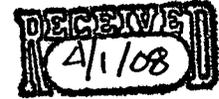




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue, South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 824-5312; FAX 824-5309
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>



MAR 26 2008

F/SER31:AM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Jim Lecky
Director, Office of Protected Resources

FROM: *for* Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.,
Regional Administrator

SUBJECT: Removal of Atlantic White Marlin from the Species of Concern
and Candidate Species List

NMFS placed the Atlantic white marlin on the candidate species list in 2002. In 2004, it became a species of concern (rather than a candidate species) when NMFS created the species of concern list. In 2006, NMFS undertook a new status review, and the Atlantic white marlin became a candidate species for the duration of the review process.

In December 2007, the status review was completed. The status review document included a comprehensive assessment of threats to the white marlin and, coupled with the information from the 2006 ICCAT stock assessment, provided sufficient information to assess the status of the species and make an ESA listing determination. NMFS determined that listing the species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted and published that finding in the Federal Register (73 FR 843; January 4, 2008). Based on the 2007 status review and our listing decision, we conclude that the white marlin no longer meets the criteria for a species of concern. Therefore, I request that the species be removed from both the species of concern and the candidate species list as well as the online Web site.

Attachment

Federal Register Notice 73-843. January 2008. Endangered and Threatened Species; "Not Warranted" Endangered Species Act Listing Determination for the Atlantic White Marlin





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MAY - 7 2008

F/SER31:AM

MEMORANDUM FOR: Angela Somma
Chief, Endangered Species Division

FROM: David Bernhart 
Assistant Regional Administrator, Protected Resources

SUBJECT: Removal of Atlantic White Marlin from the Species of Concern and
Candidate Species List

Per our conference call on April 23, 2008 regarding the removal of the Atlantic white marlin from the Species of Concern and Candidate Species List, we believe that the species meets the criteria for removal set by the *Federal Register Notice* (64 FR 19975) (attached), as represented by the data presented in the 2007 Status Review.

NMFS placed the Atlantic white marlin on the candidate species list in 2002. In 2004, it became a species of concern (rather than a candidate species) when NMFS created the species of concern list. In 2006, NMFS undertook a new status review, and the Atlantic white marlin became a candidate species for the duration of the review process.

In December 2007, the status review was completed. The status review document included a comprehensive assessment of threats to the white marlin and, coupled with the information from the 2006 ICCAT stock assessment, provided sufficient information to assess the status of the species and make an ESA listing determination. NMFS determined that listing the species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act was not warranted and published that finding in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 843; January 4, 2008).

The 2004 notice establishing the species of concern list stated that species may be placed on the species of concern list following a "not warranted" listing decision if significant concern or uncertainties remain regarding their status and/or threats. The 2007 status review presented sufficient information, such that we believe there are no longer significant concerns or uncertainties regarding the status and/or threats to the species. Due to the implementation of ICCAT management restriction on harvest, "the biological review team noted that the absolute population size appears to be increasing (Fig. 13, Table 14), there is no apparent constriction of geographic range (Figs. 16 and 17), and fishing mortality rate has decreased continually since 2002 (Table 16)," (Status Review 2007). The present status review findings contrast strongly with those of 2002, when NMFS elected to place white marlin on the species of concern list.

Please consider this as supplementary information supporting Dr. Crabtree's March 26, 2008, request that the species be removed from both the species of concern and the candidate species list.

