

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Victoria S. Levin, MSW, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 3172, MSC 7848, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-0912, levinv@sr.nih.gov.

This notice is being published less than 15 days prior to the meeting due to the timing limitations imposed by the review and funding cycle.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-29879 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4110-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health

Center for Scientific Review; Notice of Closed Meetings

Pursuant to section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2), notice is hereby given of the following meetings.

The meetings will be closed to the public in accordance with the provisions set forth in sections 552b(c)(4) and 552b(c)(6), Title 5 U.S.C., as amended. The grant applications and the discussions could disclose confidential trade secrets or commercial property such as patentable material, and personal information concerning individuals associated with the grant applications, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel. ZRG1 IFCN-8 (03) M.

Date: December 2, 1999.

Time: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Samuel Rawlings, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5160, MSC 7844, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1243.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 3, 1999.

Time: 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Mohindar Poonian, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5222, MSC 7852, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1168, poonianm@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 3, 1999.

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Patricia H. Hand, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4140, MSC 7804, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1767, handp@csr.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 6, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Ronald Dubois, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4156, MSC 7806, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1722, duboisr@drg.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 6, 1999.

Time: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Michael A. Land, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5210, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1265.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 6, 1999.

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892 (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Sami A. Mayyasi, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5122, MSC 7852, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1169.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 7, 1999.

Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Contact Person: Joanne T. Fujii, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5218, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1178, fjijj@drg.nih.gov.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 7, 1999.

Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: Radisson Barcelo Hotel, 2121 P St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Contact Person: Michael Nunn, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 5202, MSC 7850, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-0910.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel.

Date: December 7, 1999.

Time: 1:00 am to 2:30 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Christine Melchior, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4102, MSC 7816, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1713.

Name of Committee: Center for Scientific Review Special Emphasis Panel, ZRG1-CVA-03.

Date: December 7, 1999.

Time: 1:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Agenda: To review and evaluate grant applications.

Place: NIH, Rockledge 2, Bethesda, MD 20892, (Telephone Conference Call).

Contact Person: Gordon L. Johnson, Scientific Review Administrator, Center for Scientific Review, National Institutes of Health, 6701 Rockledge Drive, Room 4136, MSC 7802, Bethesda, MD 20892, (301) 435-1212.

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.036; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

[FR Doc. 99-29880 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4140-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement To Evaluate Continued Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Champlain

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; New York State Department of

Environmental Conservation; Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in cooperation with the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife (VTDFW) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) announces its intention to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) pursuant to Sec. 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). This SEIS will evaluate a proposal to continue sea lamprey control in Lake Champlain, to maintain reduced levels of sea lamprey and achieve further reductions. FWS invites other Federal agencies, states, Indian tribes, local governments, and the general public to submit written comments or suggestions concerning the scope of the issues to be addressed, alternatives to be analyzed, and the environmental impacts to be addressed in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS). The public is invited to participate in scoping activities by submitting written comments or attending one or more public scoping hearings through which comments and suggestions will be received. Oral and written comments will be considered equally in preparation of the DSEIS. Those not desiring to submit comments or suggestions at this time, but who would like to receive a copy of the DSEIS for review, should send a request to Mr. Dave Tilton at the address given below. A notice of public hearings with the locations, dates, and times will be published in the **Federal Register** and in local news media.

DATES: Written comments related to the scope and content of the DSEIS should be submitted to FWS by February 4, 2000 to the address below.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and requests to be included on a mailing list of persons interested in receiving the DSEIS should be sent to Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lake Champlain Office, 11 Lincoln Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452. Alternatively, comments may be submitted electronically to the following address: dave_tilton@fws.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Dave Tilton, Project Leader, USFWS Lake Champlain Office, 111 Lincoln

Street, Essex Junction, Vermont 05452, 802–951–6313, FAX: 802–951–6315. New York contact person is Mr. Larry Nashett, Supervising Aquatic Biologist, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, Region 5, P.O. Box 296, Ray Brook, New York 12977, 518–897–1333. Vermont contact person is Mr. Tim Hess, Director of Fisheries, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont 05671, 802–241–3700.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

Sea lamprey are primitive marine invaders to Lake Champlain. They are parasitic fish that feed on the body fluids of other fish resulting in reduced growth and often the death of host fish. A substantial body of information collected on Lake Champlain indicates sea lamprey have a profound negative impact upon the lake's fishery resources and have suppressed efforts to establish new and historical sportfisheries. In 1990, the FWS, NYSDEC, and VTDFW initiated an eight-year experimental sea lamprey control program for Lake Champlain. The experimental program treated tributaries and deltas of Lake Champlain with the chemical lampricides TFM and Bayer 73, which substantially reduced larval sea lamprey numbers in treated waters. The program included monitoring and assessment of the effects of sea lamprey reduction on the characteristics of certain fish populations, the sport fishery and the area's growth and economy. A set of thirty evaluation standards were established. Overall, the experimental sea lamprey control program met or exceeded the majority of the standards. In addition to this evaluation, the cooperating agencies assessed the effects of the program on nontarget organisms.

Two rounds of treatments were planned for each significantly infested stream and delta. From 1990 through 1996 twenty-four TFM treatments were conducted on fourteen Lake Champlain tributaries, and 9 Bayer 73 (5% granular) treatments were conducted on 5 deltas. A cumulative total of approximately 141 miles and 1220 delta acres were treated.

