

on the Plaza Level of the Nassif Building at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also access this docket on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

For information concerning the advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) provisions, contact LT Diane Kalina, Project Manager, Vessel and Facility Operating Standards Division, Coast Guard, telephone 202-267-1181. For questions on viewing, or submitting material to the docket, contact Dorothy Walker, Chief, Dockets, Department of Transportation, telephone 202-366-9329.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**Request for Comments**

The Coast Guard encourages interested persons to participate in this rulemaking by submitting written data, views, or arguments. Persons submitting comments should include their names and addresses, identify this rulemaking (USCG-1998-3786) and the specific section of the ANPRM to which each comment applies, and give the reason for each comment. Please submit all comments and attachments in an unbound format, no larger than 8½ by 11 inches, suitable for copying and electronic filing to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. Persons wanting acknowledgment of receipt of comments should enclose stamped, self-addressed postcards or envelopes.

The Coast Guard will consider all comments received during the comment period. It may change the proposed rule in view of the comments.

The Coast Guard plans no public hearing. Persons may request a public hearing by writing to the Docket Management Facility at the address under **ADDRESSES**. The request must identify this docket [USCG-1998-3786] and should include the reasons why a public meeting would be helpful to this rulemaking. If it determines that the opportunity for oral presentation will aid this rulemaking, the Coast Guard will hold a public hearing at a time and place announced by a later notice in the **Federal Register**.

**Background and Purpose**

The existing commercial diving operations regulations are over 20 years old and do not include current safety and technology standards and industry practices. The Coast Guard needs current information on these subject areas to help us identify necessary regulatory revisions.

In response to several public requests, the Coast Guard is extending the period for public comment on its Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM), Commercial Diving Operations, published in the **Federal Register** on June 26, 1998 (63 FR 34840). The comments stated that more time was needed to collect data, and the diving industry is typically very busy during the summer months and divers need more time to develop comments to the ANPRM. Based on these requests and on the small number of comments received so far, the Coast Guard has decided to extend the comment period for an additional 45 days.

Dated: September 17, 1998.

**Howard L. Hime,**

*Acting, Director of Standards, Marine Safety and Environmental Protection.*

[FR Doc. 98-25464 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**Maritime Administration**

**46 CFR Part 249**

[MARAD 98-4395]

RIN No. 2133-AB 36

**Approval of Underwriters for Marine Hull Insurance**

**AGENCY:** Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation.

**ACTION:** Advance Notice Of Proposed Rulemaking; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The Maritime Administration (MARAD) is soliciting comments from interested persons concerning the need to amend the existing regulations governing the placement of marine hull insurance on subsidized and Title XI program vessels. The existing regulations were promulgated in 1988 and provided, among other things, the criteria and procedures for certain foreign underwriters to participate in the writing of hull insurance on MARAD program vessels.

**DATES:** Comments are requested by October 23, 1998.

**COMMENTS:** Signed written comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 7th Street SW, Room 7210, Washington, DC 20590. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on

the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Edmond J. Fitzgerald, Director, Office of Subsidy and Insurance, Maritime Administration, Washington, DC 20590. Telephone 202/366-2400.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The 1988 explanation of the final rulemaking (53 FR 23119) provided in part that:

Members of the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) would remain eligible subject to prescribed trust fund and limitation on risk requirements. On the basis of a comment by one American carrier, the final rule specifically reserves MARAD's right to review this eligibility at any time.

It has come to MARAD's attention that the ILU and another London based insurance organization, the London International Insurance and Reinsurance Market Association (LIRMA) have voted to merge their two organizations in the near future. The new organization will be called the International Underwriters Association (IUA) of London. MARAD's Director, Office of Marine Insurance had discussions with the incoming chairman of the IUA and the chairman indicated that the new organization will not have the same eligibility criteria as the ILU or any internal oversight activities. In view of this, MARAD is seeking comments concerning how to deal with existing ILU member companies after the merger. Will it be necessary to qualify ILU member companies on an individual "ad hoc" basis after the merger is implemented? MARAD has a number of questions it would like to receive comment on:

(1) Should companies who were in the ILU and approved to write insurance on MARAD program vessels maintain their eligibility for some period, say a year after merger, while they are reviewed on an individual basis?

(2) Should ILU member companies (post merger) be subject to the same requirements of "Other Foreign Underwriters" under section 249.5(c) Eligibility criteria?

