

within 320 kilometers (199 miles) of the U.S.-Mexican border, concurrence of the Mexican government has been requested.

The Commission requests comments on a petition filed by John L. Zolkoske proposing the allotment of Channel 282A at Pacific City, Oregon as the community's first local aural transmission service. Channel 282A can be allotted to Pacific City in compliance with the Commission's minimum distance separation requirements at city reference coordinates. The coordinates for Channel 282A at Pacific City are 45-12-09 North Latitude and 123-57-42 West Longitude.

Provisions of the Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1980 do not apply to this proceeding.

Members of the public should note that from the time a Notice of Proposed Rule Making is issued until the matter is no longer subject to Commission consideration or court review, all *ex parte* contacts are prohibited in Commission proceedings, such as this one, which involve channel allotments. See 47 CFR 1.1204(b) for rules governing permissible *ex parte* contacts.

For information regarding proper filing procedures for comments, see 47 CFR 1.415 and 1.420.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 73

Radio broadcasting.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission proposes to amend 47 CFR Part 73 as follows:

PART 73—RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES

1. The authority citation for Part 73 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154, 303, 334, and 336.

§ 73.202 [Amended]

2. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Alabama, is amended by adding Channel 263A at Auburn.

3. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Georgia, is amended by adding Plainville, Channel 285A.

4. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Oregon, is amended by adding Pacific City, Channel 282A.

5. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Texas, is amended by adding Shiner, Channel 232A.

6. Section 73.202(b), the Table of FM Allotments under Wisconsin, is amended by adding Rosholt, Channel 236A.

Federal Communications Commission.

John A. Karousos,

Chief, Allocations Branch, Policy and Rules Division, Mass Media Bureau.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AH05

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reopening of Comment Period for the Proposal To Designate Critical Habitat for the Wenatchee Mountains Checker-Mallow, and Notice of Availability of the Draft Economic Analysis for Proposed Critical Habitat for the Wenatchee Mountains Checker-Mallow

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of comment period and notice of availability of draft economic analysis.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the reopening of the comment period for the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow (*Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*), and the availability of the draft economic analysis for the plant's proposed designation of critical habitat. We are reopening the comment period for the proposal to designate critical habitat for this species to allow all interested parties to comment simultaneously on the proposed rule and the associated draft economic analysis. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they will be incorporated into the public record as part of this extended comment period and will be fully considered in the final rule.

DATES: We will accept public comments until June 14, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information should be submitted to Manager, Western Washington Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE., Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503-1263. For the electronic mail address, and further instructions on commenting, refer to Public Comments Solicited section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For general information, contact Ted Thomas or James Michaels, at the above

address (telephone 360/753-9440; facsimile 360/753-9518).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Wenatchee Mountains checker-mallow (*Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*) is an herbaceous perennial known from wetlands of the Wenatchee Mountains in central Washington. The plant ranges in height from 20 to 150 centimeters (8 to 60 inches), with pink flower clusters with one to many stalked flowers arranged singly along a common stem. The species occurs at six locations, all are known from Chelan County, Washington.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva* was listed as an endangered species on December 22, 1999 (64 FR 71680). Habitat fragmentation and destruction from alterations of hydrology, rural residential development, conversion of native wetlands to orchards and other agricultural uses, competition from nonnative plants, seed and plant collection, and fire suppression and the activities associated with fire suppression threaten *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*.

In April 2000, as a result of a suit from the Southwest Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Biological Diversity, we reached a settlement agreement on when to publish a proposed and final critical habitat designation for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*. We agreed to publish a proposed critical habitat designation for this species on or before December 31, 2000, and a final critical habitat designation on or before August 31, 2001.

On January 18, 2001, we published a proposed rule in the **Federal Register** (66 FR 4783) to designate critical habitat for *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*. The original comment period closed on March 19, 2001. We intend to reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days to allow all interested parties to comment simultaneously on the proposed rule and the associated draft economic analysis.

We have proposed to designate critical habitat in one critical habitat unit totaling approximately 2,486 hectares (6,137 acres) in Chelan County, Washington. The area encompasses a majority of the Camas Creek and Pendleton Creek watersheds.

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(b)(2) of the Act requires that we designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available, 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 *Sidalcea oregana* var. *calva*, we have prepared a draft economic analysis of the proposed critical habitat designation. The draft economic analysis is available on the Internet and from the mailing addresses in the Public Comments Solicited section below.

Public Comments Solicited

We will accept written comments and information during this re-opened comment period. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning this proposal by any of several methods:

(1) You may submit written comments and information to the Manager, Western Washington Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102, Lacey, Washington 98503-1263.

(2) You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: fw1wwwo_checker@r1.fws.gov. If you submit comments by e-mail, please submit them as an ASCII file and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: RIN 1018-AH05" and your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, contact us directly by calling our Western Washington Office at telephone number 360/753-9440.

(3) You may hand-deliver comments to our Western Washington Office at the address given above.

Comments and materials received, as well as supporting documentation used in preparation of the proposal to designate critical habitat, will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the address under (1) above. Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at "www.r1.fws.gov" or by writing to the Manager at the address under (1) above.

Author

The primary author of this notice is Ted Thomas (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

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

Dated: March 14, 2001.

Rowan W. Gould,

Acting Regional Director, Region 1, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 01-12173 Filed 5-14-01; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 216

[Docket No. 990927266-0240-02; I.D. 072699A]

RIN 0648-AM62

Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Navy Operations of Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System Low Frequency Active Sonar

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of extension of comment deadline.

SUMMARY: Under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, on March 19, 2001, NMFS published a proposed rule (66 FR 15375) to authorize the taking of marine mammals incidental to the world-wide deployment of the U.S. Navy's SURTASS LFA sonar. Please refer to this document for additional information on this proposed action. By this document, NMFS announces an extension of the comment deadline.

DATES: Comments must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2001. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Donna Wieting, Chief, Marine Mammal Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3226.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kenneth R. Hollingshead, NMFS (301) 713-2055, ext 128.

A copy of the Navy's application is available and may be obtained by writing to this address or by telephoning the contact listed here (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) directs the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to allow, upon request, the incidental, but not intentional taking of small numbers of marine mammals by U.S. citizens who engage in a specified activity (other than

commercial fishing) within a specified geographical region if certain findings are made and regulations are issued.

Under section 101(a)(5)(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, on March 19, 2001, NMFS published a proposed rule (66 FR 15375) to authorize the taking of marine mammals incidental to the world-wide deployment of the U.S. Navy's SURTASS LFA sonar. Please refer to this document for additional information on this proposed action.

On April 16, 2001 (66 FR 19413), NMFS announced an extension of the comment period until May 18, 2001, and the dates and locations for public hearings on this matter. By this document, the comment period for this proposed action is hereby extended until May 31, 2001.

Dated: May 9, 2001.

Wanda Cain,

Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 050901A]

Groundfish Fisheries of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area and the Gulf of Alaska

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of intent; scoping process; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS announces its intent to prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to modify certain fishery management measures governing the Federally managed groundfish fisheries that are conducted in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area (BSAI) and the Gulf of Alaska (GOA) to protect the endangered Steller sea lion population.

The scoping process is occurring in parallel with meetings of the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Council's Reasonable and Prudent Alternative Committee. In addition to collecting scoping information at these meetings, NMFS is accepting written comments on the issues, alternatives, and impacts that should be considered in this analysis.