

(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. Or by facsimile at 808/541-3470.

(2) 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 Lorena Wada (see ADDRESSES).

#### Authority

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

Dated: November 5, 2002.

#### Paul Hoffman,

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

[FR Doc. 02-29048 Filed 11-12-02; 3:04 pm]

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

#### RIN 1018-AH94

### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Blackburn's Sphinx Moth

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; 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 the Blackburn's sphinx moth (*Manduca blackburni*) on the islands of Maui, Hawaii, Molokai, and Kahoolawe, Hawaii. The comment period to allow peer reviewers and all interested parties to comment simultaneously on the proposed rule (67 FR 54763) and the associated draft economic analysis currently ends on December 30, 2002. Over a 10-year

period, the draft economic analysis shows a range of direct costs from \$1.2 to 1.9 million, and the possibility of indirect costs approaching \$500 million. However, many of the indirect costs shown in the analysis result from uncertain and possibly unlikely future private and governmental actions, and we expressly request comments as to the likelihood of these actions occurring and of the indicated costs from these possible actions being incurred.

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 December 30, 2002. Any comments received by the closing date will be considered in the final decision on this proposal.

**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. Copies of the draft economic analysis are available on the Internet at <http://pacificislands.fws.gov> or by request from the Field Supervisor at above address and 808/541-3441. 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

An initial comprehensive Notice of Review for Invertebrate Animals was published in the **Federal Register** on May 22, 1984 (49 FR 21664). In that notice, we identified Blackburn's sphinx moth as a category 3A taxon. Category 3A taxa were those for which we had persuasive evidence of extinction. We published an updated Notice of Review for animals on January 6, 1989 (54 FR 554). Although Blackburn's sphinx moth had been rediscovered by 1985, in the 1989 Notice of Review this taxon was again identified as category 3A. In the next Notice of Review on November 15, 1994 (59 FR 58982), this species was reclassified as a category 1 candidate for listing. Category 1 candidates were those taxa for which we had on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threats to support preparation of listing proposals. Beginning with our February 28, 1996, Notice of Review (61 FR 7596), we

discontinued the designation of multiple categories of candidates, and only those taxa meeting the definition of former category 1 candidates are now considered candidates for listing purposes. In the February 28, 1996, Notice of Review, we identified Blackburn's sphinx moth as a candidate species (61 FR 7596). A proposed rule to list Blackburn's sphinx moth as endangered was published on April 2, 1997 (62 FR 15640). In the September 19, 1997, Notice of Review (62 FR 49398), this species was included as proposed for endangered status.

A final listing rule, listing the Blackburn's sphinx moth as endangered, was published in the **Federal Register** on February 1, 2000 (65 FR 4770). In that final rule, we determined that critical habitat designation for the moth would be prudent, and we also indicated that we were not able to develop a proposed critical habitat designation for the species at that time due to budgetary and workload constraints.

On June 2, 2000, we were ordered by the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii (in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Babbitt*, Civil No. 99-00603) to publish the final critical habitat designation for Blackburn's sphinx moth by February 1, 2002. The plaintiffs and the Service have entered into a consent decree agreeing to extend the deadline to May 30, 2003. *Center for Biological Diversity, et al. v. Norton*, Civ. No. 99-00603 (Aug. 22, 2002).

In response to the court order, on June 13, 2002, we published a proposed critical habitat rule for the Blackburn's sphinx moth. The species is known historically from the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and Oahu, and known currently from the islands of Hawaii, Kahoolawe, and Maui (67 FR 40633). We proposed a total of approximately 40,240 hectares (99,433 acres) on the islands of Maui, Hawaii, Molokai, and Kahoolawe.

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 designate 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 June 13, 2002, proposal originally closed on August 12, 2002. On August 26, 2002, we published a **Federal Register** notice (67 FR 54763) extending the comment period for the proposed designation of critical habitat for Blackburn's sphinx moth. We are now announcing the availability of the draft economic analysis. We will accept public comments on the proposal and the associated draft economic analysis for the Blackburn's sphinx moth until December 30, 2002. Comments already submitted on the proposed designation of critical habitat for the Blackburn's sphinx moth do not need to be resubmitted as they will be fully considered in the final determinations. Written comments should be submitted to us (*see* ADDRESSES).

#### Public Comments Solicited

We will accept written comments and information on the proposed critical habitat designation and draft economic analysis for Blackburn's sphinx moth. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning the proposal and draft economic analysis by the following methods:

(1) You may submit written comments and information to the Field Supervisor by mail, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Islands Office, 300 Ala Moana Blvd., P.O. Box 50088, Honolulu, HI 96850-0001, or by facsimile, (808) 541-3470.

(2) 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) above.

#### Author(s)

The primary author of this notice is Mike Richardson (*see* ADDRESSES).

#### Authority

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

Dated: November 5, 2002.

**Paul Hoffman,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 635

[I.D. 103102B]

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks; Shark Management Measures

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

**ACTION:** Notice of intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces its intent to prepare an EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act to assess the potential effects on the human environment of its proposed action to initiate Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks based on the results of the 2002 stock assessments of large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS). The amendment will examine management alternatives available to rebuild or prevent overfishing of Atlantic sharks, consistent with the LCS and SCS stock assessments, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and other relevant Federal laws. NMFS is requesting comments on a wide range of commercial and recreational management measures including, but not limited to, quotas, minimum sizes, and prohibited species.

**DATES:** Comments on this action must be received no later than 5 p.m., local time, on March 17, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on this action should be mailed to Christopher Rogers, Chief, NMFS Highly Migratory Species Management Division, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910; or faxed to (301) 713-1917. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via email or Internet. For a copy of the 2002 stock assessments, contact Kimberly Marshall, Heather

Stirratt, or Karyl Brewster-Geisz at (301) 713-2347.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Karyl Brewster-Geisz, Kimberly Marshall, or Heather Stirratt at (301) 713-2347.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Atlantic shark fisheries are managed under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Tunas, Swordfish, and Sharks (HMS FMP) is implemented by regulations at 50 CFR part 635.

#### Background

##### LCS

The LCS complex is composed of several species including, but not limited to, sandbar, blacktip, spinner, bull, and tiger sharks. Since the 1993 Shark FMP, LCS have been considered overfished. The latest stock assessment of LCS in the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, completed in September 2002, provides an update on the status of LCS stocks and projects their future abundance under a variety of catch levels in waters off the U.S. Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico coasts. The 2002 assessment includes catch estimates, new biological data, and a number of fishery-independent catch rate series, as well as extended fishery-dependent catch rate series.

The results for the LCS complex indicate that overfishing could still be occurring and the resource may be overfished. However, for sandbar sharks, the stock assessment indicates that, while overfishing could be occurring, current biomass could be near, or somewhat above, maximum sustainable yield (MSY). Additionally, the stock assessment indicates that no reduction in catch for blacktip sharks is needed to maintain the stock at current levels and that some increase may be sustainable in the long term. This stock assessment is currently under peer review.

##### SCS

The SCS complex is comprised of four species including Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead, and finetooth. The 1992 stock assessment classified SCS as being fully utilized. The 2002 stock assessment of SCS in the U.S. and Gulf of Mexico indicates that the current level of removals is sustainable for the SCS aggregate. Aggregate biomass levels for the SCS aggregate are estimated at or above those which could produce MSY, and are not considered to be overfished. However, recent fishing mortality of finetooth sharks exceeds the fishing mortality at MSY, indicating overfishing is occurring for this species.