

addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home addresses from the rulemaking record; we will honor these requests to the extent allowed by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

We are particularly interested in comments or suggestions on reasons why any particular area should or should not be designated as critical habitat. We are further soliciting information or comments concerning our conservation strategy for the silvery minnow; specific information on the amount and distribution of silvery minnow habitat; what habitat is essential to the conservation of the species and why; and land use practices and current or planned activities in the subject areas, including comments or information relating to the 300-foot lateral width. Depending on public comments, information, or data received, we will evaluate whether these areas within the silvery minnow's historical range should be designated as critical habitat, and critical habitat could be revised as appropriate.

Authors

The primary authors of this notice are the New Mexico Field Office staff (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Authority

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

Dated: September 5, 2002.

Craig Manson,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 02-23249 Filed 9-11-02; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AH09

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designating Critical Habitat for Plant Species From the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, HI

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

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

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce the availability of the draft economic analysis for the proposed designations of critical habitat for plant species from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Hawaii. In an earlier **Federal Register** notice published August 26, 2002 (67 FR 54766) we reopened the comment period for the proposed designations or non-designations of critical habitat for these plants. We are now providing notice of extending the comment period to allow peer reviewers and 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 preparation of the final rule.

DATES: We will accept public comments until October 15, 2002.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and information should be submitted to Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850-0001. For further instructions on commenting, refer to Public Comments Solicited section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Henson, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Office, at the above address (telephone: 808/541-3441; facsimile: 808/541-3470).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Six plant species reported from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (Nihoa Island, Necker Island, French Frigate Shoals, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Atoll, Midway Atoll, and Kure Atoll) were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), between 1994 and 1996 (59 FR 56333, 61 FR 43178, 61 FR 53108). *Amaranthus brownii*, *Cenchrus agrimonoides* var. *laysanensis*, *Mariscus pennatifloris* ssp. *bryani*, *Pritchardia remota*, and *Schiedea verticillata* are endemic to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, while *Sesbania tomentosa* is reported from one or more other islands, as well as the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

In previously published proposals (65 FR 66808, 65 FR 79192, 67 FR 3940, 67 FR 9806) we proposed that critical

habitat was prudent for *Cenchrus agrimonoides*, *Mariscus pennatifloris*, and *Sesbania tomentosa*. In a May 14, 2002, proposal (67 FR 34522), we made no change to these proposed prudence determinations, and we proposed that critical habitat designation was prudent for *Amaranthus brownii*, *Pritchardia remota*, and *Schiedea verticillata* (for which proposed prudence determinations had not been made previously) because the potential benefits of designating critical habitat essential for the conservation of these species outweigh the risks that may result from human activity because of critical habitat designation.

In the May 14, 2002, proposal, we proposed designation of critical habitat for five (*Amaranthus brownii*, *Mariscus pennatifloris*, *Pritchardia remota*, *Schiedea verticillata*, and *Sesbania tomentosa*) of the six species reported from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Critical habitat is not proposed for *Cenchrus agrimonoides* var. *laysanensis* in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands because it has not been seen in the wild for over 20 years and no viable genetic material of this variety is known to exist.

We propose critical habitat designations for five species on three islands (Nihoa, Necker, and Laysan) totaling approximately 498 hectares (ha) (1,232 acres (ac)).

Critical habitat receives protection from destruction or adverse modification through required consultation under section 7 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) with regard to actions carried out, funded, or authorized by a Federal agency. Section 4(b)(2) of the Act requires that the Secretary shall designate or revise critical habitat based upon the best scientific and commercial data available, and after taking into consideration the economic impact of specifying any particular area as critical habitat. 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 address in the Public Comments Solicited section below.

