incorporated into this declaration and published in the Federal Register.

(7) Diagnostic testing devices. See the most recent Secretarial declaration at http://www.gpo.gov/d dys/pkg/FR-2008-12-22/pdf/E6-30510.pdf. Any amendments will be automatically incorporated into this declaration and published in the Federal Register.

[FR Doc. 2014-06102 Filed 3–28–14; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4165–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[Docket No. FWS–R7–ES–2012–0093; 4500030113]

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Finding on a Petition To List the Alexander Archipelago Wolf as Threatened or Endangered

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition finding and initiation of status review.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announce a 90-day finding on a petition to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf (Canis lupus ligoni) as a threatened or endangered species and to designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Based on our review, we find that the petition presents substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf may be warranted. Therefore, with publication of this notice, we are notifying the public that when resources become available, we will be conducting a review of the status of the species to determine if listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf is warranted. To ensure that this status review is comprehensive, we are requesting scientific and commercial data and other information regarding wolves of Southeast Alaska and adjacent coastal British Columbia. Based on the status review, we will issue a 12-month finding on the petition, which will address whether the petitioned action is warranted, as provided in section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

DATES: We request that we receive information to consider for the status review on or before May 30, 2014. The deadline for submitting information using the Federal eRulemaking Portal (see ADDRESSES section, below) is 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on this date. After May 30, 2014, you must submit information directly to the Division of Policy and Directives Management (see ADDRESSES section below). Please note that we might not be able to address or incorporate information that we receive after the above requested date.

ADDRESSES: You may submit information by one of the following methods:
(1) Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal: http://www.regulations.gov. In the Search box, enter FWS–R7–ES–2012–0093, which is the docket number for this action. Then click on the Search button. You may submit information for the status review by clicking on "Comment Now!.”
(2) By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R7–ES–2012–0093; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042–PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.
We will not accept email or faxes. We will post all information we receive on http://www.regulations.gov. This generally means that we will post any personal information you provide us (see the Request for Information section below for more details).


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Request for Information

When we make a finding that a petition presents substantial information indicating that listing a species may be warranted, we are required to review the status of the species (status review). For the status review to be complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we request information on the Alexander Archipelago wolf from governmental agencies, Native American tribes, the scientific community, industry, and any other interested parties. We seek information on:
(1) The species’ biology, range, and population trends, including:
(a) Habitat requirements for feeding, breeding, and sheltering;
(b) Competition by other species;
(c) Historical and current range including distribution patterns;
(d) Historical and current population levels, and current and projected trends; and
(e) Past and ongoing conservation measures for the species, its habitat, or both.
(2) The factors that are the basis for making a listing determination for a species under section 4(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), which are:
(a) The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
(b) Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
(c) Disease or predation;
(d) The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
(e) Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.
If, after the status review, we determine that listing the Alexander Archipelago wolf is warranted, we will propose critical habitat (see definition in section 3(5)(A) of the Act) under section 4 of the Act, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable at the time we propose to list the species. Therefore, we also request data and information on:
(1) What may constitute “physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species,” within the geographical range currently occupied by the species;
(2) Where these features are currently found;
(3) Whether any of these features may require special management considerations or protection;
(4) Specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species that are “essential for the conservation of the species;” and
(5) What, if any, critical habitat you think we should propose for designation if the species is proposed for listing, and why such habitat meets the requirements of section 4 of the Act.
Please include sufficient information with your submission (such as scientific journal articles or other publications) to allow us to verify any scientific or commercial information you include.
Submissions merely stating support for or opposition to the action under consideration without providing supporting information, although noted, will not be considered in making a determination. Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the Act directs that determinations as to whether any species is an endangered or threatened species must be made “solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available.”
You may submit information concerning this status review by one of the methods listed in the ADDRESSES.
section. If you submit information via
http://www.regulations.gov, your entire
submission—including any personal
identifying information—will be posted
on the Web site. If your submission is
made via a hardcopy that includes
personal identifying information, you
may request that at the top of your document
that we withhold this personal
identifying information from public
review. However, we cannot guarantee
that we will be able to do so. We will
post all hardcopy submissions on http://
www.regulations.gov.
Information and supporting
documentation that we received and
used in preparing this finding is
available for you to review at http://
www.regulations.gov, or by
appointment, during normal business
hours, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, Juneau Fish and Wildlife Field
Office (see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT).

Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered
Species Act (Act) requires that we make
a finding on whether a petition to list,
delist, or reclassify a species presents
substantial scientific or commercial
information indicating that the
petitioned action may be warranted. We
are to base this finding on information
provided in the petition, supporting
information submitted with the petition.
To the maximum extent practicable, we are
to make this finding within 90 days
of our receipt of the petition and
publish our notice of the finding in the
Federal Register.
Our regulatory standard for
substantial scientific or commercial
information with regard to a 90-day
petition finding is “that amount of
information that would lead a
reasonable person to believe that the
measure proposed in the petition may
be warranted” (50 CFR 424.14(b)). If we
find that substantial scientific or
commercial information was presented,
we are required to commence a review
of the status of the species, which will
be subsequently summarized in our 12-
month finding.

Section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 1533)
and its implementing regulations at 50
CFR part 424 set forth the procedures
for adding a species to, or removing a
species from, the Federal Lists of
Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
and Plants. A species may be
determined to be an endangered or
threatened species due to one or more
of the five factors described in section
4(a)(1) of the Act, as listed in the
previous section.
In considering what factors might
contribute threats, we must look beyond
the exposure of the species to a factor
to evaluate whether the species may
respond to the factor in a way that
causes actual impacts to the species. If
there is exposure to a factor and the
species responds negatively, the factor
may be a threat and, during the
subsequent status review, we attempt to
determine how significant a threat it is.
The threat is significant if it drives, or
contributes to, the risk of extinction of
the species such that the species may
warrant listing as threatened or
endangered as those terms are defined in
the Act. However, the identification
of factors that could impact a species
negatively may not be sufficient to
compel a finding that the information in
the petition and our files is substantial.
The information must include evidence
sufficient to suggest that these factors
may be operative threats that act on the
species with respect to the point that the species may
meet the definition of threatened or
endangered under the Act.

Review of the Petition To List the
Alexander Archipelago Wolf as an
Endangered or Threatened Species
Under the Act

Species Information

The Alexander Archipelago wolf is
named for the island group that makes
up most of Southeast Alaska, the
Alexander Archipelago. The range is
described by MacDonald and Cook
(2007, p. 71) as throughout the
mainland of Southeast Alaska and on
islands south of Frederick Sound,
excluding Coronation, Forrester, and the
smaller, more isolated islands without
an adequate prey base. North of
Frederick Sound, three large islands that
support seemingly adequate prey
populations (Admiralty, Baranof, and
Chichagof) and together make up
approximately half of the land area of
the Alexander Archipelago, do not
support wolves, although there have
been several sightings on Admiralty
Island in recent years.

Petition History

On August 10, 2011, we received a
petition from the Center for Biological
Diversity and Greenpeace, requesting
that the Alexander Archipelago wolf
be listed as endangered or threatened
and that critical habitat be designated under
the Act. The petition clearly identified
itself as such and included the requisite
identification information for the
petitioners, required at 50 CFR
424.14(a). This finding addresses the
petition.

Finding

Based on our review of the
information provided in the petition, in
the sources cited in the petition, and
readily available in our files, we find the
petition presents substantial scientific
or commercial information indicating
that the petitioned action may be
warranted for the Alexander
Archipelago wolf based on Factors A, B
and D. Our summary for this finding can
be found on www.regulations.gov.

On the basis of our evaluation of the
information presented under section
4(b)(3)(A) of the Act, we have
determined that the petition
summarized above presents substantial
scientific or commercial information
indicating that listing the Alexander
Archipelago wolf may be warranted.

Because we have found that the petition
presents substantial information
indicating that the petitioned actions
may be warranted, we will initiate a
status review when resources are
available to determine whether this
action under the Act is warranted. At
the conclusion of the status review, we
will issue a 12-month finding in
accordance with section 4(b)(3)(B) of the
Act, as to whether or not the Service
finds listing is warranted.

The “substantial information”
standard for a 90-day finding differs
from the Act’s “best scientific and
commercial data” standard that applies
to a status review to determine whether
a petitioned action is warranted. A 90-
day finding does not constitute a status
review under the Act. In a 12-month
finding, we will determine whether a
petitioned action is warranted after we
have completed a thorough status
review of the species. Because the Act’s
standards for 90-day and 12-month
findings are different, as described
above, a substantial 90-day finding does
not mean that the 12-month finding will
result in a warranted finding.

