



In Reply Refer To:
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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Coastal Ecological Services Field Office
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Houston, Texas 77058
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March 10, 2014

Brian Penoyer
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Sector Houston-Galveston
9640 Clinton Drive
Houston, TX 77029

Dear Captain Penoyer:

Thank you for the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) recent letter acknowledging the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) review and response to a request for Endangered Species Act (Act) informal consultation regarding resources at risk in proposed pre-approved areas for use of surface washing agents. The Service welcomes the opportunity to provide updated information that benefits Service trust resources, such as federally listed threatened or endangered species under the Act and critical habitat designations. Your sharing of provided information with the other state and federal trustee agencies for use in updating the Central Texas Coastal Area Contingency Plan (CTCACP) is also greatly appreciated.

Regarding your letter dated January 23, 2014, and our review of the attached Surface Washing Agent Plan (Section 3253), the Service concurs with the USCG's finding that the specified use of Environmental Protection Agency approved "lift and float" surface washing agents within port locations, identified as pre-approved areas, is not likely to adversely affect federally listed species or critical habitats that are the responsibility of the Service.

Please note that this concurrence does not cover any consideration for use of a surface washing agent outside of the pre-approved areas within port locations in the Central Texas Coastal Area. Use of such agents outside the pre-approved areas will require emergency consultation by the Regional Response Team VI. In addition to this concurrence, the Service is in agreement with inclusion of Section 3253 into the CTCACP.

In the event changes to Section 3253 occur or additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species or designated critical habitat becomes available, the informal consultation process should be reinitiated for effects not previously considered. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Ron Brinkley at 281/286-8282 ext.245.

Sincerely,

Edith Erfling
Field Supervisor

Attachment

