

**§ 1206.86 What additional materials must I submit with the final narrative report?**

You must submit the materials determined by the Commission as found in the NHPRC grant announcements or specified in the grant award.

**§ 1206.88 Does the NHPRC have any liability under a grant?**

No, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) and the Commission cannot assume any liability for accidents, illnesses, or claims arising out of any work undertaken with the assistance of the grant.

**§ 1206.90 Must I acknowledge NHPRC grant support?**

Yes, grantee institutions, grant project directors, or grant staff personnel may publish results of any work supported by an NHPRC grant without review by the Commission; however, publications or other products resulting from the project must acknowledge the assistance of the NHPRC grant and all copies paid for by grant funds must be distributed at a reasonable cost.

Dated: February 10, 2006.

**Allen Weinstein,**

*Archivist of the United States.*

[FR Doc. E6-2303 Filed 2-16-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7515-01-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR****Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 17****RIN 1018-AU12****Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Notice of Six-Month Extension and Reopening of Comment Period for the Proposed Delisting of the Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*)**

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Proposed Rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), extend for not more than six months, the time to make a decision on the proposal to delist the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) and announce the reopening of the comment period. Since the close of the public comment period, we have received additional information which may be influential in our final decision. The extension is sought pursuant to section 4(b)(6)(B)(i) of the ESA because a recently completed and unpublished study substantially disagrees with the

determination contained in the proposed rule that Preble's is not a distinct subspecies. Some of this new information conflicts with information given significant weight in the proposed rule. In order to ensure the public has full access to and an opportunity to comment on all available information, we are reopening the public comment period for 60 days. The Service will make a final decision based on the best scientific and commercial information available. Comments previously submitted need not be resubmitted as they have already been incorporated into the public record and will be fully considered in the final decision and rule.

**DATES:** The public comment period is reopened until April 18, 2006. Any comments that are received after the closing date may not be considered in the final decision on the proposal.

**ADDRESSES:** Documents relative to this proposed rule are available at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/preble/>. If you wish to comment, you may submit your comments and materials concerning the proposal by one of several methods:

1. You may submit written comments to Field Supervisor, Colorado Field Office, Ecological Services, P.O. Box 25486, Denver Federal Center, Denver, CO 80225.

2. You may hand deliver comments to our Colorado Field Office at 134 Union Blvd., Suite 670, Lake Plaza North, Lakewood, CO 80228 or send via facsimile (fax 303-236-0027).

3. You may send comments via electronic mail (e-mail) to [FW6\\_PMJM@fws.gov](mailto:FW6_PMJM@fws.gov). See the Public Comments Solicited section below for file format and other information about electronic filing.

The complete file for the finding and proposed rule is available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours, at the above address.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Susan Linner, Field Supervisor, at the Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section) or telephone (303) 236-7400. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Public Comments Solicited**

We intend that any final action resulting from the proposed rule will be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, we solicit comments or suggestions from the public, concerned governmental agencies, the scientific

community, industry, or any other interested party concerning the proposed rule in light of the additional information. Generally, we seek information, data, and comments concerning:

(1) The taxonomic status of *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies with a particular focus on Ramey *et al.* (2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2005), King *et al.* (2006) and associated peer reviews;

(2) The taxonomy, biology, ecology, distribution, status, and factors affecting *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies;

(3) Data from any systematic surveys for *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies, as well as any studies that may show population size or trends;

(4) Quantitative information regarding the life history, ecology, and habitat use of *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies, as well as information regarding the applicability of information relevant to other subspecies;

(5) Information on the threats faced by the *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies (or any potential DPS thereof) in relation to the five listing factors (as defined in section 4(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), as amended [16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*]);

(6) Information regarding the effects of current land management on population distribution and abundance of *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, and other *Z. hudsonius* subspecies; and

(7) Information regarding the possibility of contact and interaction within or between *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, and adjacent subspecies of meadow jumping mouse (i.e., *Zapus hudsonius intermedius* and *Z. h. pallidus*) or other information relevant to a Distinct Population Segment analysis.

You may submit comments as indicated under **ADDRESSES**. If you wish to submit comments by e-mail, please avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include your name and return address in your e-mail message.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Due to the high level of interest in this rulemaking process, we also may post comments on our website. Individual respondents may request that we

withhold their home address from the rulemaking record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the rulemaking record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety. Comments and other information received, as well as supporting information used to write the proposed rule, will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the Colorado Field Office (see **ADDRESSES** section). In making a final decision on the proposal, we will take into consideration the comments and any additional information we receive. Such communications may lead to a final regulation that differs from the proposal.