References Cited

A complete list of references cited is
available on the Internet at http://
www.regulations.gov and upon
request from the Juneau Fish and
Wildlife Field Office (see FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION
CONTACT).

Author

The primary authors of this notice are
the staff members of the Juneau Fish
and Wildlife Field Office.

Authority: The authority for these actions
is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as
amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).
Dated: March 18, 2014.
Daniel M. Ashe,
Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
[FR Doc. 2014–00791 Filed 3–28–14; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
50 CFR Part 648
[Docket No. 140117052–4052–01]
RIN 0648–XD094

Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fisheries; 2014 Summer Flounder Specifications; 2015 Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Specifications; 2014 Research Set-Aside Projects

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

ACTION: Proposed specifications; request for comments.

SUMMARY: NMFS proposes revised specifications for the 2014 summer flounder fishery; specifications for the 2015 summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries; an increase in the commercial scup Winter II possession limit; and provides notice of two projects for which exempted fishing permits may be requested as part of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council’s Research Set-Aside Program. The implementing regulations for the Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan require NMFS to publish specifications for the upcoming fishing year for each of these species and to provide an opportunity for public comment. Furthermore, regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act require that NMFS allow the public an opportunity to comment on applications for exempted fishing permits. Accordingly, in addition to proposing catch specifications, NMFS announces exempted fishing permit requests, in accordance with the fishery management plan and Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before April 15, 2014.

ADDRESSES: An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared for the specifications and describes the proposed action and other considered alternatives, and provides an analysis of the impacts of the proposed measures and alternatives. Copies of the Specifications Document, including the EA and the Initial Regulatory Flexibility Analysis (IRFA), are available on request from Dr. Christopher M. Moore, Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Suite 201, 800 North State Street, Dover, DE 19901. These documents are also accessible via the Internet at http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

You may submit comments, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2014–0032, by any one of the following methods:
• Electronic Submissions: Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal at http://www.regulations.gov/#docketDetail;D=NOAA-NMFS-2014-0032. Clicking the preceding link will bring you to the NOAA–NMFS–2014–0032 docket folder for this action. To submit comments once in the docket folder, click the “Comment Now!” icon. Fill in the fields on the comment form and enter or attach your comment.
• Mail: John Bullard, Regional Administrator, NMFS, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, 55 Great Republic Drive, Gloucester, MA 01930. Mark the outside of the envelope, “Comments on FSB Specifications.”

Instructions: Comments must be submitted by one of the above methods to ensure that the comments are received, documented, and considered by NMFS. Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on www.regulations.gov. All personal identifying information (e.g., name, address, etc.) submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. Do not submit confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive or protected information. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous). Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in Microsoft Word or Excel, WordPerfect, or Adobe PDF file formats only.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
General Specification Background
The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) cooperatively manage the summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass fisheries. Fishery specifications in these fisheries include various catch and landing subdivisions, such as the commercial and recreational sector annual catch limits (ACLs), annual catch targets (ACTs), sector-specific landing limits (i.e., the commercial fishery quota and recreational harvest limit (RHL)), and research set-aside (RSA) established for the upcoming fishing year. An explanation of each subdivision appears later in this rule. Rulemaking for measures used to manage the recreational fisheries for these three species occurs separately and typically takes place in the spring of each year. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and its implementing regulations establish the Council’s process for establishing specifications. All requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), including the 10 national standards, also apply to specifications.

The management units specified in the FMP include summer flounder (Paralichthys dentatus) in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean from the southern border of North Carolina northward to the U.S./Canada border, and scup (Stenotomus chrysops) and black sea bass (Centropristis striata) in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean from 35°13.3′ N. lat. (the latitude of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Buxton, NC) northward to the U.S./Canada border.

The Council’s Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) met on September 17 and 18, 2013, to recommend acceptable biological catches (ABC) for the 2014–2015 summer flounder fishery, and the 2015 scup and black sea bass fisheries. The FMP’s implementing regulations require the involvement of a monitoring committee in the specification process for each species. Since the Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements for the SSC to recommend ABC became effective, the monitoring committees’ role has largely been to recommend any reduction in catch limits from the SSC-recommended ABCs to offset management uncertainty, and to recommend other management measures (e.g., mesh requirements, minimum commercial fish sizes, gear restrictions, possession restrictions, and area restrictions) needed for the efficient management of these three species’ fisheries. The Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Monitoring Committees met on September 19, 2013, to discuss specification-related recommendations for the three fisheries.