

# Cable Landfall / Port Development Environmental Considerations

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# National Environmental Policy Act (1970)

- Federal agencies must assess the environmental effects of proposed actions prior to making decisions and involve the public
  - impacts on social, cultural, economic, and natural resources
- Environmental Assessment vs. Environmental Impact Statement
- Establishes Procedural Requirements for “Major Federal Actions significantly affecting the quality of the Human Environment” (EIS)
- Most Federal Agencies have developed their own NEPA guidance
- FAST-41: Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (2015)
  - New governance structure, procedures, funding to improve Federal environmental review and authorization process for infrastructure projects

# ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

More Important Than Ever

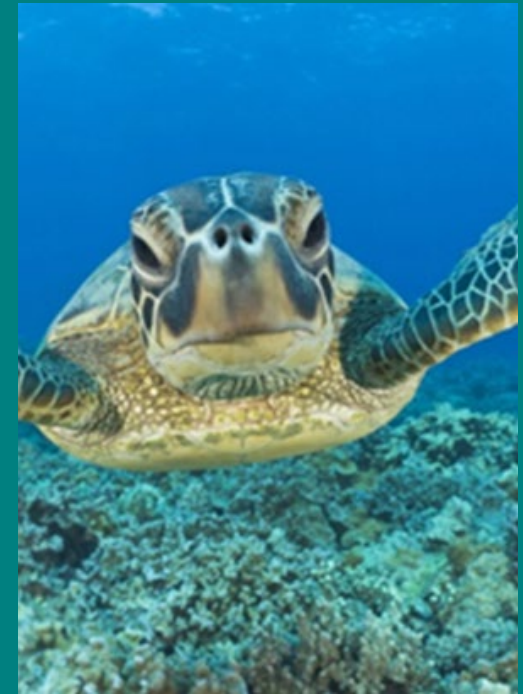


- **Purpose: To protect species threatened with extinction and the habitat upon which they depend**
- **500 taxa have become extinct in the U.S. since 1620**
- **To date, 2,244 species are listed as threatened or endangered**
  - 1,618 of those in the U.S.
- **USFWS shares authority with NOAA Fisheries Service**
  - **USFWS has authority over species on land (+ manatee)**
  - **NOAA Fisheries Service has authority over species in the water**



# ESA Consultation

- **ESA Section 7: Interagency Cooperation (Federal agencies)**
- **Federal Agencies must consult when:**
  - Federal money is involved
  - Federal permit or authorization is required
  - Federal land is involved
- **ESA Section 10: Permits (private project - no federal nexus)**
  - *Compliance with ESA is required even if no federal agency involved*
- **In-water route and landfall should be coordinated with NOAA**
- **Landfall and on-shore route should be coordinated with USFWS**



<http://wallpaper.imcphoto.net/turtle-pictures.html>

# Beach/Nearshore Concerns

- Sea Turtles (in water and on beach)
- Listed birds or birds of concern:
  - Breeding and Migratory Shorebirds
  - Wintering Waterfowl
  - Marine Birds
- Marine Mammals
- Listed dune plants
- Beach mice and voles
- Listed beetles
- Critical Habitat for listed species
- West Indian manatee – in-water work
- Listed Fish
- Essential Fish Habitat / Sensitive benthic habitat





# Estuarine Resources

- Marsh birds (e.g., Rails)
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (seagrass)
- Fish/Shellfish Nursery Areas
- Shellfish harvesting areas
- Coastal Marsh
- Waterbird Rookeries
- Migrating/Wintering waterfowl & shorebirds
- Manatee



Oyster Recovery Partnership





## Inland Alignment

- Hundreds of Listed Species from All Taxa
- Migratory birds
- Waterbird rookeries
- Raptors including Bald and Golden Eagles
- Designated Critical Habitat



# Other Resources

- National Seashores
- National Wildlife Refuges
- Archeological Resources & Historic Sites
- Federal Lands, Installations, State Lands
- Tribal Lands, Trust & Cultural Resources
- Recreational facilities
- Environmental Justice Concerns
- Natural Heritage areas
- Streams and wetlands

Sabine Marsh



# Avoidance and Minimization

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- LOCATION
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- Directional drilling in sensitive areas
- Co-locating on existing Rights-of-Way
- Expand Existing Locations vs. Creating New
- Restore disturbed areas with native species
- Avoid work during sensitive seasons
- Enhanced BMPs for sensitive areas



Smooth Coneflower in a ROW

# Online Tool: IPaC

- [HTTPS://IPAC.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/](https://IPAC.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/)
- “Information for Planning and Consultation”
- National project planning tool
- Streamlines the USFWS review process
- Provides lists of species and other resources
- Interactive tools available
- IPaC Test Beta for Playing/Testing: [HTTPS://IPACB.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/](https://IPACB.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/)
- Also contact State Natural Heritage Program for existing species data





# United States Department of the Interior

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# Upload shapefile for a list of species & other resources

In Reply Refer To:  
Project Code: 2023-XXXXXX  
Project Name: PNNL Presentation - Example Activity

August 02, 2023

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

### To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act contains suitable habitat action has the potential should be conducted to use of this species list at substituted for actual file

### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 15 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries<sup>1</sup>, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

### MAMMALS

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045</a>	Endangered
Red Wolf <i>Canis rufus</i> Population: Wherever found, except where listed as an experimental population No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/37">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/37</a>	Endangered
Red Wolf <i>Canis rufus</i> Population: U.S.A. (portions of NC and TN) No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/37">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/37</a>	Experimental Population, Non-Essential
Tricolored Bat <i>Perimyotis subflavus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10515</a>	Proposed Endangered

### BIRDS

NAME	STATUS
Eastern Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/10477</a>	Threatened
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> Population: [Atlantic Coast and Northern Great Plains populations] - Wherever found, except those areas where listed as endangered. There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039</a>	Threatened
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864</a>	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker <i>Picoides borealis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7614</a>	Endangered

### REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
American Alligator <i>Alligator mississippiensis</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/776">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/776</a>	Similarity of Appearance (Threatened)
Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Population: North Atlantic DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6199</a>	Threatened
Hawksbill Sea Turtle <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3656</a>	Endangered
Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle <i>Lepidochelys kempii</i> There is <b>proposed</b> critical habitat for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5523</a>	Endangered
Leatherback Sea Turtle <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1493</a>	Endangered
Loggerhead Sea Turtle <i>Caretta caretta</i> Population: Northwest Atlantic Ocean DPS There is <b>final</b> critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1110</a>	Threatened

# For More Information



**[HTTPS://IPAC.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/](https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/)**

**(BETA = [HTTPS://IPACB.ECOSPHERE.FWS.GOV/](https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/))**



**[WWW.FWS.GOV](http://www.fws.gov)**

**(Navigate to your state's Field Office)**

**[WWW.FISHERIES.NOAA.GOV](http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov)**

