

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 7, 1977

McGarvey 202/343-5634

STATUS OF 11 TURTLE SPECIES UNDER REVIEW

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that it is undertaking a review of the status of 11 species of turtles to determine whether they should be proposed for inclusion on the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

Most of the turtles in this review occur in the Southeastern United States where they live in relatively undisturbed rivers and larger creeks. Many of the rivers in this area have been canalized or otherwise severely modified, thus resulting in loss of much available habitat. The modification of habitat, coupled with a rather limited range for many of the species, appears to have caused a serious decline in the populations of these species.

Persons with information that may assist in determining whether any or all of the following species of turtles be listed as endangered or threatened are invited to write the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. All comments should be in by August 2, 1977. Species included in this review are: the Alabama red-bellied turtle, Cagle's map turtle, the flattened musk turtle, the key mud turtle, the Illinois mud turtle, the red-bellied turtle, the ringed sawback, the Sabine map turtle, the Suwanee cooter, the Texas map turtle, and the yellow-blotched turtle.