



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

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office

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F/SER3:TM

MAR 21 2008

Mr. William Burton, Branch Chief
Environment Projects Branch 1
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Dear Mr. Burton:

This correspondence responds to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) letter dated March 11, 2008, regarding application for combined licenses for the Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Units 3 and 4 near Scottsboro, Alabama.

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

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. Eric Hawk, fishery biologist, at (727) 824-5312, or by e-mail at Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov

Sincerely,

David M. Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resources Division

Enclosure

File: 1514-22.M
Ref: T/SER/2008/01309





Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitats
under the Jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries Service



Alabama

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
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			
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Threatened	09/30/91

Designated Critical Habitat

Gulf Sturgeon: A final rule designating Gulf sturgeon critical habitat was published on March 19, 2003 (68 FR 13370) and 14 geographic areas (units) among the Gulf of Mexico rivers and tributaries were identified. Maps and details regarding the final rule can be found at alabama.fws.gov/gs

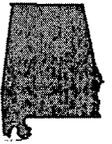
Species Proposed for Listing

None

Proposed Critical Habitat

None

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



Alabama

Candidate Species ²	Scientific Name
None	

Species of Concern ³	Scientific Name
Fish	
Alabama shad	<i>Alosa alabamae</i>
dusky shark	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>
night shark	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>
saltmarsh topminnow	<i>Fundulus jenkinsi</i>
sand tiger shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>
speckled hind	<i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>
Warsaw grouper	<i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>
white marlin	<i>Tetrapturus albidus</i>
Invertebrates	
ivory bush coral	<i>Oculina varicosa</i>

² 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).

³ 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.