



# United States Department of the Interior

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Your Partners for Emergency  
Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

# Agenda

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- Introduction to DOI
- Incident and Emergency Response
- Trust Resource Considerations in RRT Plans
- Facilitating Engagement with Tools
- Technical Assistance, Training, and Exercises
- Bureau Spotlight – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Zoned Spill Response
  - Endangered Species Act
  - IPaC





# **What is DOI?**

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# DOI's MISSION

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*The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and affiliated Island Communities.*



### Indian Affairs Bureaus – 1824

Administers and oversees programs for federally recognized tribes and Alaska Native villages—managing trust lands, natural resources, law enforcement, education, economic development, and infrastructure to improve tribal quality of life.



### Reclamation Bureau - 1902

Manages water resources in the western U.S.—operates dams, reservoirs, canals, and hydroelectric facilities, supplying irrigation and municipal water to millions and generating significant hydropower



### Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement – Founded in 1977

Regulates surface coal mining to protect communities and the environment—oversees reclamation of active and abandoned mine lands and enforces standards through state programs



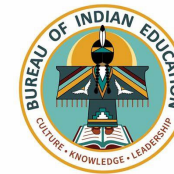
### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 1871/1940 Bureau of Fisheries/Bureau of Biological Survey

Conserves and manages fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats—administers the National Wildlife Refuge System, enforces wildlife laws, protects endangered species, and restores fisheries



### National Park Service - 1916

Preserves and manages national parks, monuments, historic sites, and other protected areas—conserves natural and cultural resources while facilitating public enjoyment and education



### Indian Education Bureau - 2006

Manages and funds elementary, secondary, and postsecondary educational institutions for Native American students on reservations—operates 183 schools and dormitories, and supports tribal-run schools and scholarship programs



### U.S. Geological Survey - 1879

The nation's premier earth and natural science agency—conducts research and monitoring of water, biological resources, natural hazards, and geology, providing critical maps, data, and scientific insights



### Bureau of Land Management - 1946

Oversees about 247 million acres of public land and approximately 700 million acres of subsurface minerals—balances multiple uses including grazing, energy development, conservation, recreation, and cultural preservation on public lands



### Bureau of Ocean and Energy Management - 2011

Manages offshore energy and mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf—handles leasing for oil, gas, renewables, and marine minerals while ensuring environmentally responsible development



### Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement - 2011

Regulates offshore energy operations—ensures safety, environmental protection, and resource conservation through inspections, enforcement, and spill prevention on the Outer Continental Shelf

# DOI BUREAUS

[Federal Register :: Agencies - Interior Department](#)

# Our Nation's Resources

A scenic landscape photograph showing a sunset over a range of mountains. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the sky and the forested slopes. The text "Our Nation's Resources" is overlaid in large white font.



# **Incident and Emergency Response**

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# Built in Partner

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Federal agencies: additional responsibilities and assistance 40 CFR 300.175(b)(9)

DOI contacted through **Regional Environmental Officers** who are designated members of RRTs.

- Planning
- Exercises
- Emergency Response



Felix Lopez, FWS - Deepwater Horizon

## Regulation Review

§ 40 300.600 (2) Designation of federal trustees

The Secretary of the Interior shall act as trustee for natural resources managed or controlled by the DOI. Examples of the Secretary's trusteeship include the following natural resources and their supporting ecosystems: migratory birds; anadromous fish; endangered species and marine mammals; federally owned minerals; and certain federally managed water resources. The Secretary of the Interior shall also be trustee for those natural resources for which an Indian tribe would otherwise act as trustee in those cases where the United States acts on behalf of the Indian tribe.

# Supporting the OSC

## Examples:

- Environmental Unit
- Spatial analysis
- Resource protection
- Cleanup standards and technology review
- PRFA management and review
- Environmental compliance
- Wildlife Branch
- Hydrologic and Geomorphic Assistance
- Historic Properties/Preservation Specialist



## NPS

Can provide general biological, natural, and cultural resource managers to evaluate, measure, monitor, and contain threats to park system lands and resources.

