



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

Working with Partners for Ice Seal Recovery Planning

Background

The Arctic ringed seal and the Beringia distinct population segment of bearded seal are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We are in the process of developing recovery plans for these two species of ice seals.

What does recovery mean?

Recovery is the process of restoring an ESA-listed species and its ecosystem to the point where ESA protections are no longer necessary.

What is a recovery plan and how is it developed and implemented?

- A recovery plan is a non-regulatory, ESA-mandated road map to guide recovery efforts for listed species.
- Plans identify voluntary recovery actions based on input from experts and the public.
- We work with our partners to implement recovery goals from the final recovery plans.

How is NOAA Fisheries proceeding?

- We held a **public recovery workshop in January 2025** in conjunction with the Ice Seal Committee Annual Board Meeting.
- We are continuing to gather information from hunting communities, experts, and partners to draft recovery plans.
- A workshop summary report will be sent to participants for review in late summer 2025.
- The draft recovery plan will be available for public comments once complete.

Will recovery plans impact the subsistence use of ice seals by Alaska Natives? NO

For more information on recovery planning go to;

www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/endangered-species-conservation/recovery-species-under-endangered-species-act

Or you can **email your questions** to akr.ice.seal.recovery@noaa.gov