Published a proposed rule to designate critical habitat for the California Red-legged frog in the Federal Register (65 FR 54892). The original comment period closed on October 11, 2000. The comment period now closes on November 20, 2000. Written comments should be submitted to the Service (see ADDRESSES section).

Approximately 2,175,000 hectares (5,373,650 acres) of land fall within the boundaries of the proposed critical habitat designation. Specifically, aquatic and upland areas where suitable breeding and nonbreeding habitat is interspersed throughout the landscape and is interconnected by unfragmented dispersal habitat are areas proposed as critical habitat. Proposed critical habitat is located in Alameda, Butte, Calaveras, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, Napa, Plumas, Riverside, San Benito, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yuba counties, California. Critical habitat receives protection from destruction or adverse modification through required consultation under section 7 of the Act with regard to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a Federal agency. Section 4 of the Act requires us to consider economic and other relevant impacts when specifying any particular area as critical habitat.

The comment period on this proposal now closes on November 20, 2000. Written comments should be submitted to the Service office listed in the ADDRESSES section.

Author: The primary authors of this notice are Curt McCasland and Stephanie Brady (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).


Elizabeth H. Stevens,
Acting Manager.

[FR Doc. 00–26704 Filed 10–18–00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018–AG17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period and Notice of Availability of Draft Economic Analysis on Proposed Critical Habitat Determination for the Peninsular Bighorn Sheep. Notice of Availability of Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Distribution Map

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period and notice of availability of draft economic analysis and notice of availability of Peninsular bighorn sheep distribution map.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability of a draft economic analysis for the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Peninsular bighorn sheep (Ovis canadensis). We also provide notice of the reopening of the comment period for the proposal to designate critical habitat for the Peninsular bighorn sheep to allow all interested parties to submit written comments on the proposed rule and on the draft economic analysis. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they will be incorporated into the public record as a part of this reopening and will be fully considered in the final rule. We also provide notice of the availability of distribution map for the Peninsular bighorn sheep.

DATES: The original comment period on the critical habitat proposal closed on August 31, 2000. The comment period is again reopened and we will accept comments until November 20, 2000. Comments must be received by the closing date. Any comments that are received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at “http://pacific.fws.gov/crithab/pbsh” or by writing to the Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, 2730 Loker Avenue West, Carlsbad, California, 92008. Written comments should be sent to the Field Supervisor. You may also send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to fw1pbsh@fws.gov. Please submit comments in ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and
The decline of the Peninsular bighorn sheep is attributed to a combination of factors, including: (1) relatively low adult survivorship from predation and human-related causes; (2) the effects of disease and parasitism; (3) low lamb recruitment; and (4) habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation. The Peninsular bighorn sheep in the United States declined from an estimated 1,171 individuals in 1971 to about 570 individuals in 1991 (Bleich et al. 1992). Recent estimates now number the population at approximately 335 adults in about eight ewe groups in the wild in the United States. The habitat still remaining for the Peninsular bighorn sheep in the United States is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Land Management, private landowners, Trust lands, U.S. Forest Service, and other State and local entities.

Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that the Secretary shall designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific data available and after taking into consideration the economic impact of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. Based upon the previously published proposal to designate critical habitat for the Peninsular bighorn sheep and comments received during previous comment periods, we have conducted a draft economic analysis of the proposed critical habitat designation. The draft economic analysis is available at the above Internet and mailing address (see ADDRESSES section). To accept the best and most current scientific data regarding the critical habitat proposal and the draft economic analysis of the proposal, we reopen the comment period at this time. Previously submitted oral or written comments on this critical habitat proposal need not be resubmitted. The current comment period on this proposal closes on November 20, 2000. Written comments may be submitted to the Service office in the ADDRESSES section.

The distribution map for Peninsular bighorn sheep represents a recent compilation of data from numerous sources that depicts the distributional range of bighorn sheep in the Peninsular Ranges of southern California. The mapped information was compiled through an interagency recovery planning program. The map is being made available to provide the public with additional information on the biology of the Peninsular bighorn sheep.

Author
The primary author of this notice is the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority
The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Part 660
[Footnote 1

SUMMARY: NMFS announces that persons who enter the pelagic longline fishery in the exclusive economic zone around American Samoa after July 15, 2000 (“control date”) are not guaranteed future participation in the fishery if the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) prepares and NMFS approves a program limiting entry or effort. This action does not commit the Council or NMFS to limit effort or to prevent any other date from being selected for eligibility to participate in the American Samoa pelagic fishery. The Council or NMFS also may use other criteria to limit fishing effort or participation in a limited entry program if one is developed in the future.

DATES: Comments must be submitted in writing by November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be mailed to Dr. Charles Karnella, Administrator, NMFS, Pacific Islands Area Office (PIAO), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814-4700; or faxed to 808-973-2941. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Alvin Katekaru, Fishery Management Specialist, PIAO, 808-973-2937.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Since 1996, the pelagic fishery around American Samoa has undergone a change from essentially a troll fishery to a commercial, small-scale longline fishery. Currently, the pelagic longline fishery consists mostly of “alias” (small catamarans), about 30 ft (9.1 m) long


Anne Badgley,
Regional Director, Region 1.