Archaeological and historical expertise in protection, preservation, evaluation, impact mitigation, and restoration of cultural resources – Historic Property Specialist in National Programmatic Agreement Parks have response plans and staff

## USGS

Hydrologic technicians in USGS Water Science Centers can provide context and insights for most river conditions. Streamflow monitoring sites help give context to river flows and velocities

USGS can participate in RRT and exercises. Provides science support for environmental planning and operations during river spill response

USGS Water Science Centers (WSC)

- South Atlantic WSC
- Lower Mississippi-Gulf WSC
- Caribbean-Florida WSC

## BIA

The BIA Office of Emergency Management ensures Tribal communities, local and regional BIA offices, BIA leadership, and external emergency management responders work together to build, sustain, and improve the capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

- Supports tribal response to emergencies and disasters through the BIA Region and Agency Offices as requested
- Facilitates communication and coordination with other EM partners for tribal response and recovery as requested
- Offer direct support to tribes during emergency incidents, coordinating resources and assistance to ensure an effective response.

## FWS

FWS may provide support (remote or on-site) for protecting trust resources.

Assistance to the Planning Section

- Information for resources-at-risk, resource protection, and development/review of cleanup techniques
- Assist in identifying and obtaining appropriate FWS permits
- Emergency consultation for the Endangered Species Act (Section 7)

Assistance to the Operations Section

- Early reconnaissance of natural resources in the vicinity of the spill
- Protection strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to trust resources and habitats
- Technical assistance to wildlife response, implement or coordinate wildlife response (e.g., FWS can fill the Wildlife Branch Director role)

## Regulation Review

40 CFR 300.135(j)

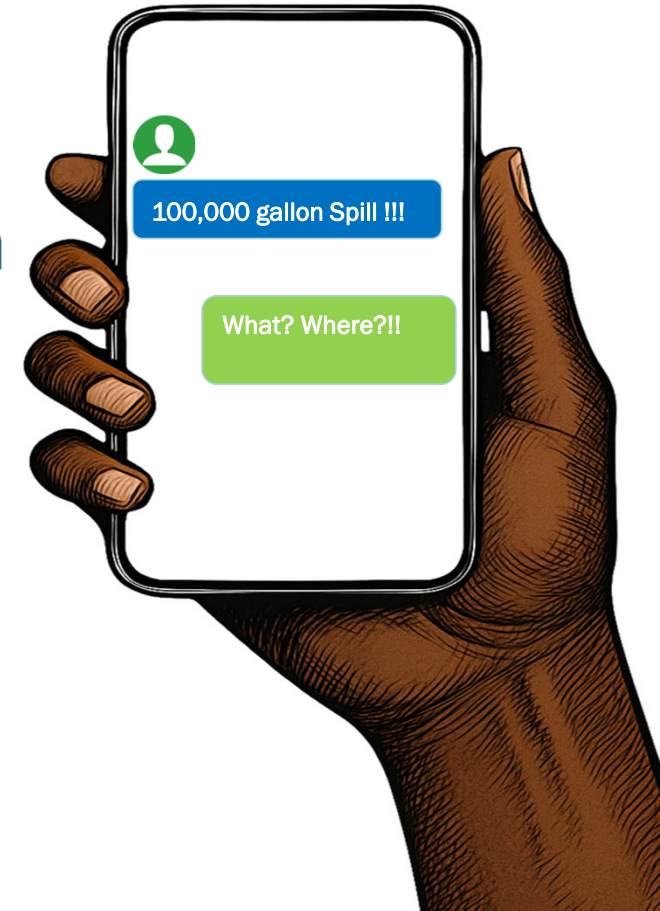
(1) The OSC/RPM shall ensure that the trustees for natural resources are promptly notified of discharges or releases.

(2) The OSC or RPM shall coordinate all response activities with the affected natural resource trustees and, for discharges of oil, the OSC shall consult with the affected trustees on the appropriate removal action to be taken.

