



# Celebrating the Endangered Species Act at 50 & the Importance of Wetlands



May 2023



# Endangered Species Act of 1973

- Gives joint authority to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- The FWS has primary responsibility for terrestrial and freshwater organisms
- NMFS' responsibilities are mainly marine wildlife such as whales and anadromous fish



# Findings & Purposes

## *Section 2*

### Findings

- Some species of fish, wildlife, and plants are now extinct  
*“as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concerns and conservation.”*
- Other species are in danger of extinction.
- Species have aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value.

### Purpose

- *“...to conserve endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend.”*



# Key Definitions

## *Section 3*

### Endangered

- Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

### Threatened

- Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

### Conserve

- Use all methods and procedures necessary to bring any endangered or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under the ESA are no longer necessary.



# Number of Listed Species

## *as of May 17, 2023*

Group	United States			Foreign			Total Listings (US & Foreign)	US Listings with active Recovery Plans
	Endangered	Threatened	Total Listings	Endangered	Threatened	Total Listings		
Amphibians	23	16	<b>39</b>	8	1	9	<b>48</b>	28
Arachnids	11	0	<b>11</b>	5	0	5	<b>16</b>	11
Birds	77	23	<b>100</b>	217	22	239	<b>339</b>	90
Clams	77	18	<b>95</b>	2	0	2	<b>97</b>	77
Corals	0	7	<b>7</b>	3	15	18	<b>25</b>	0
Crustaceans	25	7	<b>32</b>	0	0	0	<b>32</b>	23
Fishes	94	78	<b>172</b>	27	9	36	<b>208</b>	108
Insects	75	17	<b>93</b>	4	0	4	<b>97</b>	69
Mammals	67	29	<b>96</b>	262	23	285	<b>381</b>	64
Reptiles	17	29	<b>46</b>	70	25	95	<b>141</b>	42
Snails	38	13	<b>51</b>	1	1	2	<b>53</b>	43
Sponges	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Animal Totals</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>742</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>1,437</b>	<b>555</b>
<b>Plant Totals</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>834</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1,272</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>2,381</b>	<b>1,389</b>

Source: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/report/boxscore>

# Listed Species & Wetlands



- Estimated 53% of listed species are wetlands dependent
- Estimated 940 plant species (or 56%) are wetlands dependent
- Saving wetlands is thus closely tied to saving species