

date provide sufficient information to begin the scoping process. This assessment is supported by the public comments submitted on the 2005 NPRM that led to the 2006 Rule (70 FR 51414, August 30, 2005).

As noted above, NHTSA plans to publish a separate scoping notice in the **Federal Register** to provide further information and guidance to facilitate public participation in the scoping process. Based on comments received during scoping, NHTSA expects to prepare a draft EIS for public comment and a final EIS to support a final rule later this year.

Issued: March 21, 2008.

Ronald Medford,

Senior Associate Administrator for Vehicle Safety.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 216

[Docket No. 071105649-8028-01]

RIN 0648-AW22

Marine Mammals; Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

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

ACTION: Advance notice of proposed rulemaking; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: On January 31, 2008, NMFS published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) soliciting public comments on revisions to its implementing regulations governing the taking of stranded marine mammals. Written comments were due by March 31, 2008. NMFS has decided to allow additional time for submission of public comments on this action.

DATES: The public comment period for this action has been extended for 30 days. Written comments must be received or postmarked by April 30, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods:

- Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>;

- Fax: 301-427-2522, Attn: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle

Conservation Division (Stranding Regulations ANPR); or

- Mail: Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Attn: Stranding Regulations ANPR, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13635, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Instructions: All comments received are part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sarah Howlett at (301) 713-2322.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The ANPR, published on January 31, 2008 (73 FR 5786), is available upon request and can be found on the NMFS Office of Protected Resources web site: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/mmpa_anpr.htm.

Dated: March 24, 2008.

David Cottingham,

Chief, Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. E8-6443 Filed 3-27-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR 223 and 224

[Docket No. 080318441-8467-01]

RIN 0648-AV36

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Notice of 90-Day Finding on a Petition to List the Ribbon Seal as a Threatened or Endangered Species

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

ACTION: Notice of a 90-day petition finding; request for information; and initiation of status reviews of ribbon, bearded, ringed, and spotted seals.

SUMMARY: We (NMFS) announce a 90-day finding on a petition to list the ribbon seal (*Histiophoca fasciata*) as a

threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We find that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, we initiate a status review of the ribbon seal to determine if listing under the ESA is warranted.

Concurrently, we also initiate a status review of the other ice seal species: bearded (*Erignathus barbatus*), ringed (*Phoca fasciata*), and spotted (*Phoca largha*). To ensure these status reviews are comprehensive, we solicit scientific and commercial information regarding all of these ice seal species.

DATES: Information and comments must be submitted to NMFS by May 27, 2008.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, information, or data, identified by the Regulation Identifier Number (RIN), 0648-AV36, by any of the following methods:

Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Mail: Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, Alaska Regional Office, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK 99802.

Facsimile (fax): 907-586-7012.

Instructions: All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted to <http://www.regulations.gov> without change. All Personal Identifying Information (for example, name, address, etc.) voluntarily submitted by the commenter may be publicly accessible. Do not submit Confidential Business Information or otherwise sensitive or protected information.

NMFS will accept anonymous comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word, Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.

Interested persons may obtain a copy of the ribbon seal petition from the above address or online from the NMFS Alaska Region website: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/protectedresources/seals/ice.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

James Wilder, NMFS Alaska Region, (907) 271 6620; Kaja Brix, NMFS Alaska Region, (907) 586-7235; or Marta Nammack, NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, (301) 713-1401.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the ESA of 1973, as amended (U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), requires, to the maximum extent practicable, that within 90 days of receipt of a petition to designate a species as threatened or endangered, the Secretary of Commerce