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# Considering Protection for Ice Seals

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A federal agency said it would consider Endangered Species Act protections for ribbon seals in the Bering Sea, and three other seal species that rely on sea ice for survival. The agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, accepted a petition from an environmental group, the Center for Biological Diversity, seeking threatened or endangered status for ribbon seals because their habitat is melting from [global warming](#) brought on by humans. NOAA Fisheries also expanded the status review to include ringed, spotted and bearded seals.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-seals27mar27,1,1677769.story>

## Fate of ribbon seals to be studied

California group convinces federal officials to review Bering Sea species.

March 27, 2008

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA -- The National Marine Fisheries Service says it will review arctic seals for possible listing under the Endangered Species Act.

A spokesman says the agency has accepted a petition from a California environmental group seeking protection for ribbon seals, which inhabit the Bering Sea.

Acting Administrator Doug Mecum says the agency also will prepare status reviews for bearded, spotted and ringed seals for possible listing.

He says the four species of seals in Alaska all use various types of sea ice habitats in different ways.

The Center for Biological Diversity petitioned NOAA Fisheries to list ribbon seals because their sea ice habitat is disappearing due to climate change brought on by humans.

The federal government also is weighing whether to grant endangered-species status to the polar bear, which depends on sea ice to hunt seals.