

Dated: August 7, 1997.

Nicolas P. Retsinas,

*Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal
Housing Commissioner.*

[FR Doc. 97-21302 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-27-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Availability of a Draft Revised Recovery Plan for the Okaloosa Darter for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to extend the public comment period for review of the draft revised recovery plan for the Okaloosa darter. This endangered fish occurs in six stream systems flowing from Eglin Air Force Base through or near the cities of Niceville and Valparaiso into Boggy and Rocky bayous on Choctawhatchee Bay, in Okaloosa and Walton Counties, Florida. During the previous comment period (June 10, 1997-August 8, 1997) agencies significantly involved in the recovery of the Okaloosa darter were concerned that they would be unable to provide their comments within the comment period.

DATES: Comments on the draft revised recovery plan must be received on or before August 30, 1997, to receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft revised recovery plan may examine a copy at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Panama City Field Office, 1612 June Avenue, Panama City, Florida 32405, between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM Central Time; or may obtain a copy by contacting Frank Parauka, Panama City Field Office, 850/769-0552 ext. 237.

Written comments and materials regarding the plan should be addressed to Frank Parauka at the Panama City Field Office. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during the previously stated hours at the Panama City Field Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frank Parauka, at the Panama City Field Office address given above, at 850/769-0552, ext. 237, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Restoring an endangered or threatened animal or plant to the point

where it is again a secure, self-sustaining member of its ecosystem is a primary goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort, the Service is working to prepare recovery plans for most of the listed species native to the United States. Recovery plans describe actions considered necessary for conservation of the species, establish criteria for the recovery levels for downlisting or delisting them, and estimate the time and cost for implementing the recovery measures needed.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) requires the development of recovery plans for listed species unless such a plan would not promote the conservation 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 Service will consider all information presented during a public comment period prior to approval of each new or revised recovery plan. The Service and other federal agencies will also take these comments into account in the course of implementing approved recovery plans.

The draft revised recovery plan for the Okaloosa darter updates the original 1981 plan. The Service listed this species in 1973 due to its extreme limited range, habitat degradation, and apparent competition from a possibly introduced related species, the brown darter. Studies recommended in the original plan have been completed. Eglin Air Force Base is implementing habitat conservation measures, and plans to implement others. Okaloosa darter populations have apparently stabilized. Downlisting this species from endangered to threatened could be considered in the near future if Okaloosa darter populations in all six inhabited stream systems remain stable or increase, and if effective interagency agreements are established to protect the quality and quantity of water in these streams. Inhabited streams are the main stems and tributaries of Toms, Turkey, Mill, Swift, East Turkey, and Rocky creeks. The watersheds of these streams, located on Eglin Air Force Base and in the cities of Niceville and Valparaiso, are also in the planning area. Comments received during the review period will be used as appropriate for developing a final revised recovery plan. The Panama City Field Office will then forward the final plan to the Service's Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia, for approval.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft revised recovery plan described. All comments received by the date specified above will be considered prior to approval of the plan.

Authority

The authority for this action is Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. 1533(f).

Dated: August 7, 1997.

Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Field Supervisor.

[FR Doc. 97-21430 Filed 8-12-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC); Public Comment on the Proposal to Develop the "National Shoreline Data Standard" as a Federal Geographic Data Committee Standard

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is charged through Executive Order 12906 with developing standards for geospatial data. Geospatial data include geographic information and related products that are used for a variety of mapping and resource assessment purposes by many segments of society. The Executive Order states that standards shall be developed "... in consultation and cooperation with State, local, and tribal government, the private and academic sector, and to the extent feasible the international community..." The FGDC has identified that there is an important national need to develop a standard for shoreline data.

The FGDC Bathymetric and Geodetic Subcommittees, along with the Coastal States Organization is sponsoring an upcoming Shoreline Data Content Workshop. The purpose of the meeting and this announcement is to gather information on the need for a national shoreline data content standard, as outlined in the draft proposal included in this announcement.

In addition to comments on the need for a national shoreline standard, the FGDC is seeking the identification of existing standards on shoreline data on the identification of individuals or organizations that are interested in being part of the standards development team or would otherwise like to be involved in the review and evaluation of the national standard as it is developed.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before October 1, 1997. The Shoreline Data Content Workshop will be held November 3–5, 1997 at the NOAA Coastal Services Center, Charleston, SC.

CONTACT AND ADDRESSES: To submit comments and for more information on the November workshop contact: November workshop contact: Millington Lockwood, Executive Secretary, FGDC Bathymetric Subcommittee, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 6222, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910, Phone: 301-713-2777x171, Fax: 301-713-4019, Internet: millington.lockwood@noaa.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Proposal for a National Shoreline Data Standard

Submitting Organization: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, (NOAA) National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey, Division of Remote Sensing.

