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Rules and Directives  
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Dear Colleague:

DEC 17 2003



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office  
9721 Executive Center Drive North  
St. Petersburg, FL 33702  
(727) 570-5312, FAX 570-5517  
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

12/23/03

68 FR 71174

①

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) Protected Resources Division has reviewed your letter pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) concerning request for list of protected species within the area under evaluation for Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 2 License Renewal, dated December 11, 2003.

We cannot determine impacts to threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat, under NOAA Fisheries' purview because the letter lacks sufficient information to evaluate the project. Enclosed are guidelines to conduct a proper biological evaluation.

As requested, enclosed is a list of federally-protected species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries for the state of \_\_\_\_\_. Biological information on federally-protected sea turtles, shortnose and gulf sturgeon, smalltooth sawfish, and other listed species and candidate species can be found at the following website addresses: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office (<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov/protect/protect.htm>); NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources ([http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot\\_res/prot\\_res.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/prot_res/prot_res.html)); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://noflorida.fws.gov/SeaTurtles/seaturtle-info.htm>), <http://www.turtles.org>; <http://www.seaturtle.org>; <http://alabama.fws.gov/gs/>; <http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species>; the Ocean Conservancy (<http://www.ocean.org/main.php3>); the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (<http://www.cccturtle.org/>); Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (<http://floridaconservation.org/psm/turtles/turtle.htm>); [http://obis.env.duke.edu/data/sp\\_profiles.php](http://obis.env.duke.edu/data/sp_profiles.php); [www.mote.org/~colins/Sawfish/SawfishHomePage.html](http://www.mote.org/~colins/Sawfish/SawfishHomePage.html); [www.floridasawfish.com](http://www.floridasawfish.com); [www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/InNews/sawprop.htm](http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/InNews/sawprop.htm).

✓ It is NOAA Fisheries' opinion that the project will have no effect on listed species or critical habitat protected by the ESA under NOAA Fisheries' purview. No further consultation with NOAA Fisheries pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of the ESA is required. Consultation with NOAA Fisheries, Habitat Conservation Division, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act's requirements for essential fish habitat consultation (16 U.S.C. 1855 (b)(2) and 50 CFR 600.905-.930, subpart K), may be required. Please contact our Habitat Conservation Division at (727) 570-5317.

If you have any questions, please contact the ESA section 7 coordinator, Eric Hawk, at (727) 570-5312, or by e-mail at [eric.hawk@noaa.gov](mailto:eric.hawk@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

Georgia Cranmore  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Protected Resources

Enclosure  
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add = T. Kenyon (TSK2)  
A. Kugler (ASK1)



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