

the Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, One Gateway Center, Suite 700, Newton Corner, Massachusetts 02158. Comments and materials relative to this notice are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Service's Regional office at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Richard Biggins or Mr. Roger Hogan at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, One Gateway Center, Suite 700, Newton Corner, Massachusetts 02158. (telephone number 617/965-5100).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Service published a notice of review on the orangefin madtom (*Noturus gilberti*) and the Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) in the Federal Register of March 18, 1975, (40 FR 12297-8). The republication of a notice of review at this time is felt necessary to solicit any information on these species that has been gathered since the original notice of review. The Service is also seeking to gather from Federal agencies, State and local governments, the scientific community, and the public, economic or other relevant information concerning areas that may be affected by designating critical habitat for these species.

Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, states that the Secretary may determine a species to be endangered or threatened because of any of the following factors:

1. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
2. Overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes;
3. Disease or predation;
4. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; or
5. Other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

This authority has been delegated to the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

Orangefin Madtom

The orangefin madtom (*Noturus gilberti*) is presently believed to be restricted to the upper portion of the Roanoke River system in Virginia and North Carolina and the Craig Creek system in the James River watershed in Virginia. The range of the orangefin has been reduced by impoundments, turbidity, sedimentation, sewage, and chemical pollutants. These factors continue to threaten this species especially in the rapidly developing Roanoke-Salem Metropolitan Area.

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of the Status of the Orangefin Madtom (*Noturus gilberti*) and the Roanoke Logperch (*Percina rex*)

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of status review.

SUMMARY: The Service is reviewing the status of the orangefin madtom (*Noturus gilberti*) and the Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) to determine if these species should be proposed as endangered or threatened species and if and where critical habitat should be designated. This review is being taken because of indications that populations of the orangefin madtom and Roanoke logperch are decreasing and adverse modification of their habitat is occurring. These species are known to occur in North Carolina and Virginia. The Service welcomes additional data on the status of these fishes and their habitat.

DATES: Information regarding the status of these species should be submitted on or before August 11, 1980.

ADDRESSES: Comments and data submitted in review should be sent to

In response to the March 18, 1975, notice of review, Virginia recommended threatened status for the orangefin in their state. North Carolina indicated that the fish was peripheral in their state and was known only from the Dan River near the Virginia-North Carolina border. The American Fisheries Societies' Endangered Species Committee listed the orangefin as threatened in a publication by J. E. Deacon et al., entitled "Fishes of North America Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern: 1979."

If the orangefin madtom is proposed for listing, critical habitat for this species likely will be proposed. The exact river miles which will be proposed have not as yet been ascertained. However, areas within the following river systems will be evaluated for critical habitat status.

North Carolina

Stokes County: The main channel of the Dan River from the North Carolina-Carolina-Virginia State line downstream to the town of Danbury.

Virginia

Patrick County: The main channel of the Dan River from the Virginia-North Carolina State line upstream to the town of Kibler.

Craig and Botetourt Counties: The main channel of Craig Creek from the town of Abbot (Craig Co.) downstream to the junction of Craig Creek and the James River (Botetourt Co.).

Montgomery and Roanoke Counties: The main channel of the Roanoke River from the junction of Mason Creek (Roanoke Co.) upstream to the junction of the North and South Forks of the Roanoke (Montgomery Co.). The main channel of the North Fork Roanoke River from its junction with the South Fork Roanoke upstream to the town of Ironto, Montgomery County. The main channel of the South Fork Roanoke from its junction with the North Fork upstream to the junction of Bottom Creek. The main channel of Bottom Creek, Montgomery County, from its junction with the South Fork Roanoke River upstream to the Montgomery-Roanoke County line. The main channel of Elliott Creek, Montgomery County, from its junction with the South Fork Roanoke River upstream to the town of Sugar Grove.

Roanoke logperch

The Roanoke logperch (*Percina rex*) is known to occur in four small and widely separate populations in the Virginia section of the Roanoke River system. The largest population of the logperch inhabits the upper Roanoke River

mainstream from the Roanoke-Salem area and upstream beyond the forks of the Roanoke River in Roanoke and Montgomery Counties, Virginia. Three other restricted logperch populations exist in Stony Creek, a tributary of the Notaway River in Sussex County, Virginia; near Rocky Mount, Franklin County, Virginia in the Pigg River system; and in Town Creek, a tributary of the Dan River system in Henry County, Virginia.

The Roanoke logperch is threatened by pollution and stream alteration. The populations in the upper Roanoke River are subject to industrial pollution, accidental chemical spills, and increases in toxic urban run-off resulting from suburban expansions.

Virginia indicated in response to the March 18, 1975, notice of review that the logperch was threatened. They also pointed out that the species was vulnerable to a single catastrophic environmental event due to its restricted distribution. The American Fisheries Societies' Endangered Species Committee listed the Roanoke logperch as threatened in a publication by J. E. Deacon et al., entitled "Fishes of North America Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern: 1979."

If the logperch is proposed for listing, critical habitat for the species likely will be proposed. The exact river miles which will be proposed have not as yet been ascertained. However, areas within the following river system will be evaluated for critical habitat status.

Virginia

Montgomery and Roanoke Counties: The main channel Roanoke River from the junction of Tinker Creek (Roanoke Co.) upstream to the junction of the North and South Forks of Roanoke River (Montgomery Co.). The Main channel of Mason Creek from its junction with Roanoke River upstream to Interstate Highway 81 (Roanoke Co.). The main channel of the North Fork Roanoke River from its junction with South Fork Roanoke upstream to a secondary highway 603 crossing west of Ellet (Montgomery Co.).

Public Comments Solicited

The Service is seeking comments from the Governors of North Carolina and Virginia on these species and their possible critical habitat. With this notice of status review the Service is also inviting and requesting anyone who may have information on these species to contact the Regional Director, at the above address. The Service has particular interest in receiving comments on the following:

1. Biological, commercial, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or the lack thereof) to the species included in this review;

2. The location of and the reasons why any habitat of these species should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided for by sections 4 and 7 of the Act;

3. Additional information concerning the range and distribution of these species.

4. Current or planned activities in the subject areas;

5. The probable impacts on such activities if the area is designated as critical habitat; and

6. The foreseeable economic and other impacts of listing this species, including any critical habitat designation on Federally funded or authorized projects.

The Service will analyze all data that it now has, as well as any data that is obtained as a result of this review, and will take appropriate action concerning listing for the species.

This Notice of Status Review was prepared by Richard Biggins, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regional Office, Suite 700, Newton Corner, Massachusetts 02158, telephone (617/965-5100, ext. 316).

Dated: April 28, 1980.

Robert S. Cook,
Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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