



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



Gulf of Mexico

| 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 novaengliae</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 | 07/28/78 |
| Fish | | | |
| Gulf sturgeon | <i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i> | Threatened | 09/30/91 |
| smalltooth sawfish | <i>Pristis pectinata</i> | Endangered | 04/01/03 |

Designated Critical Habitat

Gulf Sturgeon: A final rule designating Gulf sturgeon critical habitat was published on March 19, 2003 (68 FR 13370) and 14 geographic areas (units) among the Gulf of Mexico rivers and tributaries were identified. Maps and details regarding the final rule can be found at alabama.fws.gov/gs

Species Proposed for Listing

None

Proposed Critical Habitat

None

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



Gulf of Mexico

| Candidate Species ² | Scientific Name |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Invertebrates | |
| elkhorn coral | <i>Acropora palmata</i> |
| staghorn coral | <i>Acropora cervicornis</i> |
| fused-staghorn coral | <i>Acropora prolifera</i> |

| Species of Concern ³ | Scientific Name |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fish | |
| Alabama shad | <i>Alosa alabamae</i> |
| dusky shark | <i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i> |
| goliath grouper | <i>Epinephelus itajara</i> |
| largetooth sawfish | <i>Pristis pristis</i> |
| night shark | <i>Carcharhinus signatus</i> |
| saltmarsh topminnow | <i>Fundulus jenkinsi</i> |
| sand tiger shark | <i>Odontaspis taurus</i> |
| speckled hind | <i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i> |
| Warsaw grouper | <i>Epinephelus nigritus</i> |
| white marlin | <i>Tetrapturus albidus</i> |
| Invertebrates | |
| ivory bush coral | <i>Oculina varicosa</i> |

² The Candidate Species List has been renamed the Species of Concern List. The term “candidate species” is limited to species that are the subject of a petition to list and for which NOAA Fisheries has determined that listing may be warranted (69 FR 19975).

³ Species of Concern are not protected under the Endangered Species Act, but concerns about their status indicate that they may warrant listing in the future. Federal agencies and the public are encouraged to consider these species during project planning so that future listings may be avoided.