



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Pacific Islands Regional Office
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700
(808) 944-2200 • Fax: (808) 973-2941

November 30, 2012

Dear Constituent:

Today NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced a proposal to list 66 reef-building coral species (seven in the Caribbean and 59 in the Pacific) as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and initiated a 90-day public comment period. Over the last two years, NMFS has been conducting status reviews of 82 coral species, and we have determined that 66 of the 82 species should be proposed for listing under the ESA, while the remaining 16 species (all in the Pacific) are not warranted for listing under the ESA.

These 82 decisions were prompted by a 2009 petition to list 83 coral species as threatened or endangered under the ESA, and a subsequent positive 90-day finding for 82 coral species (75 FR 6616; February 10, 2010). Since receiving the petition, NMFS conducted a comprehensive status review to assess the best available scientific and commercial information on the status of all 82 species throughout their ranges, leading to a Status Review Report and a Management Report. In 2012, due to the unprecedented nature of the issues, we conducted a unique public engagement process that included several public meetings and scientific workshops to seek any additional scientific and management related information regarding the 82 species, leading to a Supplemental Information Report. The 82 listing determinations described in the Federal Register Notice are based on these three reports. The four documents (Federal Register Notice, Status Review Report, Management Report, and Supplemental Information Report) are available online at: http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/PRD/prd_esa_section_4.html

NMFS is soliciting comments from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, and any other interested parties on the proposed listing determinations during the 90-day public comment period. To provide information to the public and to solicit public comments, we will be holding 11 town hall meetings and public hearings in early 2013 throughout the Pacific Islands Region, as shown in the schedule on the next page. If you have any questions, please contact my staff: Lisa Van Atta at alecia.vanatta@noaa.gov or (808) 944-2257, Lance Smith at lance.smith@noaa.gov or (808) 944-2258, or Chelsey Young at chelsey.young@noaa.gov or (808) 944-2137.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator

Schedule for Coral Town Hall Meetings and Public Hearings

Date Location Address	Town Hall Meeting: Information will be provided and an informal question and answer session held.	Public Hearing: Members of the public can provide formal comments by oral testimony or in writing.
Tuesday, January 22, 2013 Hilo, Hawaii Mokupapapa Discovery Center, 308 Kamehameha Ave.	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Thursday, January 24, 2013 Kailua Kona, Hawaii, Thu Kahakai Elementary School 76147 Royal Poinciana Drive	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Monday, January 28, 2013 Kaunakakai, Molokai Mitchell Pauole Center 90 Ainoa Street	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Wednesday, January 30, 2013 Wailuku, Maui J. Walter Cameron Center 95 Mahalani Street	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Monday, February 4, 2013 Lihue, Kauai Kauai Veteran's Center 3125 Kapule Highway	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Thursday, February 7, 2013 Honolulu, Hawaii Tokai University 2241 Kapiolani Boulevard	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Monday, February 11, 2013 Hagatna, Guam Guam Hilton 202 Hilton Road, Tumon Bay	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Tuesday, February 12, 2013 Saipan, CNMI Multipurpose Center Beach Road, Susupe	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 Tutuila, American Samoa Sadie's by the Sea Pago Pago, Tutuila	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 Tinian, CNMI Fleming Hotel, Tinian	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm
Friday, February 15, 2013 Rota, CNMI Mayor's Office, Rota	5:00 – 6:30 pm	6:30 – 9:30 pm