

## **Lend a Helping Hand to Endangered Species**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has teamed up with FishBrain – the world’s largest free-to-use app and social network for anglers – to launch a new feature of the app that will help the American public identify and document threatened, endangered and candidate species.

The app enables FishBrain users to log sightings of up to 50 at-risk species during regular fishing trips, which will help conservationists and academics determine where the animals are, the habitat they need, the reasons for their decline, and how the public can help protect and conserve native wildlife.

“This is a unique opportunity to synthesize recreational anglers’ information and knowledge in local waterways and expand our understanding of various species,” said Gary Frazer, Assistant Director of the Service’s Ecological Services Program.

To determine the species that would be included in the app, the Service examined all of the occurrences of threatened and endangered species near major streams, rivers, lakes, creeks and other bodies of water. This yielded millions of results.

To the search, the team used a coarse filter approach to focus on larger bodies of water and limited results to species likely to be encountered by anglers, and those known to come into contact with the fishing community.

The final list of species provided to FishBrain includes animals across the United States that are protected as threatened and endangered under the Endangered Species Act, as well as candidates for federal protection and those protected as threatened or endangered by individual states. Among the animals included are the shortnose sturgeon, whooping crane, Kemp's ridley sea turtle, California red-legged frog and Columbia white-tailed deer. The full list of species with accompanying information and photographs is available at [www.fishbrain.com](http://www.fishbrain.com).

To download the FishBrain app, visit:

The App Store: <https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/fishbrain-fishing-reports/id477967747?mt=8> or  
Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fishbrain.app&hl=en>.