

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS) REPORT
ON THE PETITION TO LIST PACIFIC BLUEFIN TUNA (PBF) UNDER THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA)

On June 20, 2016, NMFS received a petition to list PBF (*Thunnus orientalis*) as endangered under the ESA. NMFS has reviewed the petition and determined that it presents substantial scientific or commercial information such that listing may be warranted. NMFS announced the initiation of a comprehensive status review of PBF and is soliciting scientific and commercial information pertaining to the status of PBF (81 FR 70074, October 11, 2016¹). Comments are due to NMFS by December 12, 2016.

Although NMFS announced that listing may be warranted, it does not mean that NMFS has concluded that PBF should or will be listed under the ESA. Rather, it means that NMFS will proceed to collect and review scientific and commercial information to inform a decision as to whether or not a listing of PBF is warranted. NMFS' decision as to whether listing is warranted is due within 12 months of receiving the petition (i.e., June 20, 2017).

At the conclusion of the review, if NMFS determines that listing is warranted, a proposed rule would be issued and additional public comment would be solicited on the proposed determination. If in the 12-month finding NMFS determines that listing is not warranted, such a determination would be issued at that time. For more information, go to:

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/fisheries/migratory_species/pbt_esa_status_review.html

¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2016-24477>