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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 24, 2014

NOAA seeks public comment on proposed modification of listing to include 'Lolita' as part of the Southern Resident killer whale distinct population segment

NOAA Fisheries today proposed to amend the current Endangered Species Act listing for Southern Resident killer whales to include a captive killer whale known as "Lolita."

The Southern Resident killer whale distinct population segment was listed as endangered in 2005, and includes killer whales that reside for part of the year in the inland waterways of Washington State and British Columbia, although they may travel offshore between central California and southeast Alaska. Language in the listing decision excluded animals that may have been previously placed in captivity. Lolita was captured in 1970, and currently resides at the Miami Seaquarium in Florida.

In January 2013, NOAA Fisheries received a request from a number of petitioners to include Lolita in the ESA listing of the Southern Resident killer whales. In response to the petition, NOAA Fisheries determined there was substantial information indicating the petition was warranted. NOAA Fisheries requested new information from the public to assist with a status review. NOAA Fisheries' review confirmed that Lolita is from the Southern Resident killer whale population, and is now proposing to include Lolita in the Southern Resident killer whale segment.

NOAA Fisheries is seeking scientific and commercial information pertaining to this proposed rule. Comments must be received prior to March 28, 2014 by any of the methods listed below. Please use the following identification number with comments NOAA-NMFS-2013-0056.

- Electronic Submission: Go to Federal e-Rulemaking Portal - <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=+NOAA-NMFS-2013-0056> and click "Comment Now! Icon.
- Mail: Submit written comments to Protected Resources Division, NMFS, West Coast Region, Protected Resources Division, 7600 Sand Point Way NE., Bldg. 1, Seattle, Washington 98115 Attn: Lynne Barre, Branch Chief
- Fax: (206) 526-6426; Attn: Lynne Barre, Branch Chief

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Federal Register Filed Document:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/marine_mammals/killer_whale/lolita_petition.html