

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT
SECTION 6 COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT AMONG
THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND
THE STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

This Cooperative Agreement is entered into pursuant to Section 6(c)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §1531 *et seq.*, ("the Act"), between the National Marine Fisheries Service ("NMFS"), an agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources ("MDNR").

I

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has found that there are resident species of fish or wildlife which are in danger of extinction and that these species of fish or wildlife are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, scientific, economic, and other value to the Nation and its people;

II

WHEREAS, the purposes of the Act are to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered or threatened fish or wildlife depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the various treaties and conventions related to the conservation of fish or wildlife;

III

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has declared that encouraging the states and other interested parties, through Federal financial assistance and a system of incentives, to develop and maintain conservation programs which meet national and international standards are key to meeting the Nation's international commitments and to better safeguarding, for the benefit of all citizens, the Nation's heritage in its fish or wildlife;

IV

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Commerce has delegated responsibilities under the Act to the NMFS;

V

WHEREAS, NMFS desires to enter into this Agreement for the purpose of assisting in the implementation of the endangered and threatened fish or wildlife conservation programs of the State of Maryland for those species under NMFS jurisdiction pursuant to Reorganization Plan Number 4 of 1970 and any subsequent agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;

VI

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland, acting through MDNR, wishes to administer its programs for the conservation of endangered or threatened fish or wildlife listed in Appendix I of this Agreement in harmony with the terms and spirit of the Act;

VII

WHEREAS, the parties agree that programs of MDNR are designed to assist resident endangered fish and wildlife listed in Appendix I and that it is the mutual desire of MDNR and NMFS to work in harmony for the common purposes of planning, developing and conducting programs to protect, manage and enhance populations of all resident endangered or threatened fish or wildlife within this state listed in Appendix I;

VIII

WHEREAS, NMFS has the statutory and administrative responsibility to establish programs for the conservation of endangered and threatened species which are under its jurisdiction pursuant to Reorganization Plan Number 4 of 1970 and any subsequent agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; to reach agreement with MDNR as to which resident endangered or threatened species are most urgently in need of a conservation program in the State of Maryland; to provide review of the MDNR program at annual intervals; to provide funding to that program as such funding is available and in accordance with the terms of the Act; to provide coordination among the programs of the various States; and to exchange with MDNR such biological data or other information which may result in the enhancement of the opportunities for the continued survival of endangered or threatened fish or wildlife;

IX

WHEREAS, MDNR has statutory and administrative responsibility to conserve endangered or threatened fish or wildlife which are resident in the State of Maryland, including waters of the State of Maryland, and listed in Appendix I of this Agreement;

WHEREAS, MDNR (a) has authority to conserve resident fish or wildlife determined by MDNR or the Secretary to be endangered or threatened and listed in Appendix I of this Agreement; (b) is establishing an acceptable conservation program, consistent with the purposes and policies of the Act, for all resident fish or wildlife in the State of Maryland which are deemed by the Secretary to be endangered or threatened and listed in Appendix I, and has furnished a copy of such program together with all pertinent details, information and data requested by the Secretary; (c) is authorized to conduct investigations to determine the status and requirements for survival of resident fish and wildlife listed in Appendix I; (d) has authority to establish programs, including the acquisition of land or aquatic habitat or interests therein, for the conservation of resident endangered or threatened fish or wildlife listed in Appendix I; and (e) provides for public participation in the designation of resident fish or wildlife as endangered or threatened;

Now, therefore, the parties agree as follows:

1. Cooperative Program

(a) MDNR shall carry out the activities identified in its conservation programs and included in Appendix II of this Agreement for the benefit of the endangered or threatened fish or wildlife which are resident in the State of Maryland, and listed in Appendix I of this Agreement.

(b) In order to ensure that MDNR has established an acceptable conservation program, consistent with the purposes and policies of the Act, for those species listed in Appendix I, on June 30 each year, in conjunction with the reporting requirements required by section 5(b) of this Agreement, MDNR shall furnish to NMFS all pertinent details, information and data requested by NMFS, that identifies the conservation programs for those species that NMFS and MDNR agree are most urgently in need of such conservation programs. This shall include information as specified in Appendix II of this Agreement.

