



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, MOBILE DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
P.O. BOX 2288  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

NOV 17 2010

Inland Environment Team  
Planning and Environmental Division

Mr. Donald Imm  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1601 Balboa Avenue  
Panama City, Florida 32405-3721

Dear Mr. Imm:

This is in response to your October 14, 2010, letter regarding reinitiating formal consultation on fat-three ridge mussels and the Revised Interim Operations Plan (RIOP) operations at Jim Woodruff Dam. The Service recommended reinitiation due to the new scientific data collected by Dr. Michael Gangloff on fat-three ridge mussels. As we discussed in our previous letter dated September 20, 2010, we concur with your assessment that reinitiating consultation on the effects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) RIOP on the fat-three ridge mussel is warranted. The Corps also agrees that it is not necessary to reinitiate on Gulf sturgeon or Chipola slabshell since there are no proposed changes to the RIOP and no new impacts are anticipated.

In the October 14, 2010, letter the Service recommended reinitiation be postponed until depth distribution surveys were conducted for the purple bankclimber mussel near Race Shoals (river mile 105). I want to apprise you of the current status of that work. Due to recent rain events, current basin in-flows and prescribed minimum release flows are too high to facilitate completion of the depth distribution survey. As the wet season is now upon us, it has become difficult to schedule and conduct the survey, and the work could be delayed several more weeks or months. As soon as flow levels allow, we intend to finish the depth distribution survey and will provide the data to the Service. This new scientific information will help the Service and the Corps to determine whether it would be appropriate to also reinitiate consultation with regard to the purple bankclimber mussel.

We do not believe it is prudent to continue to delay reinitiating consultation on the fat- three ridge mussel. Therefore, we request to reinitiate consultation on the fat-three ridge mussel at this time.

We will continue to keep you updated on the purple bankclimber mussel survey and immediately notify you of any new information warranting reinitiation on the purple bankclimber mussel. Should you have any questions, comments, or recommendations please contact Mr. Brian Zettle at (251) 690-2115 or via email at [brian.a.zettle@sam.usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.a.zettle@sam.usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven J. Roemhildt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Steven J. Roemhildt, P.E.  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Commander