

From: <Malcolm.Browne2@exeloncorp.com>
To: <hln@nrc.gov>
Date: 9/2/05 2:17PM
Subject: Sea Turtle Biological Opinion for OCGS

Harriet,

This afternoon I got a call from Sara McNulty of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to advise me that she had finished writing the Sea Turtle Biological Opinion (BO) and accompanying Incidental Take Statement (ITS) for OCGS and that it was now undergoing internal review prior to release. She anticipated that they would be requesting an extension of the original (Sept 10) deadline so that some of the reviewers who were on vacation could get a look at it.

Sara indicated that there were "few changes" in the content of this new BO compared to the BO & ITS issued for OCGS in 2001. She summarized the proposed changes as follows:

- * An increase in annual allowable take limits for Kemps ridley to max of 8/yr with up to 4/yr lethal (based on OC already having taken 8/yr);
- * A decrease in annual allowable take limits for loggerheads to max of 3/yr with up to 1/yr lethal (based on OC only having taken a max of 3/yr);
- * NMFS proposes extending the terms of this BO / ITS only until the end of the current OC NRC license, at which time Section 7 Consultation regarding sea turtles would be re-initiated.

This email is only to give all of you a heads up & I have not seen any of the above in written form. But Sara indicated that she would be contacting you soon to discuss these items. Her best guess at this point was that the NMFS review would be completed in the next few days & we might see the new BO during the week of Sept 5, but more likely during the week of Sept 12.

Malcolm
609-971-4124

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CC: <mtm2@nrc.gov>, <Marcia.Pruskowski@exeloncorp.com>, <Michael.Ford3@exeloncorp.com>, <william.maher@exeloncorp.com>, <jhansi.kandasamy@exeloncorp.com>