



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[RTID 0648-XE025]

Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Initiation of a 5-Year Review for Maui's dolphin and the South Island Hector's dolphin

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of initiation; request for information.

SUMMARY: The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announces the initiation of a 5-year review for the Maui's dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus hectori maui*) and South Island Hector's dolphin (*C. hectori hectori*). NMFS is required by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to conduct 5-year reviews to ensure that the listing classifications of species are accurate. The 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review. We request submission of any such information on Maui's dolphin and the South Island Hector's dolphin, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since their original listings as endangered and threatened species, respectively, in 2017.

DATES: To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than [insert date 60 days after date of publication in the *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: You may submit information on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2024-0073, by the following method:

- *Electronic Submission:* Submit electronic information via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to <https://www.regulations.gov> and enter NOAA-NMFS-2024-0073 in the Search box. Click on the “Comment” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kristen Koyama (301) 427-8456 or Kristen.Koyama@noaa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces our review of Maui’s dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus hectori maui*) and the South Island Hector’s dolphin (*C. hectori hectori*) listed as endangered and threatened under the ESA, respectively. Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the ESA requires that we conduct a review of listed species at least once every 5 years. This will be the first review of this species since it was listed in 2017 under the ESA. The regulations in 50 CFR 424.21 require that we publish a notice in the **Federal Register** announcing species currently under active review. On the basis of such reviews under section 4(c)(2)(B), we determine whether any species should be removed from the list (*i.e.*, delisted) or reclassified from endangered to threatened or from threatened to endangered (16 U.S.C. 1533(c)(2)(B)). As described by the regulations in

50 CFR 424.11(e), the Secretary shall delist a species if the Secretary determines based on consideration of the factors and standards set forth in paragraph (c) of that section, that the best scientific and commercial data available substantiate that: (1) the species is extinct; (2) the species has recovered to the point at which it no longer meets the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; (3) new information that has become available since the original listing decisions on how the listed entity does not meet the definition of an endangered species or a threatened species; or (4) new information that has become available since the original listing decision shows the listed entity does not meet the definition of a species. Any change in Federal classification would require a separate rulemaking process.

Background information on both subspecies is available on the NMFS website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/hectors-dolphin>.

Public Solicitation of New Information

To ensure that the review is complete and based on the best available scientific and commercial information, we are soliciting new information from the public, governmental agencies, Tribes, the scientific community, industry, environmental entities, and any other interested parties concerning the status of *Cephalorhynchus hectori maui* and *Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori*. Categories of requested information include: (1) species biology including, but not limited to, population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics; (2) habitat conditions including, but not limited to, amount, distribution, and important features for conservation; (3) status and trends of threats to the species and its habitats; (4) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species, including monitoring data demonstrating effectiveness of such measures; and (5) other new information, data, or corrections including, but not limited to, taxonomic or nomenclatural changes and improved analytical methods for evaluating extinction risk.

If you wish to provide information for the review, you may submit your information and materials electronically (see **ADDRESSES** section). We request that all information be accompanied by supporting documentation such as maps, bibliographic references, or reprints of pertinent publications.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*

Dated: June 12, 2024.

Angela Somma,

Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division,

Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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