

Office of Protected Resources

NOAA Fisheries -- Managing Marine Ecosystems

Permits, Conservation and
Education Division

Marine Mammal & Sea Turtle
Conservation Division

Endangered Species
Division

Planning & Program
Coordination Division

ENDANGERED SPECIES DIVISION

The Endangered Species Division works to ensure effective and consistent implementation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) through identification, conservation, and recovery of threatened and endangered marine and anadromous species. The Division also engages in proactive conservation efforts through the Species of Concern Program.

Programs and Activities

ESA listing: The Division provides national leadership on all ESA listing decisions, including development of rules for listing species under the ESA, protective regulations, and critical habitat designations. It ensures national consistency by reviewing listing decisions and developing policy and guidance for the listing program.



and recovery.

Recovery: The Division provides national leadership on recovery planning and implementation. Recovery implementation is critical to rebuilding species' abundance and controlling threats to the species. The Division, in conjunction with Regional Offices, uses the flexibility of the ESA to develop and implement actions outlined in recovery plans, promulgate rules to conserve species (such as requiring specific fishery gear and closures), provide grants to states, and develop conservation plans to accompany permits for non-Federal actions that might affect a listed species. The Division works with the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Conservation Division to conduct 5-year reviews on all listed species.

Species of Concern Program: The Division proactively identifies and supports conservation of species with serious threats or declining populations through grants to state, territory and tribal management partners, outreach and education efforts, and collaboration with other stakeholders.

Division Goals

Recover ESA listed species to a point at which listing is no longer necessary

- Protect species by ensuring high quality and transparent listing decisions
- Provide consistent and transparent consultation services to Federal agencies
- Proactively ensure that NOAA trust species are thriving at sustainable levels

Recent Accomplishments

- Engaged with state and local governments and other stakeholders on developing and implementing recovery plans for all Pacific salmon, and also had active recovery teams for the Hawaiian monk seal, Acropora corals, and Kemp's ridley and loggerhead turtles. Completed new final recovery plans for the white abalone (10/08), smalltooth sawfish (1/09), loggerhead turtle (1/09), and Lake Ozette sockeye salmon (5/09), and completed draft plans for numerous Pacific salmon.
- Designated the Cook Inlet population of beluga whales in Alaska as endangered and completed a comprehensive recovery plan. The listing enables NOAA to consult with federal agencies that conduct activities which may affect the whales. The recovery plan lays out research and management strategies to enhance our understanding and protect the animals.
- Conducting a pilot project with FWS to track recovery actions for species through the Recovery Online Action Reporting system.
- Since 2003, awarded a cumulative total of nearly \$6 million in grant funding through the ESA section 6 Cooperation with States Program to assist in conservation of listed and candidate species and implementation of NMFS Recovery Plans.
- Increased the number of state and territory partners involved in the ESA section 6 Cooperation with States Program (from 6 to 22 States and territories) since receiving program funding in 2003.
- Awarded ~\$1.6 M in grants over past two years to improve the status of 12 Species of Concern.

Partners and Constituents

- Native and tribal groups
- Commercial industry
- Nongovernmental organizations
- Academia
- State and local governments
- Federal regulatory agencies



green turtle

Budget

	FY09 Actual
OR&F & PAC	\$ 4,784,662
Reimbursables	-
Total FTEs	20



ringed seal

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