



Threatened and Endangered Species List—Gulf of America

List of threatened and endangered species, and their critical habitats, under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction in the Gulf of America* (formerly Gulf of Mexico).

Species	Listing Status	Recovery Plan	Critical Habitat
Green sea turtle	Threatened - North Atlantic Distinct Population Segment (81 FR 20057 ; April 6, 2016)	October 1991	Proposed Rule (88 FR 46572 ; July 19, 2023), 63 FR 46693 ; September 2, 1998
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	Endangered (35 FR 18319 ; December 2, 1970)	September 2011	None
Leatherback sea turtle	Endangered (35 FR 8491 ; June 2, 1970)	April 1992	44 FR 17710 ; March 23, 1979
Loggerhead sea turtle	Threatened - Northwest Atlantic Ocean Distinct Population Segment (76 FR 58868 ; September 22, 2011)	December 2008	79 FR 39856 ; July 10, 2014
Hawksbill sea turtle	Endangered (35 FR 8491 ; June 2, 1970)	December 1993	63 FR 46693 ; September 2, 1998
Smalltooth sawfish	U.S. Distinct Population Segment Endangered (68 FR 15674 ; April 1, 2003)	January 2009	72 FR 45353 ; October 2, 2009
Gulf sturgeon	Threatened (56 FR 49653 ; September 30, 1991)	September 1995	68 FR 13370 ; March 19, 2003
Nassau grouper	Threatened (81 FR 42268 ; June 29, 2016)	2018 Recovery Outline	89 FR 126 ; January 2, 2024
Oceanic whitetip shark	Threatened (83 FR 4153 ; January 30, 2018)	2018 Recovery Outline	None

Species	Listing Status	Recovery Plan	Critical Habitat
Giant manta ray	Threatened (83 FR 2916; January 22, 2018)	December 2019	None
Queen conch	Threatened (89 FR 11208; February 14, 2024)	None	None
Elkhorn coral	Threatened (71 FR 26852; May 9, 2006)	March 2015	73 FR 72210; November 26, 2008
Staghorn coral	Threatened (71 FR 26852; May 9, 2006)	March 2015	73 FR 72210; November 26, 2008
Boulder star coral	Threatened (79 FR 53851; September 10, 2014)	None	88 FR 54026; August 09, 2023
Mountainous star coral	Threatened (79 FR 53851; September 10, 2014)	None	88 FR 54026; August 09, 2023
Lobed star coral	Threatened (79 FR 53851; September 10, 2014)	None	88 FR 54026; August 09, 2023
Rough cactus coral	Threatened (79 FR 53851; September 10, 2014)	None	88 FR 54026; August 09, 2023
Pillar coral	Endangered (89 FR 101993, December 17, 2024); Final rule delayed effective date (90 FR 9691, February 18, 2025)	None	88 FR 54026; August 09, 2023
Sperm whale	Endangered (35 FR 18319; December 2, 1970)	December 2010	None
Rice's whale	Endangered (84 FR 15446, April 15, 2019); Name Change (86 FR 47022; August 23, 2021)	September 2020 Recovery Outline	Proposed Rule (88 FR 47453, July 24, 2023)

**Executive Order 14172, "Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness" (Jan. 20, 2025), directs that the Gulf of Mexico be renamed the Gulf of America. On August 7, 2025, NOAA Fisheries and the National Ocean Service amended regulations in the Code of Federal Regulations to reflect the renaming. The name change did not result in any changes to, and had no effect on the applicability or enforceability of, any existing regulations. This website continues to use "Gulf of Mexico" when quoting statutes or previously published materials.*

Last updated by [Southeast Regional Office](#) on August 26, 2025