(c) NMFS may agree with MDNR to provide financial assistance for the implementation of an acceptable project for the conservation of endangered and threatened fish or wildlife. Such financial assistance will require the submission of an Application for Federal Assistance and Grant-In-Aid Award and successful negotiation of a Project Agreement.

(d) As additional species of resident fish or wildlife in the State of Maryland are determined by NMFS to be endangered or

threatened pursuant to Section 4(a) of the Act, the parties agree to revise Appendix I promptly upon such final determination, and upon a determination by NMFS based on a submission of information by MDNR, that MDNR maintains an adequate and active conservation program with respect to such species, and to cooperate in the development of programs and projects for the benefit of such species.

(e) It is understood that any Federal funding pursuant to Section 6(d) of the Act is contingent on the continued implementation of an adequate and active program for the conservation of Federally listed endangered and threatened fish or wildlife which are resident in the State of Maryland and which are listed in Appendix I. If the program for conservation of such fish or wildlife is determined by NMFS to be inadequate or inactive, this Agreement and funding pursuant thereto shall be terminated in accordance with section 7 of this Agreement.

(f) As part of the listing, designation, and recovery plan processes of Section 4 of the Act, the consultation process of Section 7 of the Act, and the permit process of Section 10 of the Act, and in accordance with the policy issued by NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 1, 1994 with respect to cooperation with State governments, the parties agree to exchange biological and other data as necessary to facilitate implementation of the ESA with respect to resident fish and wildlife in the State of Maryland.

(g) All activities affecting endangered and threatened marine mammals shall be consistent with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. §1361 *et seq.*, as well as with the Act.

(h) As part of this cooperative program, the law enforcement authorities of NMFS and the State of Maryland shall cooperate in the detection, apprehension, and prosecution of violators of the Act or State laws which are intended to conserve endangered and threatened fish or wildlife. This Agreement does not grant Federal enforcement authority to State enforcement officers or State enforcement authority to NMFS officers.

(i) Entering into this Agreement shall not affect the applicability of prohibitions set forth in or authorized pursuant to Section 4(d) or Section 9(a)(1) of the Act.

2. Permits, Exceptions.

(a) General Rule. Except as authorized in subsection 2(b), (c), or (f) of this Agreement, MDNR agrees not to engage in, or issue a permit authorizing the taking of, any resident Federally

endangered fish or wildlife listed at 50 C.F.R. 222.23(a), or any resident Federally threatened fish or wildlife listed at 50 C.F.R. 227.4 the taking of which is prohibited, which is listed in Appendix I of this Agreement, without the prior issuance of a permit to the applicant by NMFS.

(b) Marine Mammals. Any employee, designee or agent of MDNR is authorized to take in a humane manner endangered or threatened marine mammals in the course of his or her duties without a Federal permit only if such taking is for (a) the protection or welfare, of the marine mammal, (b) the protection of the public health and welfare, or (c) the non-lethal removal of nuisance animals.

(c) Endangered Species. For any program or project listed in Appendix II of this Agreement, any employee or agent of MDNR who is designated by MDNR for such purposes, when acting in the course of his or her official duties within the waters under the jurisdiction of MDNR and under general permit authority of MDNR, may take any resident Federally endangered fish or wildlife, or threatened fish or wildlife the taking of which is prohibited by regulation other than marine mammals which are subject to subsection 2(b), for conservation purposes defined in Section 3(3) of the Act, that are consistent with the purpose of the Act and that are consistent with this Agreement, or any Project Agreement, entered into pursuant to this Agreement, provided that such taking is not reasonably anticipated to result in:

- (1) the death or permanent disabling of the specimen;
- (2) the removal of the specimen from the State of Maryland;
- (3) the introduction of the specimen or any of its progeny into an area beyond the historical range of the species; or
- (4) the holding of the specimen in captivity for a period of more than 45 consecutive days.

