

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Electronic Access**

Comments and other information can also be sent via electronic mail (E-mail) to: r9oma\_cites@fws.gov.

**Background**

On Friday, June 6, 1997, the Service published in the **Federal Register** (62 FR 31044) a proposed rule announcing the Service's intention to amend 50 CFR part 14 subpart J to further implement the requirements of the Lacey Act (18 U.S.C. 42 (c)). The Lacey Act prohibits the importation into the United States of all wild animals and birds under inhumane or unhealthful conditions, and requires that the United States Government promulgate regulations governing the importation of wildlife. On June 17, 1992, the Service finalized (57 FR 27094) the rules contained in 50 CFR part 14 subpart J, establishing rules for the humane and healthful transport of wild mammals and birds to the United States.

To more fully implement the amendments of the Lacey Act, which requires the healthful and humane transport of all classes of wild animals and birds and the promulgation of regulations necessary to that end, the Service proposes to extend 50 CFR part 14 subpart J to include rules for the healthful and humane transport of reptiles and amphibians. Furthermore, many reptiles and amphibians are species included in the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The Parties to CITES have adopted a resolution that calls for all CITES-listed species to be packed and shipped in accordance with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Live Animals Regulations. Therefore, the proposed rule would place these internationally accepted standards into the Code of Federal Regulations for reptiles and amphibians.

For this, and other reasons discussed in the June 6, 1997 **Federal Register**, the Service is proposing amendments to 50 CFR Part 14 concerning humane and healthful transport of reptiles and amphibians into the United States.

**Public Comments Solicited**

On July 22, 1997 the Service received a request from Underground Reptiles to extend the comment period on this proposed rule by 30 days "so that various reptile and amphibian importers, shippers, and hobbyists can meet to review the proposal, gather data regarding shipments and submit meaningful comments." On July 23, 1997, the Service received a similar

letter from Reptile Masters, Inc. Due to the complexity of the proposed rule, the need for data gathering by potential commenters, and the expressed interest of members of the public, the Service is extending the comment period and solicits comments from all interested parties. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered in the Service's final decision.

**Authority**

The authority for this action is the Lacey Act, as amended (18 U.S.C. 42 (c)).

Dated: July 30, 1997.

**Marshall P. Jones, Jr.**

*Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-20593 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17**

RIN 1018-AE29

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice to Extend the Comment Period on the Proposal to List the Klamath River Population Segment of Bull Trout as an Endangered Species and Columbia River Population Segment of Bull Trout as a Threatened Species**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) gives notice that the comment period announced in the June 13, 1997 proposed rule (62 FR 32268) to list the Klamath River population segment of bull trout as an endangered species and Columbia River population segment of bull trout as a threatened species will be extended. The Service received a number of requests for additional time to complete the compilation of information and meaningfully participate in the process. The Service finds the requests to be reasonable and hereby extends the comment period for 65 days.

**DATES:** The comment period is extended until October 17, 1997. Any comments and materials received by the closing date will be considered in the final determination.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and material concerning this proposal should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

Snake River Basin Field Office, 1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368, Boise, Idaho 83709. All public comments and material received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Robert Ruesink, Supervisor, Snake River Basin Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) (telephone 208/378-5243; facsimile 208/378-5262).

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

**Background**

On June 13, 1997, the Service published a proposed rule pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) to list the Klamath River population segment of bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) from south-central Oregon as endangered; and the Columbia River population segment of bull trout from the northwestern United States and British Columbia, Canada, as threatened. A special rule allowing take of bull trout within the Columbia River population segment in accordance with applicable State fish and wildlife conservation laws was included. A 60-day comment period ending August 12, 1997, was provided in the proposed rule. Five public hearings to gather additional input were held between July 1 and July 17, 1997 in Portland, Oregon; Spokane, Washington; Missoula, Montana; Klamath Falls, Oregon; and Boise, Idaho. Requests for a public comment period time extension were received from the Idaho Congressional representatives, Governor of Idaho, Governor of Oregon, and the Intermountain Forest Industry Association. Reasons given for these requests included complexity of issues, additional time to meaningfully participate and data collection is incomplete.

