

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AC19

131-94

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Rule to List Alaska Breeding Population of the Steller's Eider

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to list the Alaska breeding population of the Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*) as threatened pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Critical habitat is not being proposed at this time.

DATES: Comments from all interested parties relating to this proposal must be received by November 14, 1994. Public hearing requests relating to the proposed rule must be received by September 12, 1994.

ADDRESSES: Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to the Fairbanks Ecological Services Field Office, Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1412 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, telephone (907) 456-0427 or facsimile (907) 456-0346. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Skip Ambrose, Endangered Species Specialist, at the above address (telephone 907/456-0427).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Petition Background**

On December 10, 1990, the Service received a petition from Mr. James G. King of Juneau, Alaska, dated December 1, 1990, to list the Steller's eider as endangered throughout its range and to designate critical habitat on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. Pursuant to Section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) (Act), the Service determined on May 8, 1992, that listing the Steller's eider was warranted, but precluded by listing actions for higher priority species.

The Service completed the 1993 annual status review on Steller's eiders in August 1993 (Quakenbush and Cochrane 1993) and concluded that

current information does not support listing range-wide, but does support listing the Alaska breeding population. This conclusion was based on the following reasons: (1) The number of Steller's eiders that breed in Alaska has declined during the last few decades; (2) the species' nesting range in Alaska has constricted substantially; and (3) the remaining breeding population in northern Alaska may be vulnerable to extirpation.

This proposal to list Steller's eiders that breed in Alaska is based on various documents, including published and unpublished studies, agency documents, and literature syntheses. Researchers, wildlife managers, and local residents familiar with the species were interviewed. This proposed rule constitutes the final finding for the petitioned action, in accordance with Section 4 of the Act.

Species Description

The Steller's eider is the smallest of four eider species. It was first described by Pallas in 1769 as *Anas stelleri* and was subsequently grouped with the other eiders in the genus *Somateria*. Steller's eider is now recognized as a monotypic genus, *Polysticta stelleri* (American Ornithologist's Union 1983).

The adult male Steller's eider has a white head with a greenish tuft and a small black eye patch, a black back, white shoulders, and a chestnut breast and belly with a black spot on the side. The Inupiat Eskimo name for this eider is Iginikkauktuk or "the bird that sat in the campfire," referring to the burnt appearance of the brown breast and belly of the male. The Yup'ik Eskimo name is Anarnissaguq. Adult females and juveniles are mottled dark brown. Both adult sexes have a blue wing speculum with a white border.

Steller's eiders are marine, diving ducks that feed primarily on mollusks and crustaceans by diving and dabbling in shallow water habitats (Petersen 1980). Principal foods of wintering Steller's eiders include the common blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and the sand-hopper (*Anisogammarus pugettensis*) (Petersen 1980, Troy and Johnson 1987). During the breeding season, they feed on insects, primarily chironomid larvae, and plant materials in addition to crustaceans and mollusks (Cottam 1939, Quakenbush and Cochrane 1993). Steller's eiders nest on tundra, adjacent to shallow ponds or within drained lake basins (King and Dau 1981, Flint et al. 1984, Quakenbush and Cochrane 1993).

The current breeding range of Steller's eiders includes the arctic coastal plain in northern Alaska, the arctic coast in

Russia from the Chukotski Peninsula west to the Kheta River (American Ornithologist's Union 1983), and the western Siberian coast at Taimyr, Gaydan and Yamal peninsulas (Yesou and Lappo 1992). Most of the world's Steller's eiders winter along the Alaska Peninsula from the eastern Aleutian Islands to southern Cook Inlet in shallow, near-shore marine waters. Steller's eiders wander occasionally to the western Aleutian Islands and along the Pacific coast south to California (American Ornithologist's Union 1983). Wintering areas are also known in Russia, the Baltic States and Scandinavia (Dement'ev and Gladkov 1967, Frantzen 1985, Petraitis 1991, Frantzen and Henricksen 1992).

