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# FWS Proposes 13 Changes In Convention Appendices

The Service's preliminary findings in the survey of Appendices I and II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora are that a total of 13 changes could be made in the 134 listings of species and subspecies native to the United States (F.R. 5/3/78).

The survey is being undertaken to determine whether or not the United States should propose amendments to Appendix listings pursuant to the agreement reached by the Convention parties at a special working session in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 1977. The parties agreed to conduct such surveys and submit all amendment proposals by August 15, 1978, so that they could be considered at the next Convention meeting, to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on March 19-31, 1979.

Publication of the Service's preliminary findings is intended to elicit public assistance in determining the final form of any U.S. amendment proposal. All information and other comments should be submitted to the Service by July 3. Following analysis of these responses and any other data made available, the Service will proceed to issue a proposed rulemaking simultaneously with transmittal of the U.S. proposal to the Convention Secretariat. Following consideration of all recommended changes by the United States and other parties to the Convention in Costa Rica, amendments to the Appendices will be announced in the *Federal Register* as a final rulemaking.

The full list of all 134 species and subspecies is available in the May 3 issue of the *Federal Register*. The 13 proposed changes—which the Service emphasizes are preliminary findings that may be modified in light of significant new information—are summarized below:

**Southern sea otter (*Enhydra Lustris nereis*):** Delete from Appendix I because it has recovered in abundance and is protected from trade by Federal and state law, but add to Appendix II because of its similarity of appearance, when processed as pelts, to the northern sea otter.

**Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*):** Delete from Appendix I because it has made a strong recovery in recent years, it is completely protected under Federal law, and it

does not appear to be a likely candidate for trade.

**West Indian monk seal (*Monachus schauinslandi*):** Delete from Appendix I because no living specimens have been found in recent years and the species is most likely extinct.

**Mexican duck (*Anas platyrhynchos diazi*):** Delete from Appendix I. This duck, recently reclassified as a subspecies of mallard, has been proposed by the Service for removal from the U.S. List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants (see April 1978 BULLETIN).

**Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*):** Retain on Appendix I but also add to Appendix II. Although bald eagle populations in Alaska and Canada cannot be considered to be in danger of extinction, those in the 48 conterminous states are sufficiently reduced in abundance to warrant inclusion in both Appendices.

**American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*):** Delete from Appendix II primarily because the bird has recovered to the point where it is widespread throughout North and South America.

**Greater prairie chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido pinnatus*):** Delete from Appendix II because it has recovered sufficiently so that it may now be taken legally by hunters in certain areas.

**American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*):** Delete from Appendix I and add to Appendix II because it has increased its numbers greatly during the past decade.

**American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*):** Delete from Appendix II, add the U.S. population to Appendix I, and add all other populations to Appendix II. There are now only 200-400 known individuals of American crocodile in the United States, and there may be as few as 25 breeding females in this total. Therefore, the U.S. population must be seen as in danger of extinction.

**Longjaw cisco (*Coregonus alpenae*):** Delete from Appendix I because no living specimens have been seen since 1952; the species is probably extinct.

**Blue pike (*Stizostedion vitreum glaucum*):** Delete from Appendix I in that the fish is probably extinct.

**Yellow-blossom pearly mussel (*Epiblasma [=Dysnomia] florentina curtisi*):** Delete from Appendix I because it is probably extinct.

**Sampson's pearly mussel (*Epiblasma [=Dysnomia] sampsoni*):** Delete from Appendix I because it is probably extinct.

Considerable data on the status of several additional species have been received which, although not addressed in this preliminary notice, may also warrant changes in the Appendices. Any other recommended changes will be included in a proposed rulemaking, to be published in the *Federal Register*. Among the species for which additional information has been received are the lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), river otter (*Lutra canadensis*), brown and grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*), and Mearns's quail (*Cyrtonyx montezumae mearnsi*).

## Status Review

### Leopard, Lechwe

The Service has announced that it will review the status of the leopard (*Panthera pardus*) and the lechwe (*Kobus leche*) to determine whether they should be proposed for reclassification under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (F.R. 5/1/78).

The decision to undertake this review was based primarily on evidence presented in a January 1978 petition submitted by Safari Club International. This private organization believes that the leopard should be moved from Appendix I to Appendix II of the Convention. (Under Appendix II, a U.S. permit would no longer be required to import leopards or their parts or products. However, the exporting nation would still be required to certify that the export of the species would not be detrimental to its continued survival in the wild.) Safari Club International has recommended that the lechwe (an antelope native to Africa) be removed from the Appendices.

Comments on this review should be submitted to the Service's Federal Wildlife Permit Office by June 30, 1978.

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