



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2017-F-0531

APR 03 2017

Ms. Debora McClain
Deputy Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)
Department of the Interior Case Manager
U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30345

Dear Ms. McClain:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) receipt of your March 28, 2017, letter requesting initiation of formal consultation under the Endangered Species Act (Act). The consultation involves the possible effects of the implementation of Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) Laguna Cove Little Lagoon Natural Resources Protection Project.

All information required of you to initiate consultation on the possible effects of the proposed actions on the federally listed Alabama beach mouse has been received or is otherwise accessible for our consideration and reference. We have assigned log number 2017-F-0531 to this consultation. Please refer to that number in future correspondence.

Section 7 allows the Service up to 90 days to conclude formal consultation with your agency and an additional 45 days to prepare our biological opinion (unless we mutually agree to an extension). Therefore, we anticipate issuing the biological opinion by August 16, 2017.

As a reminder, the Endangered Species Act requires that after initiation of formal consultation, the Federal action agency make no irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources that limits future options. This practice insures agency actions do not preclude the formulation or implementation of reasonable and prudent alternatives that avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or destroying or modifying their critical habitats.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Shannon Holbrook of my staff at (251) 441-5871. Please use the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office