

NOAA Response

Hi Dennis,

There are no ESA-listed species under NMFS jurisdiction present in the Hackensack River. As such, it will not be necessary for NMFS to be a cooperating agency for ESA review.

I copied Karen Greene with our Habitat Conservation Division who will respond separately regarding Essential Fish Habitat.

Thanks,

Dan

Daniel Marrone

ESA Section 7 Biologist

Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service

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Karen Green's (Essential Fish Habitat's response)

Hi Dennis,

There are a number of NOAA trust resources in the Hackensack River and tributaries including alewife, blueback herring, American shad, striped bass and

forage fish. The NJ Meadowlands Commission has done several surveys of fish within the Meadowlands. They can provide a comprehensive list. EFH has also been designated in the mixing zone of the river and tributaries, so consultation with the Habitat Conservation Division will be needed for any actions affecting EFH in the Meadowlands.

You may have been working with Melissa Alvarez of our office on this, but she has left for another position outside our region. I'll be the POC for this and the other Sandy projects in NJ.

Dave Bean and some other from NJDEP provided an overview of this project to the Meadowlands Interagency Mitigation Advisory Committee (MIMAC) a while back. The group includes the Corps, NMFS, FWS, Meadowlands staff and the NJDEP mitigation unit. You may want to continue to coordinate with the MIMAC on this as it moves forward. The group serves as an interagency review team for mitigation projects and banks in the meadowlands, as well as a pre-application review team. Jim Cannon is the NY Corps contact for the group.

Karen