- NRC Reports
- Email Notification
- Text
- Direct Phone Call

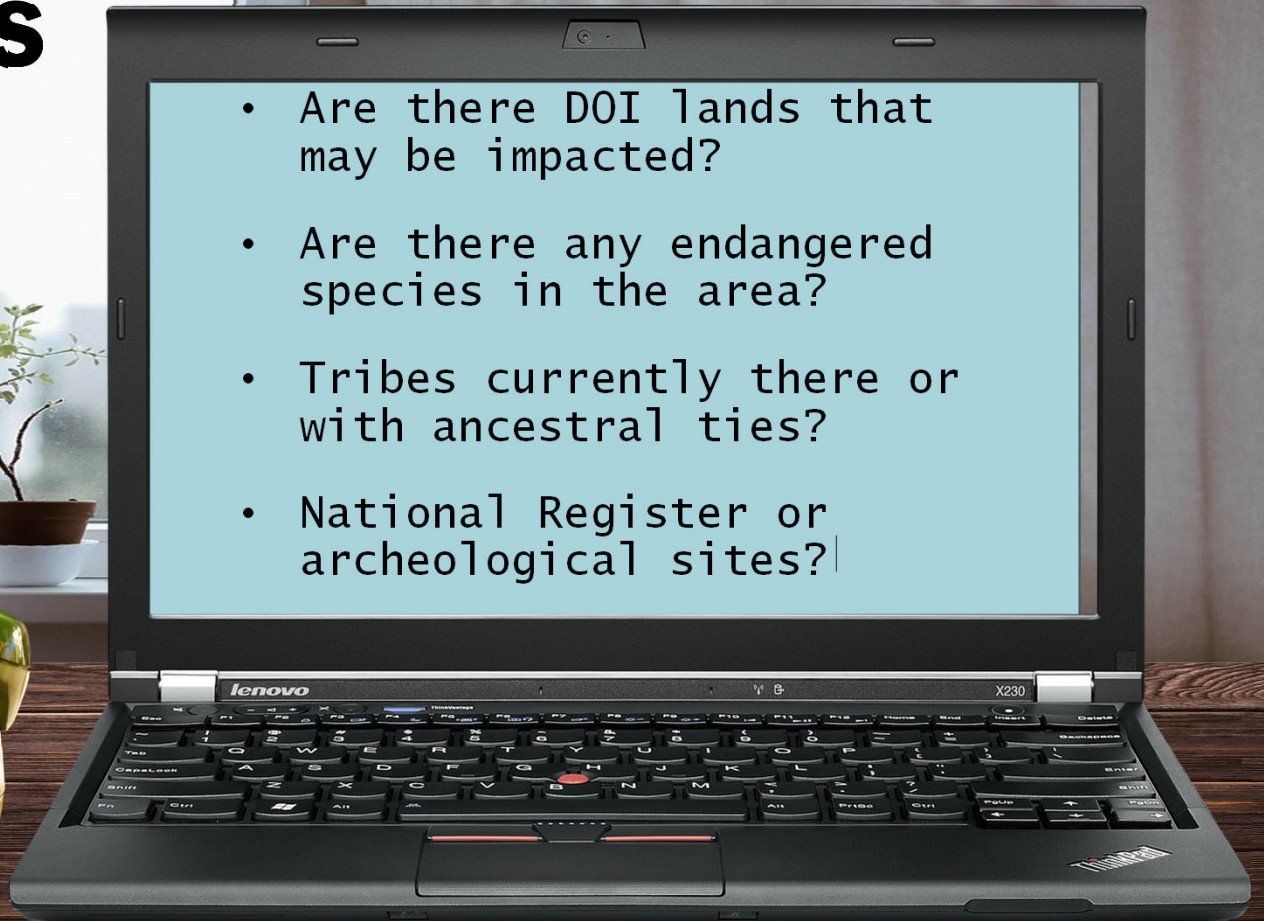
## Notification

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# DOI CONCERNS

- Are there DOI lands that may be impacted?
- Are there any endangered species in the area?
- Tribes currently there or with ancestral ties?
- National Register or archeological sites?





