

Species of Concern Southeast Region

In the southeastern United States, many fascinating Species of Concern occur in our oceans and estuaries.

Fish Species

Alabama Shad (*Alosa alabamae*)

Alewife Herring (*Alosa aestivalis*)

Blueback Herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus*)

Dusky Shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*)

Key Silverside (*Menidia conchorum*)

Mangrove Rivulus (*Rivulus manmoratus*)

Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*)

Opossum Pipefish (*Microphis brachyurus lineatus*)

Sand Tiger Shark (*Carcharias taurus*)

Speckled Hind (*Epinephelus drummondhayi*)

Striped Croaker (*Bairdiella sanctaeluciae*)

Warsaw Grouper (*Epinephelus nigritus*)

Invertebrate Species

Ivory Tree Coral (*Oculina varicosa*)

NOAA Fisheries Service
conserves, protects, and manages
living marine resources

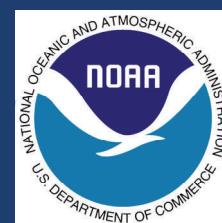
The Protected Resources Division is responsible for the conservation, management, and protection of marine mammals, endangered and threatened species, and Species of Concern occurring in waters of the southeastern United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For more information on the Species of Concern Program Please Visit:

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/SOC.htm>

Or contact the Southeast Region's Species of Concern Coordinator at

727-824-5312 or by e-mail at
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Science, Service, Stewardship

SPECIES OF CONCERN PROACTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM



Ivory Tree Coral. NOAA



Nassau grouper. NOAA

NOAA
FISHERIES
SERVICE



Sand tiger shark © Paula Whitfield



U.S Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

WHAT IS A SPECIES OF CONCERN?



Mangrove Ruvulus © Florida Medical Entomology Lab

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.



Alewife © Jim Nagus, TN Wildlife Resources



Blueback herring © Jim Nagus, TN Wildlife Resources

FACTORS USED TO IDENTIFY A 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: Magnitude of decline, natural Rarity

Distribution: Population connectivity, limited geographic range, endemism

Life History Characteristics: Vulnerable life history strategies (e.g., low fecundity, late maturity, slow growth), resilience to environmental variability and catastrophes, loss of unique life-history traits/

Threats: Extraction and harvest, habitat degradation or loss, disease, predation, and other natural or man-made factors.



Opossum Pipefish. NOAA



Speckled hind: USGS

THE SPECIES OF CONCERN LIST

- Identifies those species potentially at risk
- Increases public 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



The **Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program** supports voluntary conservation efforts designed to conserve marine and anadromous species. Through this grant program, NMFS provides Federal assistance to state, tribal and local governments, in the form of grants or cooperative agreements, to support conservation efforts.

The **Internal Grant Program** is open to NOAA biologists as Principal Investigators on projects implementing research or conservation measures to improve the status of Species of Concern.