

Assistance, 42 U.S.C. 5153, shall be for a period not to exceed six months after the date of this declaration.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) hereby gives notice that pursuant to the authority vested in the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security, under Executive Order 12148, as amended, Louis H. Botta, of FEMA is appointed to act as the Federal Coordinating Officer for this declared disaster.

I do hereby determine the following areas of the State of West Virginia to have been affected adversely by this declared major disaster:

Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Jackson, Kanawha, Lewis, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Nicholas, Putman, Raleigh, Roane, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, and Wyoming Counties for Individual Assistance.

All counties within the State of West Virginia are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(The following Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers (CFDA) are to be used for reporting and drawing funds: 97.030, Community Disaster Loans; 97.031, Cora Brown Fund Program; 97.032, Crisis Counseling; 97.033, Disaster Legal Services Program; 97.034, Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA); 97.046, Fire Management Assistance; 97.048, Individual and Household Housing; 97.049, Individual and Household Disaster Housing Operations; 97.050 Individual and Household Program-Other Needs, 97.036, Public Assistance Grants; 97.039, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program)

Michael D. Brown,

Under Secretary, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security.

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR-4901-N-25]

Federal Property Suitable as Facilities To Assist the Homeless

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, HUD.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This Notice identifies unutilized, underutilized, excess, and surplus Federal property reviewed by HUD for suitability for possible use to assist the homeless.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 18, 2004.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kathy Burruss, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Room 7262, 451 Seventh Street SW., Washington, DC 20410; telephone (202) 708-1234; TTY number for the hearing- and speech-impaired (202) 708-2565, (these telephone numbers are not toll-free), or call the toll-free Title V information line at 1-800-927-7588.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the December 12, 1988 court order in *National Coalition for the Homeless v. Veterans Administration*, No. 88-2503-OG (D.D.C.), HUD publishes a Notice, on a weekly basis, identifying unutilized, underutilized, excess and surplus Federal buildings and real property that HUD has reviewed for suitability for use to assist the homeless. Today's Notice is for the purpose of announcing that no additional properties have been determined suitable or unsuitable this week.

Dated: June 10, 2004.

Mark R. Johnston,

Director, Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs.

[FR Doc. 04-13551 Filed 6-17-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[I.D. 042604A]

Notice of Availability of a Draft Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Atlantic Salmon

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Commerce; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Draft Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*).

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (collectively, the Services) announce the availability for public review of the Draft Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine DPS of Atlantic Salmon. The Services are soliciting review and comment on the draft plan from the public and all interested parties.

DATES: The comment period for this proposal closes on September 16, 2004. The Services will consider and address all substantive comments that are received during the comment period. In addition to making this draft plan available for public review, it is simultaneously being submitted for agency and peer review. After consideration of all substantive comments received during the review period, the Recovery Plan will be submitted for final approval. Comments on the Draft Recovery Plan must be received before the closing date.

The Services have scheduled two public meetings/hearings in the State of Maine to discuss the Draft Recovery Plan with interested parties and solicit comments. Both meetings/hearings will start at 6:00 p.m. on the dates indicated:

(1) July 14, 2004. University of Maine at Machias, The Science Building Lecture Hall.

(2) July 15, 2004. Augusta Civic Center, Kennebec/Penobscot Room.

ADDRESSES: Please send written comments and materials to the Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan Coordinator at the address provided above. In addition, the Services are accepting electronic comments (i.e., email) on the Draft Recovery Plan at the following address: SalmonRecovery@noaa.gov.

Persons wishing to review the Draft Recovery Plan can obtain a copy from the Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan Coordinator, National Marine Fisheries Service, One Blackburn Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Electronic copies of the Draft Recovery Plan are also available on-line on the NMFS (www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/) and FWS (www.fws.gov) websites.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mark Minton (NMFS), Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan Coordinator (978-281-9328 extension 6534); Pat Scida (NMFS), Endangered Species Coordinator (978-281-9208); or Martin Miller (FWS), Chief, Endangered Species Division (413-253-8615).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Recovery Plans describe actions considered necessary for the conservation and recovery of species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), establish criteria for the downlisting or delisting of such species and estimate the time and costs required to implement recovery actions. The Act requires the development of Recovery Plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the recovery of a particular species. Section 4(f) of the

Act, as amended in 1988, requires that public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment be provided during Recovery Plan development. The Services will consider all substantive comments and information presented during the public comment period in the course of finalizing this Recovery Plan.

