

for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

National Environmental Policy Act

We have determined that environmental assessments and environmental impact statements, as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. We published a notice outlining our reasons for this determination in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

Paperwork Reduction Act

This rule does not contain any new collections of information other than those already approved under the Paperwork Reduction Act and assigned Office of Management and Budget clearance number 1018-0094. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid control number. For additional information concerning permit and associated

requirements for endangered species, see 50 CFR 17.21 and 17.22.

Executive Order 13211

On May 18, 2001, the President issued an Executive Order (E.O. 13211) on regulations that significantly affect energy supply, distribution, and use. Executive Order 13211 requires agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions. This rule is not expected to significantly affect energy supplies, distribution, or use. Therefore, this action is not a significant energy action and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

References Cited

A complete list of references cited in the emergency rule to list the Columbia Basin distinct population segment of the pygmy rabbit as endangered, published concurrently in this issue of the **Federal Register**, is available upon request from the Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

Author

The primary author of this proposed rule is Christopher Warren of the Upper Columbia Fish and Wildlife Office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

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

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

For the reasons given in the preamble to the emergency rule listing the Columbia Basin distinct population segment of the pygmy rabbit as endangered, published concurrently in this issue of the **Federal Register**, we propose to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361–1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531–1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201–4245; Pub. L. 99–625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. In § 17.11(h), add the following to the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife in alphabetical order under MAMMALS:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *

(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
Mammals							
*	*	*	*	*	*		*
Rabbit, Columbia Basin pygmy.	<i>Brachylagus idahoensis</i> .	U.S.A. (Western conterminous States).	U.S.A. (WA—Douglas, Grant, Lincoln, Adams, Benton Counties).	E		NA	NA
*	*	*	*	*	*		*

Dated: November 21, 2001.

Marshall P. Jones, Jr.,

Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 679

[I.D. 090701F]

Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; King and Tanner Crab Fisheries in the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands

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

ACTION: Reopening of scoping and comment period.

SUMMARY: NMFS is reopening the scoping and comment period for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Fishery Management Plan for Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands (BSAI) King and Tanner Crabs (FMP).

DATES: Written comments must be received by December 10, 2001.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on issues and alternatives for the EIS should be sent to Sue Salvesson, Assistant Regional Administrator for Sustainable Fisheries, Alaska Region, NMFS, P.O. Box 21668, Juneau, AK, 99802, Attn: Lori Gravel, or delivered to the Federal Building, 709 West 9th Street, Juneau, AK, 99802. Comments may be sent via facsimile (fax) to 907-586-7557. NMFS will not accept comments by e-mail or Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Gretchen Harrington, (907) 586-7228 or email gretchen.harrington@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NMFS

published in the **Federal Register** a notice of intent to prepare an EIS on the BSAI crab FMP that announced scoping meetings and requested written public comments (66 FR 48410, September 20, 2001). The reason for undertaking the analysis, and the issues to be analyzed, are detailed in that notice of intent and not repeated here.

Scoping for the EIS began on September 20, 2001. This notice reopens the scoping period from November 16 to December 10, 2001, to provide the public with additional time to submit written comments. NMFS is reopening the scoping period at the request of members of the public. No further public scoping meetings are presently planned or anticipated.

Scoping is an early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the

proposed action. A principal objective of the scoping and public involvement process is to identify a reasonable range of management alternatives that, with adequate analysis, will delineate critical issues and provide a clear basis for distinguishing among those alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative.

NMFS is seeking written public comments on the scope of issues that should be addressed in the EIS, the range of alternatives that should be considered for management of the BSAI crab fisheries, and on the environmental, social, and economic issues to be considered in the analysis.

The proposed action to be addressed in the EIS is the rationalization of the BSAI crab fisheries. An EIS is necessary to take a programmatic look at the FMP and possible alternatives to the FMP in light of proposed programs to rationalize the BSAI crab fisheries. The rationalization programs under consideration will result in substantial changes to many of the current management measures and possibly the

framework of the FMP. These programmatic changes may significantly affect the environment.

Given this proposed action, the scope of the EIS will be a programmatic review of the FMP, examining all activities addressing the conduct of the BSAI crab fisheries, including components of proposed rationalization programs and potential changes to the management of the fisheries under these programs. The scope of the analysis is intended to be broad enough for the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and NMFS to make an informed decision on a rationalization program and undertake further analysis of other changes to the FMP as necessary with the implementation of these programs.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*

Dated: November 26, 2001.

Jonathan Kurland

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 01-29772 Filed 11-27-01; 3:39 pm]

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