### Background

The Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Zapus hudsonius preblei*) was listed as a threatened species on May 13, 1998 (63 FR 26517). At that time, *Z. h. preblei* was classified as a subspecies of the meadow jumping mouse based on a study by Krutzsch (1954). On February 2, 2005, the Service proposed to delist or remove *Z. h. preblei* from the List of Endangered and Threatened Animals (70 FR 5404). This proposal was based on an unpublished report (Ramey *et al.* 2004a) that suggested *Z. h. preblei* should be considered the same subspecies as the Bear Lodge meadow jumping mouse (*Z. h. campestris*). In the spring of 2005, we sought and received three expert peer reviews of this proposal in accordance with our 1994 Interagency Policy for Peer Review in Endangered Species Act Activities (59 FR 34270, July 1, 1994). As noted in our February 2, 2005, **Federal Register** notice proposing delisting of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (70 FR 5404), we were expecting additional genetics information (including nuclear DNA results) within the next year that would provide additional information on meadow jumping mouse taxonomy.

In December 2004, Ramey *et al.* (2004b) released a revised version of their report that suggested further synonymization. Specifically, the authors suggested synonymizing *Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, and *Z. h.*

*intermedius*. This unpublished report was not considered in the February 2, 2005, proposal to delist *Z. h. preblei* from the List of Endangered and Threatened Animals because it had not been peer-reviewed at that time. In the spring of 2005, the Service sought and obtained peer review of this report.

In August 2005, a manuscript, authored by Rob Roy Ramey II, Hsiu-Ping Liu, Clinton W. Epps, Lance M. Carpenter, and John D. Wehausen, titled "Genetic relatedness of the Preble's meadow jumping mouse (*Z. h. preblei*) to nearby subspecies of *Z. hudsonius* as inferred from variation in cranial morphology, mitochondrial DNA, and microsatellite DNA: implications for taxonomy and conservation" was published in the journal *Animal Conservation* (Ramey *et al.* 2005). As indicated in the title, this version of Ramey *et al.* included microsatellite information.

In January 2006, we received a final report analyzing the mitochondrial DNA and microsatellite DNA of five *Z. hudsonius* subspecies including—*Z. h. preblei*, *Z. h. campestris*, *Z. h. intermedius*, *Z. h. pallidus*, and *Z. h. luteus* (King *et al.* 2006). The King *et al.* (2006) report, which constitutes further testing of the conclusions of Ramey *et al.* (2003, 2004a, 2004b, 2005), has been peer-reviewed in accordance with U.S. Geological Survey methods as described in the Leetown Science Center Research Documentation Manual (U.S. Geological Survey 2003) but is unpublished.

All of the documents described above are available on-line at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/preble/>. We are reopening the public comment period on the delisting proposal to allow the public to consider and comment on the above documents.

The two studies differ in sampling regime, sources of tissues chosen for analysis, number of molecular characters sequenced and microsatellite fragments surveyed, statistical tests applied, method used to portray genealogical relationships, and the criteria used to determine uniqueness. The different conclusions in the two studies suggest there is scientific disagreement regarding the application of the available data relevant to the proposed action (70 FR 5404, February 2, 2005) and, thus, we extend for not more than six months this rulemaking process as allowed by Section 4(b)(6)(B)(i) of the ESA. We will use the 6-month extension to assemble a panel of experts to carefully review and assess the two studies which represent the best available information on the genetics, morphology, and ecology of the species. The Service will make a final decision

based on the best scientific and commercial information available, including but not limited to the expert panelists' judgments.

### Author

The primary authors of this notice are the Colorado Field Office staff (see **ADDRESSES** section).

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

Dated: February 5, 2006.

**H. Dale Hall,**

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. E6-2286 Filed 2-16-06; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4310-55-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

#### 50 CFR Part 635

[Docket No. 060131019-6019-01; I.D. 012006B]

RIN 0648-AU17

#### Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Commercial Shark Management Measures

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

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

**SUMMARY:** This proposed rule would establish the 2006 second and third trimester season quotas for large coastal sharks (LCS) and small coastal sharks (SCS) based on over- or underharvests from the 2005 second and third trimester seasons. In addition, this rule proposes the opening and closing dates for the LCS fishery based on adjustments to the trimester quotas. The intended effect of these proposed actions is to provide advance notice of quotas and season dates for the Atlantic commercial shark fishery.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received by March 6, 2006.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments on the proposed rule may be submitted to Chris Rilling, Highly Migratory Species Management Division via:

- E-mail: [012006B@noaa.gov](mailto:012006B@noaa.gov).
- Mail: 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Please mark the outside of the envelope "Comments on Proposed Rule for 2nd and 3rd Trimester Season Lengths and Quotas."
- Fax: 301-713-1917.