduced levels of sea lamprey on Main Lake and South Lake portions of Lake Champlain and achieve further Main Lake-South Lake reductions by targeting new areas where sea lamprey infestations are found.

(b) Augment sea lamprey control activities in Malletts Bay and Inland Sea areas of Lake Champlain and reduce sea lamprey population levels and associated impacts there.

(c) Employ an integrated approach to continuing sea lamprey control using lampricides and nonchemical means.

(2) What mitigation and monitoring measures are required for sound resource management?

(3) Is sea lamprey control in the best interest for the resource and citizens of the states of New York and Vermont?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by April, 2001. The Responsible Officials will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated: December 9, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Acting Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99–33186 Filed 12–21–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Final Determination Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Yuchi Tribal Organization

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Final Determination.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs declines to acknowledge that the Yuchi Tribal Organization, P.O. Box 1803, Sapulpa, Oklahoma 74067, exists as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law. This notice is based on the determination that the group does not satisfy one of the criteria set forth in 25 CFR 83.7, namely 83.7(f), and therefore does not meet the requirements for a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.10(l)(2), this notice is published in accordance with authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

DATES: This determination is final and will become effective 90 days after its publication in the **Federal Register**, unless a request for reconsideration is filed by the petitioner or any interested party with the Interior Board of Indian Appeals no later than 90 days after publication.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, (202) 208–3592. A request for a copy of the report which summarizes the evidence and analyses that are the basis for this Final Determination should be addressed to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, 1849 C Street NW, Mailstop 4660–MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240.