



NOAA Fisheries
Office of Protected Resources

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Species

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Threatened & Endangered Species

- ▶ Critical Habitat Maps

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Glossary

OPR Site Map

Corals Proposed for Listing under the ESA

Final listing decision on 66 corals and the reclassification of 2 *Acropora* corals expected June 2014

NMFS [extended the final listing decision](#) by 6 months in order to solicit additional data. We will complete our data solicitation efforts by October 2013 and expect to have a final decision in June 2014.

You can find [comments received](#) in the docket folder on regulations.gov.

NOTE: This page pertains to the 2009 petition to list 83 corals under the ESA. Information on the [2013 petition to list 81 marine species \(including 23 coral species\)](#) is also available on our website.

Species Proposed

NOAA Fisheries is proposing Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings for 66 coral species:

- 59 in the Pacific
 - 7 would be listed as endangered
 - 52 would be listed as threatened
- 7 in the Caribbean
 - 5 would be listed as endangered
 - 2 would be listed as threatened

In addition, we are proposing that 2 Caribbean species--elkhorn and staghorn corals--already listed under the ESA be reclassified from threatened to endangered.

Proposed Endangered

Atlantic/ Caribbean

1. *Acropora cervicornis* - Staghorn coral*
2. *Acropora palmata* - Elkhorn coral*
3. *Dendrogyra cylindrus* - Pillar coral
4. *Montastraea annularis* - Boulder star coral
5. *Montastraea faveolata* - Mountainous star coral
6. *Mycetophyllia ferox* - Cactus Coral
7. *Montastraea franksi* - Star coral

* proposed to be reclassified from threatened to endangered

Pacific

8. *Acropora jacquelineae*



[Video: Protecting Coral Reefs](#)

Credit: NOAA, Coral Reef Task Force, and National Park Service

More Information

- » [Results of an update of the Corals of the World Information Base](#) (Veron 2014)
- » [Scientific Research Permit Information for Corals](#)
- » [More on the proposed coral listings](#)
- » [How are species listed under the ESA?](#)
- » [Other species proposed for ESA-listing](#)
- » [Federal Register Notice of Proposed Listings](#) (Dec 2012, 77 FR 73219)
- » [Federal Register Notice of initial 90-day finding on the petition](#) (Feb 2010, 75 FR 6616)

9. *Acropora lokani*
10. *Acropora rudis*
11. *Anacropora spinosa*
12. *Euphyllia paradivisa*
13. *Millepora foveolata*
14. *Pocillopora elegans* (E Pacific)

Proposed Threatened Species

Atlantic

15. *Agaricia lamarcki* - Lamarck's Sheet Coral
16. *Dichocoenia stokesii* - Elliptical Star Coral

Pacific

17. *Acanthastrea brevis*
18. *Acanthastrea hemprichii*
19. *Acanthastrea ishigakiensis*
20. *Acanthastrea regularis*
21. *Acropora aculeus*
22. *Acropora acuminata*
23. *Acropora aspera*
24. *Acropora dendrum*
25. *Acropora donei*
26. *Acropora globiceps*
27. *Acropora horrida*
28. *Acropora listeria*
29. *Acropora microclados*
30. *Acropora palmerae*
31. *Acropora paniculata*
32. *Acropora pharaonis*
33. *Acropora polystoma*
34. *Acropora retusa*
35. *Acropora speciosa*
36. *Acropora striata*
37. *Acropora tenella*
38. *Acropora vaughani*
39. *Acropora verweyi*
40. *Alveopora allingi*
41. *Alveopora fenestrata*
42. *Alveopora verrilliana*
43. *Anacropora puertogalerae*
44. *Astreopora cucullata*
45. *Barabattoia laddi*
46. *Caulastrea echinulata*
47. *Euphyllia cristata*
48. *Euphyllia paraencora*
49. *Isopora crateriformis*
50. *Isopora cuneata*
51. *Millepora tuberosa*
52. *Montipora angulate*
53. *Montipora australiensis*
54. *Montipora calcarea*
55. *Montipora caliculata*
56. *Montipora dilatata/ flabellata/ turgescens*
57. *Montipora lobulata*
58. *Montipora patula/ verrilli*
59. *Pachyseris rugosa*
60. *Pavona diffluens*
61. *Pectinia alvicornis*



Staghorn Coral
(*Acropora cervicornis*)
Photo: NOAA



Elkhorn Coral
(*Acropora palmata*)
Photo: NOAA

62. *Physogyra lichtensteini*
63. *Pocillopora danae*
64. *Pocillopora elegans* (Indo-Pacific)
65. *Porites horizontalata*
66. *Porites napopora*
67. *Porites nigrescens*
68. *Seriatopora aculeate*

Background

In response to a [petition from the Center for Biological Diversity](#) [pdf] to list under the ESA and designate critical habitat for these species, NMFS reviewed the status of 82 species of corals (all petitioned species except for the Large Ivory Coral, *Oculina varicosa*). In April 2012, NMFS completed a [status review report and draft Management Report](#) of the candidate species of corals.

In November 2012, NMFS proposed to list 66 of those petitioned species of corals as threatened or endangered under the ESA.

Petition

The petition asserts that the following threats and other impacts are affecting these corals:

- ocean warming
- ocean acidification
- dredging
- coastal development
- coastal point source pollution
- agricultural and land use practices
- disease
- predation
- reef fishing
- aquarium trade
- physical damage from boats and anchors
- marine debris
- aquatic invasive species

Additional Protections

These corals are also listed in [CITES Appendix II](#).

Updated: February 19, 2014

