

(3) This program provides two categories of Fellowships: Merit Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships.

(i) To be eligible for a Distinguished Fellowship, an individual must have seven or more years of research experience in subject areas, methods, or techniques relevant to disability and rehabilitation research and must have a doctorate, other terminal degree, or comparable academic qualifications.

(ii) The Director awards Merit Fellowships to individuals in earlier stages of their careers in research. To be eligible for a Merit Fellowship, an individual must have either advanced professional training or experience in independent study in an area which is directly pertinent to disability and rehabilitation.

(c) Fellowships will be awarded in the form of a grant to eligible individuals.

(d) In making a final selection of applicants to support under this program, the Director considers the extent to which applicants present a unique opportunity to effect a major advance in knowledge, address critical problems in innovative ways, present proposals which are consistent with the Institute's Long-Range Plan, build research capacity within the field, or complement and significantly increases the potential value of already planned research and related activities.

#### Subpart E—Special Projects and Demonstrations for Spinal Cord Injuries

##### § 1330.40 Spinal cord injuries program.

(a) This program provides assistance to establish innovative projects for the delivery, demonstration, and evaluation of comprehensive medical, vocational, independent living, and rehabilitation services to meet the wide range of needs of individuals with spinal cord injuries.

(b) The agencies and organizations eligible to apply under this program are described in § 1330.2.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### 50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2016-0006; FXES1113090000C6-167-FF09E42000]

RIN 1018-BA89

#### Endangered and Threatened Wildlife; Technical Corrections for Eight Wildlife Species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

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

**ACTION:** Partial withdrawal of direct final rule.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are withdrawing, in part, a February 17, 2016, direct final rule that revises the taxonomy of eight wildlife species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). For the Newell's Townsend's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*), we received significant adverse comments relating to additional scientific research relevant to its taxonomic classification; therefore, we are withdrawing the amendments in the direct final rule for this species only. The amendments in the direct final rule for the other seven species (Oahu elepaio (*Chasiempis ibidis*), Kauai akialoa (*Akialoa stejnegeri*), akiapolau (*Hemignathus wilsoni*), Kauai nukupuu (*Hemignathus hanapepe*), Maui nukupuu (*Hemignathus affinis*), Hawaii akepa (*Loxops coccineus*), and Maui akepa (*Loxops ochraceus*)) will be effective on May 17, 2016.

**DATES:** Effective May 11, 2016, the Service withdraws amendatory instructions 2.f and 2.g published at 81 FR 8007 on February 17, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** The direct final rule may be found online at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2016-0006.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Marilet Zablan, Program Manager for Restoration and Endangered Species Classification, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Regional Office, Ecological Services, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232; telephone 503-231-6131. Individuals who are hearing impaired or speech impaired may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8337 for TTY (telephone typewriter or teletypewriter) assistance 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

Our regulations at 50 CFR 17.11(b) direct us to use the most recently accepted scientific names for species on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (50 CFR 17.11(h)). Accordingly, on February 17, 2016, we published in the **Federal Register** a direct final rule (81 FR 8004) to revise the taxonomy and nomenclature of eight Hawaiian bird species listed under section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). All of these changes are supported by peer-reviewed scientific studies and reflect the taxonomy that has been accepted by the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) in the most recent supplements to the Check-list of North American Birds. Specific references relevant to each species are cited in the text of the February 17, 2016, direct final rule, and are posted as supporting documents at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2016-0006.

Consequently, we published the direct final rule without a prior proposal because we considered it a noncontroversial action that was in the best interest of the public and should be undertaken in as timely a manner as possible. We stated that if we received significant adverse comments regarding the taxonomic changes for any of these species, we would publish a document in the **Federal Register** withdrawing this rule for the appropriate species before the effective date. Significant adverse comments are comments that provide strong justifications as to why the rule should not be adopted or why it should be changed.

#### Comments on the Direct Final Rule

We received three comments on the direct final rule. One of these comments called our attention to recently published genetic research on shearwaters (Martínez-Gómez *et al.* 2015) that recommends maintaining the Hawaiian taxon *newelli* (Newell's Townsend's shearwater, or Newell's shearwater) as a subspecies of the Townsend's shearwater, under the scientific name *Puffinus auricularis newelli*. This recommendation is contrary to the determination of the direct final rule and the AOU Checklist Committee (Chesser *et al.* 2015) that Newell's shearwater is a distinct species (*Puffinus newelli*). The commenter requested that this discrepancy be further considered before we adopt the taxonomic change set forth in the direct final rule. Another commenter discussed behavioral differences between Newell's shearwater and Townsend's shearwater, while also providing a link to an article

summarizing the Martínez-Gómez research results. We concur that these comments are significant and that the taxonomic status of Newell's shearwater merits further consideration. Therefore, we are withdrawing that portion of the direct final rule concerning the listed entity Newell's Townsend's shearwater (*Puffinus auricularis newelli*). In the future, we may propose changes in the taxonomy of Newell's Townsend's shearwater with opportunity for further public comment.