In Alaska, the breeding range of Steller's eiders formerly extended discontinuously from the eastern Aleutian Islands, the Alaska Peninsula, around the west and northern coasts of Alaska to the Yukon Territory border (Murie 1959, American Ornithologist's Union 1983; Kertell 1991). Historical breeding records exist from the 1800's for southwestern Alaska at Unalaska Island, the southern Alaska Peninsula, Seward Peninsula, and St. Lawrence Island (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Fay and Cade 1959, Murie 1959, Kessel 1989). In Alaska, Steller's eiders now breed exclusively on the arctic coastal plain, migrate south in the fall, and probably molt along the Alaska coast from Nunivak Island to Cold Bay.

Species Status, World-wide

In the 1960's, the world-wide population of Steller's eiders was estimated to be up to 400,000 by Palmer (1976) and 500,000 by Uspenski (1972 cited by Kertell 1991). Another estimate suggested that as many as 400,000 Steller's eiders wintered in Alaska alone (King and Dau 1981). Recent estimates, however, indicate that as few as 150,000-200,000 Steller's eiders currently remain range-wide. This recent estimate is based on a count of 138,000 individuals wintering in Alaska in 1992 (Bill Larned, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., *in litt.*, 1992); Kistchinski's (1973) estimate of 15,000-20,000 wintering in eastern Russia in the early 1970's; and 10,000-20,000 that winter in Norway (Frantzen and Henricksen 1992).

The decline of approximately 50 percent in the world-wide population is further supported by two long-term data sets from Alaska. Estimates of Steller's eiders on the Alaska Peninsula, based on numbers observed during fall emperor goose (*Philacte canagica*) surveys, have declined from approximately 200,000 in 1965 (Jones

1965) to a maximum count of about 126,000 between 1980 and 1991 (Rod King, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., *in litt.*, 1993). Additional population trend data are available from Izembek Lagoon. Aerial waterfowl surveys at Izembek Lagoon from the period 1986–1990, when compared to surveys during the period 1975–1980, show a decline in the number of Steller's eiders seen of more than 50 percent (Kertell 1991).

Species Status, Western Alaska

Steller's eiders were locally common breeders at several central Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta sites during biological surveys before the 1950's (Murie 1924, Conover 1926, Brandt 1943), Kessel *et al.* (1964), Johnsgard (1964), and Holmes and Black (1973) recorded no Steller's eiders at some of the same areas during subsequent surveys in the 1950's and 1960's, indicating the population declined between the 1920's and 1960's. Kertell (1991) estimated that 3,500 pairs may have nested on the Delta in the 1950's and early 1960's; however, the historical population may have been greater since the number of pairs apparently declined before 1950. No nests have been located on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta since 1975 despite extensive waterfowl research in suitable habitats (Kertell 1991).

No Steller's eiders were seen in a 1992 aerial survey of suitable nesting habitat along the entire western Alaska coast, including former nesting range on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Seward Peninsula, and from Icy Cape to Barrow (Larned *et al.* 1993). In 1993, no Steller's eiders were observed during waterfowl surveys on the Seward Peninsula and along the coast north to Point Hope (Greg Balogh, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1993). Only two Steller's eiders have been seen during intensive waterfowl breeding pair surveys flown annually over the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta coast since 1988 (William Butler, Jr., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., *in litt.*, 1993).

Species Status, Northern Alaska

Accurate historical data are lacking for northern Alaska. Miscellaneous observations indicate that Steller's eiders nested in suitable habitats across the North Slope from Wainwright to Demarcation Point (Gabrielson and Lincoln 1959, Palmer 1976, Bellrose 1980, North 1990, Kertell 1991). Native residents report that Steller's eiders were common breeders in the 1930's on the central North Slope at the Colville Delta and on the eastern North Slope at Camden Bay (P. Sovalik, cited by Myres

1958; Bill Patkotak, pers. comm., 1993). However, Anderson (cited by Bailey 1948) considered it "a rare straggler east of Barrow."