# Regional Response Plans

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Addressing Trust Resource Considerations  
Before an Incident

## Trustee Input

### TYPES OF PLANS

- Regional Contingency Plans
- Area Contingency Plans
- Subarea Plans
- Geographic Response Plans



### BASIC CONTINGENCY PLAN

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Page	Title
23	Requirements for Tribal Consultation
47	Fish and Wildlife Annex
68	National Historic Preservation Act Consultations
85	Insitu Burn Annex



# Regional Response Tools

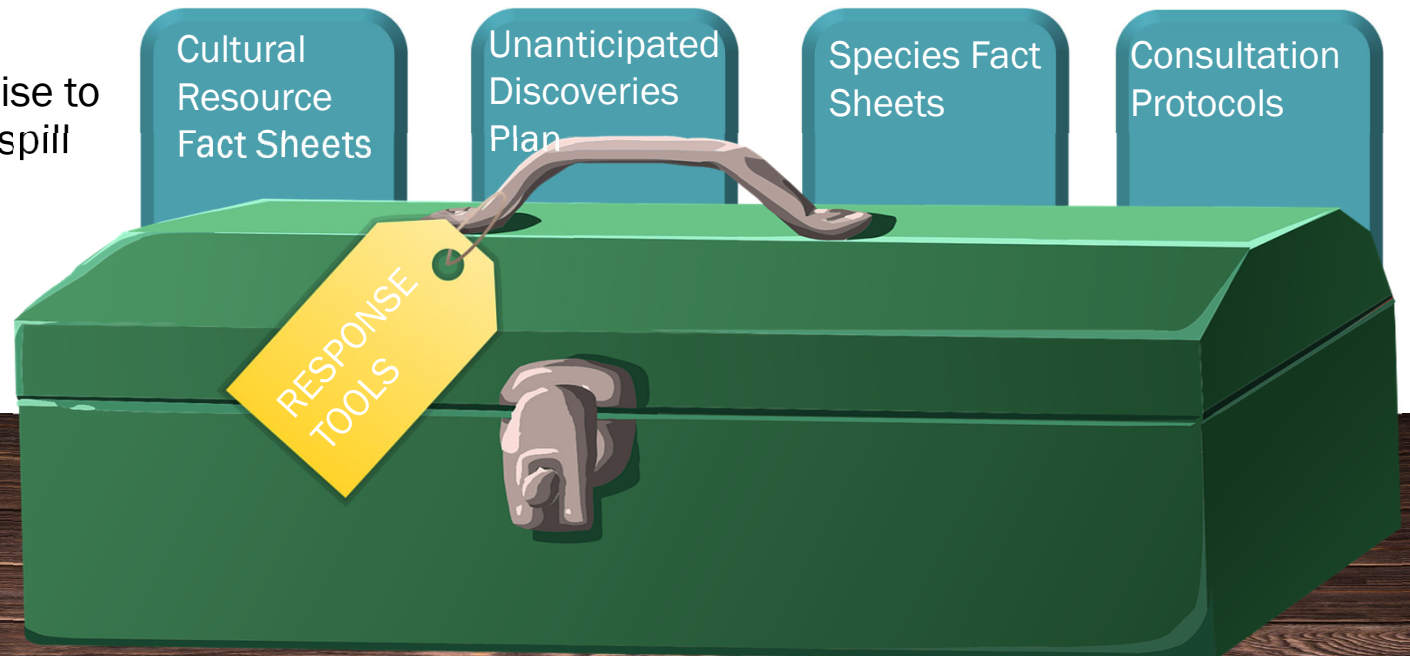
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Providing Technical Information and  
Guidance During an Incident

## DOI Input

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- Coordination with team members at Regional or Local levels
- Providing technical expertise to use during an incident or spill
- Being creative and providing suggestions





# **Technical Assistance, Training, and Exercises**

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Providing Technical Information and Guidance Facilitating Recovery Efforts

