



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service

Arizona Ecological Services State Office  
3616 West Thomas Road, Suite 6  
Phoenix, Arizona 85019-4498  
(602) 379-4720 Fax (602) 379-6629



In Reply Refer To:

AESO/SE  
2-21-F-91-483

June 16, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: Regional Director, National Park Service, San Francisco, CA

FROM: <sup>RETURN CR</sup> State Supervisor

SUBJECT: Third Amendment to Biological Opinion - Issuance of a Permit to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Collect Humpback Chub and Razorback Sucker in the Grand Canyon National Park, Coconino County, Arizona

This memorandum further amends the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) September 13, 1991, biological opinion on issuance of a National Park Service (NPS) permit to Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) personnel to collect endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypha*) and endangered razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in the Grand Canyon National Park.

On June 15, 1994, you requested formal Section 7 consultation regarding issuance of a 1994 NPS collecting permit to FWS based on activities identified in their original study plan and modifications identified in their 1994 permit renewal request (your reference: N1621 [WR-GRCA]). Consideration of those modifications are discussed later in this memorandum. While the 1994 permit requests are being processed, we mutually agreed with the NPS to extend the duration of our 1993 biological opinion. The FWS (applicant) includes the Arizona Fishery Resource Office and the Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

The applicant proposes to continue an existing research program on eight tributaries to the Colorado River in Grand and Glen Canyons using nets, seines, and observation. The applicant proposes no purposeful take of humpback chub or razorback sucker.

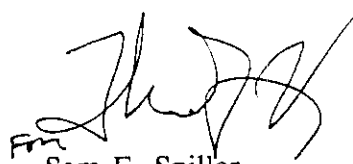
We have further evaluated incidental mortality using records from last year and estimated numbers and sizes of humpback chub that may be sampled in 1994. Last year was reported to have been an excellent year for humpback chub reproduction and this year may also be very successful. Because of this, numerous individuals of both small-size humpback chub (less than 74 mm total length [TL]) and a larger size (74-100 mm TL) should be present in the waters to be sampled by the applicant.

Based upon this review, we anticipate that incidental mortality to humpback chub will be 50 individuals from 30 mm TL to 49 mm TL, 50 individuals from 50 mm TL to 74 mm TL, 25 individuals from 75 mm TL to 100 mm TL, and 10 individuals greater than 100 mm TL.

Occurrence of the razorback sucker is rare in the Grand Canyon, and the recommended handling procedure that was included in the 1991 opinion, as a proposed species should be continued in 1993 for the razorback sucker as a listed species. An incidental take limit of one has been established for the species, and the same reasonable and prudent measures and terms and conditions included for the humpback chub in the 1991 opinion will apply for the razorback sucker.

This amendment pertains to the study and collecting period that will be extended by the permit until December 31, 1994. Our biological opinion, that the issuance of the permit is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the humpback chub or razorback sucker, remains unchanged.

Thank you for your interest in conserving endangered species. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Frank Baucom or me.



Sam F. Spiller

cc: Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. (AES/TE)  
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Albuquerque, NM (AES)(AFF)  
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver, CO (AES)  
Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, AZ  
Superintendent, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Page, AZ  
Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ  
Director, Navajo Fish and Wildlife Department, Window Rock, AZ  
Director, Natural Resource Department, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, AZ  
Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Salt Lake City, UT  
Project Leader, Fish and Wildlife Service, Pinetop, AZ  
Fishery Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker, AZ  
Fishery Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Flagstaff, AZ  
Dr. Paul Marsh, Center for Environmental Studies, ASU, Tempe, AZ  
GCES Research Coordinator, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, AZ  
Principal Investigator, BIO/WEST, Logan, UT  
Unit Leader, Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Tucson, AZ  
Senior Scientist, GCES, CES, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ  
Program Manager, GCES, Bureau of Reclamation, Flagstaff, AZ  
Program Director, Navajo Natural Heritage Program, Window Rock, AZ