



## Southeast Region



### Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitats under the Jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries Service

#### Florida-Gulf

Listed Species	Scientific Name	Status	Date Listed
<b>Marine Mammals</b>			
blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
finback whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
<b>Turtles</b>			
green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened <sup>1</sup>	07/28/78
hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened <sup>2</sup>	09/22/11
<b>Fish</b>			
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Threatened	09/30/91
smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Endangered	04/01/03
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
elkhorn coral	<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Threatened	5/9/06
staghorn coral	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Threatened	5/9/06

<sup>1</sup> Green turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations of green turtles in Florida and on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

<sup>2</sup> Northwest Atlantic Ocean (NWA) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) was listed as threatened. NMFS and USFWS issued a final rule changing the listing of loggerhead sea turtles from a single, threatened species to nine DPSs listed as either threatened or endangered in 2012 ([76 FR 58868](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2012/07/27/76-FR-58868)).



## Florida-Gulf

---

---

### Designated Critical Habitat

Final rules, critical habitat maps, and corresponding GIS data can be found at:

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

**Gulf sturgeon:** A final rule designating Gulf sturgeon critical habitat was published on March 19, 2003 (68 FR 13370). NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jointly designated 14 geographic areas (units) that include freshwater rivers and tributaries, as well as marine and estuarine environments. The critical habitat units encompass approximately 1,730 river miles and 2,333 square miles of estuarine and marine habitat.

**Elkhorn and Staghorn corals:** All waters in the depths of 98 ft (30 m) and shallower to the mean low water line surrounding the Dry Tortugas, Florida. Within these specific areas, the essential feature consists of natural consolidated hard substrate or dead coral skeleton that are free from fleshy or turf macroalgae cover and sediment cover.

**Smalltooth sawfish:** A final rule designating smalltooth sawfish critical habitat was published on September 2, 2009 (74 FR 45353). Critical habitat consists of two coastal habitat units: the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Unit and the Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades Unit.

<b>Candidate Species:</b>
NMFS maintains a list of species that are undergoing an ESA status review that NMFS has announced in a Federal Register Notice. They are called “candidate” species as they are being considered for listing under the ESA, but are not yet subject to a proposed listing rule. To view the candidate species list, please visit: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/other.htm">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/other.htm</a>
<b>Species of Concern:</b>
NMFS maintains a list of species for which there are concerns regarding their status and threats. Federal agencies and the public are encouraged to consider these species during project planning. To view the Species of Concern list and receive more information please visit: <a href="http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/SOC.htm">http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/SOC.htm</a>