

# Protected Species Facts

- 165 stocks of marine mammals are under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction. This includes all whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and sea lions.
- 52 species under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction are domestically listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including:
  - 30 fish species
  - 13 marine mammal species
  - Seven sea turtle species
  - Two plants and mollusks.
- Recovery plans are in place for 17 of these 52 ESA-listed species.



## Protected Species Successes



- Kemp's ridley turtle populations are increasing approximately 10 percent annually. This increase is largely due to the protection of nesting beaches by Mexico and the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in shrimp fisheries in the United States and Mexico.
- Fishery-related mortality of sea turtles and marine mammals has been reduced through development and use of improved fishing gear, including TEDs, in shrimp fisheries and circle hooks in longline fisheries.
- 16 of the 26 listed Pacific salmon populations have shown improvement since 2000, with current levels well above 10-year averages.

## Status of Our Critically Endangered Species

- Right whales are the most endangered marine mammals, with fewer than 350 individuals in the North Atlantic and fewer than 100 individuals in the North Pacific.
- Pacific leatherback sea turtles are the most endangered marine turtles, and this species may go extinct in the next two decades. The Malaysian population, once in the thousands, has already gone extinct.
- Gulf of Maine Atlantic salmon are critically endangered, with well under 100 wild spawners annually.
- Shortnose sturgeon in the Southeast number only a few hundred and are declining.



- The range of smalltooth sawfish has contracted by 95% from historic levels.
- Experts have concluded that white abalone may go extinct in the next 10 years unless dramatic efforts are made to ensure their survival.
- Snake River sockeye salmon are critically endangered, with an average of less than 20 wild spawners annually.