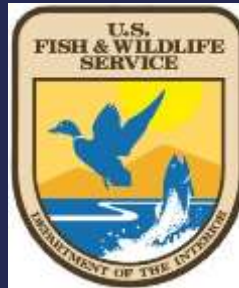


Down-listing Petition and PEER Notice of Intent: Description, response, and recovery activities



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Down-listing Petition

- On December 14, 2012, the Pacific Legal Foundation petitioned the Service on behalf of Save Crystal River, Inc. to downlist the West Indian manatee.
- Save Crystal River, Inc. based their petition on the Service's 2007 5-Year Review which recommended reclassifying.
- On July 2, 2014, the Service responded in a 90-day finding which concluded that the petition was warranted.
- The Service is working on the 12-month finding.

PEER Notice of Intent

- On March 9, 2015, PEER (Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility) sent the Service a 60-day Notice of Intent to Sue (NOI), stating that the Service is “violating the ESA in its treatment of the endangered Florida manatee.” PEER asks that:
 - The Service ban manatee “swim-with” programs and all other activities that would put people within 10 feet of a manatee.
 - The Service complete a revision of critical habitat for the Florida manatee.
 - The Service designate Three Sisters Springs as a manatee sanctuary and expand existing manatee sanctuaries.
- On April 17, 2015, the Service acknowledged receipt of the NOI. In its response letter, the Service noted that the agency is engaged in many positive actions that promote manatee recovery, including actions that address “swim-with.”

Recovery Activities



- The Service and our recovery partners are engaged in many activities to further manatee recovery. Activities include:
 - Minimizing watercraft collisions (maintaining manatee protection areas, enforcing protection areas, designating areas where needed, etc.)
 - Ensuring the future of manatee warm water habitat (draft Warm-water Action Plan, springs protection, addressing NPDES permitting concerns, and other activities)

A close-up photograph of a pig's face, showing its snout and eyes. The pig is looking directly at the camera. The image is overlaid with the text "Questions?" in a white, sans-serif font in the upper right corner.

Questions?