

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE256]

**Endangered and Threatened Species; Notice of Initiation of a 5-Year Review for the Tanzanian Distinct Population Segment of African Coelacanth**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces the initiation of a 5-year review for the Tanzanian distinct population segment (DPS) of African coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*). 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 the Tanzanian DPS of African coelacanth, particularly information on the status, threats, and recovery of the species that has become available since it was listed in 2016.

**DATES:** To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than November 4, 2024.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit information on this document, identified by NOAA-NMFS-2024-0102, 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-2024-0102 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 <https://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:**

Heather Austin, Office of Protected Resources, (301) 427-8422 or [Heather.Austin@noaa.gov](mailto:Heather.Austin@noaa.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice announces our review of the Tanzanian DPS of African coelacanth (*Latimeria chalumnae*) listed as threatened under the ESA. 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 2016 under the ESA (81 FR 17398, March 29, 2016). 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 considerations 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 shows 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 the species is available on the NMFS website at: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/african-coelacanth>.

**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 *Latimeria chalumnae*. 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 DPS and its habitats; (4) conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the DPS, 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: August 30, 2024.

**Lisa Manning,**

*Acting Chief, Endangered Species Conservation Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.*

[FR Doc. 2024-19922 Filed 9-4-24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-22-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

[RTID 0648-XE209]

**Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico**

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

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of Letter of Authorization.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), as amended, its implementing regulations, and NMFS' MMPA Regulations for Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to Geophysical Surveys Related to Oil and Gas Activities in the Gulf of Mexico, notification is hereby given that NMFS has issued a Letter of Authorization (LOA) to Echo Offshore, LLC (Echo) for the take of marine mammals incidental to geophysical survey activity in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).

**DATES:** The LOA is effective from August 21, 2024 through December 31, 2024.