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/oa/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 907/776-3800 or facsimile 907/776-3816.

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


Gary Edwards, Deputy Regional Director.

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) and 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.

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 ammocetes 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 ammocetes. 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 delta areas 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