

Status Review for Atlantic White Marlin



**Scoping Meetings
to Gather Additional Information**



**National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office &
Office of Protected Resources**

Status Review for Atlantic White Marlin

- **Petition to list White Marlin under the Endangered Species Act – Background**
- **The ESA listing process**
- **If listed under ESA, then what?**
- **Scoping Meetings – Additional information to consider in the Status Review**

Petition Background

- Received petition from Biodiversity Legal Foundation and Mr. Jim Chambers on September 4, 2001
- Petition cites bycatch in commercial longline fisheries as primary reason for the stock's decline
- Claims that current regulatory mechanisms are inadequate to control overfishing

Evaluating ESA Listing Petitions

Received petition 9/4/01

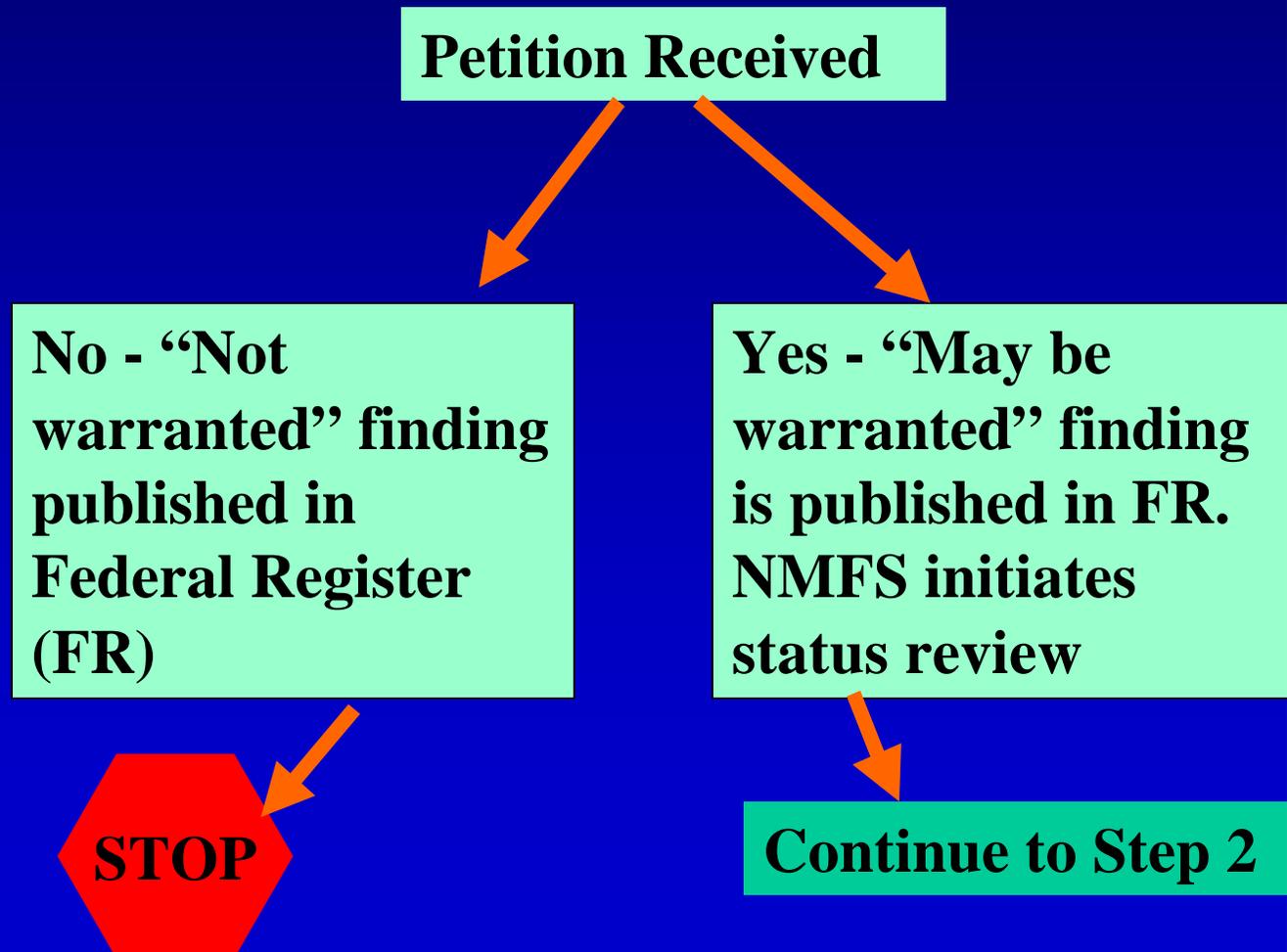
Evaluate Petition in three steps:

1. 90-day finding (published 12/20/01)
2. 12-month finding (due 9/4/02)
3. Final determination (due 9/4/03, if necessary)

Evaluating ESA Listing Petitions

Step 1: 90 day finding

Question: Does the petition present substantial information that ESA listing may be warranted?



