

SPECIES LISTED UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF NMFS' NORTHEAST REGION (MAINE - VIRGINIA)

For a list of Candidate Species in the Northeast Region (NER), please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/CandidateSpeciesProgram/cs.htm

For a list of Species of Concern in the NER, please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/CandidateSpeciesProgram/soc.htm

FISH

Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) (Gulf of Maine DPS)

Year listed: 2000; New listing for the Gulf of Maine Atlantic salmon as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) encompassing a wider range in the state of Maine in 2009; Atlantic salmon are listed jointly with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Status: Endangered

General distribution: The distribution of endangered Atlantic salmon extends from the Androscoggin River in South Western Maine to the Dennys River in Eastern Maine.

Critical habitat in NER: Critical habitat for Atlantic salmon was designated in 2009. Forty-five specific areas containing over 19,000 kilometers of rivers and streams and 799 square kilometers of lakes and ponds were identified as having the physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the species, which may require special management or protections. For more information, please visit the map book at http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/altsalmon/

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/altsalmon/

Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)

Year listed: 1967

Status: Endangered

General distribution: Shortnose sturgeon occur in most major river systems from the Saint John River in New Brunswick, Canada, to the St. Johns River, Florida. In the northern U.S. portion of their range, shortnose sturgeon are found in the Chesapeake Bay system, Delaware River, Hudson River (below Troy Dam), Connecticut River (below Turners Falls), the lower Merrimack River (below Essex Dam in Lawrence), Piscataqua River, Kennebec River (below Lockwood Dam in Kennebec and Brunswick Dam in Androscoggin) system (including the Androscoggin and Sheepscot Rivers), and Penobscot River (below Venzie Dam). They have also been documented occasionally in some of the other rivers along the Maine coastline including the Saco, St. George, Damariscotta, Medomak, and Passagasawakeag Rivers, which may be a result of increased coastal movements between the larger rivers in Maine and Massachusetts.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/sturgeon/

Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*)

Year listed: 2012 (Effective April 6, 2012)

Status: Five Distinct Population Segments (DPSs) designated along the U.S. East Coast. The Gulf of Maine population is listed as threatened while the New York Bight, Chesapeake Bay, Carolina, and South Atlantic populations are listed as endangered.

General distribution: Atlantic sturgeon belonging to each of the five DPSs occur in marine and estuarine habitat, including freshwater reaches of large rivers with access to the sea, from Hamilton Inlet, Labrador, Canada to Cape Canaveral, Florida, U.S. The range of all five DPSs overlap.

Critical habitat in the NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/atlsturgeon/ and <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/sturgeon.htm>

MARINE MAMMALS

Blue Whale (*Balaenoptera musculus musculus*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General distribution: The distribution of the blue whale in the western North Atlantic generally extends from the Arctic to at least mid-latitude waters. The blue whale is best considered as an occasional visitor in U.S. Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters, which may represent the current southern limit of its feeding range (CETAP 1982; Wenzel et al. 1988). The actual southern limit of the species' range is unknown.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/bluewhale.htm> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2010whbl-wn.pdf>

Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera physalus*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General distribution: Fin whales are common in waters of the U. S. Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), principally from Cape Hatteras northward. Fin whales are migratory, moving seasonally into and out of high-latitude feeding areas, but the overall migration pattern is complex, and specific routes have not been documented. However, acoustic recordings from passive-listening hydrophone arrays indicate that a southward "flow pattern" occurs in the fall from the Labrador-Newfoundland region, past Bermuda, and into the West Indies (Clark 1995).

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/finwhale.htm> and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2011_atlantic_draft.pdf

Humpback Whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General distribution: In the western North Atlantic, humpback whales feed during spring, summer, and fall over a geographic range encompassing the eastern coast of the United States (including the Gulf of Maine), the Gulf of St. Lawrence, Newfoundland/Labrador, and western Greenland. During winter, whales from most North Atlantic feeding areas (including the Gulf of Maine) mate and calve in the West Indies. Not all whales migrate to the West Indies every winter, and significant numbers of animals are found in the mid- and high-latitudes during this time.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/humpbackwhale.htm> and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2011_atlantic_draft.pdf

North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

Year listed: 1970; Listed as two separate, endangered species in 2008 - the North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*) and North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*)

Status: Endangered

General distribution: Population ranges primarily from calving grounds in coastal waters of the southeastern United States to feeding grounds in New England waters and the Canadian Bay of Fundy, Scotian Shelf, and Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Critical habitat in NER: Great South Channel, east of Cape Cod and Cape Cod and Massachusetts Bays; For a map of North Atlantic right whale critical habitat, please visit

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale_northatlantic.htm

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale_northatlantic.htm and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2011_atlantic_draft.pdf

Sei Whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General distribution: The range of the Nova Scotia stock includes the continental shelf waters of the northeastern U.S., and extends northeastward to south of Newfoundland. Indications are that, at least during the feeding season, a major portion of the Nova Scotia sei whale stock is centered in northerly waters, perhaps on the Scotian Shelf (Mitchell and Chapman 1977). The southern portion of the species' range during spring and summer includes the northern portions of the U.S. Atlantic Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) — the Gulf of Maine and Georges Bank. Spring is the period of greatest abundance in U.S. waters, with sightings concentrated along the eastern margin of Georges Bank and into the Northeast Channel area, and along the southwestern edge of Georges Bank in the area of Hydrographer Canyon (CETAP 1982).

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/seiwhale.htm> and http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2011_atlantic_draft.pdf

Sperm Whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General distribution: Sperm whales feed on larger organisms that inhabit the deeper ocean regions (Whitehead 2002). Calving for the species occurs in low latitude waters. The distribution of the sperm whale in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) occurs primarily on the continental shelf edge, over the continental slope, and into mid-ocean regions.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/spermwhale.htm> and <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/pdfs/sars/ao2007whsp-n.pdf>

SEA TURTLES

While sea turtles occur year-round off the southeastern United States, they are generally present in marine and estuarine waters of the NER from May through November. As water temperatures warm in the spring, sea turtles begin to migrate to nearshore waters and up the U.S. Atlantic coast, occurring in Virginia as early as April/May and in the Gulf of Maine in June. The trend is reversed in the fall with some animals remaining in the NER until late fall. Nesting is extremely limited in the NER. Typically, juveniles and, to a lesser extent, adults are present in the NER. Sea turtles are listed jointly with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For additional distribution information, select references, and other relevant information, please visit

http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/seaturtles/ and http://www.nero.noaa.gov/prot_res/seaturtles/literature.html

Green Sea Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Year listed: 1978

Status: Breeding populations of green sea turtles in Florida and on the Pacific coast of Mexico are listed as endangered; all other populations are listed as threatened.

General Distribution: The green sea turtle is globally distributed. In the U.S. Atlantic, green turtles are occasionally found as far north as New England, but are more commonly seen from New York south. They occur seasonally in NER waters, including but not limited to the Chesapeake Bay and Long Island Sound, which serve as foraging and developmental habitats.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: See links to additional sea turtle information above.

Hawksbill Turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General Distribution: Hawksbill turtles are circumtropical. In the U.S. Atlantic, they are found primarily in Florida and Texas, though they have been recorded along the east coast as far north as Massachusetts. Hawksbills are rare visitors to the waters of the NER.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: See links to additional sea turtle information above.

Kemp's Ridley Turtle (*Lepidochelys kempi*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General Distribution: Kemp's ridleys typically occur only in the Gulf of Mexico and the northwestern Atlantic. In the U.S. Atlantic, they are found as far north as New England seasonally. Foraging areas in the NER include, but are not limited to, Chesapeake Bay, Delaware Bay, Cape Cod Bay, and Long Island Sound.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: See links to additional sea turtle information above.

Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)

Year listed: 1970

Status: Endangered

General Distribution: Leatherback sea turtles are globally distributed. They range farther than any other sea turtle species. Although frequently thought of as an oceanic species, they are also known to use coastal waters of the U.S. continental shelf. Juveniles and adults are present in the NER seasonally and are distributed as far north as Canada.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: See links to additional sea turtle information above.

Loggerhead Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Year listed: 1978; Nine Distinct Population Segments designated in 2011

Status: The Northwest and South Atlantic Ocean, Southeast Indo-Pacific Ocean, and Southwest Indian Ocean populations are listed as threatened. The Northeast Atlantic, Mediterranean Sea, North Indian Ocean, and North and South Pacific Ocean populations are listed as endangered. Only the NWA DPS is present in the NER.

General Distribution: Loggerheads, the most abundant species of sea turtle in U.S. waters, have a temperate and subtropical distribution, including offshore waters, continental shelves, bays, estuaries, and lagoons. In the U.S. Atlantic, their range extends north to southern Canada. They most commonly occur throughout the inner continental shelf from Florida to Cape Cod, MA. As with other sea turtle species, their presence in the NER varies seasonally.

Critical habitat in NER: None

Additional Information: See links to additional sea turtle information above.

REFERENCES CITED

- CETAP 1982. A characterization of marine mammals and turtles in the mid- and North Atlantic areas of the U.S. outer continental shelf, final report, Cetacean and Turtle Assessment Program, University of Rhode Island. Bureau of Land Management, Washington, DC. #AA551-CT8-48 576 pp.
- Clark, C.W. 1995. Application of U.S. Navy underwater hydrophone arrays for scientific research on whales. Rep. Int. Whal. Comm. 45: 210-212.
- Mitchell, E. and D.G. Chapman 1977. Preliminary assessment of stocks of northwest Atlantic sei whales (*Balaenoptera borealis*). Rep. Int. Whal. Comm. (Special Issue) 1: 117-120.
- Wenzel, F., D. K. Mattila and P. J. Clapham 1988. *Balaenoptera musculus* in the Gulf of Maine. Mar. Mamm. Sci. 4(2): 172-175.
- Whitehead, H. 2002. Estimates of the current global population size and historical trajectory for sperm whales. Mar. Ecol. Prog. Ser. 242: 295-304.