

discussion among stakeholders and the public; the roundtables are not for the purpose of forming consensus on any issues. Members of the public are invited to attend and will have the opportunity to add to each dialogue. Each roundtable will have different members, and no organizations or individuals will be invited to more than one roundtable.

The goals of the FMCSA in holding the roundtables are to continue meaningful public involvement in the rulemaking process and further enhance the agency's understanding of the data and analysis supporting the various positions expressed on the issues involved in the NPRM.

Roundtable Assignments—Agenda Issues

Roundtable I Agenda Items

- Economic impacts of revising the current HOS rules;
- Fatigue Research;
- Enforcement.

Roundtable II Agenda Items

- Sleeper Berth requirements;
- Communications during rest periods;
- End of work-week rest periods;
- Hours of work permitted each day.

Roundtable III Agenda Items

- Categories of carrier operations;
- Electronic on-board recorder (EOBR) requirements;
- Allowable exemptions.

Participants to be Invited

The FMCSA will invite participants to the roundtables from organizations and groups, such as:

AAA, Advocates for Auto and Highway Safety, Amalgamated Transit Union, American Bakers Association, American Bus Association, American Insurance Association, American Moving & Storage Association, American Road and Transportation Builders Association, American Trucking Associations, Associated General Contractors of America, Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Citizens for Reliable and Safe Highways, Commercial vehicle drivers, Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, Home heating oil representative, Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Motor Freight Carriers Association, National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives, National Industrial Transportation League, National Private Truck Council, National Ready Mixed Concrete Association, National Rural Electric

Cooperative Association, National Sleep Foundation, National Safety Council, National Tank Truck Carriers, Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, Parents Against Tired Truckers, Petroleum Marketers Association of America

Small trucking company representatives, Snack Food Association, Transportation Trades Division, AFL-CIO, Truckload Carriers Association, United Motorcoach Association, VDO North America

Public Attendees

Public participation may be limited, based on the time constraints that result from a particular roundtable discussion.

Extension of the Public Comment Period

In order to allow the general public a further opportunity to participate in and comment on the roundtable dialogues, the comment period for the rulemaking has been extended until December 15, 2000. Detailed instructions for filing comments are provided in the NPRM.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 322, 31502, and 31136; and 49 CFR 1.73.

Issued on: August 9, 2000.

Clyde J. Hart, Jr.,

Acting Deputy Administrator, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AG12

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Extension of Public Comment Period and Notice of Availability of Draft Economic Analysis for Proposed Critical Habitat Determination for the Arkansas River Basin Population of the Arkansas River Shiner

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed Rule; Extension of public comment period and notice of availability of draft economic analysis.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the draft economic analysis for the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Arkansas River basin population of the Arkansas River

shiner (*Notropis girardi*). We also provide notice that the public comment period for the proposal is extended to allow all interested parties to submit written comments on the proposal and the draft economic analysis. Comments previously submitted during the comment period need not be resubmitted as they will be incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in the final determination on the proposal.

DATES: The original comment period is scheduled to close on August 29, 2000. The comment period is hereby extended until October 16, 2000. Comments from all interested parties must be received by the closing date. Any comments that are received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/oklahoma/> or by writing to the Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, 222 South Houston, Suite A, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127-8909. All written comments should be submitted to the Field Supervisor at the above address. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ken Collins, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at the above address (telephone 918/581-7458 ext. 230).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Arkansas River shiner (ARS) is a small, robust minnow. The ARS was historically widespread and abundant in the main channels of wide, shallow, sandy-bottomed rivers and larger streams throughout the western portion of the Arkansas River basin in Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Adults are uncommon in quiet pools or backwaters, and almost never occur in tributaries having deep water and bottoms of mud or stone. This species has disappeared from over 80 percent of its historical range and is now almost entirely restricted to about 820 kilometers (508 miles) of the Canadian River in Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico.

The Arkansas River basin population of the ARS was federally listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) in November, 1998, due to modification of the duration and timing of stream flows and inundation by impoundments; channel desiccation

by water diversion and groundwater mining; stream channelization; and introduction of non-native species (63 FR 64772). On June 30, 2000, we proposed in the **Federal Register** approximately 1,866 kilometers (1,160 miles) of rivers and 91.4 meters (300 feet) of their adjacent riparian zones as critical habitat for the ARS (65 FR 40576). The proposal includes portions of the Arkansas River in Kansas, the Cimarron River in Kansas and Oklahoma, the Beaver/North Canadian River in Oklahoma, and the Canadian/South Canadian River in New Mexico, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that we designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact, and any other relevant impact, of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. We may exclude an area from critical habitat if we determine that the benefits of excluding the area outweigh the benefits of including the area as critical habitat, provided such exclusion will not result in the extinction of the species. Consequently, we have prepared a draft economic analysis concerning the proposed critical habitat designation, which is available for review and comment at the above Internet and mailing addresses.

Public Comments Solicited

We solicit comments on the draft economic analysis described in this notice, as well as any other aspect of the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Arkansas River basin population of the Arkansas River shiner. Our final determination on the proposed critical habitat will take into consideration comments and any additional information received by the date specified above. All previous comments and information submitted during the comment period need not be resubmitted. The comment period is extended to October 16, 2000. Written comments may be submitted to the Field Supervisor at the above address.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Ken Collins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

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

Dated: August 3, 2000.

Renne Lohofener,

Regional Director, Region 2, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 00-20646 Filed 8-14-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 224

[I.D. 102599C]

Extension of Comment Period for Proposed Rule Governing the Approach to Humpback Whales in Alaska

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is extending the public comment period, published in the June 26, 2000 Federal Register, for its Proposed Rule Governing the Approach to Humpback Whales in Alaska from August 10, 2000, to October 15, 2000.

DATES: Written comments on the above-mentioned proposed rule must be received no later than 5 p.m. Pacific standard time, on October 15, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the proposed rule should be sent to Mike Payne, Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, Alaska Region, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1668. Comments also may be sent via

facsimile (fax) to 907/586-7012.

Comments will not be accepted if sent via e-mail or the Internet. Courier or hand delivery of comments may be made to NMFS in the Federal Building, Room 461, Juneau, AK 99801.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kaja Brix, NMFS Alaska Region, 907/586-7235, or Jeannie Drevenak, Permits Division, NMFS Office of Protected Resources, 301/713-2289.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.* and the Marine Mammal Protection Act 16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.* (MMPA), give NMFS jurisdiction over humpback whales. The proposed regulations are promulgated under the authority of both the ESA and the MMPA. The rule is an appropriate mechanism to promote conservation and recovery of humpback whales and to enhance enforcement under the ESA. Section 11(f) of the ESA provides NMFS with broad rulemaking authority to enforce the provisions of the ESA.

On June 26, 2000 (65 FR 39336), NMFS issued a proposed rule under 50 CFR part 224 of the ESA that would prohibit the approach within 200 yards (182.8 m) of a humpback whales, *Megaptera novaeangliae*, in waters within 200 nautical miles (370.4 km) of the coast of Alaska. Under these regulations, it would be unlawful for a person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to approach, by any means, within 200 yards (182.8 m) of a humpback whales. This action is necessary to minimize disturbance to humpback whales in waters off Alaska and is intended to promote conservation and recovery of humpback whales. In response to public request, NMFS is extending the comment period for this proposed rule from August 10, 2000, to October 15, 2000, to facilitate public participation in this regulatory process.

Dated: August 9, 2000.

Penelope D. Dalton,

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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