Steller's eiders were observed during waterfowl surveys flown over the arctic coastal plain in 1986–93, but only in small numbers and all were seen west of the Colville River (Brackney and King 1993; Rod King, pers. comm., 1993). Aerial surveys for eiders were flown over the arctic coastal plain in 1992 and 1993 but very few Steller's eiders were seen (Larned *et al.* 1993; Bill Larned, pers. comm., 1993). A female Steller's eider with young was seen along the Colville River in 1987 (unpublished Service data) and several adults were seen in the Prudhoe Bay area in the 1980's and in 1993 (Declan Troy, Troy Ecological Research Assoc., pers. comm., 1993), indicating that birds still visit these areas.

Recent Steller's eider population size estimates for the North Slope are based on a few sightings during aerial waterfowl breeding pair surveys. No Steller's eiders were observed in 1986–88 (Brackney and King 1993). Population estimates ranged from about 2,000 to 7,000 individuals from 1989–1992 (Brackney and King 1993). Due to large standard error in the visibility correction factor for Steller's eiders, the confidence intervals for these estimates are very wide (Rod King, pers. comm., 1993). As a result, these estimates are very imprecise.

Summary of Factors Affecting the Species

Section 4(a)(1) of the Act and regulations (50 CFR Part 424) promulgated to implement the listing provisions of the Act set forth the procedures for adding species to the Federal Lists. A species may be determined to be an endangered or threatened species due to one or more of the five factors described in Section 4(a)(1). These factors and their application to the Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*) Alaska breeding population are as follows:

A. Present or Threatened Destruction, Modification, or Curtailment of Its Habitat or Range

Much of the former Steller's eider breeding range in western Alaska is within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and is protected from major development. However, some of the former breeding range is on Alaskan Native land where protection is limited. The current breeding range in northern Alaska is largely contained within the National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska (NPR–A), which was set aside for oil

and gas resource development. The coastal area in NPR–A may be leased for oil development, and leasing and development of other coastal areas is likely. Potential impacts of oil and gas exploration and development on nesting Steller's eiders are not known.

The only known regularly occupied nesting area of Steller's eiders in Alaska is near Barrow, the largest Native village in Alaska. The human population of Barrow increased 58 percent in 10 years, from 2267 in 1980 to 3469 in 1990 (Harcharek 1992), and village expansion is likely in the near future. Housing developments, gas field access and development, and conveyance of land from the Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation to shareholders could lead to nesting habitat loss and disturbance to nesting birds.

Wintering habitat is largely undisturbed and substantial portions are protected from development within National Wildlife Refuges, State Game Refuges, or State Critical Habitat Areas. In winter, Steller's eiders concentrate in sheltered bays and lagoons. These shallow and biologically productive waters are vulnerable to oil spills and other pollution from vessels. Steller's eiders often feed in large, dense rafts that dive and surface simultaneously. Therefore, an oil spill could adversely affect a large portion of the world's Steller's eider population. Marine traffic through the Aleutian Islands and along the Alaska Peninsula coast could result in pollution from bilge waste pumping and vessel groundings. Wintering birds may also be disturbed by commercial and recreational boats traveling through protected lagoons near the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak or Cook Inlet communities.

B. Overutilization for Commercial, Recreational, Scientific, or Educational Purposes

Due to small numbers taken, overutilization is unlikely to have caused the decline of Alaska Steller's eiders or their extirpation from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. In the past, some Steller's eider eggs were collected in Alaska for avicultural exhibition and trade. Although the Service has received requests for avicultural collecting of Steller's eiders, no permits have been issued since 1987 (James Shefidan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1993).

A few dozen Steller's eiders were taken annually before 1991 by collectors or incidental to other sport waterfowl hunting on the Alaska Peninsula and Kodiak and Nunivak islands (Robin West, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1991). The sport hunting

season was closed in 1991. An undetermined number were taken illegally on Kodiak Island for the taxidermy trade in 1991 (Stephen Tuttle, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1991).