Objectives: This Standard is intended to serve the community of users who are involved with geospatial data "activities" that intersect the U.S. Shoreline. The purpose is to clarify (standardize) the complexities of shoreline data by developing a data model representing the various aspects of shoreline, relationship to other data standards, and its expected usage. The standard will also define the content accuracy, datum requirements, spatial (X,Y,Z) accuracy, and metadata requirements.

This standard is based on the approach utilized by NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (formerly a part of the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey) for mapping the shoreline of the United States and determining boundaries referenced to various tidal datums. It will also establish a consistent standard for all national mapping requirements.

It is our intention that this standard will become the official FGDC/NSDI standard for the shoreline layer of the NSDI framework and an integral component of the national hydrographic data layer.

Scope: The scope of this standard project involves a determination of the content of the national shoreline (both tidal and non-tidal) for the purposes of establishing legal boundaries, the baseline of the United States, and to have a consistently reliable (known) and properly documented shoreline for water/land interface. It is primarily oriented toward reaching a common understanding of the shoreline for national mapping purposes and other geospatial (GIS) applications.

Justification: Users of shoreline data make up a much more diverse group

than previously thought. Shoreline data are also important for coastal zone management, environmental monitoring, resource developments, legal land jurisdictional issues, ocean and meteorological modelling, engineering, construction, planning, and many other uses. A published standard will provide the affected community with a basis to assess the quality and utility of their shoreline data. Shoreline is an integral component of the FGDC NSDI geospatial framework.

Benefits: The principal objective is to specify *minimum* standards for shoreline data in order that shoreline data collected according to these standards are sufficiently accurate and that spatial uncertainty of data is quantified. This will provide a standardized methodology for evaluating shoreline data (regardless of survey methodology or technology) and reporting resultant data quality through a statistically sound approach. This will permit much wider use and acceptability (sharing) of shoreline data between parties. This will also establish a means (rules) for establishing a national shoreline certification program.

Development Approach: The approach that is being used to develop this standard is to:

- A. Identify, review, document, and distribute existing standard reference documents (see section on existing standards)
- B. Conduct a needs and requirements survey of the potential user community (Federal, state, local government agencies, and private surveyors)
- C. Conduct public workshop to draft standard
- D. Test and evaluate standard
- E. Release draft standard for public review
- F. Conduct a public workshop based upon comments from the public review in order to refine the draft standard.

We intend to hold at least two open forum/workshop type meetings to explain the standard to the affected community. The first meeting is scheduled for November 3–5, 1997, at the NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, SC. A second meeting will be held in the spring of 1998 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing in Tampa, Florida, March 30–April 4, 1998.

Development and Completion Schedule: It is anticipated that an outline of the draft shoreline standard will be completed by December 1997.

The draft standard will be completed by April 1998. At that time the standard will be available for preliminary review and will be the subject of the second workshop. Following this workshop there will be a 3-month period of formal public review. It is anticipated that the draft standard will receive a thorough review and comments will primarily be of a clarifying nature relating to the implementation of the standard or definitions.

Resources: Resources needed to complete this standard are available within the NOAA Office of the Coast Survey, the National Geodetic Survey, and the NOAA Coastal Services Center. Funding requests of state and local participants at the workshops has been requested from FGDC.

Potential Participants: The primary organizations who will be involved in the development of this standard are the shoreline engineering, coastal zone management, flood insurance, and resource management community. These include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of State, Department of Justice, U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Imagery and Mapping Agency. There is also interest in this standard from private surveying contractors, real estate, insurance industry, various agencies within state and local governments, and private land owners.

Anticipated User Community: Agencies that conduct surveys of shorelines, including coastal and estuarine, inland lakes and rivers are the most likely groups to use this standard. By and large this is embodied in the civil engineering, surveying, and photogrammetry community. This standard will greatly increase the potential for exchange of data between and among various federal, state, local governmental agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector. The standard will provide a common understanding of data accuracy requirements based on a variety of applicant profiles and accuracies. It will also provide a common framework for independent evaluation and assessment of shoreline data for a range of applications, independent of technology.

Related Standards: A crosscutting standards review and data model conducted by FGDC in 1995 indicated that most of the FGDC thematic

subcommittees and work groups have a relationship to shoreline data. Two data standards that have been published that include reference to the shoreline are the Cadastral Standard and the Wetlands Standard. The Tri Service Spatial Data Standard and feature reference model contain a relationship to shoreline. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency has recently published a geospatial systems data model for shoreline data. There are several FGDC standards in either draft or proposal stage that relate to shoreline, these include: digital elevation, data accuracy, hydrographic, and facilities.

