

Natural Resources

Federal

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) issued a final rule listing the northern long-eared bat as threatened ([80 FR 17973](#)). The final rule became effective on May 4, 2015.

USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued a final rule amending the incidental take statement provisions of the implementing regulations for section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 ([80 FR 26832](#)). The amendments address the use of surrogates to express the amount or extent of anticipated incidental take and to refine the basis for development of incidental take statements for programmatic actions. These changes will improve the clarity and effectiveness of incidental take statements. The final rule became effective on June 10, 2015.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released an updated [Framework for the National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America](#). Originally published in 2008, the framework outlines the goals and objectives of the national system of marine protected areas (MPAs) and describes how it is being implemented, as called for by Executive Order 13158. For more information, visit the [MPA website](#).

In May 2015, the White House Pollinator Health Task Force released a [National Strategy to Promote the Health of Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#). The strategy outlines a comprehensive approach to reducing the impact of multiple stressors on pollinator health, including pests and pathogens, reduced habitat, lack of nutritional resources, and exposure to pesticides.