

annual receipts of \$32.5 million or less.¹⁷⁸ For this category, census data for 2007 show that there were 2,383 firms that operated for the entire year. Of these firms, a total of 2,346 had gross annual receipts of less than \$25 million.¹⁷⁹ Thus, a majority of “All Other Telecommunications” firms potentially affected by the proposals in the *NPRM* can be considered small.

D. Description of Projected Reporting, Recordkeeping and Other Compliance Requirements

26. This *NPRM* does not propose any changes to the Commission’s current information collection, reporting, recordkeeping, or compliance requirements.

E. Steps Taken To Minimize Significant Economic Impact on Small Entities, and Significant Alternatives Considered

27. The RFA requires an agency to describe any significant alternatives that it has considered in reaching its approach, which may include the following four alternatives, among others: (1) The establishment of differing compliance or reporting requirements or timetables that take into account the resources available to small entities; (2) the clarification, consolidation, or simplification of compliance or reporting requirements under the rule for small entities; (3) the use of performance, rather than design, standards; and (4) an exemption from coverage of the rule, or any part thereof, for small entities.¹⁸⁰

28. This *NPRM* seeks comment on the Commission’s regulatory fee collection for Fiscal Year 2016, as required by Congress each year. Specifically, we ask for comments each year in the Regulatory Flexibility Analysis on how to minimize adverse economic impact, imposed by our proposed rules, on small entities. The regulatory fees proposed in this *NPRM* do not include any new fee categories. However, the proposal in FY 2016 to revise the broadcasters’ fee grid to include a threshold “greater than 6,000,000”, and a change in the television fee amounts so that large markets pay a higher proportional fee than small and medium-sized markets, will provide some relief to small broadcast and television entities. The increase in the de minimis amount to \$500 implemented in FY 2015 has already

provided financial relief to smaller entities.

F. Federal Rules That May Duplicate, Overlap, or Conflict With the Proposed Rules

29. None.

VII. Ordering Clauses

30. Accordingly, *it is ordered* that, pursuant to sections 4(i) and (j), 9, and 303(r) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 154(j), 159, and 303(r), this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* is hereby adopted.

31. *It is further ordered* that the Commission’s Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Reference Information Center, shall send a copy of this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, including the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis, to the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Federal Communications Commission.

Marlene H. Dortch,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2016–13087 Filed 6–2–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket Nos. FWS–R3–ES–2016–0061; FWS–R2–ES–2016–0062] 4500030115

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Findings on Two Petitions

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition findings and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce 90-day findings on two petitions to list or delist wildlife under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Based on our review, we find that one petition, which requests that we remove the golden-cheeked warbler from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted, and we are not initiating a status review in response to this petition. We refer to this as a “not-substantial petition finding.” We also find that the other petition, which requests that we list the U.S. population of northwestern moose

(*Alces alces andersoni*) as an endangered or threatened distinct population segment (DPS), presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, with the publication of this document, we are initiating a review of the status of this population to determine if the petitioned action is warranted. To ensure that this status review is comprehensive, we are requesting scientific and commercial data and other information regarding this subspecies. Based on the status review, we will issue a 12-month finding on the petition, which will address whether the petitioned action is warranted, as provided in section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

DATES: To allow us adequate time to conduct the status review, we request that we receive information no later than August 2, 2016. Information submitted electronically using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see **ADDRESSES**, below) must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the closing date.

ADDRESSES: *Not-substantial petition finding:* The not-substantial petition finding for the golden-cheeked warbler is available on <http://www.regulations.gov> under the docket number FWS–R2–ES–2016–0062. Supporting information in preparing this finding is available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours by contacting the appropriate person, as specified under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Status review: You may submit information on the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) by one of the following methods:

(1) *Electronically:* Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter the docket number: FWS–R3–ES–2016–0061. You may submit information by clicking on “Comment Now!” If your information will fit in the provided comment box, please use this feature of <http://www.regulations.gov>, as it is most compatible with our information review procedures. If you attach your information as a separate document, our preferred file format is Microsoft Word. If you attach multiple comments (such as form letters), our preferred format is a spreadsheet in Microsoft Excel.

