

# ESA Listing of Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals

NOW WHAT???

An Update on Our Progress

Threatened Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/protres.htm#acropora>



# Final Listing

- On May 9, 2006 Listed as Threatened



## Threatened Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals

EXPLANATION

Boundary of Critical Habitat  
Boundary of State or Federal Waters  
State or Federal Waters  
Other Waters

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/protres.htm#acropora>



# ESA Toolbox

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## 4(d) Rule

Critical Habitat Designation

Interagency Cooperation - "Section 7"

Recovery Planning

Research Permits

Habitat Conservation Planning

Funding Opportunities - "Section 6"

Penalties & Enforcement

## Threatened Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals

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# Prohibitions – “4(d) Rule”

- Flexibility and Customization

- Define Prohibitions and “Take”

- Provide Exemptions

Import/Export

Take

Possess

Sell

Trade

Transport

**“Take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.”**

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# Prohibitions – “4(d) Rule”

## Conservation Workshops





NOAA Fisheries Service

**Public Workshops:**  
 Information Gathering for *Acropora* spp. Conservation

Based on the proposed rule to list elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) and staghorn (*Acropora cervicornis*) corals as threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, NOAA Fisheries Service seeks input from resource users and resource managers to identify programs and activities that may affect the species. Additionally, NOAA Fisheries is collecting information pertinent to identifying the physical and biological features essential for conserving the species and identifying possible areas to designate as critical habitat. The information gathered during these workshops will be considered in the development of any future conservation measures.

We need YOUR HELP if you:

- **CONDUCT** activities or programs that involve interaction with elkhorn and staghorn corals
- **PARTICIPATE** in activities or programs that involve interaction with elkhorn and staghorn corals
- Have information pertinent to **IDENTIFYING ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS** that involve interaction with elkhorn and staghorn corals
- Have information pertinent to **IDENTIFYING** possible areas of **CRITICAL HABITAT**

### Workshop Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Mon. May 8, 2006	6 – 8 pm	International Game Fish Association 300 Gulf Stream Way Dania Beach, FL
Tues. May 9, 2006	6 – 8 pm	Holiday Inn – Ramada – Marina Del Mar 99701 Overseas Hwy Key Largo, FL
Wed. May 10, 2006	6 – 8 pm	Marathon Government Center 2798 Overseas Hwy Mile Marker 50 Marathon, FL
Thurs. May 11, 2006	6 – 8 pm	Harvey Government Center 1200 Truman Avenue Key West, FL

### AGENDA

Sign-In

Welcome/Overview (20 minutes)

Break-out Groups (1 hour, 10 minutes)

- Fishing, Diving, & Recreational Use
- Research & Recovery
- Coastal and Nearshore Construction and Related Activities

Summary and Wrap-Up (20 minutes)

\*\* If you are unable to attend a scheduled workshop, relevant information may be submitted via  
 MAIL: NMFS Southeast Regional Office  
 Protected Resources Division  
 263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
 FAX: (727) 824-6309  
 EMAIL: [Acropora.Info@noaa.gov](mailto:Acropora.Info@noaa.gov)  
 \*\* Deadline to submit is **Friday, June 2, 2006**

For more information, go to <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/protres.htm> or contact: Sarah Heberling or Jennifer Moore (727) 824-6312  
[Sarah.Heberling@noaa.gov](mailto:Sarah.Heberling@noaa.gov)  
[Jennifer.Moore@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Moore@noaa.gov)

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# Prohibitions – “4(d) Rule”



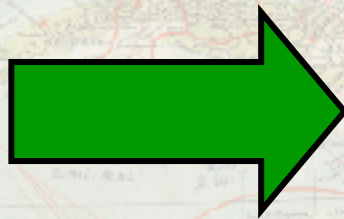
**Workshops**



**Emails**



**Letters**



**Workshop Summary**

**Threatened Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals**

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# Prohibitions – “4(d) Rule”

## Common Themes

- Need enforcement of existing regulations
- Multiple sources of stressors
- Necessity to continue research and restoration

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# Prohibitions – “4(d) Rule”

## Next Steps

- Draft EA under internal review
- Draft 4(d) rule under internal review
- Publication soon

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# Section 7

- All federal agencies have responsibility to ensure their actions do not jeopardize continued existence
- Work with NMFS to reduce affects to the species
- If "take" is prohibited - can issue ITS

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# Critical Habitat

- Geographic Areas that contain Physical and Biological features essential to conservation
- Gathered Information at workshops
- Partnering with NCCOS/Biogeography Team to assemble a GIS of know presence/absence and habitat features
- Designation with One Year of final listing

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# Section 6 Funding

- Section 6 Agreements with States
- Adequate and active program for the conservation

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# Recovery Planning

- Established Team of Experts and Stakeholders
- Roadmap to recovery
- Identify Research and Recovery Priorities

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# Contact Information

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