



The Petition Process

For requests to list a species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act

What are petitions for listing?

Petitions are formal requests to list a species as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act. They require published findings. We (or the National Marine Fisheries Service for most marine species) must make a finding within 90 days of receiving a petition (to the extent practicable) as to whether or not there is “substantial information” indicating that the petitioned listing *may be warranted*. If this preliminary finding is positive, a status review is conducted. Within one year of receipt of the petition, we must make a further finding that the listing either *is* or *is not* warranted. A positive one-year finding can be incorporated into a proposed listing or, if a prompt proposal is precluded by other listing activities, the proposal may be deferred. These “warranted but precluded” proposals require subsequent one-year findings on each succeeding anniversary of the petition until either a proposal is undertaken or a “not warranted” finding is made.