(2) *By hard copy:* Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R3–ES–2016–0061; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,

¹⁷⁸ 13 CFR 121.201; NAICs Code 517919.

¹⁷⁹ http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices.jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ECN_2007_US_51SSSZ4&prodType=table.

¹⁸⁰ 5 U.S.C. 603(c)(1)–(c)(4).

MS: BPHC, 5275 Leesburg Pike; Falls Church, VA 22041–3803.

We request that you send information only by the methods described above. We will post all information received on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see Request for Information, below, for more details).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the golden-cheeked warbler, contact Adam Zerrenner, adam_zerrenner@fws.gov, or 512–490–0057. For information on the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*), contact John JaKa, jonathan_jaka@fws.gov, 612–713–5350.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD), please call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800–877–8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Request for Information

When we make a finding that a petition presents substantial information indicating that listing, reclassification, or delisting a species may be warranted, we are required to promptly review the status of the species (status review). For the status review to be complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial data available, we request information on these species from governmental agencies, Native American Tribes, the scientific community, industry, and any other interested parties. We seek information on:

(1) The biology, range, and population trends of the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*), including:

- (a) Habitat requirements;
- (b) Genetics and taxonomy;
- (c) Historical and current range, including distribution patterns;
- (d) Historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends; and
- (e) Past and ongoing conservation measures for the subspecies, its habitat, or both.

(2) The factors that are the basis for making a listing, reclassification, or delisting determination for a species under section 4(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), which are:

- (a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range (Factor A);
- (b) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes (Factor B);
- (c) Disease or predation (Factor C);

(d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms (Factor D); or

(e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence (Factor E).

(3) The potential effects of climate change on this subspecies and its habitat.

(4) Additional evidence of discreteness, with respect to the 1996 DPS Policy (61 FR 4722, February 7, 1996), regarding the status of the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) satisfying one or both of the following conditions:

(a) It is markedly separated from other populations of the same taxon as a consequence of physical, physiological, ecological, or behavioral factors. Quantitative measures of genetic or morphological discontinuity may provide evidence of this separation.

(b) It is delimited by international governmental boundaries within which differences in control of exploitation, management of habitat, conservation status, or regulatory mechanisms exist that are significant in light of section 4(a)(1)(D) of the Act.

(5) Additional evidence of significance regarding the status of U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) including, but not limited to:

(a) Persistence of the discrete population segment in an ecological setting unusual or unique for the taxon,

(b) Evidence that loss of the discrete population segment would result in a significant gap in the range of a taxon, or

(c) Evidence that the discrete population segment differs markedly from other populations of the species in genetic characteristics.

If, after the status review, we determine that listing is warranted, we will propose critical habitat (see definition at section 3(5)(A) of the Act) for domestic (U.S.) species under section 4 of the Act, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable at the time we propose to list the species. Therefore, we also request data and information for the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) on:

(6) What may constitute “physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species,” within the geographical range occupied by the subspecies;

(7) Where these features are currently found;

(8) Whether any of these features may require special management considerations or protection;

(9) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the

subspecies that are “essential for the conservation of the species”; and

(10) What, if any, critical habitat you think we should propose for designation if the subspecies is proposed for listing, such as:

(a) Why these habitats meet the requirements of section 4 of the Act; and

(b) Any probable economic, national security, or other relevant impacts of designating any area that may be included in the proposed designation, and the benefits of including or excluding areas that exhibit these impacts.

Please include sufficient information with your submission (such as scientific journal articles or other publications, and citations to specific pages) to allow us to verify any scientific or commercial information you include.

Submissions merely stating support for or opposition to the actions under consideration without providing supporting information, although noted, will not be considered in making a determination. Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the Act directs that determinations as to whether any species is an endangered or threatened species must be made “solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available.”

You may submit your information concerning this status review by one of the methods listed in **ADDRESSES**. If you submit information via <http://www.regulations.gov>, your entire submission—including any personal identifying information—will be posted on the Web site. If you submit a hardcopy that includes personal identifying information, you may request at the top of your document that we withhold this personal identifying information from public review. However, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We will post all hardcopy submissions on <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Information and supporting documentation that we received and used in preparing this finding will be available for you to review at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or you may make an appointment during normal business hours by contacting the appropriate person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above.