Other topics discussed in the comments were not specific to the taxonomic issues raised in the direct final rule. We did not receive significant adverse comments concerning the taxonomy of the Oahu elepaio, Kauai akiialoa, akiapolauu, Kauai nukupuu, Maui nukupuu, Hawaii akepa, or Maui akepa.

#### Partial Withdrawal of the Direct Final Rule

For the reasons stated above, we withdraw amendatory instructions 2.f and 2.g of the direct final rule published on February 17, 2016, at 81 FR 8004–8007.

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation.

Dated: April 28, 2016.

Stephen Guertin,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 622

[Docket No. 150623546–6395–02]

RIN 0648–BF18

#### Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Amendments to the Reef Fish, Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates Fishery Management Plans of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands

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

**ACTION:** Final rule.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS issues this final rule to implement measures described in Amendment 7 to the Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for the Reef Fish Fishery of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) (Reef Fish FMP), Amendment 6 to the FMP for the Spiny Lobster Fishery of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Spiny Lobster FMP), Amendment 5 to the FMP for Corals and Reef Associated Plants and Invertebrates of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Coral FMP), and Amendment 4 to the FMP for the Queen Conch Resources of Puerto Rico and the USVI (Queen Conch FMP), as prepared by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (Council). In combination, these amendments represent the Application of Accountability Measures (AM) Amendment (AM Application Amendment). The AM Application Amendment resolves an existing inconsistency between language in the FMPs and the regulations implementing the application of AMs in the U.S. Caribbean exclusive economic zone (EEZ). The purpose of the AM Application Amendment is to ensure the authorizing FMPs are consistent with the regulations governing AMs in the Caribbean EEZ. Additionally, this final rule clarifies the AM closure provisions, the application of the spiny lobster ACL in the Puerto Rico management area of the Caribbean EEZ, and the minimum size limit for queen conch in the Caribbean EEZ.

**DATES:** This final rule is effective June 10, 2016.

**ADDRESSES:** Electronic copies of the AM Application Amendment, which includes an environmental assessment, a Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) analysis, and a regulatory impact review may be obtained from the Southeast Regional Office Web site at [http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/caribbean/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/caribbean/index.html).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** María del Mar López, telephone: 727–824–5305; email: [maria.lopez@noaa.gov](mailto:maria.lopez@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In the Caribbean EEZ, the reef fish, spiny lobster, queen conch, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates fisheries are managed under their respective FMPs. The FMPs were prepared by the Council and are implemented through regulations at 50 CFR part 622 under the authority of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

On February 4, 2016, NMFS published a notice of availability for the AM Application Amendment and

requested public comment (81 FR 5978). On February 26, 2016, NMFS published a proposed rule for the AM Application Amendment and regulatory clarifications not contained in the amendment and requested public comment (81 FR 9800). The proposed rule and the AM Application Amendment outline the rationale for the actions contained in this final rule. A summary of the actions implemented by the AM Application Amendment and this final rule is provided below.

The final rule implementing Amendment 2 to the Queen Conch FMP and Amendment 5 to the Reef Fish FMP (2010 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit (ACL) Amendment) established ACLs and AMs for species/species groups that were at the time experiencing overfishing (*i.e.*, parrotfish, snapper, grouper, queen conch) (76 FR 82404, December 30, 2011). The final rule implementing Amendment 3 to the Queen Conch FMP, Amendment 6 to the Reef Fish FMP, Amendment 5 to the Spiny Lobster FMP, and Amendment 3 to the Coral FMP (2011 Caribbean ACL Amendment) established ACLs and AMs for the remaining Council-managed species/species groups which were not undergoing overfishing at the time or for which the overfishing status was unknown (*e.g.*, grunts, squirrelfish, jacks, spiny lobster) (76 FR 82414, December 30, 2011). As described at § 622.12(a) for reef fish, spiny lobster, and corals and at § 622.491(b) for queen conch, the current AM regulations in the Caribbean EEZ require NMFS to shorten the length of the fishing season for a species/species group in the year following a determination that the applicable 3-year landings average exceeded the respective ACL, unless NMFS determines that the exceedance is due to enhanced data collection and monitoring efforts. The extent to which fishing seasons are shortened in the year following an ACL overage equates to the number of days necessary to account for the overage and to constrain landings to the ACL. Pursuant to regulations at §§ 622.12(a) and 622.491(b), any such AM-based closures apply only during the fishing year for which they are implemented. However, the AM closure language in the four FMPs states that any AM-based closure “will remain in effect until modified by the Council,” thereby carrying these closures over from year to year, unless or until the closures are revised by subsequent Council action.

The AM Application Amendment corrects this inconsistency, between the language in the FMPs and the regulatory language at §§ 622.12(a) and 622.491(b), by revising the language within the four