C. Disease or Predation

Disease is not known to be affecting the population at present, but small, restricted population size increases the risk that future disease outbreaks could decimate the nesting population.

Natural predators of Steller's eiders in Alaska include raptors, gulls, jaegers, ravens, and foxes. These predators have not been shown to significantly affect Steller's eiders at the population level. However, arctic foxes (*Alopex lagopus*) may have contributed to the extirpation of Steller's eiders on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. During the 1960's, major goose populations decreased substantially in this area and foxes may have switched to alternative summer food supplies including Steller's eiders (Kertell 1991).

Some predators may be increasing in number as a result of human habitation and development. Predators and scavengers such as foxes, gulls, and ravens have increased in number due to the availability of refuse and handouts (Paul O'Neil, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Animal Damage Control, pers. comm., 1993). These animals are effective predators of eider eggs, young, and adults. Increased predation is likely to be exaggerated near communities where refuse is available and could significantly affect eiders in these areas.

D. The Inadequacy of Existing Regulatory Mechanisms

Steller's eider hunting is regulated under authority of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-711). The U.S. sport hunting season on Steller's eiders has been closed since 1991 as a result of depressed population numbers. Historically, Alaskan Natives hunted Steller's eiders and their eggs for food, but in far fewer numbers than the three, larger *Somateria* eider species (Klein 1966, Nelson 1969, Johnson 1971). Steller's eiders are not a preferred species for subsistence hunting (Quakenbush and Cochrane 1993). In recent years, a few Steller's eiders were reported taken for subsistence at various villages (Braund *et al.* 1989; Wentworth 1993; James Sheridan, pers. comm., 1993). Many villages along the Steller's eider migration route have not been surveyed, therefore, the total annual subsistence harvest is unknown (Cynthia Wentworth, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1993).

Because of their far greater abundance along migration routes, most subsistence take is probably of Steller's eiders that nest in Russia.

Spring and summer subsistence hunting of eiders in Alaska is currently in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibits hunting for most migratory birds between March 10 and September 1. The Service recognizes, however, that residents of certain rural areas in Alaska depend on waterfowl as a customary and traditional source of food.

While not an important subsistence species, Steller's eiders are occasionally killed incidental to hunting of more important subsistence waterfowl species. Although apparently limited, this take may threaten the small breeding segment near Barrow.

The Service has initiated an information and education program to gain support in Native villages for protection of Steller's eider and spectacled eiders (*Somateria spectabilis*).

E. Other Natural or Manmade Factors Affecting its Continued Existence

Some natural or manmade factor(s), currently unknown, is causing a decline in the number of Steller's eiders and a contraction of their breeding range in Alaska.

Interspecific competition on the wintering range may be affecting Steller's eiders. Nearshore benthic communities have been restructured by feeding pressure from increasing sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*) populations (Kvitek *et al.* 1992), with documented effects on local populations of common eiders (*Somateria mollissima*) and scoters (*Melanitta* sp.) in the Gulf of Alaska and Aleutian Islands (David Irons, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, pers. comm., 1991).

Summary

Steller's eiders may have historically numbered 400,000-500,000 individuals world-wide (Palmer 1976, Uspenski 1972 cited by Kertell 1991). Current estimates are 150,000 to 200,000, and most of these birds nest in Russia and winter in Alaska. In North America, Steller's eiders no longer nest in historical breeding range on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta or in other western Alaska habitats or the eastern North Slope. Current Alaska nesting range is small and restricted to northern Alaska. Causes for the decline world-wide and the reduction in the Alaskan breeding population are not known.

Steller's eiders that nest on Alaska's North Slope are the only breeding population in North America and the

only breeding population within United States jurisdiction. Environmental conditions in the arctic are severe and variable. Low numbers and restricted breeding range place populations at risk from natural and human-induced factors (Kertell 1991). Major storms, predation or disturbance could severely deplete Steller's eiders numbers on the North Slope and precipitate extirpation of this remnant population.