In summary, trap catches of spawning-phase sea lamprey declined by 80–90%; nest counts were reduced by 57%. Sixteen of twenty-two TFM treatments reduced ammocoetes at index stations to less than 10% of pre-treatment levels. 8 of the 9 Bayer treatments resulted in mean mortality rates over 85% among caged ammocoetes. Relatively small number of nontarget amphibian and fish species

were killed. Adverse effects on nontarget species were higher for Bayer treatments than TFM. Native mussels, snails and some other macroinvertebrates were significantly affected after the 1991 Bayer 73 treatments of the Ausable and Little Ausable deltas in New York. However, they recovered to pre-treatment levels within 4 years. American brook lamprey also experienced substantial treatment-related mortality. Yet, the finding of dead American brook lamprey in second-round treatments in each stream where they were negatively affected during the first-round suggested survival or immigration was adequate to maintain their populations. Wounding rates on lake trout and landlocked Atlantic salmon were reduced in the main lake basin, and catches of both species increased. A significant increase in survival of 3–4 year lake trout was noted; survival of older fish improved but did not change significantly. Returns of Atlantic salmon to tributaries increased significantly after treatment. Changes in wounding rates on brown and rainbow trout could not be evaluated, but angler catches increased since 1990. Catch per unit effort of rainbow smelt, the major forage species for salmonids, decreased significantly at one of two sampling stations in the main lake basin and in Malletts Bay, but not at other locations; length-at-age also decreased at most sites. Evaluation of angler responses to the program indicated a favorable 3.5:1 economic benefit:cost ratio.

A Comprehensive Evaluation of an Eight Year Program of Sea Lamprey Control in Lake Champlain provides a detailed description of the results of the project. It is available on the FWS web-site at: [www.fws.gov/r51cfwro/lamprey/lamprey.html.], or from any of the contacts for further information listed above.

Decision To Be Made

The responsible officials in the FWS, NYSDEC, and VTDFW must decide whether to continue sea lamprey control for Lake Champlain. In addition, if sea lamprey control will continue, the agencies must also consider the following:

(1) Should the following list be established as the long term program objectives?

(a) Maintain reduced levels of sea lamprey on Main Lake and South Lake portions of Lake Champlain and achieve further Main Lake-South Lake reductions by targeting new areas where sea lamprey infestations are found.

(b) Augment sea lamprey control activities in Mallets Bay and Inland Sea

areas of Lake Champlain and reduce sea lamprey population levels and associated impacts there.

(c) Employ an integrated approach to continuing sea lamprey control using lampricides and nonchemical means.

(2) What mitigation and monitoring measures are required for sound resource management?

(3) Is sea lamprey control in the best interest for the resource and citizens of the states of New York and Vermont?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by April, 2001. The Responsible Officials will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated November 3, 1999.

Ronald E. Lambertson,

Regional Director.

[FR Doc. 99-29790 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

DATES: The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 1999 and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, December 2, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 200 AB, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: sharon_gross@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established

by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be addressed during the meeting include briefings about regional nonindigenous species problems and initiatives, a discussion on the establishment of additional regional panels, action on the approval of the Iowa State Management Plan, updates from several ANS Task Force committees including the regional panels, and other issues.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 9, 1999.

Cathleen I. Short,

Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries.

[FR Doc. 99-29795 Filed 11-15-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

United States Coral Reef Task Force: Options for the United States To Consider To Promote the Conservation of Coral Reefs; Public Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: On behalf of the United States Coral Reef Task Force, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public meeting to discuss the trade in non-food fish coral reef species, the effects of this trade on coral reefs, and measures which the United States should consider to minimize these effects and promote coral reef conservation. Representatives of other agencies involved in the Trade Subgroup will participate in the meeting to answer questions and receive public comments on potential conservation actions.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Monday, December 6 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held in Room 7000A and B, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sheila Einsweiler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, telephone (703) 358-1949, fax (703) 358-2271, E-mail: Sheila_Einsweiler@fws.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

We request that anyone that wishes to speak at this public meeting contact us using the contact information above so that we can ensure that everyone is given enough time to express their opinions. We request that everyone who speaks at this meeting also give us their comments in writing. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Assistant Director for International Affairs, 1849 C Street, Room 3245, Washington, DC 20240. You may comment via the Internet to r9oma_cites@fws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Public Meeting on U.S. Coral Reef Task Force", and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the above address. We will consider comments and information received by December 10, 1999.

Coral reefs are recognized as being among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on earth. Reef systems are storehouses of immense biological wealth and provide economic and ecosystem services to millions of people as shoreline protection, areas of natural beauty and recreation, and sources of food, pharmaceuticals, jobs, and revenues. According to one estimate, reef habitats provide humans with services worth about \$375 billion each year, despite the fact that they cover less than one percent of the earth's surface.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are also recognized as being among the most threatened marine ecosystems on the planet. Coral reefs are being seriously degraded by human activities, especially overexploitation of resources, destructive fishing practices, coastal development, and runoff from improper land-use practices. The international trade in coral, reef fish, live rock, and other coral reef organisms contributes to the decline and degradation of reefs. Coral reef resources traded internationally supply a wide number of markets and industries, including the seafood industry, live food fish markets, the aquarium trade, the curio and jewelry trade, and the pharmaceutical and research industries. As a major consumer of coral reef organisms and a