



## NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



November 26, 2008

### **Subject: Special Rule Published for Threatened Corals**

**Background:** On May 9, 2006, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule listing elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) and staghorn (*Acropora cervicornis*) as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) [71 FR 26852]. On October 29, 2008, NMFS published a final rule [FR 73 64264] to apply all of the prohibitions listed in section 9(a)(1) of the ESA to these two species with limited exceptions for two specified classes of activities that contribute to the conservation of the listed corals. The two classes of activities are scientific research and enhancement activities, and restoration activities. The effective date of the special rule is November 28, 2008.

**Action:** Importers and exporters should be aware of the threatened species listing for *Acropora palmata* and *Acropora cervicornis*. For additional information on the listing, you may contact NMFS at 301-713-1401 or view the documents associated with this rule at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

Although CITES allows *Acropora* corals to be identified to genus on CITES documents (see our public bulletin on Identification of Hard Corals), you must identify *Acropora* corals to the species level on our declaration (Form 3-177). In addition, any U.S. exporters of *Acropora* corals must submit U.S. CITES permit applications with species level information so that any necessary determinations for species listed under the ESA can be made.

Contact:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Office of Law Enforcement  
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[http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info\\_Importers\\_Exporters.htm](http://www.fws.gov/le/ImpExp/Info_Importers_Exporters.htm)