



**NOAA
FISHERIES**
West Coast
Region

NOAA Fisheries' 90-Day Finding on Petition to List Pacific Bluefin Tuna: Frequently Asked Questions

On June 20, 2016, NOAA Fisheries received a petition to list Pacific bluefin tuna (*Thunnus orientalis*) as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. NOAA Fisheries has reviewed the petition and determined that it presents substantial scientific or commercial information that listing may be warranted.

NOAA Fisheries is now announcing the initiation of a comprehensive status review of Pacific bluefin tuna and soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to the status of Pacific bluefin tuna.

What exactly does it mean that this “listing may be warranted?”

NOAA Fisheries has determined that the petitioners presented substantial scientific information to warrant additional review of the species' status. It does not mean that we have already concluded that Pacific bluefin tuna should or will be listed under the Endangered Species Act. Rather, it means that we will proceed to collect and review scientific and commercial information to inform a decision as to whether listing Pacific bluefin tuna is warranted. Our decision as to whether listing is warranted will be due within 12 months of receiving the petition (i.e., June 20, 2017).

What information did NOAA Fisheries consider in deciding whether to conduct a comprehensive review?

In considering the petition to list Pacific bluefin tuna, we evaluated the request based upon the information in the petition and any information readily available in our agency's files. NOAA Fisheries did not conduct additional research or solicit information from parties outside of the agency.

What is the timing of the comprehensive review?

The ESA requires that NOAA Fisheries conclude a status review within 12 months of receiving a listing petition (i.e., by June 20, 2017), and determine whether listing of the species is warranted.





90-Day Filing on Petition to List Pacific Bluefin Tuna Frequently Asked Questions:

What criteria will NOAA Fisheries use to evaluate whether ESA listing is warranted?

Section 4(b)(1)(A) of the ESA requires listing determinations based solely on the best scientific and commercial data available. Following a review of the status of the species and taking into account efforts being made to protect the species, NOAA Fisheries must determine whether a species is threatened or endangered as a result of one or a combination of the following factors:

- (A) the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range;
- (B) overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes;
- (C) disease or predation;
- (D) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms; and/or
- (E) other natural or man-made factors affecting its continued existence.

What are the next steps if NOAA Fisheries determines that ESA listing is warranted for Pacific bluefin tuna?

At the conclusion of our review, if NOAA Fisheries determines that listing is warranted, a proposed rule would be issued and additional public comment would be solicited on the proposed determination. If in the 12-month finding NOAA Fisheries determines that listing is not warranted, the determination would be issued at that time.

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http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/pbt_esa_status_review.html