



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

APR 09 2014

The Honorable David Vitter
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Vitter:

Thank you for your letter dated February 18, 2014, regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) formal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on their efforts to promulgate regulations to implement Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act.

In a letter dated June 18, 2013, EPA requested ESA Section 7(a)(2) consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the FWS. The ESA and its implementing regulations require Federal agencies to consult with the FWS if the agency determines that their action "may affect" listed species or designated critical habitat. As described in the June 18 letter, EPA determined that the issuance and implementation of the proposed regulations may affect 215 threatened and endangered species and the designated critical habitat of 30 species.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff contact the Service's Assistant Director for Ecological Services, Mr. Gary Frazer, at (202) 208-4646.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
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APR 09 2014

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter dated February 18, 2014, regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) formal consultation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on their efforts to promulgate regulations to implement Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act.

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The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

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APR 09 2014

The Honorable John Boozman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Boozman:

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