



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

March 28, 2008

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

Inland Environment Team
Planning and Environmental Division

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

Dear Ms. Carmody:

Reference is made to the Amended Biological Opinion and Conference Report on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, Exceptional Drought Operations for the Interim Operating Plan for Jim Woodruff Dam and the Associated Releases to the Apalachicola River, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on November 15, 2007. In accordance with Reasonable and Prudent Measure Number 5, and Terms and Conditions 7.4.5.h. and 7.4.5.i, we are hereby submitting a plan of study which will focus on the life history, movement and habitat for the listed mussels on the Apalachicola River, Chipola Cutoff, and lower reaches of the Chipola (the Action Area).

The enclosed plan has been developed in coordination with your staff and the USACE Engineering Research Development Center, Environmental Laboratory staff. However, the plan is considered provisional pending approval of your agency. We will continue to work closely with your staff to make any necessary refinements to the enclosed plan, and will implement elements of the enclosed plan as soon as practicable, depending upon available resources and flow conditions. As noted, portions of the proposed data collection would be collected in conjunction with the mussel depth distribution study included in our plan previously submitted in accordance with Term and Condition 7.4.5.f. Initiation of the depth distribution study is flow dependent and scheduled to begin once Apalachicola River flows return to near 5,000 cubic feet per second (anticipated to occur this summer if drought conditions persist).

If you have any questions or suggestions for further refinements to the enclosed plan of study, please contact Mr. Brian Zettle, 251-690-2115, email: brian.a.zettle@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Flakes", written in a cursive style.

Curtis M. Flakes
Chief, Planning and Environmental
Division

Enclosure