

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office 263 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. South St. Petersburg, FL 33701 (727) 824-5312, FAX (727) 824-5309 http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

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Rani Franovich, Branch Chief Environmental Branch B Division of License Renewal Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Franovich:

This correspondence responds to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) letter dated August 22, 2007, regarding the renewal of operating licenses for Vogtle Electric Generating Plant, Units 1 and 2 (VEGP) in Burke County, Georgia.

As requested, enclosed is a list of federally-protected species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service for the state of Georgia.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the NRC in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions regarding the ESA consultation process, please contact Mr. Robert Hoffman, fishery biologist, at (727) 824-5312, or by e-mail at Robert.Hoffman@noaa.gov.

Sincerely

David M. Bernhart

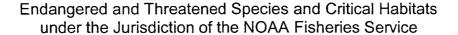
Assistant Regional Administrator Protected Resources Division

Enclosure

File: 1514-22.M NRC









## Georgia

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Listed Species	Scientific Name	Status	Date Listed
Marine Mammals			
blue whale	Balaenoptera musculus	Endangered	12/02/70
finback whale	Balaenoptera physalus	Endangered	12/02/70
humpback whale	Megaptera novaengliae	Endangered	12/02/70
right whale	Eubalaena glacialis	Endangered	12/02/70
sei whale	Balaenoptera borealis	Endangered	12/02/70
sperm whale	Physeter macrocephalus	Endangered	12/02/70
Turtles			
green sea turtle	Chelonia mydas	Threatened <sup>1</sup>	07/28/78
hawksbill sea turtle	Eretmochelys imbricata	Endangered	06/02/70
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	Lepidochelys kempii	Endangered	12/02/70
leatherback sea turtle	Dermochelys coriacea	Endangered	06/02/70
loggerhead sea turtle	Caretta caretta	Threatened	07/28/78
Fish			
shortnose sturgeon	Acipenser brevirostrum	Endangered	03/11/67
smalltooth sawfish	Pristis pectinata	Endangered	04/01/03

## **Designated Critical Habitat**

Right whale: Between 31°15'N (approximately the mouth of the Altamaha River, Georgia) and 30°15'N (approximately Jacksonville, Florida) from tine coast out to 15 nautical miles offshore; the coastal waters between 30°15'N and 28°00'N (approximately Sebastian Inlet, Florida) from the coast out to 5 nautical miles.

**Species Proposed for Listing**None

**Proposed Critical Habitat** None

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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





## Georgia

Candidate Species <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Name	•
None		

Species of Concern <sup>3</sup>	Scientific Name	
Fish		
Atlantic sturgeon	Acipenser oxyrhynchus oxyrhynchus	
dusky shark	Carcharhinus obscurus	
night shark	Carcharinus signatus	
sand tiger shark	Carcharias taurus	
speckled hind	Epinephelus drummondhayi	
Warsaw grouper	Epinephelus nigritus	
white marlin	Tetrapturus albidus	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Candidate Species List has been renamed the Species of Concern List. The term "candidate species" is limited to species that are the subject of a petition to list and for which NOAA Fisheries Service has determined that listing may be warranted (69 FR 19975).

<sup>19975).

&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Species of Concern 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.