



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/AES/056274

APR 14 2014

The Honorable James Lankford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

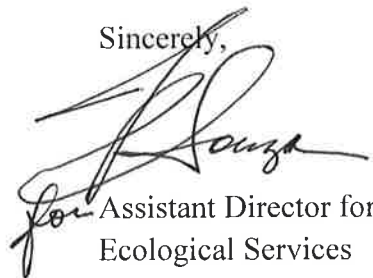
Dear Representative Lankford:

Thank you for your letter dated December 13, 2013, regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) formal consultation under section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act 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 Service. The EPA and its implementing regulations require Federal agencies to consult with the Service 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 any further questions regarding this matter please feel free to contact me directly or have your staff contact Ms. Patrice Ashfield, the Chief for Consultation and Habitat Conservation Planning, at 703-358-2478.

Sincerely,

  
for Assistant Director for  
Ecological Services