

date, and it is recommended that interested persons continue to examine the docket for new material.

Those persons desiring to be notified upon receipt of their comments in the rule's docket should enclose a self-addressed, stamped postcard in the envelope with their comments. Upon receiving the comments, the docket supervisor will return the postcard by mail.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 30111, 30115, 30117, and 30166; delegation of authority at 49 CFR 1.50.

Issued on: June 12, 1996.

Barry Felrice,

Associate Administrator for Safety Performance Standards.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD20

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Special Rule for the Conservation of the Northern Spotted Owl on Non-Federal Lands

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Service issued a Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) (February 23, 1996, 61 FR 6964) for the proposed special rule for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in California and Washington, which is currently out for public comment. The proposed special rule was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR 9484). The comment period for both documents was scheduled to end on June 3, 1996. The intent of this document is to extend the comment period to June 27, 1996.

The Service is briefly extending the comment period in order to accept the comments of The Resources Agency of California, and invites other interested parties who have not yet submitted comments to do so.

DATES: The comment period for written comments is extended until June 27, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this Draft Environmental Alternatives Analysis and the proposed rule should be sent to Mr. Michael J. Spear, Regional Director, Region 1, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 NE. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181. The complete file for this proposed rule will be available for public inspection, by appointment during normal business hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 SW. 1st Avenue, 4th Floor, Portland, Oregon 97204, (503/326-6218).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Curt Smitch, Assistant Regional Director, Region 1, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 3704 Griffin Lane SE., Suite 102, Olympia, Washington 98501, (206/534-9330); or Ron Crete, Office of Technical Support for Forest Resources, 333 SW. 1st Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181, (503/326-6218).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service has prepared a draft document called an Environmental Alternatives Analysis (EAA) that describes and analyzes the potential environmental effects of the proposed special rule and six alternatives for the conservation of the northern spotted owl on non-Federal lands in Washington and California. Each alternative would revise to varying degrees the Federal prohibitions and exceptions regarding the incidental take of spotted owls on non-Federal lands in California and Washington. The proposed rule, analyzed in the Draft EAA as Alternative 3, was published in the Federal Register on February 17, 1995 (60 FR, No. 33, Page 9484).

The Service's Draft EAA, including all maps, tables, charts, and graphs, remains available on the Internet's World Wide Web at <http://www.r1.fws.gov/4deaa/welcome.html>.

Dated: June 10, 1996.

H. Dale Hall,

Acting Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 217 and 227

[Docket No. 950830222-6103-02; I.D. 011696D]

RIN 0648-AH89

Sea Turtle Conservation; Revisions to Sea Turtle Conservation Requirements; Restrictions to Shrimp Trawling Activities; Reopening of Comment Period

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period; notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On April 24, 1996, NMFS published a proposed rule to amend the regulations protecting sea turtles to enhance their effectiveness in reducing sea turtle mortality resulting from shrimp trawling in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas in the southeastern United States. In response to several requests for an extension of the comment period, NMFS is reopening the comment period through July 15 to provide further opportunity to submit comments on the proposed rule and to review additional analyses, including the preliminary report scheduled to be submitted to NMFS by June 28, 1996, by the sea turtle expert working group.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be submitted on or before July 15, 1996.

ADDRESSES: Comments on this proposed rule and requests for a copy of the sea turtle expert working group report should be addressed to the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Charles A. Oravetz, 813-570-5312, or Therese A. Conant, 301-713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On April 24, 1996, NMFS published a proposed rule (61 FR 18102) to amend the regulations at 50 CFR 227.72(e) protecting sea turtles to enhance their effectiveness in reducing sea turtle mortality resulting from shrimp trawling in the Atlantic and Gulf Areas in the southeastern United States. The background and rationale for the proposed amendments were contained in the preamble of the proposed rule and are not repeated here. The comment period for the proposed rule closed on June 10, 1996. However, NMFS is reopening the comment period through July 15 to provide further opportunity to submit comments on the proposed rule and to review additional analyses, including the preliminary report scheduled to be submitted to NMFS by June 28, 1996, by the sea turtle expert working group. The formation of this group of scientists to analyze existing databases to determine sea turtle population abundance, population trends, and sustainable take levels was a requirement of the November 14, 1994, biological opinion. The report will be made available for public review and distributed upon request when it is submitted to NMFS (see **ADDRESSES**).