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Petition to List 81 Marine Species under the ESA

Background

On July 15, 2013, NMFS received a [petition from WildEarth Guardians](#) [pdf] to list 81 species as threatened or endangered and designate critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act.

The 81 petitioned species includes

- [corals](#)
- [hagfishes](#)
- [sea snakes](#)
- [sharks](#)
- [marine mammals](#)
- [skates & rays](#)
- [bony fishes](#)

NMFS will respond to the petition with 90-day findings and, if warranted, 12-month findings in separate *Federal Register* notices organized by taxa of animals in the petition. We will post information on each finding and associated materials below as they become available.

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23 Corals

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 23 coral species](#) on October 25, 2013.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 20 species:

- *Acropora roseni*
- *Acropora suharsonoi*
- *Alveopora excelsa*
- *Alveopora minuta*
- *Ctenella chagius*
- *Hydnophora bonsai*
- *Isopora togianensis*
- *Lithophyllon ranjithi*
- *Lobophyllia serratus*
- *Millepora boschmai*
- *Millepora striata*
- *Montipora setosa*
- *Parasimplastrea sheppardi*
- *Pectinia maxima*
- *Pocillopora fungiformis*
- *Porites desilveri*
- *Porites eridani*
- *Porites ornata*
- *Rhizopsammia wellingtoni*
- *Stylophora madagascarensis*

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 3 species:

- [Cantharellus noumeae](#)
- [Siderastrea glynni](#)
- [Tubastraea floreana](#)

These three species are thus now considered [candidate species](#). Status reviews will be initiated for these three species. To ensure that the status reviews are comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to these petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90-day finding \(78 FR 63941\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

NOTE: Information on the [2009 petition to list 83 corals under the ESA](#) is also available on our website.

3 Hagfishes

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 3 hagfish species](#) on November 6, 2013.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned

action may be warranted for the 3 species:

- *Eptatretus octatremata*
- *Myxine paucidens*
- *Paramyxine taiwanae*
- [90-day finding \(78 FR 66675\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

3 Sea Snakes

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 3 sea snake species](#) on November 6, 2013.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 2 species:

- *Aipysurus apraefrontalis*
- *Aipysurus foliosquama*

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 1 species:

- [Aipysurus fuscus](#)

This species is thus now considered **candidate species**. A status review will be initiated for this sea snake species. To ensure that the status review is comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to this petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90-day finding \(78 FR 66675\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

22 Sharks

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 19 species and 3 subpopulations of sharks](#) on November 19, 2013.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 10 species and 3 subpopulations:

- *Carcharhinus borneensis*
- *Carcharhinus hemiodon*
- *Carcharias taurus* (Southwest Atlantic subpopulation)
- *Cetorhinus maximus* (North Pacific subpopulation)
- *Cetorhinus maximus* (Northeast Atlantic subpopulation)
- *Haploblepharus kistnasamyi*
- *Hemirhamphys leucoperiptera*
- *Holohalaelurus favus*
- *Holohalaelurus punctatus*
- *Lamiopsis temmincki*
- *Squatina Formosa*
- *Squatina punctata*
- *Triakis acutipinna*

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 9 species:

- [Dumb gulper](#)
(*Centrophorus harrissoni*)
- [Daggernose](#)
(*Isogomphodon oxyrinchus*)
- [Striped smooth-hound](#)
(*Mustelus fasciatus*)
- [Narrownose smooth-hound](#)
(*Mustelus schmitti*)
- [Sawback angelshark](#)
(*Squatina aculeata*)
- [Argentine angelshark](#)
(*Squatina argentina*)
- [Angular angel shark](#)
(*Squatina guggenheim*)
- [Smoothback angelshark](#)
(*Squatina oculata*)
- [Angelshark](#)
(*Squatina squatina*)

These nine species are thus now considered **candidate species**. Status reviews will be initiated for these nine species. To ensure that the status reviews are comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to these petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90-day finding \(78 FR 69376\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

5 Marine Mammals

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 5 marine mammals](#) on February 21, 2014.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 1 species:

- Galápagos fur seal (*Arctocephalus galapagoensis*)

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 1 species and 3 subpopulations:

- **Hector's dolphin**
(*Cephalorhynchus hectori*)
- **harbor porpoise (Baltic Sea subpopulation)**
(*Phocoena phocoena*)
- **Indo-Pacific humpback dolphin (Eastern Taiwan Strait subpopulation)**
(*Sousa chinensis*)
- **common bottlenose dolphin (Fiordland subpopulation)**
(*Tursiops truncatus*)

These four entities are thus now considered **candidate species**. Status reviews will be initiated for these marine mammal subpopulations and species. To ensure that the status reviews are comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to these petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90 day finding \(79 FR 9880\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

10 Skates & Rays

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 10 species of skates and rays](#) on February 24, 2014.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 5 species:

- *Dasyatis margarita*
- *Electrolux addisoni*
- *Okamejei pita*
- *Pastinachus solocistrostria*
- *Trygonorrhina melaleuca*

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 5 species:

- **Guitarfish**
(*Rhinobatos rhinobatos*)
- **Blackchin guitarfish**
(*Rhinobatos cemiculus*)
- **Brazilian guitarfish**
(*Rhinobatos horkelii*)
- **Undulate ray**
(*Raja undulata*)
- **Greytail skate**
(*Bathyraja griseocauda*)

These five species are thus now considered **candidate species**. Status reviews will be initiated for these skate and ray species. To ensure that the status reviews are comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to these petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90 day finding \(79 FR 10104\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

15 Bony Fishes

NMFS published a [90-day finding on the portion of the petition related to 10 bony fishes](#) on February 24, 2014.

The finding determined that the petition does **not** present substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 10 species:

- *Argyrosomus hololepidotus*
- *Azurina eupalama*
- *Chaetodontoplus vanderloosi*
- *Colpichthys hubbsi*
- *Enneapterygius namarrgon*
- *Halichoeres socialis*
- *Paraclinus magdalenae*
- *Paraclinus walkeri*
- *Paralabrax albomaculatus*
- *Tomiodon abuelorum*

NMFS found that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted for 5 species:

- **Banggai cardinalfish**
(*Pteropogon kauderni*)
- **Coelacanth**
(*Latimeria chalumnae*)
- **Comb grouper**
(*Mycteroperca fusca*)
- **Gulf grouper**
(*Mycteroperca jordani*)
- **Greenback parrotfish**
(*Scarus trispinosus*)

These five species are thus now considered **candidate species**. Status reviews will be initiated for these bony fishes. To ensure that the status reviews are comprehensive, we are soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to these petitioned species from any interested party:

- [90 day finding \(79 FR 10104\)](#)
- [References cited in the 90-day finding](#)

Updated: April 28, 2014

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