

# NOAA FISHERIES

## Protected Resources Science Investment & Planning Process

### Why invest in protected resources science?

Protected resources data collection has remained **static** while the demand to inform urgent management and regulatory needs, such as petitions, consultations, and recovery planning has exponentially **increased**. Strategic investments that leverage available fiscal and scientific resources are needed to address the growing number of internal and external management responsibilities.

### How does protected resources science differ from management?

Science provides the data and latest research to support conservation and management of protected resources.

### Protected resources science involves:

- Conducting stock assessments
- Understanding ecosystem roles
- Identifying and mitigating threats

### Protected resources management involves:

- Species conservation and recovery
- Permits and authorizations to conduct activities that may impact protected species and their habitats

### What's at stake?

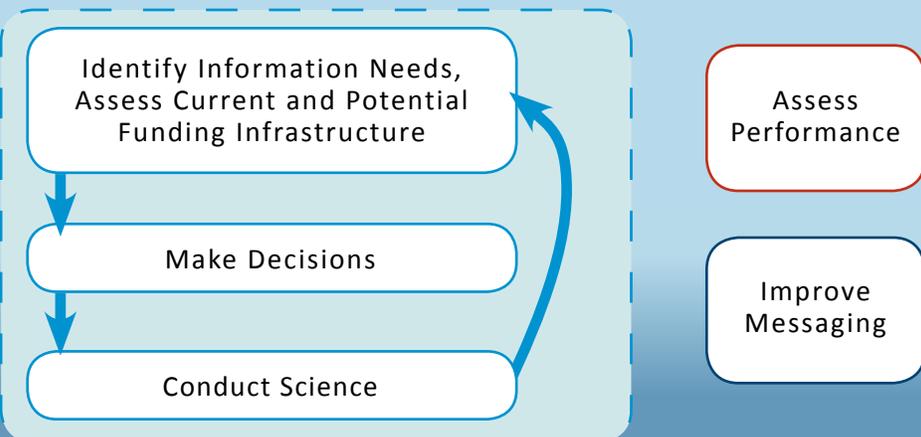
- 93 ESA-listed species, 80 more have been proposed
- 243 marine mammal stocks currently assessed
- 1,200-1,500 ESA Section 7 Consultations conducted annually
- Over 500 annual research permit requests
- 100 marine mammal incidental take evaluations

**80%** of 400 protected species stocks lack current and comprehensive scientific data to inform management



Science from Above or Under the Sea

### The Process



## Investing in protected species science supports 2 long-term objectives under NOAA's healthy oceans goal:

1. Improved understanding of ecosystems to inform resource management decisions.
2. Recovered and healthy marine and coastal species.



## What does this new planning process require?

- Annual review of science needs
- Integrate prioritized needs into budget process
- Regular engagement with regional and national partners
- Outreach to build awareness about protected resources science
- Participation from social scientists and economists

## Expected results to improve protected resources conservation:

- Move from a 'Triage' to a 'Proactive' approach
- Increased transparency as to what science is conducted and why
- Strategic engagement with external federal partners
- Better connecting science with management needs
- A consolidated annual set of national science needs
- Including socioeconomic analysis of management actions
- Response to species conservation on appropriate time scales
- Optimizing surveys to focus on multiple species and regions using multiple observation platforms

## For more information:

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<http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/marine-mammals-turtles/index>

## NOAA's Role as an Environmental Intelligence Agency

### Actions

Conduct Cutting Edge Science

Produce High Quality Data Products and Services

### Outcomes

Improves Conservation and Management of Protected Resources

Improves Response to Unusual Events and Environmental Disasters

Scientific uncertainty delays or degrades management decisions

Secure investment in science through enhanced partnerships achieving common needs, will lead to improved conservation and management of protected species