The Gulf of Maine DPS of Atlantic salmon was listed as endangered under the Act on December 17, 2000 (65 FR 69459). The DPS includes all persistent, naturally reproducing populations of Atlantic salmon from the Kennebec River downstream of the former Edwards Dam site, northward to the mouth of the St. Croix River. At the time of listing, there were at least eight rivers in the geographic range of the DPS known to still support wild Atlantic salmon populations (Dennys, East Machias, Machias, Pleasant, Narraguagus, Ducktrap and Sheepscot Rivers and Cove Brook). In addition to these eight rivers, there are at least 14 small coastal rivers within the historic range of the DPS from which wild salmon populations have been extirpated.

The Gulf of Maine DPS has declined to critically low levels. Adult returns have continued to decline since the listing. In 2002, total adult returns to the eight rivers still supporting wild Atlantic salmon populations within the DPS were estimated to range from 23 to 46 individuals. No adults were documented in three of the eight rivers. Juvenile abundance estimates and survival have also continued to decline. Declining smolt production has been documented in recent years, despite fry stocking.

The Recovery Plan includes prioritized actions to recover the Gulf of Maine DPS. The major areas of action are designed to stop and reverse the downward population trends of the eight wild Atlantic salmon populations and minimize the potential for human activities to result in the degradation or destruction of Atlantic salmon habitat essential to its survival and recovery. The Draft Recovery Plan identifies the following actions as necessary for the full recovery of the DPS: (1) Protect and restore freshwater and estuarine habitat; (2) prevent take in freshwater, estuarine and marine fisheries; (3) reduce predation and competition on all life stages of Atlantic salmon; (4) reduce risks from commercial aquaculture operations; (5) supplement wild populations with hatchery-reared DPS salmon; (6) conserve the genetic integrity of the DPS; (7) assess stock status of key life stages; (8) promote salmon recovery through increased

public and government awareness; and (9) assess effectiveness of recovery actions and revise as appropriate.

The recovery planning process included a "threats assessment", which evaluated the geographic extent and the severity of threats to various life-stages of Atlantic salmon in the DPS. This evaluation resulted in the following threats being identified as high priority for action to reverse the decline of Atlantic salmon populations in the Gulf of Maine DPS: (1) Aquaculture practices which pose ecological and genetic risks; (2) acidified water and associated aluminum toxicity which decrease juvenile survival; (3) poaching of adults in DPS rivers; (4) incidental capture of adults and parr by recreational fishermen; (5) predation; and (6) excessive or unregulated water withdrawal.

Public Comments Solicited

The Services solicit written comments on the draft Recovery Plan. All substantive comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to final approval of the Recovery Plan.

As is noted in the Recovery Plan, the National Research Council (NRC) was asked to describe what is known about the genetic makeup of Atlantic salmon in Maine and issued a report on this subject in January 2002. The NRC was also asked to assess the causes of decline and to suggest strategies for the rehabilitation of Atlantic salmon in Maine and issued a report addressing this issue on January 20, 2004. The Services' preliminary review of the NRC's January 20, 2004 report indicates that the report's findings are generally consistent with this draft Recovery Plan. However, several issues within this report warrant additional consideration as we develop a final recovery plan. The most significant of these issues include: (1) risks associated with the research and monitoring; (2) mortality as smolts transition from freshwater to the ocean; (3) potential impacts of hatchery operations; and (4) the need for a structured and inclusive risk and decision analysis process.

The Services are seeking public comment on these and other findings and recommendations in the NRC report as they relate to this Recovery Plan. It is important to note that the scope of the NRC report is broader than this Recovery Plan; the NRC report considered all Atlantic salmon populations in Maine, whereas the Recovery Plan focuses only on the Gulf of Maine DPS.

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 14, 2004.

Laurie K. Allen,

*Director, Office of Protected Resources,
National Marine Fisheries Service.*

Dated: May 12, 2004.

Marvin E. Moriarty,

*Regional Director, Region 5, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 04-13731 Filed 6-17-04; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Bureau of Reclamation

[INT-DES-04-32]

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/ Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/DEIR) for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program, Section 10 Permit Application for Incidental Take, Draft Lower Colorado River Multi- Species Habitat Conservation Plan, Draft Biological Assessment, and Draft Implementing Agreement

AGENCIES: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.
ACTION: Notice of availability and public hearings.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), this notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received an application for an incidental take permit (ITP) pursuant to section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (LCR MSCP). The requested ITP, if granted, would authorize the LCR MSCP permittees incidental take of the following federally listed and candidate species: southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) (flycatcher), Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) (clapper rail), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) (tortoise), bonytail (*Gila elegans*) (bonytail), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) (humpback), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) (razorback), and yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) (cuckoo). The requested ITP would also address incidental take for 20 other species of animals and plants that are not currently federally listed or candidate species. The