

memorandum of understanding, signed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Park Service, covers the U.S. Flower Garden Banks and Florida Keys marine sanctuaries and two U.S. national parks, as well as Cuba's Guanahacabibes National Park and an offshore reef area known as the Banco de San Antonio. Efforts will include inventories and baseline studies of fish, coral reefs, and seagrass beds. Practically, that should translate into more NOAA ships, equipment, and technology going to Cuba, which has a dearth of research resources. "This particular agreement is the highest profile [attempt] to truly remove the barriers to scientific [collaboration]," says Daniel Whittle, who runs the Environmental Defense Fund's Cuba program. <http://scim.ag/USCubaMarine>

Scientists: Take wolves off ESA

WASHINGTON, D.C. | The gray wolves (*Canis lupus*) of the western Great Lakes states—Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan—should be removed from the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), say 26 scientists and wildlife managers in a 18 November letter to the secretary of the interior, Sally Jewell. By 2014, the letter states, the wolves' numbers were more than 3700, greatly surpassing the original criteria of 300. Some conservation and animal advocacy groups dispute the notion that the wolves are fully recovered, and have used lawsuits to successfully block previous attempts to down-list them. But letter signatory L. David Mech, a wolf biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in St. Paul, and his co-authors argue that keeping the animals on the federal list only harms them by creating ill will. "When an animal is recovered but not delisted, it impugns the ESA," Mech says, "and gives ammo to those who dislike the act." Other scientists argue, however, that the Great Lakes wolves' greatest threat persists: People hate them. <http://scim.ag/GreatLakeswolves>

Europe's first *T. rex*

BERLIN | Tristan the *T. rex*, one of the best-preserved *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeletons yet discovered, is being prepped to go on display next month at Berlin's Museum of Natural History. The fossil, more fully known as "Tristan Otto," was named for the sons of the two private collectors who own the fossil and have loaned it to the museum for at least 3 years. Researchers at the museum, in cooperation with several other institutes, have already begun studying the bones. Broken ribs, a deformed jaw,



Tadpole's-eye view wins new photo competition

The grand prize winner of a new nature photography competition invites viewers to imagine themselves as tadpoles. In the upward-facing shot (shown), toad larvae seem to fly against a blue sky and fluffy clouds in the clear waters of a Belgian canal. It's a side of the ecosystem we usually miss, but it's one "that is very much part of the tadpoles' own view—the clouds, the trees, and the sky," said contest judge and evolutionary biologist Alex Badyaev of the University of Arizona in Tucson in a statement. The photo was one of more than 1000 submissions to the Royal Society Publishing photography competition, an event launched this year by two of the society's biology journals. The competition celebrates the 350th anniversary of the world's oldest scientific journal, the *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*. Belgian biologist Bert Willaert, who took the winning shot while snorkeling, said in a statement that he hopes his photo will help people appreciate the ecological wonders in their own backyards.

PHOTO: BERT WILLAERT