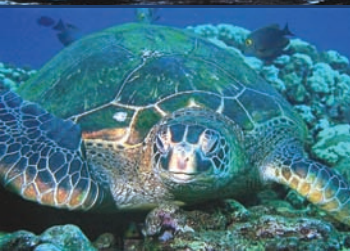




## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE



*Nothing is more priceless and more worthy of preservation than the rich array of animal life with which our country has been blessed. It is a many-faceted treasure, of value to scholars, scientists, and nature lovers alike, and it forms a vital part of the heritage we all share as Americans.*

-President Richard Nixon –  
Statement upon signing the  
Endangered Species Act,  
December 28, 1973

## The Endangered Species Act - Protecting Marine Resources

Congress passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on December 28, 1973, recognizing that the natural heritage of the United States was of “esthetic, ecological, educational, recreational, and scientific value to our Nation and its people.” It was understood that, without protection, many of our nation’s living resources would become extinct.

The purpose of the ESA is to conserve threatened and endangered species and their ecosystems. There are more than 1,900 species listed under the ESA. A species is considered endangered if it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A species is considered threatened if it is likely to become endangered in the future. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibility for implementing the ESA. NMFS is responsible for 87 marine species, from whales to sea turtles and salmon to Johnson’s sea grass.

### Protection, Conservation, and Recovery

The listing of a species as endangered makes it illegal to “take” (harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt to do these things) that species. Similar prohibitions usually extend to threatened species. Federal agencies may be allowed limited take of species through interagency consultations with NMFS or USFWS. Non-federal individuals, agencies, or organizations may have limited take through special permits with conservation plans. Effects to the listed species must be minimized and in some cases conservation efforts are required to offset the take. NMFS’ Office of Law Enforcement works with the U.S. Coast Guard and other partners to enforce and prosecute ESA violations.

### NMFS, the Protected Resources Program, and the ESA:

The Protected Resources program conserves and recovers marine resources by doing the following:

- Listing species under the ESA and designating critical habitat (section 4);
- Developing and implementing recovery plans for listed species (section 4);
- Developing cooperative agreements with and providing grants to States for species conservation (section 6);
- Consulting on any Federal actions that may affect a listed species to minimize the effects of the action (section 7);
- Partnering with other nations to ensure that international trade does not threaten species (section 8);
- Investigating violations of the ESA (section 9);
- Cooperating with non-federal partners to develop conservation plans for the long-term conservation of species (section 10); and
- Authorizing research to learn more about protected species (section 10).

### Why Save Endangered Marine Species?

Although occasional extinction of species is natural, extinctions are currently occurring at a rate that is unprecedented in human history. Each plant, animal, and their physical environment is part of an ecosystem and part of a much more complex web of life. Because of this, the extinction of a single species can cause a series of negative events to occur that affect many other species. Endangered species also serve as “sentinel” species to indicate larger ecological problems that could affect the functioning of the ecosystem and likely humans as well. As importantly, species diversity is part of the natural legacy we leave for future generations. The wide variety of species on land and in our oceans has provided inspiration, beauty, solace, food, livelihood, medicines and other products for previous generations. The ESA is a mechanism to help guide conservation efforts, and to remind us that our children deserve the opportunity to enjoy the same natural world we experience.

Most of the problems in the current health of our environment are caused by people. However, people can also positively affect changes in our ecosystems and help endangered species recover by learning about the issues and changing behaviors. You can make a difference. To learn more, go to

**[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr) or [www.fws.gov/endangered](http://www.fws.gov/endangered)**

# Endangered and Threatened Species under NMFS' Jurisdiction

(E = Endangered; T = Threatened; R = Recovered)

(Updated April 2012)