(d) Threatened Species. For any program or project listed in Appendix II of this Agreement, any employee or agent of MDNR who is designated by MDNR for such purposes, when acting in the course of his or her official duties under general permit authority of MDNR, may take any resident Federally listed threatened fish or wildlife, other than marine mammals, unless such taking is prohibited by NMFS regulation, in which case the limitations for takings in subsection 2(c) of this Agreement shall apply.

(e) Suspension. The authority conveyed under subsections 2(c) and (d) may, at any time, be temporarily suspended for a particular project or part of a conservation program identified in Appendix II, by written notification from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA, or his or her authorized delegate, upon receipt of substantial evidence demonstrating that the use of this authority is inconsistent with the purposes of the Act. Upon notification of the temporary suspension and the reasons therefor, MDNR may request from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA an opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the purposes of the Act. The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries shall promptly consider the evidence so submitted by MDNR and either reaffirm the initial conclusion, revoking MDNR's authority for that particular project or program pursuant to this Agreement, or reject the initial conclusion and reinstate MDNR's authority for that particular project or program of this Agreement.

(f) Emergency Provisions. Any employee or agent of MDNR who is designated by MDNR for such purposes, when acting in the course of official duties and under the general permit authority of MDNR, may take Federally endangered fish and wildlife, and threatened fish or wildlife the taking of which is prohibited by regulation, if such action is necessary to:

- (1) aid a sick, injured, or orphaned specimen; or
- (2) dispose of a dead specimen; or
- (3) salvage a dead specimen which may be useful for scientific study; or
- (4) remove specimens which constitute a demonstrable, but non-immediate, threat to human safety, provided that the taking is done in a humane manner; the taking may involve killing or injury only if it has not been reasonably possible to eliminate such threat by live-capturing and releasing the specimen unharmed, in a remote area; or
- (5) defend his or her own life or the lives of others.

(g) Reporting. Any taking pursuant to subsection 2(f) must be reported in writing within 5 days to the NMFS Regional Director, for transmission to the NMFS Office of Enforcement. The specimen may only be retained, disposed of, or salvaged in accordance with directions from NMFS.

3. Records.

In addition to any further record keeping requirements for specific programs or projects that may be set forth in Appendix II of this Agreement, MDNR shall maintain records of: (1) its Federally funded projects for the conservation of endangered and threatened fish or wildlife listed in Appendix I in accordance with the Federal Aid Manual; and (2) the number of specimens of each species of Federally listed endangered and threatened fish or wildlife listed on Appendix I taken by MDNR officials or agents pursuant to subsections 2 (c) and (d) of this Agreement, the conservation purposes for which they were taken, and any mortalities or permanently disabling injuries resulting from the taking.

4. Notification.

(a) MDNR agrees to inform NMFS of any change in circumstances that could cause the program to be out of conformance with the requirements of Section 6 (c) of the Act, including changes in MDNR's relevant constitutional, statutory, or regulatory authority. MDNR shall promptly furnish NMFS with an assessment of the effect of such a change on MDNR's ability to remain in compliance with the requirements of Section 6 (c) of the Act.

(b) MDNR agrees to promptly inform NMFS of any change in the programs or projects identified in Appendix II, or any change in circumstances that affect such programs or projects.

(c) NMFS agrees to notify MDNR of all regulations, issued in accordance with Section 4 of the Act, which might affect the adequacy and effectiveness of the conservation program for MDNR.

5. Effective Date and Renewal.

(a) This Agreement shall become effective when signed by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA, and the Secretary of MDNR.

(b) This Agreement may be renewed in the following manner:
(1) No later than June 30 of each year MDNR shall submit to NMFS the following: (i) an updated list of Federal and the State of Maryland listed endangered and threatened fish and wildlife which are resident in the State of Maryland and a statement of any modifications MDNR wishes to propose to the list of fish or wildlife species; (ii) a memorandum of law analyzing any changes in MDNR statutory authority for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened fish or wildlife, if any changes in statute or regulation were made since the date of the previous program submission; (iii) a description of any substantial changes in MDNR programs for the resident endangered and threatened fish

or wildlife which are being proposed or which have occurred since the date of the previous program submission; (iv) a detailed description of the number of specimens of each species of Federally listed endangered and threatened fish or wildlife listed in Appendix I taken by MDNR employees or agents pursuant to subsections 2 (c) and (d) of this Agreement, the conservation purposes for which they were taken, and any mortalities or permanently disabling injuries resulting from the taking; and (v) copies of such reports MDNR may have prepared since the previous program submission which discuss its conservation program accomplishments for listed endangered and threatened fish or wildlife. For purposes of this Agreement, the phrase "previous program submission" means either the program submission of the original Agreement or the most recent renewal application of this Agreement, whichever is later in time.

