

209 and 37 CFR 404.7. The prospective exclusive license may be granted unless, within 60 days from the date of this published Notice, NIH receives written evidence and argument that establishes that the grant of the license would not be consistent with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 209 and 37 CFR 404.7.

Applications for a license in the exclusive field of use filed in response to this notice will be treated as objections to the grant of the contemplated licenses. Comments and objections submitted in response to this notice will not be made available for public inspection, and, to the extent permitted by law, will not be released under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

Jack S. Spiegel,

Director, Division of Technology Development and Transfer, Office of Technology Transfer.
[FR Doc. 98-11933 Filed 5-4-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Availability of Draft Management Objectives for the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River for Review and Comment

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of document availability.

SUMMARY: The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of Draft Interim Management Objectives for the Endangered Fishes of the Upper Colorado River and supporting draft document "Modeling population dynamics of Colorado squawfish, razorback sucker, and humpback chub: for management objective development." These interim management objectives serve as the first step in determining recovery goals by identifying approximate minimum population sizes for current and restored stocks of endangered fish in order to achieve recovery. The Service solicits review and comment from the public on this draft interim management objectives and supporting modeling document.

DATES: Comments on the draft management objectives must be received on or before June 4, 1998 to ensure they receive consideration by the Service.

ADDRESSES: Persons wishing to review the draft management objectives may

obtain a copy by contacting the Associate Manager Utah, Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Written comments and materials regarding this plan should be sent to the Associate Manager Utah at the Denver address given above. Comments and materials received are available on request for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Larry Shanks, Fish and Wildlife Associate Manager (see **ADDRESSES** above), at telephone (303) 236-8154.

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 Service's endangered species program. To help guide the recovery effort of Upper Colorado River endangered fishes, the Recovery Implementation Program, with the Service as a participant, is determining interim management objectives to guide the development of recovery goals. This first step is to determine the necessary minimum numbers in a population of endangered Upper Colorado River fishes to maintain quantifiable genetic integrity. The interim management objective documents the methods used to determine effective population size, sex ratios and numbers of fish that would successfully contribute their genetics to the next spawning population.

Biologists have been charged with developing quantifiable recovery objectives that are scientifically based. Generally, there is a lack of sufficient information on species habitat needs, population genetics, and population demographics to establish sound quantifiable objectives. Where scientists have attempted to establish quantifiable objectives for recovery, they have tended to be relatively conservative. For these reasons, and others, quantifiable recovery objectives have never been established for endangered fish in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

In the Upper Basin, four endemic fish species are federally listed as endangered: Colorado squawfish (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), and bonytail (*Gila elegans*). The original draft recovery plan for Colorado squawfish written in 1978 called for the development of quantifiable recovery

objectives. Following the establishment of the Upper Basin Recovery Implementation Program in 1986, the need for quantification of objectives for each species was reiterated. The current recovery plans for all four endangered Colorado River fish, however, still call for the establishment of quantifiable objectives. Additionally, quantifiable management objectives are needed by the Upper Basin Recovery Implementation Program to evaluate actions taken to recover endangered fish in the Upper Basin.

The purpose of the draft document is to outline quantifiable interim management objectives for all Colorado River endangered fish and to describe how the interim management objectives were developed. Interim management objectives are based on a minimum genetic effective population size (N_e) and population demographic parameters described in the model developed by Crowl and Bouwes (1997). Their achievement is dependent upon a multitude of environmental conditions and management actions. The term "interim" is being used because they will require refinement at regular intervals as new information is obtained. The application of interim management objectives will be primarily within the Upper Basin Recovery Implementation Program to evaluate progress towards recovery of these endangered fish. In this light, the interim management objectives will provide a framework for prioritizing short-term actions needed for recovery and guidelines for obtaining the information needed to define quantifiable long-term recovery objectives.

Public Comments Solicited

The Service solicits written comments on the draft interim management objectives described above. All comments received by the date specified in the **DATES** section above will be considered prior to approval of the interim management objectives.

Authority

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

Dated: April 24, 1998.

Terry Terrel,

Regional Director, Denver, Colorado.

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