

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE POLICY DIRECTIVE 02-305

November 20, 2006

Protected Resources Management

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FOR APPOINTMENT
OF RECOVERY TEAM MEMBERS UNDER THE ESA**

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Type of Issuance: Renewed jan 2010

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:

1.0 Introduction. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed its threatened and endangered species recovery planning program pursuant to Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. 1531-1543 and delegates the appointment of representatives to recovery planning teams and recovery implementation teams to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, and to Regional Administrators. This delegation details the responsibilities of the Director and Regional Administrators in appointing members of recovery planning and implementation teams.

2.0 Objective. To provide for the effective and efficient agency implementation of Section 4 of the ESA by revising the delegation of authority to appoint recovery team and recovery implementation team members to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, and to Regional Administrators.

3.0 Authorities and Responsibilities. This directive establishes the following authorities and responsibilities: Authority is delegated to each Regional Administrator (Alaska, Northeast, Northwest, Pacific Islands, Southeast, and Southwest Region) to appoint representatives to recovery planning teams and recovery implementation teams for threatened and endangered species that occur primarily in the Regional Administrator's geographic area of responsibility. For species with significant cross-regional distribution, authority is delegated to the Director, Office of Protect Resources, to appoint representatives to recovery planning teams and recovery implementation teams, unless the Director, Office of Protected Resources, and the affected Regional Administrators mutually agree that one region should serve as the lead office or that recovery planning or recovery implementation should be divided between offices. The Director, Office of Protected Resources, shall document any such agreement in writing and notify the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries. This notification will have the effect of authorizing the agreed-upon Director or Regional Administrator(s) to appoint representatives to recovery planning teams and recovery implementation teams for the affected threatened or endangered species.

In determining the composition of recovery planning and recovery planning implementation teams, Regional Administrators and the Director, Office of Protected Resources shall consult with Science Center Directors as appropriate.

For species that are jointly listed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (e.g., Gulf sturgeon, Atlantic salmon, sea turtles), the Director, Office of Protected Resources or Regional Administrator with delegated authority to appoint team members for NMFS shall coordinate directly with the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional or headquarters office to carry out the objective of this policy directive.

Prior to appointing members of recovery planning or implementation teams, the appropriate Regional Administrators, or his representative, shall notify the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, and identify any potentially controversial appointments. The Chief, Endangered Species Division, shall notify the Director, Office of Protected Resources, the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of any potential controversial appointments.

This delegation includes the ability to disband recovery planning and implementation teams,

