



Southeast Region

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



Listed Species	Scientific Name	Status	Date Listed
Marine Mammals			
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
North Atlantic right whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</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
Turtles			
green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened ¹	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 ²	09/22/11
Fish			
Atlantic sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus</i>	Endangered ³	02/06/12
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Threatened	09/30/91
shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	03/11/67
smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Endangered	04/01/03
Invertebrates			
elkhorn coral	<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Threatened	5/9/06
staghorn coral	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Threatened	5/9/06
Seagrasses			
Johnson's seagrass	<i>Halophila johnsonii</i>	Threatened	09/14/98

¹ 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.

² 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](#)).

³ NMFS listed two Atlantic sturgeon DPSs that spawn in the southeast (the Carolina and the South Atlantic) ([77 FR 5919](#)). There are an additional three Atlantic sturgeon DPSs in the northeast that spawn in the northeast (the Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, and Chesapeake) ([77 FR 5880](#)). Depending on the project area, a combination of DPSs may be present, particularly in marine waters. Please see Federal Register Notices for additional information.



Southeast Region

Designated Critical Habitat

Final rules, critical habitat maps, and corresponding GIS data can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/GISDataandMaps.htm>



Green sea turtle: The waters extending seaward 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) from the mean high water line of Culebra Island, Puerto Rico.

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.

Hawksbill sea turtle: The waters extending seaward 3 nautical miles (5.6 km) from the mean high water line of Mona and Monito Islands, Puerto Rico.

Leatherback sea turtle: The waters adjacent to Sandy Point, U.S. Virgin Islands, up to and inclusive of the waters from the hundred fathom curve shoreward to the level of mean high tide with boundaries at 17°42'12"N and 64°50'00"W.

Johnson's seagrass: A final rule designating Johnson's seagrass critical habitat was published on April 5, 2000 (65 FR 17786), and 10 geographic areas (units) within the range of the species were identified along the east coast of Florida.

North Atlantic right whale: Between 31°15'N (approximately the mouth of the Altamaha River, Georgia) and 30°15'N (approximately Jacksonville, Florida) from the coast out to 15 nautical miles offshore; the coastal waters between 30°15'N and 28°00'N (approximately Sebastian Inlet, Florida) from the coast out to 5 nautical miles.

Elkhorn and Staghorn corals: All waters in the depths of 98 ft (30 m) and shallower to: (1) the 6 ft (1.8 m) contour from Boynton Inlet, Palm Beach County, to Government Cut, Miami-Dade County; and the mean low water (MLW) line from Government Cut south to 82° W longitude in Monroe County; and the MLW line surrounding the Dry Tortugas, Florida; (2) the MLW line in Puerto Rico and associated Islands; (3) the MLW line in St. John/St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.; and (4) the MLW line in St. Croix, U.S.V.I. 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.



Southeast Region



Candidate Species:

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: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/esa/other.htm>

Species of Concern:

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