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Act requires that we make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, we are to make this finding within 90 days of our receipt of the petition and

publish our notice of the finding promptly in the **Federal Register**.

Our standard for substantial scientific or commercial information within the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) with regard to a 90-day petition finding is “that amount of information that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the measure proposed in the petition may be warranted” (50 CFR 424.14(b)). If we find that substantial scientific or commercial information was presented, we are required to promptly commence a review of the status of the species, which will be subsequently summarized in our 12-month finding.

Section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1533) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 424 set forth the procedures for adding a species to, or removing a species from, the Federal Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants. A species may be determined to be an endangered or threatened species due to one or more of the five factors described in section 4(a)(1) of the Act (see (2) under Request For Information, above).

We may delist a species according to 50 CFR 424.11(d) if the best available scientific and commercial data indicate that the species is neither endangered nor threatened for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) The species is extinct;
- (2) The species has recovered and is no longer endangered or threatened; or
- (3) The original scientific or commercial data used at the time the species was classified, or the interpretation of such data, were in error.

In considering what factors might constitute threats, we must look beyond the exposure of the species to a factor to evaluate whether the species may respond to the factor in a way that causes actual impacts to the species. If there is exposure to a factor and the species responds negatively, the factor may be a threat. However, the identification of factors that could affect a species negatively may not be sufficient to compel a finding that the information in the petition is substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. Therefore, during the subsequent status review, we attempt to determine how significant a threat it is. The threat is significant if it drives, or contributes to, the risk of extinction of the species such that the species may warrant listing as endangered or threatened as those terms are defined in the Act. The information presented in the petition must include evidence sufficient to suggest that these factors may be operative threats that act on the species to the point that the

species may meet the definition of an endangered or threatened species under the Act.

Evaluation of a Petition To Remove the Golden-Cheeked Warbler From the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

Additional information regarding our review of this petition can be found as an appendix at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2016-0062 under the Supporting Documents section.

Species and Range

Golden-cheeked warbler (*Dendroica chrysoparia* = *Setophaga chrysoparia*, hereafter warbler), a migratory songbird breeding exclusively in Texas, and wintering in the highlands of Mexico (Chiapas) and Central America (Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador).

Petition History

On June 30, 2015, we received a petition dated June 29, 2015, from Nancie G. Marzulla (Marzulla Law, LLC—Washington DC) and Robert Henneke (Texas Public Policy Foundation—Austin TX) requesting that the golden-cheeked warbler be removed from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife (“delisted”) due to recovery or error in information. The petition clearly identified itself as a petition and included the requisite identification information for the petitioner, as required at 50 CFR 424.14(a).

On December 11, 2015, we received supplemental information from the petitioners that included additional published studies and an unpublished report. These studies, as well as others known to the Service and in our files at the time the supplement was received, were considered, as appropriate, in this finding. This finding addresses the petition.

Finding

Based on our review of the petition, sources cited in the petition, and information in our files, we find that the petition does not provide substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted. No new information is presented that would suggest that the species was originally listed due to an error in information. The golden-cheeked warbler is a taxonomically unique species and was shown to be in danger of extinction at the time of the listing. The golden-cheeked warbler has not been recovered, and due to ongoing, widespread destruction of its habitat, the species continues to be in danger of

extinction throughout its range (Service 2014, p. 15).

Because the petition does not present substantial information indicating that delisting the golden-cheeked warbler may be warranted, we are not initiating a status review in response to this petition. Our explanation for this finding can be found as an appendix at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R2-ES-2016-0062 under the Supporting Documents section. However, we ask that the public submit to us any new information that becomes available concerning the status of, or threats to, the golden-cheeked warbler or its habitat at any time (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**).

Evaluation of a Petition To List the U.S. Population of Northwestern Moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) as an Endangered or Threatened Distinct Population Segment (DPS)

Additional information regarding our review of this petition can be found as an appendix at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2016-0061 under the Supporting Documents section.