Evaluating ESA Listing Petitions

Step 2: 12-Month Determination

Question: Is the species in danger of extinction or likely to become so in the foreseeable future?

Conduct Status Review of Species

Make 12-Month Determination

No - “Not warranted” finding published in FR



Yes - “Warranted” finding and proposed rule to list published in FR. NMFS seeks public comment.

Continue to Step 3

Evaluating ESA Listing Petitions

Step 3: Final Determination

Question: After taking into account any new information (e.g. from public comments), is listing still warranted?

**Final Determination
Published in FR**

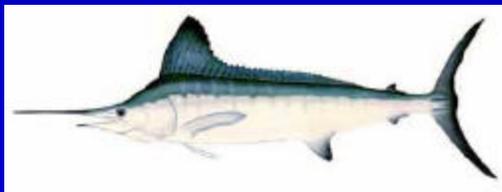
No - “Not warranted” finding published and proposed rule withdrawn

Yes - “Warranted” finding is published and final rule adopted. Species is added to ESA list

STOP

Who Makes the Decision?

- **The Status Review Team compiles all relevant data and issues report**
- *This team does not make decision or recommendation*
- **Recommendation comes from NMFS staff**
- **Director of NMFS makes decision**



Evaluating ESA Listing Factors

The Status Review Team and NMFS staff analyze the species' status relative to the ESA's 5 listing factors:

- 1. Loss of habitat or reduced species range**
- 2. Overutilization (including overfishing)**
- 3. Disease or Predation**
- 4. Inadequate Regulatory Mechanisms**
- 5. Other Factors**

Evaluating ESA Listing Factors

These factors have been identified, by the petitioners, for Atlantic white marlin:

1. Loss of habitat or reduced species range
2. Overutilization
3. Disease or Predation
4. Inadequate Regulatory Mechanisms
5. Other Factors

Evaluating ESA Listing Factors

Determinations are made based solely on the basis of the best scientific and commercial data available after conducting a review of the status of the species, and

After taking into account those efforts being made to protect such species

How NMFS Evaluates Regulatory Mechanisms

NMFS has a draft Policy on Evaluation of Conservation Efforts (PECE) that outlines how we will consider conservation efforts in ESA listing determinations. Two key points are considered:

The certainty that the plan will be:

- 1. Implemented**
- 2. Effective**

What Happens if Listed?

If listed as threatened or endangered, catching white marlin would be illegal.

This protection would be automatic for “endangered” listing. NMFS would publish special rule if “threatened.”

Exceptions:

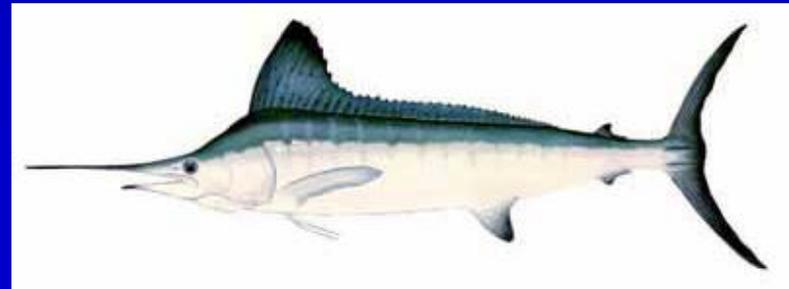
- 1. Catch for research or enhancement, with permits**
- 2. Some incidental catch may be authorized through ESA consultation**
- 3. Special rules have sometimes authorized incidental take under certain conditions**

Purpose of Today's Meeting

- **The white marlin status review is currently underway**
- **NMFS is conducting 11 scoping meetings to maximize public input and ensure that the best available information is used for the status review**
- **Commenters are asked to provide additional data and comments on the status of Atlantic white marlin and on the applicability of the 5 ESA listing factors**
- **Input from the scoping meetings will be given to the status review team and NMFS staff**

Additional Scoping Meetings

- **June 11 – Silver Spring, MD**
- **June 17 – Miami, FL**
- **June 18 – Kenner, LA**
- **June 19 – Panama City Beach, FL**
- **June 20 – Orange Beach, AL**
- **June 24 – Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas**
- **June 24 – Atlantic Beach, NC**
- **June 25 – Manteo, NC**
- **June 27 – Atlantic City, NJ**
- **June 27 – Fairhaven, MA**
- **June 28 – Berlin, MD**



Additional Info and Comments

- Written comments and data can be sent to:

David Bernhart

NMFS, Southeast Region

9721 Executive Center Dr. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33704

- Petition and other documents available:

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/PR3/Fish/fishes.html

Comments Sought

- On the status and biology of White Marlin
- On the degree of threat to White Marlin under any of the ESA listing factors:
 1. Present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range
 2. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes
 3. Disease or predation
 4. Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms
 5. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.