NMFS announces a 5-year review of the North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended. A 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review; therefore, we are requesting submission of any such information on these whales that has become available since the last status review in 2012.

**DATES:** To allow us adequate time to conduct this review, we must receive your information no later than July 31, 2017. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments on this document, identified by NOAA–NMFS–2017–0046, by either of the following methods:

- **Electronic Submission:** Submit all electronic public comments via the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal. Go to [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and follow the on-screen instructions.
- **Mail:** Submit written comments to Jon Kurland, Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources, Alaska Region NMFS, Attn: Ellen Sebastian, Mail comments to P.O. Box 21068, Juneau, AK 99802–1668.

**Instructions:** Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered.

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### Background

Section 4(f) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 U.S.C. 1533(f)) requires the Secretary to develop recovery plans for all species listed pursuant to the ESA, unless he/she finds that such a plan will not promote the recovery of the species. Section 4(h) of the ESA requires the Secretary to establish a system for developing and implementing, on a priority basis, recovery plans under Section 4(f). We finalized guidance for prioritizing recovery plan development and implementation on June 15, 1990 (55 FR 24296). However, through our application of the Recovery Plan Preparation and Implementation Priorities and Recovery Plans (see parts 'B' and 'C' 55 FR 24296; June 15, 1990), we have determined that the guidelines contain vague definitions and lack sufficient detail regarding factors that should be considered when evaluating threats and recovery potential. For these reasons, we published, on May 31, 2017 (82 FR 24944), proposed revisions to the Recovery Plan Preparation and Implementation Priorities and Recovery Plan parts of the 1990 Listing and Recovery Priority Guidelines. We solicited comments on the proposed revision to be submitted by June 30, 2017. On June 14 and June 16, 2017, we received requests to extend the public comment period by an additional 30 days and 90 days, respectively. Thus, we are extending the public comment period through August 28, 2017.

Previously submitted comments do not need to be resubmitted.

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*


Catherine Marzin,  
Acting Deputy Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

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**BILLING CODE 3510–22–P**

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

#### National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**RIN 0648–XF425**

#### Endangered and Threatened Species; Initiation of 5-Year Review for the North Pacific Right Whale

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

**ACTION:** Notice of initiation of 5-year review; request for information.

**SUMMARY:** NMFS announces a 5-year review of the North Pacific right whale (*Eubalaena japonica*) under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended. A 5-year review must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available at the time of the review; therefore, we are requesting submission of any such information on these whales that has become available since the last status review in 2012.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Verena Gill, NMFS Alaska Region, (907) 271–1937, verena.gill@noaa.gov.