

PROACTIVE ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS TO USACE NAVIGATION FROM PROPOSED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Dredging Innovations Group Program

DEFINITION OF TERMS USED IN RESULTS TABLES AND LINKED SPECIES DESCRIPTIONS

Biological Assessment – A document prepared for the Section 7 process to determine whether a proposed major construction activity under the authority of a Federal action agency is likely to adversely affect listed species, proposed species, or designated critical habitat.

Biological Opinion – A document that is the product of formal consultation, stating that the opinion of the Service on whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Candidate Species – Plants and animals that have been studied and the Service has concluded that they should be proposed for addition to the Federal endangered and threatened species list.

Consultation – All Federal agencies must consult with the US Fish and Wildlife service or NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service) when any activity permitted, funded, or conducted by that agency may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, or is likely to jeopardize proposed species or adversely modify proposed critical habitat. There are two stages of consultations: informal and formal.

Critical Habitat – Specific geographic area, whether occupied by listed species or not, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described in the Federal Register.

Delist – The process of removing an animal or plant from the list of Endangered and Threatened wildlife and Plants.

Distinct Population Segment (DPS) – If it satisfies the criteria specified in the 7 February 1996 Federal Register, pages 4722-4725, a portion of a vertebrate species or subspecies can be listed. The criteria require it to be readily separable from the rest of its species and to be biologically and ecologically significant. Such a portion of a species or subspecies is called a distinct population segment.

Endangered – The classification provided to an animal or plant in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended – Federal legislation intended to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend may be conserved, and provide programs for the conservation of those species, thus preventing extinction of native plants and animals.

Harm – an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such acts may include significant habitat modification or degradation when it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Historic Range – Those geographic areas the species was known or believed to occupy in the past.

Incidental Take – Take that results from, but is not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity.

Listed Species – A species, subspecies, or distinct vertebrate population segment that has been added to the Federal lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants.

Proposed Species – any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is proposed in the Federal Register to be listed under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Plants and animals must be proposed for listing as threatened or endangered species, and the resulting public comments must be analyzed before the Service can make a final decision.

Recovery Plan – A document drafted by the Service or other knowledgeable individual or group that serves as a guide for activities to be undertaken by Federal, State, or private entities in helping to recover and conserve endangered or threatened species.

Section 7 – The section of the Endangered Species Act that requires all Federal agencies, in “Consultation” with the Service, to insure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

Section 4 – The section of the Endangered Species Act that deals with listing and recovery of species, and designation of critical habitat.

Species of Concern – “Species of concern” is an informal term that refers to those species which the Service believes may be in need of concentrated conservation actions. Such conservation actions vary depending on the health of the populations and degree and types of threats. At one extreme, there may only need to be periodic monitoring of populations and threats to the species and its habitat. At the other extreme, a species may need to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species. Species of concern receive no Federal legal protection and the use of the term does not necessarily mean that the species will eventually be proposed for listing as a threatened or endangered species.

Threatened – The term “threatened species” means any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range – as defined in the Endangered Species Act.