



Contact: Brian Gorman
206-526-6613

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NOAA Fisheries Service Rejects Call to List Five Puget Sound Rockfish Species under Endangered Species Act

NOAA Fisheries Service says that it will not initiate a review to determine if five species of rockfish in Puget Sound need protection under the Endangered Species Act, because there is insufficient evidence to support such a move.

The agency was formally asked last April by Sam Wright, a Washington resident, to initiate the listings. In 1999, Wright asked the agency to undertake a similar effort for these same five rockfish species and 13 other fish species in Puget Sound. The agency ultimately rejected those listings as well.

Biologists with NOAA Fisheries Service said there is some evidence that catches for some of the five petitioned rockfish species have declined, but there was insufficient evidence that the catch data reflect populations in trouble.

The five rockfish species that were the subject of the petition are bocaccio, canary rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, greenstripe rockfish and redstripe rockfish. Although today's action pertains only to these species found in Puget Sound, all five varieties live along the entire West Coast and support both a commercial and sport fishery.

For more details on this action, see the Web at:
<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Other-Marine-Species/PS-Marine-Fishes.cfm>

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NOAA Fisheries Service is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources and their habitat through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries Service provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, and helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries Service, please visit: www.nmfs.noaa.gov.

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