

Service, Division of Management Authority, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 700, Arlington, Virginia 22203, telephone 703/358-2104 or fax 703/358-2281.

Dated: August 24, 2001.

**Michael S. Moore,**

*Senior Permit Biologist, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-55-U**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Marine Mammal Protection Act; Notice of Receipt of Petition To List the Alaska Stock of Sea Otters as Depleted**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Interior.

**ACTION:** Receipt of petition.

**SUMMARY:** On August 21, 2001, the FWS received a petition under section 115 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) from the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD). The petition requests that FWS list the Alaska stock of sea otters as depleted under the MMPA. Within 60 days of the receipt of this petition, the FWS will publish a finding in the **Federal Register** as to whether the petition presents substantial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** The petition can be viewed online at <http://www.r7.fws.gov/ea/sotter/Pet2.pdf>. For a printed copy of the petition, contact: Douglas Burn, Wildlife Biologist, Marine Mammals Management Office, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99503, or telephone 907/786-3800 or facsimile 907/786-3816.

**Authority:** The authority for this action is the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1383b *et seq.*

Dated: August 17, 2001.

**Gary Edwards,**

*Deputy Regional Director.*

[FR Doc. 01-22346 Filed 9-5-01; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### **Notice of Availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior (Lead Agency); New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation; Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (Cooperating Agencies).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for a sea lamprey control proposal in Lake Champlain

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces the availability of a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) on a proposal to continue sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VTDFW) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) prepared the FSEIS pursuant to Sec. 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

**DATES:** A 30-day review period will follow the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the FSEIS on September 7, 2001.

**ADDRESSES:** Copies of the FSEIS are available from Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452; phone 802-872-0629, fax 802-872-9704.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln St., Essex Junction, Vermont 05452; phone 802-872-0629, fax 802-872-9704. New York contact person is Mr. Lawrence Nashett, Acting Regional Fisheries Manager, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 5, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, New York 12977; phone 518-897-1333. Vermont contact person is Mr. Brian Chipman, District Fisheries Biologist, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 111 West Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452, phone 802-878-1564.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

##### **Background**

Sea lamprey are primitive marine invaders to Lake Champlain. They are parasitic fish that feed on the body fluids of other fish resulting in reduced growth and often the death of host fish. A substantial body of information collected on Lake Champlain indicates sea lamprey have a profound negative impact upon the lake's fishery resources and have suppressed efforts to establish new and historical sportfisheries. In 1990, the USFWS, NYSDEC, and VTDFW initiated an 8-year experimental sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain. The experimental program treated tributaries and deltas of Lake Champlain with the

chemical lampricides TFM and Bayluscide (listed as Bayer 73 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement), which substantially reduced larval sea lamprey numbers in treated waters. The program included monitoring and assessment of the effects of this sea lamprey reduction technique on the characteristics of certain fish populations, the sport fishery, and the area's growth and economy. A set of thirty evaluation standards were established. Overall, the experimental sea lamprey control program met or exceeded the majority of the standards demonstrating a successful reduction in the sea lamprey population. In addition to this evaluation, the cooperating agencies assessed the effects of the program on nontarget organisms.

Two rounds of treatments were planned for each significantly infested stream and delta. From 1990 through 1996, 24 TFM treatments were conducted on 14 Lake Champlain tributaries, and 9 Bayluscide treatments were conducted on 5 deltas. Approximately 141 stream miles and 1220 delta acres were treated.

In summary, trap catches of spawning-phase sea lamprey declined by 80 to 90 percent; nest counts were reduced by 57 percent. Sixteen of 22 TFM treatments reduced ammocoetes at index stations to less than 10 percent of pre-treatment levels. Eight of the nine Bayluscide treatments resulted in mean mortality rates over 85 percent among caged ammocoetes. Relatively small numbers of nontarget amphibian and fish species were killed. Adverse effects on nontarget species were higher for Bayluscide treatments than TFM. Native mussels, snails and some other macroinvertebrates were significantly affected after the 1991 Bayluscide treatments of the Ausable and Little Ausable deltas in New York. However, they recovered to pre-treatment levels within 4 years. American brook lamprey also experienced substantial treatment-related mortality. Yet, the finding of dead American brook lamprey during the experimental program's second-round treatments, in each stream where they were negatively affected during the first round, suggested survival or immigration was adequate to maintain their populations. Wounding rates on lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon were reduced in the main lake basin, and catches of both species increased. A significant increase in survival of 3 to 4-year old lake trout was noted: survival of older fish improved, but did not change significantly. Returns of Atlantic salmon to tributaries increased significantly after treatment. Changes in wounding rates on brown