

# **JONES CALLS ON FEDS TO REJECT UNNECESSARY PROPOSAL TO LIST LOGGERHEAD TURTLES AS 'ENDANGERED'**

*SCIENCE SUGGESTS LOGGERHEAD TURTLE POPULATION IS IN THE MILLIONS TO  
TENS OF MILLIONS*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today Congressmen Walter B. Jones (NC-3) and Barney Frank (MA-4) urged the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to reject a pending proposal to list Loggerhead sea turtles as “endangered” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In a letter sent this afternoon, Jones and Frank point out that the proposed listing is unwarranted because the federal government’s own science suggests that the population of loggerhead turtles in waters off the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States is in the millions to tens of millions. They also emphasized that because the Loggerhead turtle has been listed as “threatened” under the ESA for years, numerous fisheries restrictions have already been put in place that have greatly reduced harmful interactions between fishermen and turtles. These restrictions have played a significant role in the recovery of Loggerhead turtles, and will continue to be in place without an uplisting. NMFS and FWS are scheduled to make a decision on the issue no later than September 16, 2011.

“All of us are for protecting sea turtles, and everyone is happy to see that turtle populations are improving,” Congressman Jones said. “Fishermen have played a key role in that recovery, as they have been required to live under significant restrictions. The question is whether adding even more protection is necessary, and the science suggests that it isn’t.”

The text of the letter can be found [here](#).

**For additional information, please contact Catherine Fodor in Congressman Jones’ office at (202) 225-3415.**