# Emergency Support Functions

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USDA Leads

DOI is head for Natural and Cultural Resources

**ESF #1 – Transportation**

**ESF #2 – Communications**

**ESF #3 – Public Works and Engineering**

**ESF #4 – Firefighting**

**ESF #5 – Information and Planning**

**ESF #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Housing, and Human Services**

**ESF #7 – Logistics**

**ESF #8 – Public Health and Medical Services**

**ESF #9 – Search and Rescue**

**ESF #10 – Oil and Hazardous Materials Response**

**ESF #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**ESF #12 – Energy**

**ESF #13 – Public Safety and Security**

**ESF #14 – Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure**

**ESF #15 – External Affairs**

# ESF-11 Natural and Cultural Resources

## NCR Checklist

- Cultural Resources & Historic Preservation**
  - Archeological sites
  - Archives/records protection, recovery, restoration and/or management
  - Battlefields
  - Historic cemeteries
  - Historic districts and corridors
  - Historic sites and structures
  - Libraries
  - Lighthouses
  - Museums and collections
  - Parks and other landmarks
- Environmental Compliance Assistance**
  - Endangered Species Act
  - National Environmental Protection Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
  - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
  - Tribal consultation
  - Other authorities (floodplains, wetlands, coastal zone, permits, etc.)
- Tribes/Tribal Lands**
  - Education
  - Fish & wildlife habitat
  - Historic preservation
  - Housing
  - Subsistence
  - Traditional Cultural Practices
  - Water resources
- Recreation**
  - Boating / canoeing/kayaking access areas
  - Fishing access areas and programs
  - Planning assistance (rivers, trails, open space, parks, etc.)
  - Trails (hiking, biking, equestrian)
- Natural Resources**
  - Fisheries management
  - Aquaculture
  - Hatcheries
  - Fish habitat protection and restoration
  - Fish passage
  - Land
    - Abandoned mine lands
    - Forest lands and habitats
    - Habitat assessments/inventory/evaluation/design
    - Rangeland management
    - Revegetation
  - Water
    - Coastal and natural barriers and systems
    - Coastal marine science
    - Dam safety
    - Hydrological and sea level information
    - Offshore sand and gravel sources
    - River and stream channel clearing and debris
    - Shipwrecks and other submerged resources
    - Soil, dune and beach erosion
    - Water flow predictions



# ESF-11 Natural and Cultural Resources

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema\\_ESF\\_11\\_Ag-Natural-Resources.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-07/fema_ESF_11_Ag-Natural-Resources.pdf)

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## Examples of Assistance

- Structural engineering evaluations
- Deployment of wildlife biologists, veterinarians, forensic anthropologists, and other specialists
- GIS data management and updates for declared zones
- Post-incident threatened and endangered species habitat loss and population analysis
- Condition assessments and architectural/archaeological surveys in affected areas
- Sourcing critical equipment for fish hatcheries immediately after hurricanes (e.g., oxygen tanks)
- Summary of invasive species concerns responders should keep in mind
- Section 106 reviews under the National Historic Preservation Act
- Recovery planning support
- Biosecurity and invasive species gap analysis
- Support for museums, libraries, and archives through the Heritage Emergency National Task Force

# TRAINING & EXERCISES

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## Great Rivers Sub-Area TTX

- Identify concerns for area
- Discuss coordination, roles, responsibilities for partners and stakeholders in the area
- Focus on resources at risk and protection priorities
- 3.5 days – half-day optional with field visits on first and last day
- Class scheduled for June 9-12, 2026, in Cape Girardeau, MO for Great Rivers sub-area.

## Inland Oil Spill Training

This course provides an overview of oil spill response from the Department of the Interior's perspective. It covers DOI roles within Unified Command, habitat protection and cleanup strategies, SCAT team participation, emergency consultation, and balancing response with natural resource damage assessment. It also introduces oil behavior and impacts in inland environments through fundamentals and case studies. A practical drill exercise reinforces these concepts through realistic scenarios. **Date: TBD**

## Historic Preservation Specialist Training

This course introduces students to the role of a Historic Properties Specialist (HPS) and advises spill responders on how to mitigate potential impacts to cultural resources such as historic structures, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes, or museum collections. Emphasizes cooperation with Incident Command staff and other spill responders, effective communication of cultural resource concepts and needs, and response techniques. A workshop format is used to encourage dialog and discussion among participants. **Date: TBD**

## DOI TTX (in person/virtual)

Exercises are developed in order to practice coordinated decision-making that integrates environmental and cultural resource protections into emergency operations. Participants will face realistic time pressures while balancing lifesaving actions with compliance obligations, consultation requirements, and mitigation strategies. **Date: TBD**