(3) If an ILU member company has been previously approved under 249.5(c), in the French or Scandinavian market for example, should that eligibility be governing?

(4) Should ILU member companies appearing on the Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers compiled by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners be eligible for MARAD underwriting provided they remain in good standing and remain on this list?

(5) If an ILU member company is the subsidiary or affiliate of a company that is approved under Section 249.5(c), should it have the benefit of that

approval if a satisfactory parent company or similar guarantee is provided?

(6) Any other aspect of this issue.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Dated: September 18, 1998.

**Joel C. Richard,**

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-25408 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

#### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period on 90-Day Finding and Commencement of Status Review for a Petition To List the Westslope Cutthroat Trout as Threatened; Correction**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; correction.

**SUMMARY:** In document 98-21995 beginning on page 43901 in the issue of Monday, August 17, 1998, make the following corrections:

On page 43902, at the end of the first paragraph in the second column, insert the following sentence: "However, in accordance with the current Service Listing Priority Guidance (63 FR 25502, May 8, 1998) the Service will require 9 months from the date of the finding (June 10, 1998) to complete a thorough biological status review and issue a 12-month finding."

On page 43902, third column, in the third sentence of the first full paragraph, the word "not" should be changed to "now."

Dated: September 15, 1998.

**Terry Terrell,**

Deputy Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

[FR Doc. 98-25250 Filed 9-22-98; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AD67

#### **Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Reclassification of Yacaré Caiman in South America From Endangered to Threatened, and the Listing of Two Other Caiman Species as Threatened by Reason of Similarity of Appearance**

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to reclassify the yacaré (*Caiman yacare* also known as *Caiman crocodilus yacare*) from its present endangered status to threatened status under the Endangered Species Act (Act) because the endangered listing does not correctly reflect the present status of this animal. The Service also proposes to list the common caiman (*Caiman crocodilus crocodilus*) and the brown caiman (*Caiman crocodilus fuscus*) as threatened by reason of similarity of appearance. The yacaré is native to Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Bolivia, and the other two caiman occur in Mexico and Central and South America. These three taxa are listed in Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Listing the two taxa as threatened by reason of similarity of appearance will assist in protecting the yacaré caiman from uncontrolled use.

A special rule is also proposed for these three species that would allow U.S. commerce in caiman skins, other parts and products from individual countries of origin and countries of re-export if certain pre-trade conditions are satisfied for those countries. The several conditions largely pertain to the implementation of a CITES resolution on the universal tagging of crocodilian skins (adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties) as well as conditions complementing the intent of this resolution and provisions to support the sufficiency of management of yacaré populations so that populations will be sustained through time.

In the case where tagged caiman skins and other parts are exported to a second country, usually for tanning and manufacturing purposes, and the processed skins and finished products are exported to the United States, the United States will prohibit imports of skins and products if it determines that

either the country of export or the country or countries of re-export are engaging in practices that are detrimental to the conservation of caiman populations.

The purpose of the special proposed rule is twofold. One is to promote the conservation of the yacaré caiman by ensuring proper management of the commercially harvested caiman species in the range countries and through implementation of trade controls as described in the CITES tagging resolution to reduce commingling of caiman specimens. The rule is also intended to relieve the burden on U.S. law enforcement personnel who must screen difficult to distinguish caiman products to exclude products from endangered or improperly identified species from U.S. commerce.

**DATES:** Comments from all interested parties must be received by December 22, 1998. Public hearing requests must be received by November 9, 1998.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments, information, and questions should be submitted to the Chief, Office of Scientific Authority; Mail Stop: Room 750, Arlington Square; 4401 North Fairfax Drive; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Fax number (703) 358-2276. Comments and other information received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Arlington, Virginia, address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Susan Lieberman, Chief, Office of Scientific Authority, at the above address, by phone at (703) 358-1708, or by E-mail at: Susan\_Lieberman@mail.fws.gov.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### **Background**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes that substantial populations of crocodilians that are managed as a sustainable resource can be utilized for commercial purposes while not adversely affecting the survival of individual populations of the species. When certain positive conservation conditions have been met, the Service has acted to allow utilization and trade from managed populations of the American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), and has allowed the importation of commercial shipments of Nile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) skins, other parts, and products from several southern and eastern African countries and similar shipments of saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) specimens from Australia (61 FR 32356; June 24, 1996).