Reference Documents and Existing Standards

Existing standards that relate to shoreline are contained within the following publications and reports.

- Swainson, O.W.*, 1928. Topographic Manual, Special Publication No. 144, DOC, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
- Swanson, R.L.*, 1949. Topographic Manual, Part II, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Special Publication 249.DOC U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey.
- Shalowitz, A.L.*, 1964. Shore and Sea Boundaries—with special reference to the interpretation and use of Coast and Geodetic Survey Data. U.S. Department of Commerce Publication 10-1, Two Volumes, U.S. GPO, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of Commerce*, 1976. Hydrographic Manual, Fourth Edition, NOAA/NOS Washington, D.C. Chapter 3.2, Shoreline Surveys.
- Ellis, M.Y.*, 1978. Coastal Mapping Handbook, Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Department of Commerce, National Ocean Service and Office of Coastal Zone Management, U.S. GPO, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Department of the Interior*, 1979. Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States, FGDC Standards for Wetlands, Approved by FGDC December 1996.
- Hicks, Stacey D.*, 1980. The National Tidal Datum Convention of 1980. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Ocean Survey.
- Hicks, Stacy D.*, 1984. Tide and Current Glossary, NOAA/National Ocean Service. Rockville, MD.
- Hicks, Stacy D.*, 1988. Fantastic Tidal Datums NOAA/NOS. Rockville, MD.
- NOAA/DMA*, 1990. Chart No. 1, Nautical Chart Symbols Abbreviations and terms, 9th Edition January 1990. Joint NOAA/DMA publication.
- Harrington, Charles, E.*, 1993. Maritime Boundaries on National Ocean Service Nautical Charts. Cartographic

- Perspectives, Bulletin of the North American Cartographic Information Society. No. 14, Winter 1993.
- Fritz, L.W.*, 1994. Shoreline Layer of the Master Seafloor Digital Data Base. Concept and Tutorial. NIMA HYSAS Program Office, Bethesda, MD.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers*, 1994. Civil Works Engineering Manual EM-1110-2-1003—Hydrographic Surveying.
- Tri-Service CADD/GIS*, 1996. GIS Spatial Data Standards. Department of Defense Tri-Service Technology Center, Vicksburg, MS.
- FGDC*, 1996. Cadastral Data Content Standard for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, FGDC, Washington, D.C.
- International Hydrographic Office*, 1996. International Transfer Standard for Digital Hydrographic Data. Edition 3.9, IHO Special Publication No. 57 International Hydrographic Bureau, Monaco.
- National Imagery and Mapping Agency*, 1997. The United States Imagery and Geospatial System Data Model, Volume 4—Nautical—NIMA: Standards and Interoperability Division Bethesda, MD.
- Completion Date*: Approximately December 1998.
- Target Authorization Body*: The Federal Geographic Data Committee will be the authorization body for this standard.
- Maintenance Agency*: Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Service, National Geodetic Survey—Under the leadership of the FGDC Bathymetric and Nautical Charting Data Subcommittee.

Dated: August 1, 1997.

Richard E. Witmer,

Chief, National Mapping Division.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[MT-962-1020-00]

Notice of Availability for the Montana/ Dakotas Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management Record of Decision

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Record of Decision (ROD) on the final environmental impact

statement (EIS) for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (standards and guidelines) in Montana and North and South Dakota is available. The ROD documents the selection of the Preferred Alternative (the standards and guidelines) and provides background information and rationale for the decision. The standards and guidelines were developed in coordination with four Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Montana and the Dakotas. The standards and guidelines would be incorporated into 10 BLM land use plans that cover about 8.4 million acres of BLM-administered land in Montana and the Dakotas. This action is proposed in accordance with revised regulations for livestock grazing on BLM-administered lands (43 CFR 4100).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sandy Brooks, Project Manager, BLM Montana State Office, P.O. Box 36800, Billings, Montana 59107-6800, or 406-255-2929.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The final EIS for Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management was released and made available for a 30-day public availability period on June 6, 1997. The 30-day protest period for the final EIS began on June 18, 1997. The final EIS reflected changes based on public comments from the draft and supplement to the draft EIS. The changes included modifications to the Preferred Alternative, as well as other portions of the EIS, but did not change the scope of the final EIS nor alter the analysis of the environmental impacts. The decision to select the Preferred Alternative was based on a review of the environmental analysis in the EIS and consideration of public comments.

Dated: August 7, 1997.

James Binando,

Acting Deputy State Director, Division of Resources.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AZA-29258]

Arizona, Notice of Scoping Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of scoping period and notice of open house.