

Appendix H
Endangered Species Act
Section 7 Consultation

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The NMFS has determined that issuance of permits and grants for research on threatened and endangered SSLs is likely to adversely affect both Distinct Population Segments of SSLs. Formal consultation will be initiated on the Preferred Alternative pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA and regulations at 50 CFR §402.14. The results of that consultation, including any Biological Opinions produced, will be incorporated into the Final EIS. NMFS is also in the process of confirming what threatened, endangered, and candidate species under the jurisdiction of USFWS may be present in the action area by requesting a list of federally listed and candidate species from that agency. NMFS will engage in consultation with USFWS for any such species or designated critical habitat which it determines likely to be affected by the action. The results of any such consultation will be incorporated into the Final EIS.

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