



NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service

Public Workshop for Proposed Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat Rule

The Southern Distinct Population (DPS) of North American green sturgeon was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on April 7, 2006. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has issued a proposed critical habitat designation for the Southern DPS of green sturgeon (73 FR 52084, September 8, 2008). The areas proposed for designation comprise approximately 325 miles of freshwater river habitat, 1,058 square miles of estuarine habitat, 11,927 square miles of coastal marine habitat, and 136 square miles of habitat within the Yolo and Sutter bypasses (part of the Sacramento River Flood Control Project). NMFS proposes to designate critical habitat in the following areas:

- **California:** Sacramento River, lower Feather River, lower Yuba River, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Bay, San Pablo Bay, San Francisco Bay, and Humboldt Bay;
- **Oregon:** Coos Bay, Winchester Bay, and Yaquina Bay;
- **Washington:** Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor;
- **Columbia River Estuary;** and
- **Coastal U.S. marine waters within 110 meters (361 feet) depth** from and including Monterey Bay, CA, north to Cape Flattery, WA, including the Strait of Juan de Fuca to the U.S./Canada border.

A critical habitat designation applies to activities authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency and does not apply to citizens engaged in activities on private land that do not involve a federal agency.

Workshop Schedule

Sacramento, California

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2008

Time: 9AM – 5PM

Location: Federal Building

CalFed Conference Room (5th Floor)

650 Capitol Mall

Sacramento, CA 95814

Workshop Agenda

- Overview of the process for establishing the proposed critical habitat designation for the Southern DPS of green sturgeon
- Summary of the proposed critical habitat designation: Key Facts
- Question and answer period (in group(s) depending on the number of attendees)
- Public comment period (with an official transcriber)

Public comments must be submitted by 5 pm PST on November 7, 2008, by any of the following methods:

- Electronically via the Federal eRulemaking web site: <http://www.regulations.gov>;
- By fax to: 1-562-980-4027, Attention: Melissa Neuman
- By mail to: Chief, Protected Resources Division, SWR, NMFS, 650 Capitol Mall, Sacramento, CA 95814-4706

For more information go to <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov>, "Latest News,"

or contact: NMFS Southwest Regional Office, Protected Resources Division

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