

chub populations, but it has been reported (USFWS 1993a, 1993b).

Pressures on both species likely resulted from the competition created by stocking large numbers of numerous species of nonnative fish into reservoirs that were created and the remaining riverine sections of historical habitat. This perceived competition is likely still occurring and will continue in the future.

Finding

The Service has reviewed the petition, as well as other available information, published and unpublished studies and reports, and agency files. On the basis of the best scientific and commercial information available, the Service finds that there is sufficient information to indicate that the petitioned action may be warranted. The Service believes that the reduced distribution of the two chubs is due mainly to the destruction and modification of habitat and predation and competition from

nonnative fish as described above under the listing factors.

The Service's 90-day finding contains more detailed information regarding the above decisions. A copy may be obtained from the Service's Bismarck Office (see ADDRESSES above).

References Cited

- Hesse, L.W. 1994. The status of Nebraska fishes in the Missouri River, selected chubs and minnows: sicklefin chub, sturgeon chub, flathead chub, silver chub, speckled chub, plains minnow, and Western silvery minnow. Transactions of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences, Vol. 21, in print.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1993a. Status report on sicklefin chub (*Macrhybopsis meeki*), a candidate endangered species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, North Dakota. 41 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1993b. Status report on sturgeon chub (*Macrhybopsis gelida*), a candidate endangered species. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bismarck, North Dakota. 58 pp.

Author: This document was prepared by Mark Dryer (see ADDRESSES section).

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544 *et seq.*).

Dated: December 29, 1994.

Mollie H. Beattie,

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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