



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

Southeast Regional Office
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MAY 19 2004

F/SER3:JAM

Pao-Tsin Kuo
Division of Regulatory Improvements Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Kuo:

We have received your letter dated January 5, 2004, requesting a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the potential future construction of one or more new nuclear power plants. One of the proposed sites is the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located in Aiken and Barnwell Counties, South Carolina.

Enclosed is a list of federally-protected species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries for the state of South Carolina. Biological information on federally protected sea turtles, sturgeon, 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); U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://noflorida.fws.gov/SeaTurtles/seaturtle-info.htm>), <http://endangered.fws.gov/wildlife.html#Species>; the Ocean Conservancy (<http://www.cmc-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://www.turtles.org>; <http://www.seaturtle.org>; <http://alabama.fws.gov/gsl/>; http://obis.env.duke.edu/data/sp_profiles.php; www.mote.org/~colins/Sawfish/SawfishHomePage.html; www.floridasawfish.com; <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/Sharks/sawfish/srt/srt.htm>; www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/InNews/sawprop.htm.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jennifer Moore, natural resource specialist, at (727) 570-5312, or by e-mail at jennifer.moore@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

Enclosure

File: 1514-22 .M. NRC



Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitats
under the Jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service
South Carolina

Listed Species	Scientific Name	Status	Date Listed
Marine Mammals			
blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
finback whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
right whale	<i>Eubalaena glacialis</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
Turtles			
green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened ⁽¹⁾	07/28/78
hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	07/28/78
Fish			
shortnose sturgeon	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	Endangered	03/11/67

Species Proposed for Listing

None

Designated Critical Habitat

None

Proposed Critical Habitat

None

Candidate Species⁽²⁾

Scientific Name

Fish

Atlantic sturgeon

Acipenser oxyrhynchus oxyrhynchus

dusky shark

Carcharhinus obscurus

night shark

Carcharhinus signatus

sand tiger shark

Odontaspis taurus

speckled hind

Epinephelus drummondhayi

Warsaw grouper

Epinephelus nigritus

1. Green turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations of green turtles in Florida and on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

2. Candidate species are not protected under the Endangered Species Act, but concerns about their status indicate that they may warrant listing in the future. Federal agencies and the public are encouraged to consider these species during project planning so that future listings may be avoided.