(2) The Assistant Administrator for Fisheries of NOAA or his or her authorized delegate will notify MDNR in writing on or before October 1 of each year that: (i) this Agreement is renewed effective October 1 of that year upon a reconfirmation of the finding that MDNR maintains an adequate and active program for the conservation of resident threatened and endangered species listed in Appendix I of this Agreement; or (ii) MDNR programs or authorities are not in compliance with the criteria of Section 6 (c) of the Act. Such notification in the latter situation shall also state that unless appropriate changes are made by June 30 of the following year, this Agreement shall be terminated. If MDNR has not received notification concerning the renewal of this Agreement by October 1 of each year, the Agreement shall continue in force and effect as if it had been renewed.

6. Amendments.

Any part of this Agreement or Appendices thereto may be amended at any time with the concurrence of the signatory parties or their authorized delegates.

7. Termination.

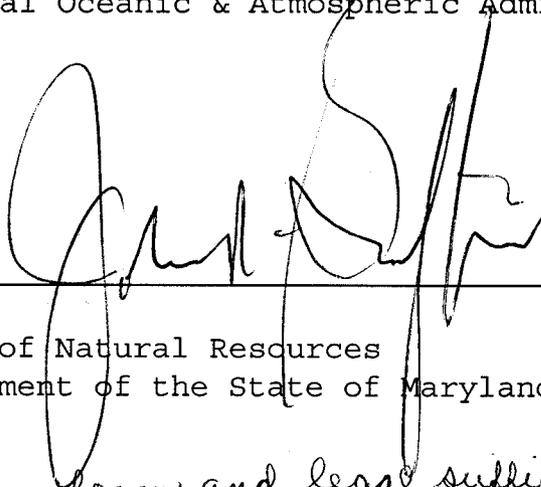
This Agreement may be terminated: (a) by mutual agreement; (b) by MDNR upon 60 days written notice to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries; or (c) notwithstanding the renewal provision of subsection 5 (b) of this Agreement, by the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NOAA, or his or her authorized delegate upon 60 days written notice to MDNR from NMFS stating reasons why MDNR conservation programs are no longer in

compliance with the criteria of Section (c) of the Act or that MDNR has violated a provision of this Agreement. MDNR may submit a written request for review to the Secretary of Commerce within 30 days of receipt of the termination notice. The Secretary shall consider all evidence submitted by MDNR in its request for review and either reaffirm the conclusion of NMFS and terminate this Agreement at the end of the 60-day notification period, or reverse the conclusion of NMFS and revoke the notice of termination. Any provision in Appendix II may also be terminated in accordance with section 7 of this Agreement. Any Federal funds that have been obligated to, but not expended by, MDNR as of the date of the termination notice pursuant to any of the above provisions, shall be retained by NMFS for reallocation pursuant to Section 6(d) of the Act, unless: (1) those funds are specifically approved for expenditure before the date of actual termination; (2) or the notice of termination is revoked by NMFS.

David H. Evans

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries,
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

6/30/98
Date



Secretary,
Department of Natural Resources
Government of the State of Maryland

7-20-98
Date

*Approved for form and legal sufficiency
on July 14, 1998,*

*Pamela D. Andersen
Assistant Attorney General
State of Maryland*

Appendix I

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 6
PROGRAM OR PROJECT AUTHORITY

Submitted by
The State of Maryland
Department of Natural Resources

February 17, 1998

Endangered Species

Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*)
Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*)
Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*)

Threatened Species

Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Proposed for Listing as Threatened

Harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)

Appendix II

Attachment A

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 6
PROGRAM OR PROJECT AUTHORITY

Submitted by
The State of Maryland
Department of Natural Resources

1. **Date:** February 17, 1998
2. **Species:** Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*),
Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys corriacea*), Green
sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Loggerhead sea turtle
(*Caretta caretta*), Humpback whale (*Megaptera
novaeangliae*), Harbor porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
3. **State:** Maryland
4. **Project or program**
 - A. **Project purpose:**

Stranding and Salvage Network
The stranding program will continue to provide support for
stranding response to stranded sea turtles, whales, and
harbor porpoise.

