



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southwest Region  
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200  
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

JUL 27 2004

In response reply to:  
151422SWR04AR9131:DA

Scott C. Flanders, Deputy Director  
Environmental and Performance Directorate  
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection  
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Flanders:

Thank you for your June 3, 2004, letter, originally sent to the NOAA Fisheries Northwest Regional Office, regarding Federally listed threatened or endangered species and designated critical habitat that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed Humboldt Bay Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation on Buhne Point, Humboldt Bay, California.

The following listed species may occur within the project area:

- Southern Oregon/Northern California (SONCC) Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), listed as threatened on May 6, 1997 (62 FR 24588).
- California Coastal (CC) ESU Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), listed as threatened on September 16, 1999 (64 FR 50393).
- Northern California (NC) ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), listed as threatened on June 7, 2000 (65 FR 36074).
- Steller Sea Lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*), listed as threatened on November 26, 1990 (55 FR 40204).

The following critical habitat may occur within the project area:

- Critical habitat for SONCC coho salmon, designated May 5, 1999 (64 FR 24049).



Humboldt Bay is also designated as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act for fish species managed with a Fishery Management Plan (FMP), and includes the following FMPs:

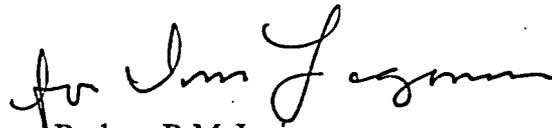
- Pacific Groundfish Fishery Management Plan
- Coastal Pelagics Fishery Management Plan
- Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan

Any biological assessment prepared should also include an EFH assessment for the species managed by the above FMPs. Complete EFH species lists and information on EFH and these FMPs are located on our web site (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/efh.htm>).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) may also have listed species or designated critical habitat under its jurisdiction in the project area. Please contact Mr. Greg Goldsmith, 1655 Heindon Road, Arcata, CA, 95521, or (707) 825-5120, regarding the presence of listed species or critical habitat under USFWS jurisdiction that may be affected by the project.

If you have questions concerning these comments, please contact Ms. Diane Ashton at (707) 825-5185.

Sincerely,



Rodney R. McInnis  
Regional Administrator