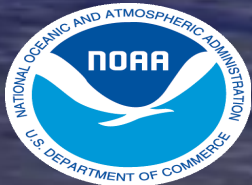


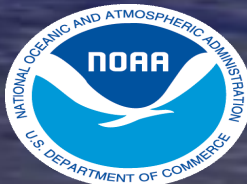
Endangered Species Act Listing Determination Status



Initiation of a Status Review for Queen Conch Under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Background

- In February 2012, NOAA Fisheries received a petition from WildEarth Guardians to list the queen conch under the ESA.
- After conducting a status review, NOAA Fisheries determined that listing queen conch as threatened or endangered under the ESA was not warranted (79 FR 65628; November 5, 2014).
- WildEarth Guardians and Friends of Animals (Plaintiffs) filed suit on July 27, 2016, challenging our decision.
- On August 26, 2019, the court vacated our determination that listing queen conch was not warranted and remanded the determination back to NOAA Fisheries.



Initiation of a Status Review for Queen Conch Under the ESA

Next Steps

- In light of the court's ruling, NOAA Fisheries will conduct a new status review.
- Notice announcing the status review and opening 60-day comment period published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2019.
 - For more information visit (use the entire link):
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/queen-conch-0>
- We request information on the species from governmental agencies, scientific community, industry, and any other interested parties.
 - **Comment period CLOSES February 4, 2020.**
 - Submit information at: www.regulations.gov, search docket #NOAA-NMFS-2019-0141.
- Questions, NOAA Point of Contact: Calusa Horn, calusa.horn@noaa.gov, or Maggie Miller, margaret.h.miller@noaa.gov