# **USFWS Southeast Region (R4)**

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Jennifer Garland – Acting Manager,  
Division of Environmental Review

Chrissy Richards – Acting Spill Response  
Coordinator

# Agenda

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- Introduction to the Southeast Region
- Zoned Spill Response Team
- Endangered Species Act
- IPaC



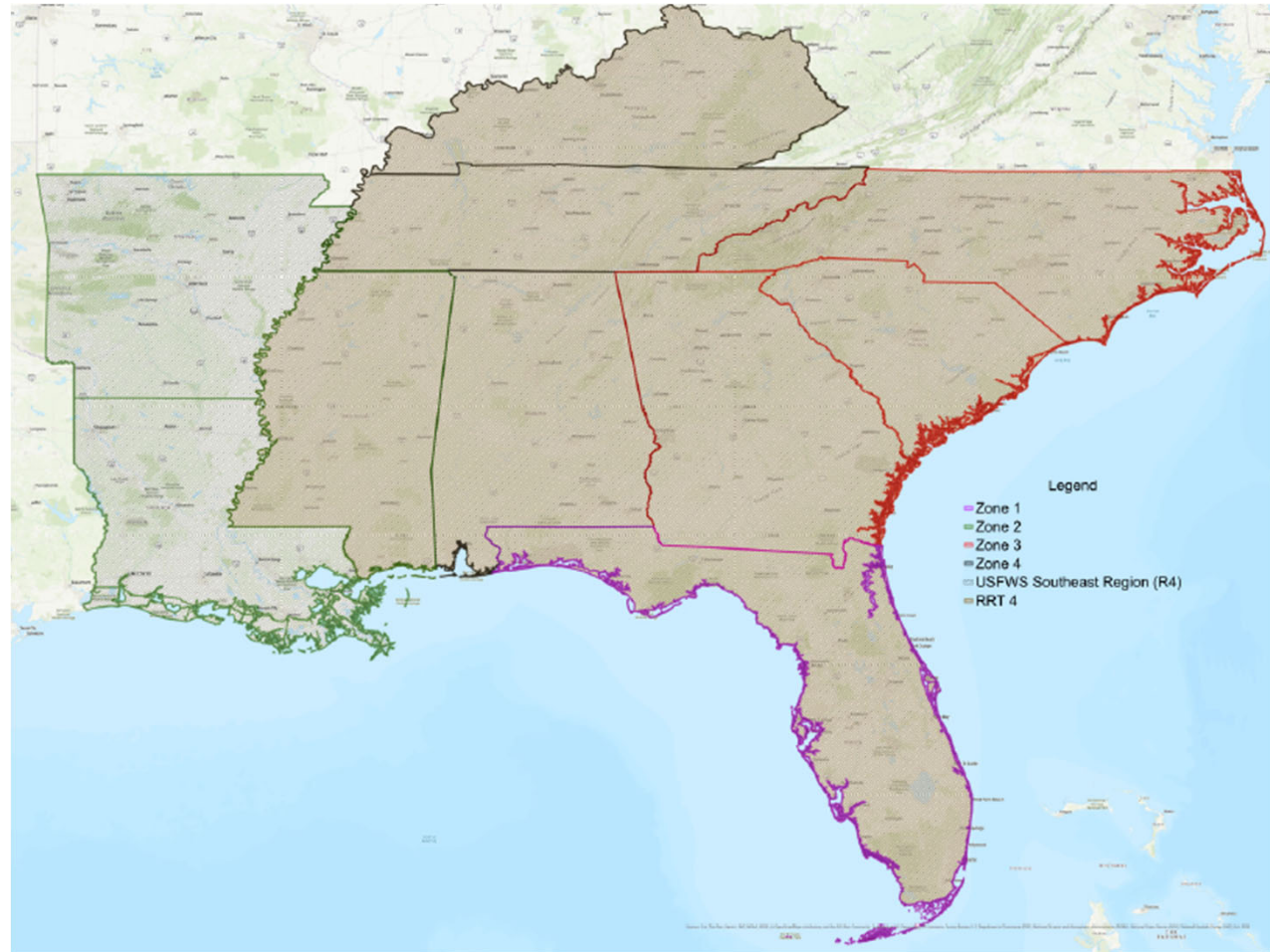
# USFWS Southeast Region

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- Regional Director
  - National Wildlife Refuge System
  - Gulf Restoration Office
    - NRDAR
  - Ecological Services
    - Spill Response
  - Conservation Investment
  - Fish and Aquatic Conservation

