duplicating contractor, International
Transcription Services, 2100 M Street
NW., Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037,
television (202) 857-3600.
FNPRM: This proceeding was initiated
primarily to address complaints by the
hearing impaired that the Commission's
rules did not go far enough to comply
with the mandate of section 710(a) of the
Communications Act. That section
provides: "The Commission shall
establish such regulations as are
necessary to ensure reasonable access
to telephone service by persons with
impaired hearing."
In response, the
Commission, in CC Docket No. 87-124,
sought to gather information on what, if
any, additional rules or rule revisions
are needed. In response to the
Commission the
Commission released an order on
March 29, 1988 (53 FR 12546, April 15,
1988), consisting of two parts: a Notice
of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) and a
Further Notice of Inquiry (FNOI).
In the NPRM, the Commission
proposed specific changes in its
regulations to increase the ability of
the hearing impaired to access telephone
service by expanding the definition of
"essential" telephones that must be
compatible with hearing aids equipped
with telecoils. Subsequently, Congress
amended section 710 of the Act to
require that essentially all new corded
telephones be hearing aid compatible,
and ordered the Commission to enact
regulations within one year. On May 11,
1989, the Commission released a First
Report and Order, FCC 89-137 (53 FR
12546, April 15, 1988), adopting the rules
mandated by Congress.
The FNOI requested to respond
by presenting substantial information that
the Commission help establish an
interstate relay system for users of
TDDs. Relay systems are primarily
operator services that translate TDD
messages into voice or vice versa.
Because section 710(e) of the Act
requires the Commission to engage in a
cost/benefit analysis before it
promulgates rules in this area, the
Commission urged interested parties to
submit for analysis specific proposals
for implementing an interstate TDD
relay system that would enable hearing
and speech impaired persons to carry on
real-time interstate conversations with
voice telephone users. Those submitting
proposals were requested to include
data regarding the technical, economic
and regulatory parameters required for
such a system. Parties were urged to
work cooperatively to develop
consensus proposals.
Comments were also sought on (a)
whether public pay stations should be
modified to provide TDD services; (b)
whether 25 percent of public pay
stations should be amplified; (c)
whether modifications should be ordered
to public pay stations to facilitate
wheelchair access; and (d) whether
additional informational initiatives by
the Commission are necessary. Although
unsolicited, comments were submitted
on whether an advisory committee
should be established.
The FNPRM notes that the
Commission's cost/benefit analysis
indicates that providing approximately
181,000 TDD users the same interstate
communications opportunities as users
of the voice network is a substantial
benefit. Although the near term costs
may be $30,000,000 per year, the benefits
outweigh the costs. In addition, the
Commission concludes it has
jurisdiction to require an interstate TDD
relay system, and offers two approaches
to implement and provide interstate
relay service. One approach relies on
interexchange carriers subject to section 69.116(a) of the rules to either
individually or jointly develop and
operate an interstate TDD relay system
within two years of the adoption of final
rules. Under this alternative, the system
costs would be recovered through the
interexchange carriers' interstate
services. The second approach would
require amending Section 69.803 of the
rules to include the management and
operation of the system among the
functions of the National Exchange
Carrier Association (NECA). System
costs under this approach would be
recovered through the Universal Service
Fund by NECA, from eligible
interexchange carriers. Under either
approach, users of the relay service
would pay only for their telephone calls
at the same rate as any other caller.
With respect to the other proposals to
assist the disabled, the Commission
concludes that the record does not
indicate that the benefits of these
proposals outweigh the costs. It also
declines to establish an advisory
committee as urged by some. Rather, it
concludes that its rulemaking processes
are an adequate means of addressing
the needs of the disabled. The
Commission does, however, encourage
formation of informal groups to consider
matters of importance to the disabled
and asks that they submit appropriate
suggestions in support thereof.
In accordance with 5 U.S.C. 603(a), the
Federal Communications Commission
concludes that the proposed rules will
not have a significant adverse economic
impact on small entities.
Comments on the proposed rules are
sought.

List of subjects
47 CFR Part 64
Communications common carriers.
Handicapped, Interstate TDD relay
service, Telephone.

47 CFR Part 69
Communications common carriers.
Interstate TDD relay service fund,
Association functions, Telephone.

Legal Basis
This FNPRM seeking to amend Part 64
or Part 69 of the Commission's rules is
issued pursuant to authority contained
in Sections 1. 47 and 710(a) of the
Communications Act of 1934, as
amended.

Federal Communications Commission.
Donna R. Searcy,
Secretary.
[FR Doc. 89-16889 Filed 8-14-89; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6712-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife
and Plants; Findings on a Petition To
List the Razorback Sucker

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of petition finding.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service (Service) announces a 90-day
petition finding for a petition to amend
the List of Endangered and Threatened
Wildlife and Plants. The petitioners
presented substantial information that
listing the razorback sucker (Xyrauchen
texanus) may be warranted. Formal
review of the status of the razorback
sucker is in progress.

DATES: The finding announced in this
notice was made in June 1989. To
receive full consideration in the
Service's 12-month petition finding
comments should reach the Service by

ADDRESSES: Questions or comments
concerning this finding should be sent to:
State Supervisor, Fish and Wildlife
Enhancement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service, 2078 Administration Building,
1745 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City,
Utah 84104-5110. The petition, finding,
and supporting data are available for
public inspection, by appointment,
during normal business hours at the
above address and at the Service's
Denver Regional Office, 134 Union
Background

Section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), requires that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) make a finding on whether a petition to list, delist, or reclassify a species presents substantial scientific or commercial information to demonstrate that the petitioned action may be warranted. To the maximum extent practicable, this finding is to be made within 90 days of receipt of the petition, and the finding is to be published promptly in the Federal Register. If the finding is positive, the Service is also required to promptly commence a review of the status of the involved species. A status review is in progress, and the Service seeks information until December 15, 1989.

The Service has received and made a 90-day finding on the following petition:
A petition dated March 14, 1989, was received from Sierra Club, National Audubon Society, The Wilderness Society, Colorado Environmental Coalition, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and Northwest Rivers Alliance on March 15, 1989. The petition requested the Service to list the razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus) as an endangered species.

The petition stated that the razorback sucker, native of the Colorado River Basin, has suffered a considerable population decline along with three other fishes endemic to the Colorado River during the past decades. The Colorado squawfish (Ptychocheilus lucius), the humpback chub (Gila cypha) and the bonytail chub (Gila elegans) have been previously listed as endangered and though the razorback sucker is rarer than the Colorado squawfish, it has not been listed as endangered. The petition presents information that demonstrates that the sucker's numbers have declined dramatically throughout its former range and that natural recruitment has not been documented in recent times though much research has been ongoing for the past decade.

The petition attributed the razorback sucker's decline to predation by exotic fish and dams and other water development projects and diversions that have partitioned the once free-flowing river system into disjunct impoundments and tailwaters.

After a review of the petition, accompanying documentation, and references cited therein, the Service found the petition presented substantial information that the requested action may be warranted. Within one year from the date the petition was received, a finding as to whether the petitioned action is warranted is required by section 4(b)(3)(B) of the Act.

Author

This notice was prepared by Donald L. Archer, Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2078 Administration Building, 1745 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84104—5110 (801/524—4430).

Authority


List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened wildlife, Fish, Marine mammals, Plants (agriculture).


Susan Recce Lamson,
Acting Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

[FR Doc. 89—19024 Filed 8—14—89; 8:45 am]