



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Field Office
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405-3721

Tel: (850) 769-0552
Fax: (850) 763-2177

January 7, 2016

Debora McClain, Case Manager
Deputy Deepwater Horizon, DOI, NRDAR
Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

Re: FWS/R4/DH NRDAR
Proposed Florida Coastal Access Project
04EF3000-2016-I-0081

Dear Ms. McClain:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the NRDAR proposal titled "Proposed Florida Coastal Access Project". Our comments are in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).

The proposed project will purchase and develop four parcels of land in the following counties: Bay, Escambia, Franklin, and Okaloosa, to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the public.

The Service has determined the proposed projects are "not likely to adversely affect" any federally listed species. The Panama City Field Office (PCFO) concurs with this determination.

However, based on habitat modelling provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Lynn Haven (Bay County) project may provide suitable habitat for the Panama City Crayfish (PCC), *Procambarus econfinae*, currently a state protected species in Florida. The PCC has also been petitioned to be evaluated for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Service has provided recommendations in earlier correspondence¹ to reduce impacts to the PCC. Due to the likelihood of presumed occurrence, a State Permit may be necessary. Efforts to provide conservation actions to the species now, may preclude the need for federal listing under the ESA. If additional information involving potential effects to listed species becomes available, or if a new species is listed, re-initiation of consultation may be necessary.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20250

January 7, 2016

Post: (850) 783-3177
Tel: (850) 789-0227

January 7, 2016

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
1905 North
Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3000
Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3000

Re: FWSR-16-001
Proposed Florida Coastal Access Project
04177000-2016-1-0001

Dear Mr. McClinton:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has received the FWSR-16-001 proposal titled "Proposed Florida Coastal Access Project." Our comments are in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).

The proposed project will purchase and develop four parcels of land in the following counties: Bay, Escambia, Franklin, and Okaloosa, to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for the public.

The Service has determined the proposed project and the likely to affect listed species or designated critical habitat. The Service has determined that the project may affect listed species or designated critical habitat.

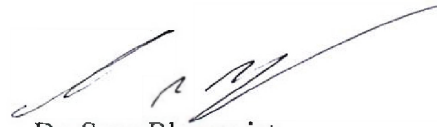
However, based on habitat modeling provided by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, the Bay County (Bass County) project may provide suitable habitat for the Panama City Clamfish (PCC). Panhandle counties currently a state protected species in Florida. The PCC has also been petitioned to be listed for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. The Service has provided recommendations in earlier correspondence to review impacts to the PCC. Due to the likelihood of presumed occurrence, a state permit may be necessary. Efforts to ensure the conservation actions to the species may include the need for federal listing under the ESA. If additional information involving potential effects to listed species becomes available or if a new species is listed, re-evaluation of consultation may be necessary.

Ms McClain

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If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Channing St. Aubin of this office at extension 248 for additional information and coordination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Blomquist', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Sean Blomquist
Ecological Services Chief

- 1) Correspondence via email dated November 18, 2015 from Patty Kelly (PCFO) to Ben Frater (NRDAR, Fairhope, AL)