



**NOAA  
FISHERIES**

Southeast Region  
Pacific Islands Region

**corals**

# Update on ESA Listings

February 18, 2015  
Jennifer Moore, Southeast Region  
Lance Smith, Pacific Islands Region

# Final Listing Rule Results, September 2014



- 20 reef-building coral species listed at threatened, none endangered.
  - 15 species in the Indo-Pacific.
  - 5 in the Caribbean.
  - None in the Hawaiian Islands
- Caribbean elkhorn and staghorn corals previously listed in 2006 remain listed as threatened.

# Threatened Corals

\* Listed as threatened in 2006

# Currently Known in These U.S. Geographic Areas

Caribbean Waters	Florida - Atlantic	Puerto Rico	U.S. Virgin Islands	Gulf of Mexico
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i> (Staghorn)*	X	X	X	
<i>Acropora palmata</i> (Elkhorn)*	X	X	X	X
<i>Mycetophyllia ferox</i>	X	X	X	
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	X	X	X	
<i>Orbicella annularis</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Orbicella faveolata</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Orbicella franksi</i>	X	X	X	X
Pacific Waters	Guam	Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	Pacific Remote Island Areas	American Samoa
<i>Acropora globiceps</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Acropora jacquelineae</i>				X
<i>Acropora lokani</i>				
<i>Acropora pharaonis</i>				
<i>Acropora retusa</i>	X	X	X	X
<i>Acropora rudis</i>				
<i>Acropora speciosa</i>			X	X
<i>Acropora tenella</i>				
<i>Anacropora spinosa</i>				
<i>Euphyllia paradivisa</i>				X
<i>Isopora crateriformis</i>				X
<i>Montipora australiensis</i>				
<i>Pavona diffluens</i>				
<i>Porites napopora</i>				
<i>Seriatopora aculeata</i>	X	X		



# Post Listing (next steps)

- Section 7
- Critical Habitat
- 4(d) protective regulations
- Section 6
- Recovery Planning
- Bridging EFH and ESA



# Section 7 Challenges

- Distributions poorly known
- Identification challenges
- Absence vs. Presence
- Individual species protection versus ecosystem protections
- Global threats

Threatened Corals	Currently Reported from these U.S. Pacific Areas <small>(Subject to change)</small>			
	Guam	Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands	Pacific Remote Island Areas	American Samoa
<i>Acropora globiceps</i>				
<i>Acropora jacquelineae</i>	X			
<i>Acropora lokani</i>			X	X
<i>Acropora pharaonis</i>				X
<i>Acropora retusa</i>				
<i>Acropora rudis</i>	X			
<i>Acropora speciosa</i>		X	X	X
<i>Acropora tenella</i>				
<i>Anacropora spinosa</i>			X	X
<i>Euphyllia paradivisa</i>				
<i>Isopora crateniformis</i>				
<i>Montipora australiensis</i>				X
<i>Pavona diffluens</i>				X
<i>Porites napopora</i>				
<i>Seriatopora aculeata</i>	X	X		

# Critical Habitat

- We are required by the ESA to designate critical habitat for the newly listed coral species.
- CH will be done separately in the two regions because no species occur in both regions, as well as major biological and ecological differences between Caribbean and Indo-Pacific species.
- Analyses to determine essential features underway

## 4(d) Regulations

- Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/ANPR announces that NMFS may proposed protective regulations for newly listed corals under 4(d).
- Seeking information to help us determine what approach to take for coral 4(d).
- NMFS has discretion to determine how 4(d) can be used to help conserve the listed species. There are at least two potential approaches.



# Section 6

## Cooperation with States

- NMFS is authorized to enter into agreements with any State that establishes and maintains an "adequate and active" program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species.
- Once a State enters into such an agreement, NMFS is authorized to assist in, and provide Federal funding for, implementation of the State's conservation program.
- Federal funding, provided in the form of grants, can be used to support management, research, monitoring and outreach projects that have direct conservation benefits for listed species, recently de-listed species, and candidate species that reside within that State.



# Recovery Planning

- Recovery Planning is being initiated with development of recovery outlines
- Discussing scope of plan(s)--geographic (national v. regional) and biological (ecosystem v. species)
- Need to identify recovery team & resources



# Bridging EFH & ESA

- Desire complementary efforts to protect coral reef species & ecosystems, while maximizing resources & expertise (& avoiding duplication)
- NMFS has been conducting consultations with action agencies on effects to coral Essential Fish Habitat/EFH for years
- Examining alternatives for national or regional mitigation strategies under EFH, ESA, and Clean Water Act/CWA



# NOAA's Commitment to Coral Conservation

- Protecting and conserving biologically diverse coral reefs is essential.
- The ESA give us important tools to conserve and recover those corals most in need of protection.
- We are committed to working with partners not just on listed species, but on overall coral health and conservation using all tools available within NOAA (EFH, CWA, etc.)



# Contact Information and Supporting Documents

## NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office

Lance Smith—[lance.smith@noaa.gov](mailto:lance.smith@noaa.gov), 808-725-5131

[http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd\\_coral.html](http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_coral.html)

## NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office

Jennifer Moore—[jennifer.moore@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.moore@noaa.gov), 727-824-5312

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/coral/](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/coral/)

## NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources

Marta Nammack—[marta.nammack@noaa.gov](mailto:marta.nammack@noaa.gov), 301-427-8469

[www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/invertebrates/corals.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/invertebrates/corals.htm)