



SPECIES OF CONCERN

PROACTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to the stewardship of living marine resources through science-based conservation and management, and the promotion of healthy ecosystems.



Juvenile Speckled hind: Identified as a Species of Concern in 1997. Factors of Decline are: recreational and commercail fishing and bycatch.

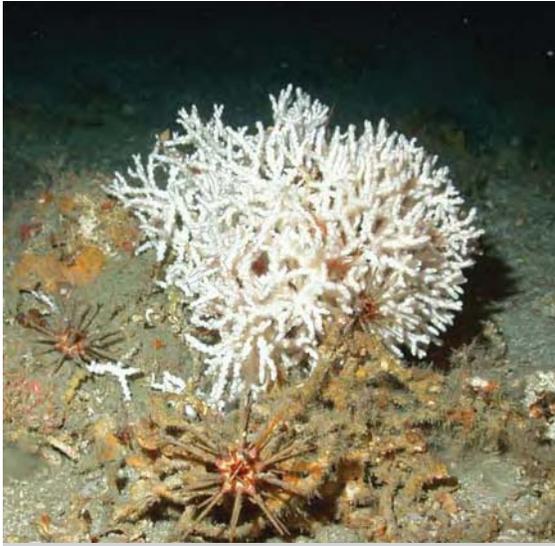
WHAT IS A SPECIES OF CONCERN

A “Species of Concern” is a species or vertebrate population for which there is concern or great uncertainty about its status. Species of Concern are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and are not protected by the ESA. NMFS believes it is important to highlight species that could benefit from proactive conservation efforts. NMFS funds grants to states and management agencies, as well as using internal funding to our science centers and regions, to support projects to conserve Species of Concern.

SPECIES OF CONCERN IN THE SOUTHEAST

Many fascinating Species of Concern occur in our oceans and estuaries in the Southeast United States (Texas through North Carolina). Currently, there are thirteen species on the Species of Concern list in the Southeast:

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|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Alabama Shad | Alewife Herring | Blueback Herring |
| Dusky Shark | Sand Tiger Shark | Key Silverside |
| Speckled Hind | Nassau Grouper | Warsaw Grouper |
| Opossum Pipefish | Mangrove Rivulus | Striped Croaker |
| Ivory Tree Coral | | |



Ivory Tree Coral: Identified as a Species of Concern in 1991. Factors of Decline are: habitat destruction, sedimentation, disease, and environmental variability.

The Species of Concern List

- Identifies those species potentially at risk
- Increases public awareness about those species
- Identifies data deficiencies and uncertainties in species' status and threats
- Stimulates cooperative research efforts with regional co-managers and interest groups to obtain the information necessary to evaluate species status and threats
- Identifies conservation opportunities and foster voluntary conservation efforts before ESA listing becomes warranted.

FACTORS USED TO IDENTIFY SPECIES OF CONCERN

NMFS' considers demographic and genetic diversity concerns in addition to or in concert with information regarding threats to a species, as further elaborated by the following factors:

Abundance and Productivity

- the magnitude of decline
- natural rarity

Distribution

- population connectivity
- limited geographic range
- endemism

Life-History Characteristics

- vulnerable life-history strategies
- resilience to environmental variability and catastrophes
- loss of unique life-history traits

Threats

- Extraction and harvest
- Habitat degradation/loss
- Disease and predation
- Other natural or man-made factors

SPECIES OF CONCERN GRANT PROGRAMS

The National Marine Fisheries Service funds conservation efforts for Species of Concern through two mechanisms: 1) the Proactive Conservation Grant Program funds states and other non-federal management entities for on the ground conservation efforts, and 2) the annual Internal Grant Program is only opened to NMFS Regions and Science Centers to conduct research, education/outreach activities, and implement conservation measures.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE SOC PROGRAM OR FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit the Species of Concern website at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/SOC.htm> or contact Calusa Horn at 727-824-5312, Calusa.Horn@noaa.gov



Opossum pipefish: Identified as a Species of Concern in 1991. Factors of Decline are: habitat destruction, water control structures, degraded water quality, and disease. To learn more please visit our website.