



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

January 10, 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 32405-3721

Dear Ms. Carmody:

This letter confirms the conclusions of a recent discussion between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Mobile District, regarding compliance with Paragraph 7.4.5, Monitoring (RPM5), as outlined in the November 15, 2007 Amended Biological Opinion and Conference Report on the Exceptional Drought Operations (EDO) for the Interim Operations Plan (IOP) for Jim Woodruff Dam and the associated releases to the Apalachicola River. Condition "f" of RPM5 states:

*"By January 5, 2008, the Corps shall design a survey for estimating the number of listed mussels present in the Action Area at 0.1-ft elevation intervals between the stage that is equivalent to a release of 5130 cfs from Woodruff Dam and an elevation that is 3 ft lower than that stage. The primary purpose of this survey is to estimate how listed mussel distribution may change with the incremental flow reductions. Due to the large size of the Action Area, the survey shall employ appropriate statistical sampling methods for estimating numbers at depth. Because the largest fraction of the numbers of listed species occur in the RM40-50 reach, at least 40% of the sampling effort shall occur in this reach."*

Due to extensive planning, coordination, and implementation of incidental take monitoring associated with the incremental flow reductions prescribed by the EDO during November and December, we were unable to meet the January 5 suspense date. Additionally, the results of habitat mapping efforts completed by USFWS and the Corps in mid-December were needed to complete the survey design. Thus, in a January 8, 2008 conversation between Mr. Jerry Ziewitz, of your office, and Mr. Brian Zettle, of the Mobile District, it was mutually agreed that additional time would be necessary to complete this condition and that we would continue to work together to complete an appropriate survey design and to submit the completed survey design concurrent with submittal of the IOP Annual Report due to USFWS by January 31, 2008. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in addressing the monitoring requirements of RPM5 Condition "f."

If you have any further questions or comments regarding our operations under the EDO and our efforts to minimize or avoid impacts to the listed species on the Apalachicola River, please feel free to contact Ms. Joanne Brandt, (251) 690-3260, email: [joanne.u.brandt@sam.usace.army.mil](mailto:joanne.u.brandt@sam.usace.army.mil); or Mr. Brian Zettle, (251) 690-2115, email: [brian.a.zettle@sam.usace.army.mil](mailto:brian.a.zettle@sam.usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis M. Flakes". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Curtis M. Flakes  
Chief, Planning and Environmental  
Division