Species	Year	Status	Species	Year	Status
<b>CETACEANS</b>			Canary rockfish ( <i>Sebastes pinniger</i> )		
Beluga whale ( <i>Delphinapterus leucas</i> ) – Cook Inlet	2008	E	Puget Sound/Georgia Basin	2010	T
Blue whale ( <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i> )	1970*	E	Chinook Salmon ( <i>Onchorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )		
Bowhead whale ( <i>Balaena mysticetus</i> )	1970*	E	California coastal	1999	T
Chinese River dolphin/Baiji ( <i>Lipotes vexillifer</i> )	1989	E	Central Valley spring-run	1999	T
Fin whale ( <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i> )	1970*	E	Lower Columbia River	1999	T
Gray whale ( <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> )			Upper Columbia River spring-run	1999	E
Western North Pacific	1970*	E	Puget Sound	1999	T
Gulf of California harbor porpoise/vaquita ( <i>Phocoena sinus</i> )	1985	E	Sacramento River winter-run	1994	E
Humpback whale ( <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i> )	1970*	E	Snake River fall-run	1992	T
Indus River dolphin ( <i>Platanista minor</i> )	1991	E	Snake River spring/summer-run	1992	T
Killer whale ( <i>Orcinus orca</i> )			Upper Willamette River	1999	T
Southern Resident	2005	E	Chum salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus keta</i> )		
North Atlantic right whale ( <i>Eubalaena glacialis</i> )	2008**	E	Columbia River	1999	T
North Pacific right whale ( <i>Eubalaena japonica</i> )	2008**	E	Hood Canal summer-run	1999	T
Sei whale ( <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i> )	1970*	E	Coho salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> )		
Southern right whale ( <i>Eubalaena australis</i> )	1970*	E	Central California coast	2005	E
Sperm whale ( <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i> )	1970*	E	Lower Columbia River	2005	T
			Oregon Coast	2008	T
			Southern Oregon & Northern CA coasts	1997	T
<b>PINNIPEDS</b>			Green sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser medirostris</i> )		
Guadalupe fur seal ( <i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i> )	1985	T	Southern	2006	T
Hawaiian monk seal ( <i>Monachus schauinslandi</i> )	1976	E	Gulf sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i> )	1991	T
Mediterranean monk seal ( <i>Monachus monachus</i> )	1970*	E	Largetooth sawfish ( <i>Pristis perotteti</i> )	2011	E
Saimaa seal ( <i>Phoca hispida saimensis</i> )	1993	E	Pacific eulachon/smelt ( <i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i> )	2010	T
Spotted seal – Southern DPS ( <i>Phoca largha</i> )	2010	T	Shortnose sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i> )	1967	E
Steller sea lion ( <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i> )			Smalltooth sawfish ( <i>Pristis pectinata</i> )		
Western U.S.	1997	E	U.S. portion of range	2003	E
Eastern U.S.	1990	T	Sockeye salmon ( <i>Oncorhynchus nerka</i> )		
			Ozette Lake	1999	T
			Snake River	1991	E
<b>MARINE TURTLES</b>			Steelhead trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )		
Green turtle ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )			Puget Sound	2007	T
Florida & Mexico's Pacific coast breeding colonies	1978	E	Central California coast	1997	T
All other areas	1978	T	Snake River Basin	1997	T
Hawksbill turtle ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )	1970*	E	Upper Columbia River	2006	T
Kemp's ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> )	1970*	E	Southern California	1997	E
Leatherback turtle ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )	1970*	E	Middle Columbia River	1999	T
Loggerhead turtle ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )			Lower Columbia River	1998	T
Northeast Atlantic Ocean	2011	E	Upper Willamette River	1999	T
Mediterranean Sea	2011	E	Northern California	2000	T
North Indian Ocean	2011	E	South-Central California coast	1997	T
North Pacific Ocean	2011	E	California Central Valley	1998	T
South Pacific Ocean	2011	E	Totoaba ( <i>Totoaba macdonaldi</i> )	1979	E
Northwest Atlantic Ocean	2011	T	Yelloweye rockfish ( <i>Sebastes ruberrimus</i> )		
South Atlantic Ocean	2011	T	Puget Sound/Georgia Basin	2010	T
Southeast Indo-Pacific Ocean	2011	T	<b>MARINE INVERTEBRATES</b>		
Southwest Indian Ocean	2011	T	Elkhorn coral ( <i>Acropora palmata</i> )	2006	T
Olive ridley turtle ( <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i> )			Staghorn coral ( <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> )	2006	T
Mexico's Pacific coast breeding colonies	1978	E	Black abalone ( <i>Haliotis cracherodii</i> )	2008	E
All other areas	1978	T	White abalone ( <i>Haliotis sorenseni</i> )	2001	E
<b>FISH</b>			<b>MARINE PLANTS</b>		
Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> )			Johnson's seagrass ( <i>Halophila johnsonii</i> )	1999	T
Gulf of Maine	2000	E	<b>DELISTED SPECIES</b>		
Atlantic sturgeon ( <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i> )			Gray whale ( <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i> )		
Gulf of Maine	2012	T	Eastern North Pacific	1970*	R
New York Bight	2012	E	Caribbean monk seal ( <i>Monachus tropicalis</i> )	1967	Extinct
Chesapeake Bay	2012	E	* Listed in 1970 under the precursors to the ESA.		
Carolina	2012	E	**Originally listed in 1970 under the precursors to the ESA.		
South Atlantic	2012	E			
Bocaccio ( <i>Sebastes paucispinis</i> )					
Puget Sound/Georgia Basin	2010	E			