

Endangered Species

Marine Science

What is an Endangered Species

- An endangered species is a native species that faces a significant risk of extinction in the near future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Species may be declining in number due to

1. habitat destruction
2. climate change
3. pressure from invasive species

What is the Endangered Species Act?

- - Enacted by Congress in 1973
- - under act the federal government has responsibility to protect:
 - endangered species
 - threatened species
 - critical habitat

ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Species that are likely to become extinct throughout all or a large portion of their range

THREATENED SPECIES

- Species that are likely to become endangered in the near future

CRITICAL HABITAT

- vital to the survival of endangered or threatened species
- Critical Habitat is a specific geographic area that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species that may require special management and protection

What does Endangered species Act protection mean?

- Animals are protected from "take" and being traded or sold.
- Term "take" includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect

GOAL of ESA

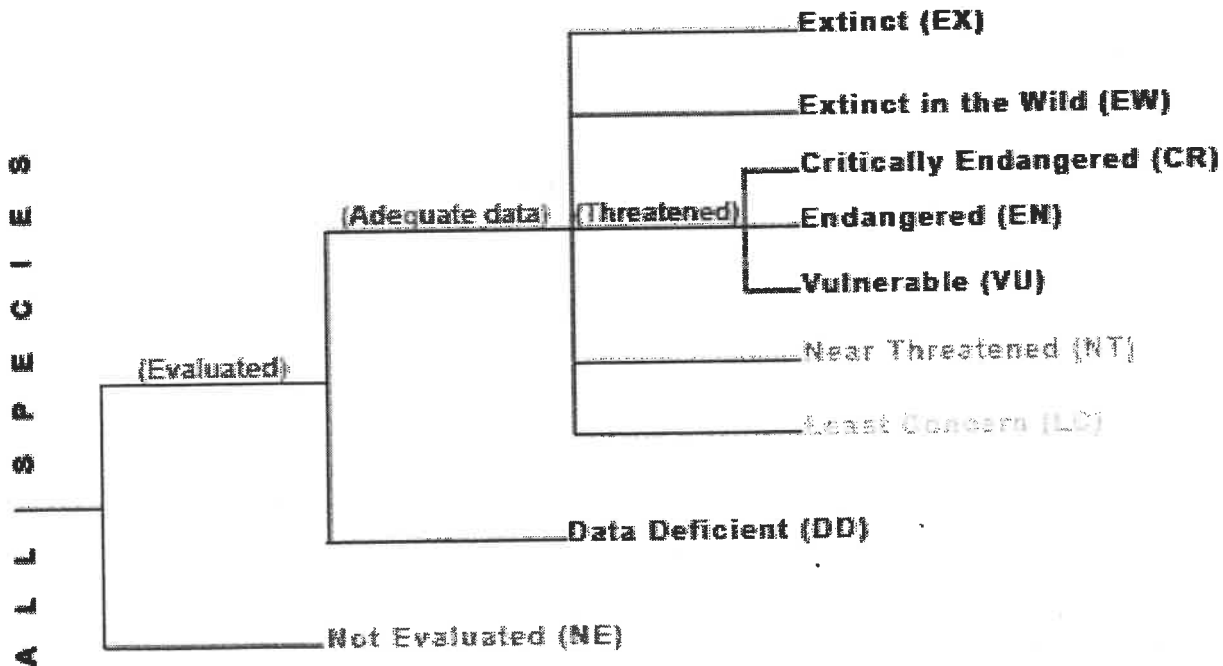
- To make species populations healthy and vital so they can be delisted from the ESA
- The U.S. Fish and wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service actively invest time and resources to bringing endangered or threatened species back from the brink of extinction
- Under the Endangered Species Act the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service oversees the listing and protection of all terrestrial animals and plants as well as freshwater fish.

5 Criteria for being added to List

- Has a large percentage of the species vital habitat degraded or destroyed?
- Has the species been over-consumed by commercial, recreational scientific or educational uses?
- Is the species threatened by disease or predations?
- Do current regulations or legislations inadequately protect the species?
- Are there other manmade factors that threaten the long-term survival of the species?

If the answer to one or more of these questions is yes than the species could get listed.

RED LIST CATEGORIES



RED LIST CATEGORIES

- Under Threatened there is 3 categories:
 - Critically endangered
 - Endangered
 - Vulnerable

RED LIST CATEGORIES

- EXTINCT - no individual remaining

The Caribbean monk seal was the only known seal which was native to the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico

It is also the only species of seal to go extinct directly due to human causes.

EXTINCT IN THE WILD - Known only to survive in captivity, or as a naturalized population outside its historic range.

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED - Extremely High Risk of extinction in the wild

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED HAWKSBILL TURTLE

- Spread all across the world
- 8,000 nesting females remaining.
- The loss of coral reef communities is a global threat to the turtles, as they rely on them for food and habitat.
- In many countries they are hunted for food, leather, oil, perfume and cosmetics

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA

- one of the most highly evolved fish species
- overfishing is rapidly depleting the population
- Easily reaching well over 4,000 pounds, the Bluefin is one of the largest bony fish.
- In the last 40 years, the Atlantic Bluefin's numbers have dropped 70-80 percent, and despite conservationist efforts, the UN recently rejected a US-backed proposal to ban Bluefin exports.

Mediterranean Monk Seal

- less than 400 remaining
- one of the rarest animals on the planet.
- In more distant times, they would reside on open beaches, but due to increasing human populations they have since retreated to rocky sea caves virtually inaccessible by people.
- reduction of their food supply from overfishing and entanglement in fishing gear.

North Pacific Right Whale

ENDANGERED

- High risk of extinction in the wild

Black Sea bottlenose dolphin

- hunted extensively for use in the production of oil, paints, glue, varnish, medicine, cosmetics and for its leather, "fish" meal and bone
- only at least several thousand of these dolphins in existence

Vulnerable - High Risk of endangerment in the wild

Near Threatened likely to become endangered in the near future

Least Concern - lowest Risk. Does not qualify for a more at risk category

Data Deficient - Not enough data to make an assessment of its risk

Not Evaluated Has not yet been evaluated against the criteria