

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FROM  
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE  
DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY

TYPE OF ACTION:            Add \_\_\_\_\_ Change   X   Abolish \_\_\_\_\_

AUTHORITY DELEGATED TO:            National Marine Fisheries Service

TYPE OF AUTHORITY:            Administrative

AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT:            This directive modifies the Delegations of Authority from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries in the NOAA Organizational Handbook regarding conduct of Section 7 consultations under the ESA. This directive does not change delegations for other sections of the ESA.

The conduct of formal and informal consultations, the issuance of biological opinions and letters of concurrence and any other responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA is delegated to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, and the Regional Administrators and where appropriate, may be re-delegated to their designee(s), as set forth in this directive.

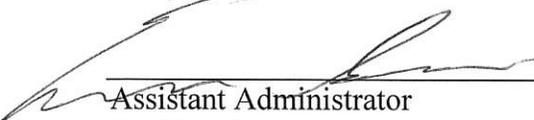
RESERVED AUTHORITY:            The Regional Administrators and Office Director may delegate their authority to perform Section 7 functions to any one or more designee subject to several specified conditions. Any future re-delegations must be established through Quality.

EFFECT ON OTHER DELEGATIONS:            NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the delegations of authority for conducting consultation pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. § 1536. This delegation supersedes all prior delegations regarding Section 7 of the ESA. Assurance Plans (QAP) as described in section 5.0 and approved by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries and the Section Chief, General Counsel, Fisheries and Protected Resources Section.

CLEARANCE BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOAA General Counsel  
*Chief, Fisheries & Protected Resources Section* Date  
12/23/14

APPROVING OFFICIAL:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant Administrator  
for Fisheries Date  
12/30/14