The Service has carefully assessed the best scientific and commercial information available regarding the past, present, and future threats faced by this species in determining to propose this rule. Based on this evaluation, the preferred action is to list the Steller's eider Alaska breeding population as threatened. The small, reduced population that nests within a restricted range on the northwestern North Slope warrants threatened status. While probably not in immediate danger of extinction, Steller's eiders that breed in Alaska could become endangered in the foreseeable future if the population declines further.

Critical Habitat

Section 4(a)(3) of the Act, as amended, requires that, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, the Secretary proposes critical habitat at the time a species is proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. The prudence of designation is decided on the basis of net conservation benefit to the species concerned.

Regulations at 50 CFR 424.22(a)(2) specify that designation of critical habitat is not prudent when such designation would not be beneficial to the species. Since habitat requirements for recovery and threats to the Steller's eider have not been identified, designation of current or former Steller's eider breeding and wintering grounds as critical habitat would not likely alleviate threats affecting the decline of the species and could actually impair recovery efforts by implying in a misleading way that threats are centered on breeding and/or wintering habitat. Any designation of former breeding habitat would also be subject to great uncertainty concerning its historical contribution to maintenance of the population or its possible role in restoration. Conservation efforts for the species would address a wide variety of federally funded or authorized activities (summarized in the Available Conservation Measures section of this proposed rule) that affect the quality of habitat available to the species.

The Service therefore finds that designation of critical habitat for the Steller's eider would not be prudent at

this time because it would not provide a net conservation benefit to the species. However, if new information indicates that designation of critical habitat may be prudent, the Service will consider proposing critical habitat at that time.

Available Conservation Measures

Conservation measures provided for species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act include recognition, recovery actions, requirements for Federal protection, and prohibitions against certain practices. Recognition through listing encourages and results in conservation actions by Federal, State and local governments and private organizations, groups and individuals. The Act provides for possible land acquisition and cooperation with the States and requires that recovery actions be carried out for all listed species. Such actions are initiated by the Service following listing. The protection required of Federal agencies and the prohibitions against taking and harm are discussed, in part, below.

Section 7(a) of the Act, as amended, requires Federal agencies to evaluate their actions with respect to any species that is proposed or listed as endangered or threatened, and with respect to its designated critical habitat. Regulations implementing this interagency cooperation provision of the Act are codified at 50 CFR Part 402. Section 7(a)(4) of the Act requires Federal agencies to confer informally with the Service on any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. Section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to ensure that activities they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of such a species or to destroy or adversely modify its critical habitat. If an action may affect a listed species or its critical habitat, the responsible Federal agency must enter into formal consultation with the Service.

The Service anticipates consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Transportation to avoid impacts to Steller's eiders from wetland fill permitting and other activities on the North Slope. Consultations to identify potential effects on Steller's eiders are also expected with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management for NPR-A lands issues, the Minerals Management Service for outer continental shelf oil and gas lease sales, and National Marine Fisheries Service for commercial fishing regulations. Reasonable and prudent

alternatives may be implemented for Federally-funded or permitted projects to avoid causing jeopardy to the Alaska breeding population of Steller's eiders.

The Service will convene a recovery team and develop a recovery plan for the Steller's eider promptly upon listing. An information and education program to gain public support for the protection of Steller's eiders has already been initiated and will be carried out cooperatively with affected communities. The recovery plan will establish recovery goals and set recovery task priorities.

The Act and implementing regulations found at 50 CFR 17.21 and 17.31 set forth a series of general prohibitions and exceptions that apply to all threatened wildlife. These prohibitions, in part, make it illegal for any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take (includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or to attempt any of these), import or export, ship in interstate commerce in the course of commercial activity, or sell or offer for sale in interstate or foreign commerce any listed species. It also illegal to possess, sell, deliver, carry, transport, or ship any such wildlife that has been taken illegally. Certain exceptions apply to agents of the Service and State conservation agencies.

