PROTECTED MARINE LIFE
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN UNITED STATES

This guide is intended for use by mariners in the identification and reporting of threatened and endangered species in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean.

NORTH ATLANTIC RIGHT WHALE

ENDANGERED
North Atlantic Right Whale

Stay at least 500 yards away. Do not approach. Any vessel within 500 yards of a right whale must depart immediately at a safe, slow speed. Do not chase or encircle. Never position vessel between a mother and calf.

Where They Live: Northwestern Atlantic with fall calving grounds along South Carolina, Georgia, and northeastern Florida

SPERM WHALE

ENDANGERED
Sperm Whale

Stay at least 100 yards away. Do not approach. Slow to no-wake speed and place engine in neutral. Do not chase or encircle. Never position vessel between a mother and calf.

Where They Live: Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, primarily offshore

BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN

Stay at least 50 yards away. Do not approach. Slow to no-wake speed and place engine in neutral. Do not chase or encircle. Never position vessel between a mother and calf.

Where They Live: Harbors, bays, sounds, and estuaries, as well as near-shore coastal waters and in the open ocean

RICE'S WHALE

ENDANGERED
Rice's Whale

Stay at least 500 yards away. Do not approach. Slow to no-wake speed and place engine in neutral. Do not chase or encircle. Never position vessel between a mother and calf.
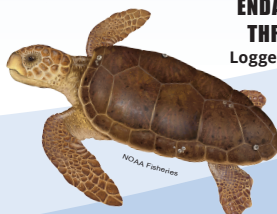
Where They Live: Northeastern Gulf of Mexico along the Continental Shelf
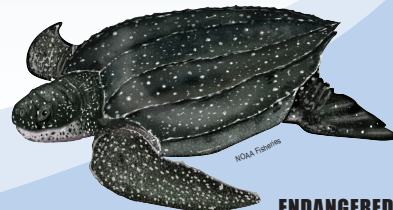
SEA TURTLES
(KEMP'S, LOGGERHEAD, GREEN, HAWKSBILL, & LEATHERBACK)

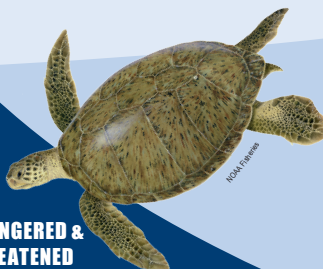Stay at least 50 yards away. Do not swim with, chase, touch, or harass sea turtles.

Where They Live: Subtropical and temperate waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea

ENDANGERED & THREATENED
Loggerhead Turtle

ENDANGERED
Leatherback Turtle

ENDANGERED & THREATENED
Green Turtle

ENDANGERED
Hawksbill Turtle

ENDANGERED
Kemp's Ridley Turtle

HELP PROTECT MARINE LIFE - REPORT

ENDANGERED
Smalltooth Sawfish

SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH

Do not target when fishing, harm, injure, or kill smalltooth sawfish.

Where They Live: Florida waters (Gulf and Atlantic coasts) primarily observed from Charlotte Harbor through the Everglades, and the Florida Keys

REPORT sightings, injuries, or strandings to:

📞 **844-4SAWFISH**

sawfish@MyFWC.com

GIANT MANTA RAY

Stay at least 50 yards away. Do not chase, touch, or harass giant manta rays. Do not cast fishing lines at or near manta rays.

Where They Live: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea, primarily offshore, in oceanic waters, and in productive coastal areas

THREATENED
Giant Manta Ray

REPORT sightings, injuries, or strandings to:

📞 **727-824-5312**

manta.ray@noaa.gov

PHOTOS help scientists indentify individual manta rays.

ENDANGERED &
THREATENED
Atlantic & Gulf Sturgeon

ENDANGERED
Shortnose Sturgeon

STURGEON
(ATLANTIC, GULF, & SHORTNOSE)

Do not target when fishing, harm, injure or kill Atlantic, Gulf, and shortnose sturgeon.

Where They Live: Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and within estuaries and rivers

REPORT strandings, injuries, or dead sturgeon to:

📞 **844-STURG-911**

NOAA.Sturg911@noaa.gov

THREATENED
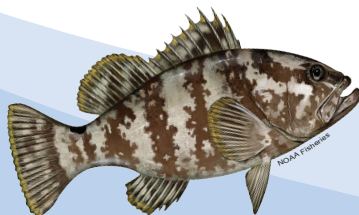**Oceanic Whitetip Shark**

OCEANIC WHITETIP SHARK

Do not target when fishing, harm, injure, or kill oceanic whitetip sharks.

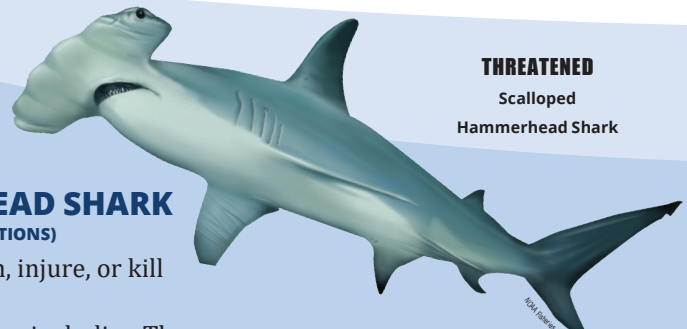**Where They Live:** Atlantic Ocean, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and South Florida, primarily offshore.

NASSAU GROUPER

Do not target when fishing, harm, injure, or kill Nassau grouper.

Where They Live: Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, and South Florida

THREATENED
Nassau Grouper

THREATENED
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark

SCALLOPED HAMMERHEAD SHARK
(CENTRAL & SOUTHWEST ATLANTIC POPULATIONS)

Do not target when fishing, harm, injure, or kill scalloped hammerhead sharks.

Where They Live: Caribbean sea, including The Bahamas, Cuba, and off the coast of Florida

PLEASE CALL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT HOTLINE IF YOU SEE A POSSIBLE VIOLATION

NOAA provides live operators 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

📞 **800-853-1964**

LEARN MORE about these and other species at www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species-directory: