

Dear Stakeholder,

Thank you for your interest in providing public comment on the proposed rule to list queen conch as threatened under the Endangered Species Act ([87 FR 55200](#); September 7, 2022). **Please note we have changed the virtual platform for the meeting to WebEx (see highlighted link below). We apologize for this change; however, this platform will allow us to more easily provide simultaneous interpretation services in Spanish.** Please note the interpretation line will only function for individuals using their computer or the [WebEx app](#) for audio. Individuals calling by phone will be limited to the main (English language) audio line.

Please mark your calendars with the updated access link:

**Public Hearing and Public Comment Period Extension: NOAA Fisheries Proposed Rule to List Queen Conch as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act**

**Monday, November 21, 2022**

**5:30 – 8:00 pm EST (6:30 – 9:00 pm AST)**

**Webex Meeting Link: <https://noaanmfs-meets.webex.com/noaanmfs-meets/j.php?MTID=m6481adaefaf7a2fa7fe26bb13d005cdd>**

**Join By Phone Only:**

**+1-415-527-5035 US Toll**

**Access code: 2762 689 0698**

The public hearing will afford stakeholders the opportunity to listen to a brief presentation by NOAA Fisheries staff, to ask questions about the proposed rule, and to provide oral comments on the record. **The presentation will be given in English, however, the virtual platform will provide live audio interpretation into Spanish and free live captioning translation into English, French, German, and Spanish.** Alternative languages for persons with limited English proficiency can be made available if requested by November 11, 2022. Please send any requests to Orian Tzadik ([orian.tzadik@noaa.gov](mailto:orian.tzadik@noaa.gov)).

Links to unofficial translations of the Proposed Rule in Spanish, Dutch, French, and Haitian Creole; along with translated Frequently Asked Questions in Spanish have been posted here:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/queen-conch#protected>

Please refer to this site for further updates regarding participation in the public hearing and links to the presentation in English and Spanish early next week.

**PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

**As a reminder, the [deadline to submit public comments has been extended to December 15, 2022.](#)**

To make an oral public comment at the November 21st Public Hearing, please sign up in advance, using the link below\*:

<https://forms.gle/rJzwzr4WEjZUsemG8>

*\*Only use this Form if you intend to make an oral comment at the virtual hearing.*

***Please note that time for oral comments may be limited at the public meeting to ensure all have the opportunity to speak. Therefore, anyone wishing to make an oral comment at the public hearing for the record is also encouraged to submit written comments.***

***All comments must be received by December 15, 2022. Comments received after this date may not be accepted.***

You may submit comments on the proposed rule verbally at the public hearing or in writing by any of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submissions:** Submit all electronic comments via the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter NOAA-NMFS-2019-0141 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- **Mail:** NMFS, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Instructions: Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, might not be considered by NMFS. All comments received are a part of the public record and will generally be posted for public viewing on [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) without change. All personal identifying information ( e.g., name, address, etc.), confidential business information, or otherwise sensitive information submitted voluntarily by the sender will be publicly accessible. NMFS will accept anonymous comments (enter “N/A” in the required fields if you wish to remain anonymous).

Comments are welcome in any language, as appropriate. If you have specific questions regarding the proposed rule or listing process that you would like to provide NOAA Fisheries staff in advance for their presentation, please send them to Orian Tzadik ([orian.tzadik@noaa.gov](mailto:orian.tzadik@noaa.gov)).

Thank you again for your interest in the topic and we look forward to hearing your comments.

Sincerely,

**[Nicholas A. Farmer, Ph.D.](#)**

*Caribbean Operations Branch Lead / Council Liaison  
Southeast Regional Office*

NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce

Office: (727) 551-5752

[www.fisheries.noaa.gov](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)