The Klamath River population segment, comprised of seven bull trout populations from south-central Oregon, is threatened by habitat degradation, irrigation diversions, and the presence of non-native brook trout. The Columbia River population segment, comprised of 386 bull trout populations in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington with additional populations in British Columbia, is threatened by habitat degradation, passage restrictions at dams, and competition from non-native lake and brook trout. Included in the proposal to list these population segments is a special rule allowing for take of bull trout within the Columbia River population segment in accordance with applicable State fish and wildlife conservation laws and regulations.

Pursuant to a court order, the proposed rule is based only on the 1994 administrative record. All available information, including current data, will be considered prior to taking final action on the listing proposal. If, after consideration of all available data, this proposal is made final, it would extend protection of the Act to these two bull trout population segments.

Written comments may now be submitted until October 17, 1997, to the Service Office in the ADDRESSES section.

Author: The primary author of this notice is Steve Duke (see ADDRESSES section).

#### Authority

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

Dated: July 28, 1997.

**Thomas J. Dwyer,**

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

[FR Doc. 97-20540 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 23

#### Proposed Revision of Regulations Implementing the Endangered Species Convention (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; CITES)

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent to propose rulemaking.

**SUMMARY:** This document requests suggestions and recommendations from the public for revisions to certain Federal regulations which implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the United States; 50 CFR part 23 subparts A, B, C, and D. These regulations, which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) plans to update and modify, include provisions concerned with the import, export, re-export, and introduction from the sea of CITES-listed wildlife and plants to and from the United States, as well as those regulations which cover public participation in the development of U.S. negotiating positions for meetings of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP).

**DATES:** Comments and other information received through September 30, 1997, will be considered by the Service in developing proposed amendments to 50 CFR part 23.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and other information should be sent to Kenneth Stansell, Chief, Office of Management Authority, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 430, Arlington, VA 22203.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Bruce J. Weissgold or Susan S. Lieberman, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; telephone 703/358-2093; fax 703/358-2280.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

Comments and other information can also be sent via electronic mail (E-mail) to: r9oma\_cites@fws.gov.

##### Background

The Service is planning to revise regulations covering the implementation of CITES in the United States (50 CFR part 23) in order to provide the public with a more transparent and open explanation of Service procedures with regard to the implementation of CITES wildlife and plant international trade control provisions. The Service is considering revising and reorganizing subparts A, B, C, and D of 50 CFR part 23. These regulations were last revised in 1977 and 1980 (depending on which subpart is considered); and since that time, the Service has developed and modified procedures to adjust to the changing circumstances and conditions necessary for effective CITES implementation in the United States.

At each of the ten CITES COPs convened since the treaty went into force in 1975, including COP10 which was held in Harare, Zimbabwe in June 1997, interpretive resolutions to the Convention have been adopted by the Parties. The Service has determined that some of these interpretive CITES resolutions, as they relate directly to implementation and enforcement of the Convention, need to be implemented through the promulgation of regulations. In addition, the Service has developed procedures through the statutory authority granted by Congress in the Endangered Species Act but has not yet updated Part 23 to incorporate those procedures. The proposed revision of 50 CFR part 23 will address those procedures and interpretive resolutions.

Furthermore, it is the intent of the Service to find ways to improve and enhance the opportunities which the public has to participate in the development of policy positions for meetings of the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP). The Service intends to continue to fully consider public input on the development of U.S. policy positions, and invites comments as to how the Service can most effectively

receive information from the public on CITES COP policy position formulation. The Service will consider all comments regarding revisions to subparts A, B, C, and D of 50 CFR part 23, as well as comments on specific procedures related to these regulations. The Service is not requesting comments which are unrelated to 50 CFR part 23 revisions, such as CITES species listing positions, policy positions related to the CITES Conference of the Parties (COP), or any other wildlife trade issue which is not directly related to 50 CFR part 23 revisions.

Interested organizations and individuals are invited to comment on the planned revision of 50 CFR part 23 and on public participation in the development of Service policy positions for CITES COPs. The Service will consider all comments received during the comment period in drafting a proposed rule.

**Author:** This notice was prepared by Bruce J. Weissgold, Office of Management Authority, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 23

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Treaties.

Dated: July 23, 1997.

**John G. Rogers,**

*Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 97-20594 Filed 8-4-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 600

[Docket No. 970527125-7125-01; I.D. 032797B]

RIN 0648-AJ95

#### Magnuson Act Provisions; Appointment of Regional Fishery Management Council Members; Extension of Comment Period

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** At the request of a tribal representative, NMFS is extending the public comment period on a proposed rule to amend the regulations governing the nomination and appointment of