Section 10(e) of the Act exempts any Indian, Aleut, or Eskimo who is an Alaskan Native who resides in Alaska, or any non-native permanent resident of an Alaskan Native village, from the aforementioned prohibitions on taking any endangered or threatened species if such taking is primarily for subsistence purposes. Non-edible by-products of species taken pursuant to section 10(e) may be sold in interstate commerce when made into authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing; except that provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any non-native resident of an Alaskan Native village found by the Secretary to be not primarily dependent upon the taking of fish and wildlife for consumption or for the creation and sale of authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing.

Regulations prohibiting or limiting subsistence harvest by any Indian, Aleut, Eskimo, or non-native permanent resident of an Alaskan Native village may be established pursuant to section 10(e)(4) of the Act if the Secretary determines that such taking materially and negatively affects the threatened or endangered species and holds hearings on the proposed harvest regulations in the affected judicial districts of Alaska. The Service is not currently promulgating special regulations for

Steller's eiders under section 10(e)(4) of the Act, but may do so if appropriate.

Permits may be issued to carry out otherwise prohibited activities involving threatened wildlife species under certain circumstances. Regulations governing permits are in 50 CFR 17.22, 17.23, and 17.32. Such permits are available for scientific purposes, to enhance the propagation or survival of the species, and/or for incidental take in connection with otherwise lawful activities. For threatened species, permits are also available for zoological exhibition, educational purposes, or special purposes consistent with the purposes of the Act. In some instances, permits may be issued for a specified time to relieve undue economic hardship that would be suffered if such relief were not available. Such permit applications are not expected, however, since the Steller's eider is not presently in commercial trade in the United States. For the same reason, the Service does not anticipate requesting that the Steller's eider be included under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Public Comments Solicited

The Service intends that any final action resulting from this proposal will be as accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning this proposed rule are hereby solicited. Comments are particularly sought concerning:

(1) Biological, commercial trade, or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to this species;

(2) The location of any additional breeding populations of this species and the reasons why any habitat should or should not be determined to be critical habitat as provided by Section 4 of the Act;

(3) Additional information concerning the range, distribution, and population size of this species; and

(4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on this species.

Final promulgation of the regulation on this species will take into consideration the comments and any additional information received by the Service, and such communications may lead to a final regulation that differs from this proposal.

The Act provides for one or more public hearings on this proposal, if requested. Requests must be received

within 60 days of the date of publication of this proposal. Such requests must be made in writing (includes facsimile) and addressed to Skip Ambrose (see ADDRESSES section).

National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement, as defined under authority of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the Federal Register on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

References Cited

A complete list of all the references cited herein, as well as others, is available upon request from the Fairbanks Ecological Services Field Office (see ADDRESSES section).

Authors

The primary authors of this notice are Skip Ambrose, Janev Fadely, Ted Swem, and Lori Quakenbush (see ADDRESSES section), and Jean Fitts Cochrane, Anchorage Ecological Services, 605 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501 (907) 271-2778.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Proposed Regulation Promulgation

PART 17—[AMENDED]

Accordingly, the Service hereby proposes to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter 1, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 17.11(h) is amended by adding the following, in alphabetical order under Birds, to the listing of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife:

§ 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife.

* * * * *
(h) * * *

Species		Historic range	Vertebrate population where endangered or threatened	Status	When listed	Critical habitat	Special rules
Common name	Scientific name						
BIRDS							
Eider, Steller's	<i>Polysticta stelleri</i>	U.S.A. (AK), Russia	U.S.A. (AK breeding population only).	T		NA	NA

Dated: July 5, 1994.
Mollie H. Beattie,
 Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.
 [FR Doc. 94-17132 Filed 7-13-94; 8:45 am].
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