

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## INTERIOR PROPOSES SNAIL DARTER AS ENDANGERED

A small, three-inch long species of fish discovered in Tennessee last summer has been proposed for endangered status, Lynn A. Greenwalt, Director of Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announced today.

The snail darter, Percina (Imostoma) sp., discovered last summer by a skindiver, occupies a 12-mile stretch of the Little Tennessee River in Loudon County, Tennessee. The fish inhabits only portions of clean, gravel shoals with cool, swift, low turbidity water. The food of the snail darter is almost exclusively snails which are abundant on these shoals. The proposed impoundment of waters behind the proposed Tellico Dam would result in the total destruction of the snail darter's present known habitat.

Interested individuals or groups having comments or suggestions on this proposal should submit them in writing, preferably in triplicate, within 60 days to the Director (FWS/LE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 19183, Washington, D.C. 20036.

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