



FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Bulletin

U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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PUBLIC HEARING ON ALABAMA STURGEON POSTPONED

In response to a November 9, 1993, court order, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today postponed a November 15 public hearing in Montgomery, Alabama. The hearing was scheduled to obtain additional comment on a proposal to list the Alabama sturgeon as endangered and on a scientific peer review report on the species.

The Service's action was necessitated by a preliminary injunction entered by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama that restricted use or dissemination of the peer review report. The injunction, sought by the Alabama-Tombigbee Rivers Coalition and Offa S. Nichols, was granted by District Judge William M. Acker, Jr.

A previous notice by the Service indicated the November 15 hearing would be held to obtain public comment on the report and a rule proposing protection for the Alabama sturgeon under the Endangered Species Act.

"As soon as another hearing can be arranged and the required public notice given, the Service will resume the process of gathering additional comment on the proposed rule to list the sturgeon," said Ken Smith, the Service's Deputy Director.

The hearing will be rescheduled at a location in Montgomery. A notice detailing the date, time, and specific location will appear in the Federal Register in the future. For more information on the proposal or to submit written comments, contact Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A, Jackson, Mississippi 39213, 601-965-4900.

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