Species and Range

U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*); Michigan (Upper Peninsula), Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Petition History

We received a petition dated July 9, 2015, from the Center for Biological Diversity and Honor the Earth, requesting that we list the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) under the Act. The petition clearly identified itself as such and included the requisite identification information for the petitioner, required at 50 CFR 424.14(a). This finding addresses the petition.

Finding

Based on our review of the petition and sources cited in the petition, we find that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for the U.S. population of the northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) based on factors A, C, D, and E.

Our explanation for this finding can be found as an appendix at <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. FWS-R3-ES-2016-0061 under the Supporting Documents section. Thus, for the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*), the Service requests information on the five listing factors under section 4(a)(1) of

the Act, including the factors identified in this finding and explanation (see Request for Information, above).

Conclusion

On the basis of our evaluation of the information presented under section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Act, we have determined that the petition to remove the golden-cheeked warbler from the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife does not present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted. Therefore, we are not initiating a status review for this species.

We have further determined that the petition to list the U.S. population of northwestern moose (*Alces alces andersoni*) as an endangered or threatened DPS presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the requested action may be warranted. Because we have found that the petition presents substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted, we are initiating a status review to determine whether this action under the Act is warranted. At the conclusion of the status review, we will issue a 12-month finding in accordance with section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act, as to whether or not the Service believes the petitioned action is warranted.

It is important to note that the “substantial information” standard for a 90-day finding differs from the Act’s “best scientific and commercial data” standard that applies to a status review to determine whether a petitioned action is warranted. A 90-day finding does not constitute a status review under the Act. In a 12-month finding, we will determine whether a petitioned action is warranted after we have completed a thorough status review of the species, which is conducted following a substantial 90-day finding. Because the Act’s standards for 90-day and 12-month findings are different, as described above, a substantial 90-day finding does not mean that the 12-month finding will result in a finding that the petitioned action is warranted.

References Cited

A complete list of references cited is available for each species addressed in this document on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov> and upon request from the appropriate person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, above.

Authors

The primary authors of this document are the staff members of the Branch of

Recovery and State Grants, Ecological Services Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Authority

The authority for these actions is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: May 25, 2016.

Stephen Guertin,

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

[FR Doc. 2016–13120 Filed 6–2–16; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 226

[Docket No. 150818735–6236–01]

RIN 0648–BF28

Endangered and Threatened Species; Designation of Critical Habitat for the Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, and Chesapeake Bay Distinct Population Segments of Atlantic Sturgeon

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: We, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), propose to designate critical habitat for the Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, and Chesapeake Bay Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) of Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*). The specific areas proposed for designation include approximately 244 kilometers (152 miles) of aquatic habitat in rivers in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts for the Gulf of Maine DPS, approximately 547 kilometers (340 miles) of aquatic habitat in rivers in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware for the New York Bight DPS, and approximately 729 kilometers (453 miles) of aquatic habitat in rivers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia for the Chesapeake Bay DPS of Atlantic sturgeon. We are soliciting comments from the public on all aspects of the proposal, including information on the economic, national security, and other relevant impacts of the proposed designations, as well as the benefits to the DPSs.

DATES: Comments on this proposed rule must be received by September 1, 2016.

Public hearings and public information meetings: We will hold two public hearings and two public informational meetings on this proposed rule. We will hold a public informational meeting from 2 to 4 p.m., in Annapolis, Maryland on Wednesday, July 13 (see **ADDRESSES**). A second public informational meeting will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., in Portland, Maine on Monday, July 18 (see **ADDRESSES**). We will hold two public hearings, from 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m., in Gloucester, Massachusetts on Thursday, July 21 (see **ADDRESSES**).

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by the NOAA–NMFS–2015–0107, by either of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2015-0107, Click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

- **Mail:** Kimberly B. Damon-Randall, Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources Division, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered by us. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov without change. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. We will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Public informational meetings and public hearings: The July 13, 2016, public informational meeting will be held at the Environmental Protection Agency, Information and Conference Center, 410 Severn Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403. The July 18, 2016, public informational meeting will be held at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Cohen Center, 350 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine 04101. The July 21, 2016, public hearings will be held at the NMFS, Greater Atlantic Region Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. People needing reasonable accommodations in order to attend and participate or who have questions about the public