



Study: Endangered Species Act is effective

TUCSON-- The Tucson-based, Center for Biological Diversity has released a report praising the effectiveness of the federal Endangered Species Act.

The landmark environmental law has recently been criticized by some politicians as wasting taxpayers' money, producing lawsuits and doing little to help endangered species.

But the CBD says it found no endangered species have gone extinct in the Northeast and 93 percent have increased their population size or become stable since coming under the protection of the Endangered Species Act.

"The Endangered Species Act has been remarkably successful," said Kieran Suckling, CBD policy director. "Humpback whales, bald eagles, (and) brown pelicans ... are just a few of the species that are recovering quite nicely."

The organization's report is said to be the first to attempt documenting long-term population trends of all endangered species within a region. The 125-page study covered Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New

York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

"There is considerable rhetoric surrounding the Endangered Species Act," said Suckling, "but very few efforts to gather and scientifically study real data. The data are now in and it's clear that the Endangered Species Act is effective."