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Endangered and Threatened Marine Species

Overview

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)** share responsibility for implementing the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)**.

There are **approximately 2,050 species listed** under the ESA. Of these species, approximately 1,430 are found in part or entirely in the U.S. and its waters; the remainder are foreign species.

Generally, USFWS manages land and freshwater species, while NMFS manages marine and **"anadromous"** species. NMFS has jurisdiction over 94 listed species (see links below).

The ESA requires NMFS to designate **critical habitat** and to develop and implement **recovery plans** for threatened and endangered species.

For more information on the ESA, see our **ESA Fact Sheet** [pdf] and the special edition of the Fish and Wildlife Service's **Endangered Species Bulletin Highlights Marine and Anadromous Species** [pdf].

Endangered and Threatened Marine Species

- **Overview/ How Does the ESA Define "Species"?**
- **Marine Mammals**
- **Marine Turtles**
- **Marine & Anadromous Fish**
- **Marine Invertebrates & Plants**
- **Candidate and Proposed Marine Species for Listing**
- **Delisted Marine Species**
- **All Endangered and Threatened Marine Species** [pdf]
- **Species Petitioned for Listing under the ESA**

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ESA Fact Sheet

How Does the ESA Define "Species"?

The term "species" under the ESA includes species, subspecies, and, for vertebrates only, **"distinct population segments (DPSs)"**. Pacific salmon are listed as **"evolutionarily significant units (ESUs)"**, which are essentially equivalent to DPSs for the purpose of the ESA.

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