# Southeast Region and RRT-4





# **Zoned Spill Response Team**

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# Spill Team + Bench

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- A Zone Spill Response Biologist leads spill response in a work area of two or more field offices. They screen incident reports, respond to the few that impact Service trust resources, and plan internally and externally for future events. Response includes restoration including early phases of NRDAR when needed. They benefit from support of the RO, Office of SE NRDAR, and a small team of trained responders.
- The bench is a team of 10 – 12 volunteers from ES, GRO, Refuges, and other Service programs who can be an extra set of hands when needed - trained and ready to go.



# Spill Response Phone

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- Spill Phone Number: (678) 504-8459
- Press 1 for Caribbean or Florida (Felix Lopez)\*\*
- Press 2 for Arkansas, Louisiana, or Mississippi (Lindsey Adams)
- Press 3 for Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina (Eric Bauer)
- Press 4 for Alabama, Kentucky or Tennessee (Madison Mueller)



# Spill Response V.S. NRDAR



## NRDAR

- Gulf Restoration Office
- Focuses on:
  - Injury assessment
  - Restoration planning
  - Holding polluters accountable
  - Restoration execution

## Spill Response

- Ecological Services
- Focuses on:
  - Scientific and technical advice to minimize impacts
  - Wildlife protection, rescue and rehabilitation
  - Regulatory compliance (ESA)
  - Supporting NRDAR



# **Endangered Species Act**

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# Key Sections of the ESA

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- Sec 2 – Findings, purpose, and policy
- Sec 3 – Definitions
- Sec 4 – Determination of endangered species and threatened species
- Sec 7 – Interagency Cooperation
- Sec 9 – Prohibited Acts
- Sec 10 - Exceptions



# Section 7(a)(2) Consultations

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Federal agencies are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (jointly, the Services) to ensure they are not undertaking, funding, permitting or authorizing actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat





# Emergency Consultations

< FWS Library

## About this Collection

Categories

Resources to guide and assist with Endangered Species Act Sec. 7 consultations in emergency situations.

Collections

Refine Your Results

Type

Document Type

Start Date

### Do Not Delay Emergency Response

The Fish and Wildlife Service is ready to offer our assistance in helping you to comply with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, during emergencies. [Section 7](#)



<https://www.fws.gov/apps/library/collections/emergency-endangered-species-act-sec-7-consultation-southeast>

# Emergency Consultations


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## The ESA Process for Handling Emergencies

- Step 1: Initiating Contact
- Step 2: Service Recommendations
- Step 3: Service Evaluations
- Step 4: Emergency Over
- Step 5: Consultation Completed

<https://www.fws.gov/apps/library/collections/emergency-endangered-species-act-sec-7-consultation-southeast>





# Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)

