

Dated: August 7, 1997.

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*Assistant Secretary for Housing-Federal
Housing Commissioner.*

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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).

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Bryan Arroyo,

Acting Field Supervisor.

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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.