

during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their names and home addresses, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please submit electronic comments in an ASCII or Microsoft Word file. Also, please include "Attn: Utah prairie dog" along with your name and return address in your e-mail message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your e-mail message, please submit your comments in writing using one of the alternate methods provided in the **ADDRESSES** section.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited herein is available upon request from the Utah Ecological Services Field Office.

Author

The authors of this document are Susan Linner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Colorado Ecological Services Field Office, and Elise Boeke, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Utah Ecological Services Field Office (see **ADDRESSES**).

Authority

The authority for this action is section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Dated: February 9, 2007.

H. Dale Hall,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
[FR Doc. E7-2834 Filed 2-20-07; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AT37

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule to Remove the Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus*) From the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are extending the public comment period on the proposed rule to remove the Virginia northern flying squirrel (*Glaucomys sabrinus fuscus*), more commonly known as the West Virginia northern flying squirrel, from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, due to recovery. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they have been incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in the final determination.

DATES: The public comment period for the proposed rule published at 71 FR 75924, December 19, 2006, is extended from February 20, 2007, to April 23, 2007. Any comments received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on the proposal.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments on the proposed delisting by any one of several methods:

1. You may submit written comments and information to the Assistant Chief, Division of Endangered and Threatened Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office, 300 Westgate Center Drive, Hadley, MA 01035.

2. You may hand-deliver written comments to our Northeast Regional Office, at the above address.

3. You may fax your comments to 413-253-8482.

4. You may use the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at our Northeast Regional Office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Diane Lynch at our Northeast Regional Office (telephone: 413-253-8628) or the Field Office Supervisor, West Virginia Field Office, 694 Beverly Pike, Elkins, WV 26241 (telephone: 304-636-6586).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 19, 2006, the Service published a proposed rule (71 FR 75924), under the authority of the Act, to remove the WVNFS from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife, due to recovery. The proposed rule opened a 60-day comment period, which was to end on February 20, 2007, on that action. We have received requests to extend the comment period in order to allow additional time for the public to review the data and provide comments. To ensure that the public has sufficient opportunity to review the available scientific and commercial data, we are extending the comment period for an additional 60 days. Comments on the proposed delisting rule will be accepted through April 23, 2007.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Public Comments Solicited

We intend for any final action resulting from the proposal to be as accurate as possible. Therefore, we solicit data, comments, or suggestions from the public, other concerned government agencies, the scientific community, industry, Tribes, or any other interested party concerning the proposed rule. We particularly seek comments concerning: (1) Biological, commercial, trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to the WVNFS; (2) additional information on the range, distribution, and population size of the WVNFS and its habitat; (3) the location of any additional populations of the WVNFS; and (4) data on population trends. Please note that comments merely stating support or opposition to the actions under consideration without providing supporting information, although noted, will not be considered in making a determination, as section 4(b)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), directs that determinations as to whether any species is a threatened or endangered species shall be made "solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available."

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their name and/or home address, etc., but if you wish us to consider withholding this information, you must state this prominently at the

beginning of your comments. In addition, you must present rationale for withholding this information. This rationale must demonstrate that disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy. Unsupported assertions will not meet this burden. In the absence of exceptional, documentable circumstances, this information will be released. We will always make submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and other information received, as well as supporting documentation used to write this rule, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at our Northeast Regional Office (see **ADDRESSES**). In making a final decision on the proposal, we will take into consideration the comments and any additional information we receive. Such communications may lead to a final rule that differs from the proposal.

Dated: February 15, 2007.

Kenneth Stansell,

Acting Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 07-787 Filed 2-16-07; 11:48 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 665

[Docket No. 070207026-7026-01; I.D. 012207A]

RIN 0648-AS29

Fisheries in the Western Pacific; Optional Use of Electronic Logbook Forms

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

ACTION: Proposed rule; request for comments.

SUMMARY: This proposed rule would allow fishery participants in U.S. domestic pelagics, crustaceans, bottomfish and seamount groundfish, precious corals, and coral reef fisheries of the western Pacific the optional use of NMFS-approved electronic logbook forms in lieu of paper logbooks. The intended effects of this action are to enhance the efficiency of fish catch and

effort data reporting and recordkeeping by fishermen, reduce human error, and improve data accuracy.

DATES: Comments on the proposed rule must be received by March 23, 2007.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments, identified by AS29elog by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: AS29elog@noaa.gov.

Include "AS29elog" in the subject line of the message.

- Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

- Mail: William L. Robinson, Administrator, NMFS Pacific Islands Region (PIR), 1601 Kapiolani Blvd. 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814.

Written comments regarding the burden-hour estimates or other aspects of the collection-of-information requirements contained in this proposed rule may be submitted to William L. Robinson (see **ADDRESSES**), or by e-mail to David_Rostker@omb.eop.gov, or faxed to 202-395-7285.

Copies of the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) and the regulatory amendment document that describes the proposed changes may be obtained from Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council), 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813 or via the World Wide Web at www.wpcouncil.org.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bob Harman, NMFS PIR, 808-944-2271.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

This **Federal Register** document is also accessible via the World Wide Web at the Office of the Federal Register: www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html.

Background

The NMFS Pacific Islands region encompasses western Pacific Federal waters, i.e., the 200 nautical mile U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), around the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, the State of Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. island possessions in the Pacific. Western Pacific fisheries are currently managed under five Fishery Management Plans (FMPs)—Pelagics, Crustaceans, Bottomfish and Seamount Groundfish, Precious Corals, and Coral Reef Ecosystems.

Current regulations (50 CFR 665.14) require that permit holders, who fish for western Pacific management unit species subject to Federal reporting requirements, record their catch and effort information on paper logbook forms and submit them to NMFS.

Maintaining paper logbook forms, and the interpretation of such forms, is subject to potential errors due to illegible handwriting and missed data entry. The availability and capacity of personal computers offer benefits to fishery participants and NMFS data collection programs. The proposed optional use of electronic logbook data collection systems would utilize existing and emerging technologies to enhance the efficiency of fish catch and effort data reporting and recordkeeping by fishermen, reduce human error, and improve data accuracy. Furthermore, if transmitted through a remote communication system such as electronic mail or vessel monitoring system, electronic reporting provides a near real-time catch reporting system.

At its 123rd meeting in June 2004, the Council took final action to recommend amending the western Pacific regulations to provide fishermen an alternative to the currently-required paper logbook forms. Specifically, fishermen would be allowed to submit logbook data to NMFS on removable non-paper media (such as diskette, CD-ROM, memory stick, etc.), and would also be allowed to transmit the data to NMFS via e-mail or other remote communication systems, where such remote transmission was appropriate and feasible. The option to use electronic logbook forms would be available to fishermen who are subject to Federal reporting requirements under all western Pacific FMPs, as well as those participants in fisheries that may become subject to Federal reporting requirements.

This action does not establish the technical requirements or protocols for the electronic logbook program. The technical and legal specifications and operational details for the electronic logbook software program and hardware requirements will be developed and published by NMFS subsequent to this proposed rule.

Using the information contained in the Council's proposed regulatory amendment, a Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) was prepared for this proposed rule. Copies of the Regulatory Impact Review (RIR) may be obtained from William L. Robinson (see **ADDRESSES**).

Classification

NMFS has determined that the proposed rule is consistent with the western Pacific FMPs and preliminarily determined that the rule is consistent with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other applicable laws.