



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MOBILE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

September 7, 2006

Inland Environment Team  
Planning and Environmental Division

Ms. Gail Carmody  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1601 Balboa Avenue  
Panama City, Florida 32405-3721

Dear Ms. Carmody:

We have received a copy of the final Biological Opinion issued September 5, 2006, which completes Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for our Interim Operations Plan (IOP) at Jim Woodruff Dam, on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee, Flint Rivers (ACF) system.

In accordance with *Reasonable and Prudent Measure RPM2*, and *Term and Condition 7.4.2, Adjust June to February Lower Threshold to 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) (RPM2)*, we are hereby providing a copy of the revised IOP table of minimum discharges. This table shows that the lower threshold flow for the months of June through February has been adjusted to 10,000 cfs. We will therefore provide releases that equal or exceed the computed 7-day moving average basin inflow whenever the computed 7-day moving average basin inflow is less than 10,000 cfs, but not less than 5,000 cfs.

In accordance with *Reasonable and Prudent Measure RPM5* and *Term and Condition 7.4.5, Monitoring (RPM5)*, we will also track the number of days the release from Jim Woodruff Dam (as measured by the daily average discharge at the Chattahoochee gage) is less than the daily average basin inflow when the daily basin inflow is less than 10,000 cfs but equal to or greater than 8,000 cfs. If the total number of days of releases within this range are anticipated to exceed 39 (the amount of authorized incidental take included in the final biological opinion), then we will immediately re-initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

We are currently reviewing the final biological opinion and will contact you soon to discuss a schedule for implementing the other requirements as outlined in the terms and conditions. We look forward to working with the FWS as we continue to identify opportunities to conserve and protect the endangered and threatened species, and critical habitat, within the ACF basin.

Sincerely,

Curtis M. Flakes  
Chief, Planning and Environmental  
Division

Enclosure

**U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District  
Interim Operations Plan at Jim Woodruff Dam  
and Releases to the Apalachicola River  
In Support of Listed Mussels and Gulf Sturgeon**

**Minimum Releases**

Months	Basin Inflow (BI) (cfs)*	Releases from JWLD (cfs)
March - May	>= 37,400	not less than 37,400
	>= 20,400 and < 37,400	>= 70% BI; not less than 20,400
	< 20,400	>= BI; not less than 5,000
June - February	>= 23,000	not less than 16,000
	>=10,000 and < 23,000	>= 70% BI; not less than 10,000
	< 10,000	>= BI; not less than 5,000

\*The running 7-day average daily inflow to the Corps' ACF reservoir projects, excluding releases from project storage.

**Down Ramping Rates**

Release Range	Maximum Fall Rate (ft/day), measured at Chattahoochee gage
Flows greater than 30,000 cfs*	No ramping restriction**
Flows greater than 20,000 cfs but <= 30,000*	1.0 to 2.0 ft/day
Exceeds Powerhouse Capacity (~16,000 cfs) but <= 20,000 cfs*	0.5 to 1.0 ft/day
Within Powerhouse Capacity and > 8,000 cfs*	0.25 to 0.5 ft/day
Within Powerhouse Capacity and <=8,000 cfs*	0.25 ft/day or less

\*Consistent with safety requirements, flood control purposes, equipment capabilities.

\*\*For flows greater than 30,000 cfs, it is not reasonable or prudent to attempt to control down ramping rate, and no ramping rate is required.