# **Finding**

Section 4(b)(3)(B)(iii) of the Act states that the Service may make warranted but precluded findings if it can demonstrate that an immediate proposed rule is precluded by other pending proposals and that expeditious progress is being made on other listing actions. Since September 30, 1993, the Service has proposed the listing of 118 species and has finalized the listing for 182 species. The Service believes this demonstrates expeditious progress. Furthermore, on September 21, 1983 (48 FR 43098), the Service published a system for prioritizing species for listing. This system considers 3 factors in assigning species' numerical listing priorities on a scale of 1 to 12. The three factors magnitude of threat, immediacy of threat, and taxonomic distinctiveness.

After reviewing and considering the scientific merits and significance of all comments, recommendations, and study proposals received from State and Federal agencies and from private individuals relative to the Service's 90day Administrative Finding, the Service has concluded that the magnitude of the threat to the swift fox is moderate throughout its present range. The States of Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming have presented evidence that swift foxes have reoccupied former prairie habitats and have also moved into agricultural lands. However, scientific evidence also indicates that identifiable threats to the swift fox exist over the entire 10-State range, and the Service has concluded that the immediacy of these threats is "imminent." The Service, in its determination of the current degree of threat to the species, also considered a long-range conservation strategy document drafted by an interagency State team which provides a framework of goals, objectives, and strategies. Implementation of this plan, including the formation of a swift fox working team should help reduce some of these threats to its survival. Having considered this draft conservation strategy document and the significance of the evidence provided by the aforementioned States, the Service believes that the magnitude of threats is "moderate" but the immediacy of these threats remains "imminent." Therefore, a listing priority of 8 is assigned for the species. The Service will reevaluate this warranted but precluded finding 1 year from the date of the finding. If sufficient new data or information becomes available in the future regarding the magnitude of threats, abundance, and health of these swift fox populations, the Service will reassess the status of the species. The warranted but

precluded finding elevates the swift fox's candidate species status from category 2 to category 1.

The Service's 12-month finding contains more detailed information regarding the above decisions. A copy may be obtained from the South Dakota Field office (see ADDRESSES section).

# **References Cited**

A complete list of references cited in the rule is available upon request from the South Dakota Field office (see ADDRESSES section).

#### Author

The primary author of this document is David A. Allardyce (see ADDRESSES section).

# **Authority**

The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)

Dated: June 12, 1995.

#### Mollie H. Beattie,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service. [FR Doc. 95–14730 Filed 6–15–95; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4310–55–M

# **DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Parts 216 and 229

[Docket No. 950605147-5147-01; I.D. 052395C]

RIN 0648-AH33

Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Authorization for Commercial Fisheries; Proposed List of Fisheries

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

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; request for comments.

summary: NMFS issues this proposed rule to implement the new management regime for the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing operations established by certain provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (MMPA) as added to that Act by certain amendments in 1994. The regulations would implement requirements to authorize vessels engaged in commercial fishing to incidentally, but not intentionally, take species and stocks of marine mammals upon the receipt of specified information and that

require commercial fishers to report to NMFS the incidental mortality and injury of marine mammals in the course of commercial fishing and comply with certain other requirements. The intended effect of this rule is to provide for a limited exemption of commercial fisheries from the MMPA's moratorium on the taking of marine mammals incidental to commercial fishing activities. NMFS issues a proposed list of fisheries (LOF), categorized according to frequency of incidental serious injury and mortality of marine mammals. Comments are invited on the proposed rule and the proposed LOF.

**DATES:** Comments on this proposed rule must be received by July 31, 1995. Comments on the proposed LOF must be received by September 14, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Send comments to Chief, Marine Mammal Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. A copy of the Environmental Assessment (EA) may be obtained by writing to this address, by telephoning one of the contacts listed below, or by accessing the NMFS "Home Page" on the World Wide Web at http://

kingfish.ssp.nmfs.gov:80/home-page.html which will be available by June 19, 1995. Comments regarding the burden-hour estimate or any other aspects of the collection of information requirements contained in this rule should be sent to the above individual and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB); Attention: NOAA Desk Officer, Washington, D.C. 20503.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Thomas Eagle or Robyn Angliss, Office of Protected Resources, 301–713–2322; Douglas Beach, Northeast Region, 508–281–9254; Charles Oravetz, Southeast Region, 813–570–5301; James Lecky, Southwest Region, 310–980–4015; Brent Norberg, Northwest Region, 206–526–6140; Dr. Steve Zimmerman, Alaska Region, 907–586–7235.

# SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### **Legislative and Regulatory History**

Prior to passage of the 1988 amendments to the MMPA (Public Law 92–522), commercial fishers could receive an exemption from the MMPA's general moratorium on the taking of marine mammals by applying for a general permit and certificates of inclusion. The 1988 amendments to the MMPA (Public Law 100–711), added a section 114 to the MMPA that exempts, on an interim basis, commercial fishers who comply with certain registration