The public comment period for the May 14, 2002, proposal originally closed on July 15, 2002. On August 26, 2002, we published a **Federal Register** notice (67 FR 54766) of the reopening of the comment period for the proposed designations and non-designations of critical habitat for plant species on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, as well as for the proposed designations and non-designations of critical habitat for plant species on the islands of Kauai,

Niihau, Molokai, Maui, Kahoolawe, Hawaii, and Oahu; and we announced that the comment period would close on September 30, 2002. We are now announcing the availability of the draft economic analysis and the extension of the comment period for the proposed designations and non-designations of critical habitat for plant species on the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. We will accept public comments on the proposal and the associated draft economic analysis for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands until October 15, 2002. The extension of the comment period gives all interested parties the opportunity to comment on the proposal and the associated draft economic analysis for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Comments already submitted on the proposed designations and non-designations of critical habitat for plant species from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands need not be resubmitted as they will be fully considered in the final determinations.

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 Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850-0001.

(2) You may send comments by electronic mail (e-mail) to: *NWHI_crithab@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-AH09" 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 Honolulu Fish and Wildlife Office at telephone number 808/541-3441.

(3) You may hand-deliver comments to our Honolulu Fish and Wildlife 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 <http://pacificislands.fws.gov> or by request from the Field Supervisor at the address

and phone number under (1 and 2) above.

Author(s)

The primary author of this notice is John Nuss, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, 4th Floor, Portland, OR 97232-4181.

Authority

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

Dated: September 5, 2002.

Craig Manson,

Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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the two DSEISs. This document amends the notices to add a ninth scoping meeting to that schedule.

DATES: As specified in the notices published at 67 FR 53769 and 67 FR 53771, written comments on the scope of issues to be addressed in the two DSEISs must be received by the Council by September 18, 2002. See the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document for the specific date and time of the ninth scoping meeting added through this action.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the DSEISs, and requests for additional information on the draft red snapper rebuilding plan and on proposed Amendment 13, should be sent to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, The Commons at Rivergate, 3018 U.S. Highway 301 North, Suite 1000, Tampa, FL 33619; telephone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015. Comments may also be sent by e-mail to Peter.Hood@gulfcouncil.org. See the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document for the address of the ninth scoping meeting added through this action.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Peter Hood; phone: 813-228-2815; fax: 813-225-7015; e-mail: Peter.Hood@gulfcouncil.org or Phil Steele; phone: 727-570-5305; fax: 727-570-5583; e-mail: Phil.Steele@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Gulf Council is considering amendments to two FMPs. Proposed Amendment 13 would establish stock status determination criteria for managed shrimp stocks in the Gulf of Mexico. Amendment 13 may also consider management alternatives related to adding rock shrimp to the management unit of the shrimp FMP, requiring endorsements for vessels harvesting rock shrimp and royal red shrimp in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Gulf of Mexico, requiring vessel

monitoring systems aboard shrimp trawl vessels fishing in or transiting all or some portions of the Gulf of Mexico EEZ, improving bycatch reporting, and further reducing bycatch in the shrimp fishery. The draft amendment to the Reef Fish FMP would establish a red snapper rebuilding plan that is based on biomass-based stock rebuilding targets and thresholds.

Through two separate documents published August 19, 2002 (67 FR 53769 and 67 FR 53771), the Gulf Council notified the public of its intent to develop a DSEIS associated with proposed Amendment 13 and with the draft red snapper rebuilding plan. Those documents also provided a schedule of

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 622

[I.D. 090302C]

Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Draft Amendment to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico to Establish a Red Snapper Rebuilding Plan; Proposed Amendment 13 to the FMP for the Shrimp Resources of the Gulf of Mexico; Scoping Meeting

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

ACTION: Notice of intent; amendment; notice of scoping meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this document is to amend two documents published in the **Federal Register** on August 19, 2002. The first notice referenced the intent of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) to prepare a draft supplemental environmental impact statement (DSEIS) in association with proposed Amendment 13 to the Gulf Shrimp FMP. The second notice referenced the Gulf Council's intent to prepare a DSEIS in association with a draft amendment to the Reef Fish FMP to establish a red snapper rebuilding plan.

Both of those documents provided a schedule of eight public meetings organized by the Gulf Council to solicit public input on the range of alternatives and scope of impacts to be analyzed in