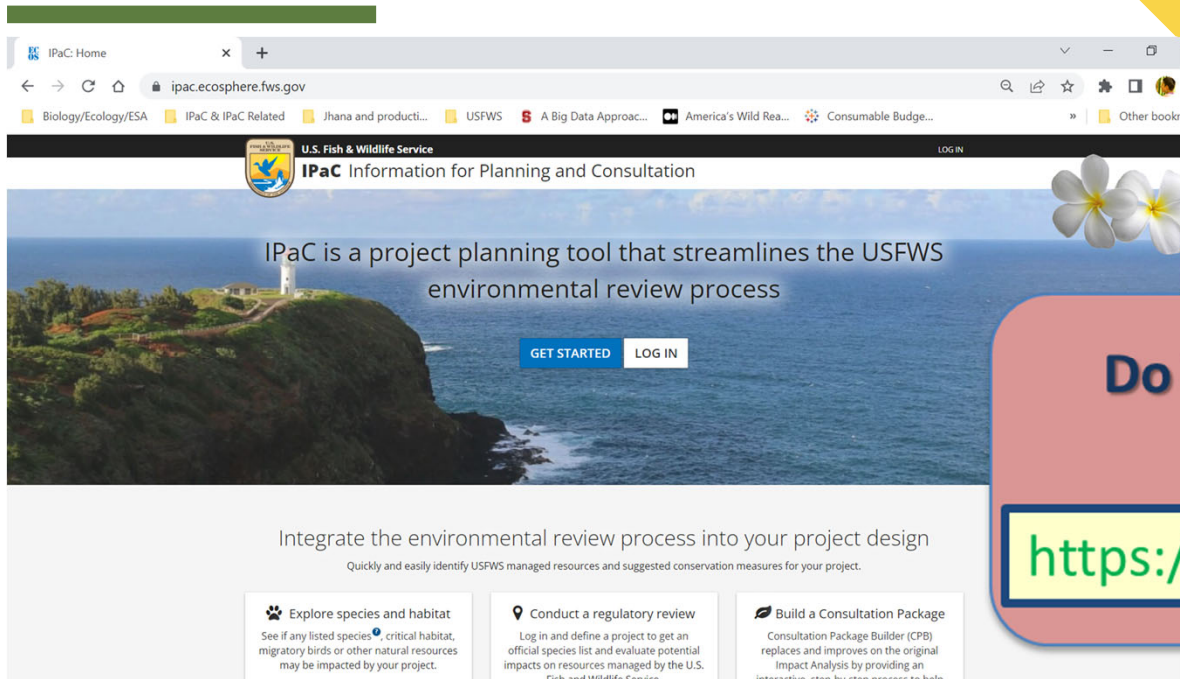
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Regional IPaC Coordinators:

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Pam McDill – [Pamela\\_McDill@fws.gov](mailto:Pamela_McDill@fws.gov)

<https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/>



The screenshot shows the IPaC website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service logo and the text "IPaC Information for Planning and Consultation". Below this is a large banner image of a coastal landscape with a lighthouse. The text on the banner reads: "IPaC is a project planning tool that streamlines the USFWS environmental review process". There are two buttons: "GET STARTED" and "LOG IN". Below the banner, there is a section titled "Integrate the environmental review process into your project design" with the subtext "Quickly and easily identify USFWS managed resources and suggested conservation measures for your project." This section contains three columns of information:

- Explore species and habitat**: See if any listed species, critical habitat, migratory birds or other natural resources may be impacted by your project.
- Conduct a regulatory review**: Log in and define a project to get an official species list and evaluate potential impacts on resources managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Build a Consultation Package**: Consultation Package Builder (CPB) replaces and improves on the original Impact Analysis by providing an interactive, step-by-step process to help...

**Do Testing/Training  
Here:**



<https://ipacb.ecosphere.fws.gov/>

# IPaC Vision

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*IPaC will transform interagency cooperation by delivering efficient 21<sup>st</sup> century consultations and greatly improving regulatory consistency, predictability, transparency, and conservation outcomes.*

# IPaC: Official Species Lists (OSL)

- IPaC users can obtain an Official Species List automatically
- When an OSL is generated, IPaC writes the project data in FWS's project tracking system
- 116 Species have additional helpful info automatically provided



United States Department of the Interior  
 FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
 Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office  
 Federal Building  
 2900 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
 Sacramento, CA 95825-1946  
 Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713



In Reply Refer To:  
 Project Code: 2022-0075197  
 Project Name: BA course: Angie Creek

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

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq)

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to re

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(c) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 et seq.), Federal agencies utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other human physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (

## Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 12 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.

## Birds

NAME:	STATUS
California Least Tern <i>Sterna anillarum brownii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104</a>	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467</a>	Threatened
Northern Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1123">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1123</a>	Threatened
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8033">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8033</a>	Threatened

## Reptiles

NAME:	STATUS
Green Sea Turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i> Population: East Pacific DPS No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: <a href="https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5199">https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5199</a>	Threatened

# Questions

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