Research Support
The distribution of catalogued and processed stranded
animal parts and of data base information to active
research projects.

Outreach and Education
The conservation and recovery of listed species through
extensive outreach and education programs.
 - B. **Description:**

Stranding and Salvage Network
MDNR has coordinated a stranding network for endangered
and threatened sea turtles and marine mammals since 1990,
covering the northern Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic
Coast of the Delmarva Peninsula. The network has involved
cooperation with several scientific, governmental, and
educational organizations, including the National Aquarium
at Baltimore (NAIB) for live strandings, the States of

Delaware and Virginia for coastal strandings, the Smithsonian Institution for scientific samples, and many others. The stranding network collects species identification and life history data, investigates causes of death, especially to assess fisheries interactions, boat strikes, entanglement or ingestion of marine debris, and investigates or cooperates with other investigators in disease and toxicological studies. In cases of live strandings, MDNR assists the NAIB with capture and transportation.

Research Support

The research component of the stranding network project involves the distribution of parts catalogued and processed from stranded animals, and of data base information to active research projects. This type of information contributes to State research interests as well as national concerns.

Outreach and Education

MDNR staff will continue to make significant efforts toward conservation and recovery of the species listed in Appendix I through extensive outreach and education programs. Staff deliver conservation and recovery information 2-3 times a month to different civic groups and other organizations in addition to publishing printed material for distribution.

C. Location:

All State of Maryland waters.

D. Project Duration (past, present, planned segments):

5. Project Number (if continuing segment of existing project):

N/A

6. Status of Project Report Prepared for Previous Segment:

N/A

7. Project to be completed by another state agency or under a

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N/A

8. Biological/Recovery Justification:

9. Other pertinent information:

10. Limitations: Those noted NMFS/MDNR cooperative agreement, item 2(c).

Appendix II

Attachment B

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 6
PROGRAM OR PROJECT AUTHORITY

Submitted by
The State of Maryland
Department of Natural Resources

1. **Date:** February 17, 1998
2. **Species:** All Protected Species in State Waters and Identified in Appendix I.
3. **State:** Maryland
4. **Project or program**
 - A. **Project purpose:**

Protected Species Management Plan
Development of a formal management plan for research and conservation of protected species in state waters.
 - B. **Description:**

Protected Species Management Plan
Through partial funding under this agreement, MDNR would like to develop a formal management plan for protected species in Maryland State waters. The plan would allow a structured, long-term approach to protected species management, coordinated with NMFS, that will prioritize research and conservation/protection needs for the species identified in Appendix I and will form the basis for future program pursuits.
 - C. **Location:**

All State of Maryland waters.
 - D. **Project Duration (past, present, planned segments):**
5. **Project Number (if continuing segment of existing project):**

N/A
6. **Status of Project Report Prepared for Previous Segment:**

N/A

7. Project to be completed by another state agency or under a

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N/A

8. Biological/Recovery Justification:

9. Other pertinent information:

10. Limitations: Those noted NMFS/MDNR cooperative agreement, item 2(c).

Mr. John R. Griffin
Secretary
Government of the State of Maryland
Maryland Department of
Natural Resources
Tawes State Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Enclosed for signature is the Cooperative Agreement between the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service and the Government of the State of Maryland pursuant to Section 6(c) of the Endangered Species Act. In order to provide each signatory agency with a signed original agreement, we request that you sign and date both of the enclosed agreements and forward one copy back to this office for our file.

We look forward to this agreement to facilitate our joint effort in better understanding and managing our threatened and endangered species.

Sincerely,

Rolland A. Schmitten

Enclosures