



United States Department of the Interior  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Governor Nikki Haley  
State of South Carolina  
1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

On behalf of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (i.e., the Services), we would like to inform you that our proposed rule and 12-month petition finding to revise the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing of the green sea turtle was filed at the Office of the Federal Register today. To read and comment on the proposed rule, please visit <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-06136>.

The Services find that the green sea turtle is composed of 11 distinct population segments (DPSs) that qualify as "species" for listing under the ESA. We propose to remove the current range-wide listing and, in its place, list eight DPSs as threatened and three as endangered under the ESA (Figure 1).

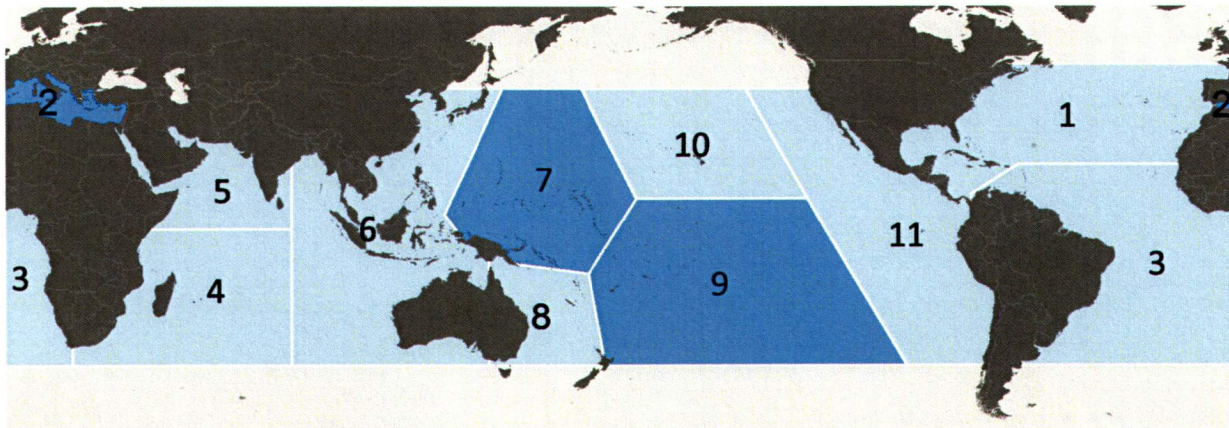


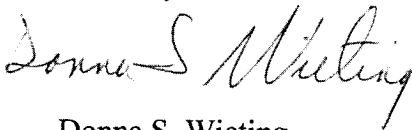
Figure 1. Proposed threatened (light blue) and endangered (dark blue) green turtle DPSs: 1. North Atlantic, 2. Mediterranean, 3. South Atlantic, 4. Southwest Indian, 5. North Indian, 6. East Indian-West Pacific, 7. Central West Pacific, 8. Southwest Pacific, 9. Central South Pacific, 10. Central North Pacific, and 11. East Pacific.

Green sea turtles are currently listed under the ESA as threatened, with the exception of the Florida and Mexican Pacific coast breeding populations which are listed as endangered. We propose to reclassify these endangered populations as members of the threatened North Atlantic and East Pacific DPSs, respectively. In response to a petition to reclassify the Hawaiian green sea turtle population as a DPS and to delist the DPS, we find this population constitutes a DPS, referred to as the Central North Pacific, but do not find delisting warranted. We propose to list this DPS as threatened.

We are notifying you because green sea turtles occur on beaches and within waters under your jurisdiction, and we are seeking information on our proposed actions. Although we are not proposing to designate critical habitat at this time, we request information on potential critical habitat within U.S. jurisdiction for the following DPSs: North Atlantic, South Atlantic (U.S. Virgin Islands), Central South Pacific (American Samoa), Central West Pacific (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam), Central North Pacific, and East Pacific DPSs. We will accept public comments received within 90 days of Federal Register publication date.

Thank you for your continued interest in the conservation of sea turtles. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Schultz at 301-427-8443 ([jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.schultz@noaa.gov)) or Ann Marie Lauritsen at 904-731-3032 ([annmarie\\_lauritsen@fws.gov](mailto:annmarie_lauritsen@fws.gov)).

Sincerely,



Donna S. Wieting  
Director, Office of Protected Resources  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Services



Gary Frazer  
Assistant Director, Ecological Services  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service