

ENDANGERED SPECIES CONSULTATION FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN  
PUERTO RICO  
AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

This form is intended for documentation of emergency consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Protected Resources Division (PRD) and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for species listed and critical habitat designated under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) for fishery habitat designated as essential fish habitat (EFH) under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA). This form is intended to streamline consultation when emergency response activities in coastal or marine areas may adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat and/or habitats designated as EFH.

An emergency is a situation involving an act of God, disasters, casualties, national defense or security emergencies, chemical releases, etc., and includes response activities that must be taken to prevent imminent loss of human life and property (see 50 CFR 402.05). Spill responses and groundings may also be covered under this emergency consultation so that response activities may proceed without waiting for a response from NMFS and/or USFWS.

**Emergency Contact:** For the U.S. Caribbean, NMFS PRD should be contacted as soon as possible by telephone at 727-824-5312, NMFS HCD at 727-824-5317 and USFWS at 787-510-5207 or 787-510-5208. This form will be completed by the responder no later than 24 hours following notification of the emergency and transmitted via e-mail to NMFS (nmfs.ser.emergency.consult@noaa.gov) or fax at 727-824-5309 (PRD) and 727-824-5300 (HCD) and/or to USFWS (marelisa\_rivera@fws.gov) or caribbean\_es@fws.gov regarding emergency response actions.

Instructions for Completing the Form

Pages 1 - 4, 6: The Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC), or designee for ESA and EFH consultation should complete pages 1-4 to include all response actions and the section on page 6 regarding standard protective measures that will be used, including any standard practices to avoid or minimize impacts to ESA resources and EFH should be indicated.

Pages 4 - 6: NMFS and/or USFWS will assist in determining the presence of protected resources and habitats in the response area, but the initial checklist should be referenced by the FOSC, lead federal agency, or designated representative for ESA and EFH consultations. NMFS PRD and/or USFWS will indicate if the response will jeopardize the continued existence of any ESA-listed species or result in the adverse modification of any designated critical habitat and NMFS HCD will indicate whether the response will impact EFH. Recommendations to avoid and minimize any potential adverse effects to protected species and habitats will be provided to the FOSC contact (page 1) within 24 hours of notification receipt.

The responding agency will implement as many avoidance and minimization recommendations and conservation measures as feasible **without delaying the response**. NMFS and/or USFWS will be available for further coordination as requested.

Post Emergency

Once the emergency response is over, NMFS and/or USFWS will be notified of the measures that were implemented, how they were implemented, and notified if any incidental take or adverse modification or destruction of critical habitat occurred. If no adverse impacts occurred, ESA consultation is complete. If any adverse impacts resulted from the emergency response actions, formal ESA consultation with NMFS and/or USFWS will be required.

**CRRT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ESA AND EFH CONSULTATION FOR RESPONSES IN COASTAL AND MARINE AREAS, PUERTO RICO AND U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Date of Transmittal

<b>FROM:</b>		<b>NAME:</b>		<b>Tel:</b>	
		<b>E-MAIL:</b>		<b>Fax:</b>	
<b>TO: NMFS</b>	nmfs.ser.emergency.consult@noaa.gov		727-824-5312(PRD); 727-824-5317(HCD) Fax:727-824-5309(PRD);727-824-5300(HCD)		
<b>TO: USFWS, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office</b>	marelisa_rivera@fws.gov		787-510-5207		

Date of Incident:

<b>Center Location (NAD 83)</b>	<b>Latitude</b>	<b>Longitude</b>
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Approximate Distance from Shore

Location Type	Check All That Apply	Name/Landmarks
Industrial/Canal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Port	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Riverine	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Inshore/Estuarine	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Nearshore/Coastal	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Offshore/EEZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Description of Incident: (Please be as specific as possible and include information on the type and amount of material spilled and/or the nature of the emergency, and any other relevant information.)

Response Actions (Check All That Apply)

OIL SPILLS	
ACTION: Mechanical	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Boom	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skimmer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Barriers/Berms/ Fences	
<input type="checkbox"/> Trenching	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-oiling debris removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sediment removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Oiled debris removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flooding/Flushing	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sorbents	
<input type="checkbox"/> Access Construction	
ACTION: Alternate Response Techniques	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Agent	Chemical Applications
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispersants	
<input type="checkbox"/> In-situ burning	
<input type="checkbox"/> Bioremediation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Recovery	
STORMS	
ACTION	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Container/Drum removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Debris removal (vegetation, construction, etc.)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> ATON restoration	

Response Actions, continued (Check All That Apply)

GROUNDINGS	
ACTION	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Boom deployment (in anticipation of spill)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-oiling debris and vegetation removal (in event of spill)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vessel removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Salvage operations	
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-oiling debris removal	
CHEMICAL RELEASE	
ACTION: Mechanical	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuuming or Vac trucks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Debris removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excavation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Container or drum removal	
<input type="checkbox"/> Access Construction (temporary roadways)	
ACTION: Other	DETAILS/NOTES
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil treatments/ stabilization	
Vessels/Vehicles	
<input type="checkbox"/> Motorized and non-motorized vessels (including anchoring)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Vehicular traffic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy equipment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Foot traffic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Staging areas	

Other Events/  
Response  
Actions

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**CRRT Emergency Consultation**  
**Threatened and Endangered Species Checklist (see Appendix A for sources of information)**

SPECIES	Occurs in response area	RESPONSE: Likely to Adversely Affect	RESPONSE: Not Likely to Adversely Affect	Service Response	AGENCY
Loggerhead sea turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS/USFWS*
Green sea turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS/USFWS*
Leatherback sea turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS/USFWS*
Hawksbill sea turtle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS/USFWS*
Nassau grouper	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Elkhorn coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Staghorn coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Pillar coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Lobed star coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Mountainous star coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Boulder star coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Rough cactus coral	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Right whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Humpback whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Sperm whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Sei whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Finback whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Blue whales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
West Indian manatee					USFWS
Other Marine Mammals**	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Migratory Birds***	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		USFWS
Roseate tern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		USFWS
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

\*For the purposes of section 7 consultation, NMFS has jurisdiction over sea turtles while they are in the water and USFWS has jurisdiction while they are on land

\*\*Although all marine mammals are not listed as threatened or endangered, all marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and should be considered during response activities.

\*\*\*Although migratory birds may not be listed, they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and should be considered during response activities.

Explanation for  
Effects  
Determination

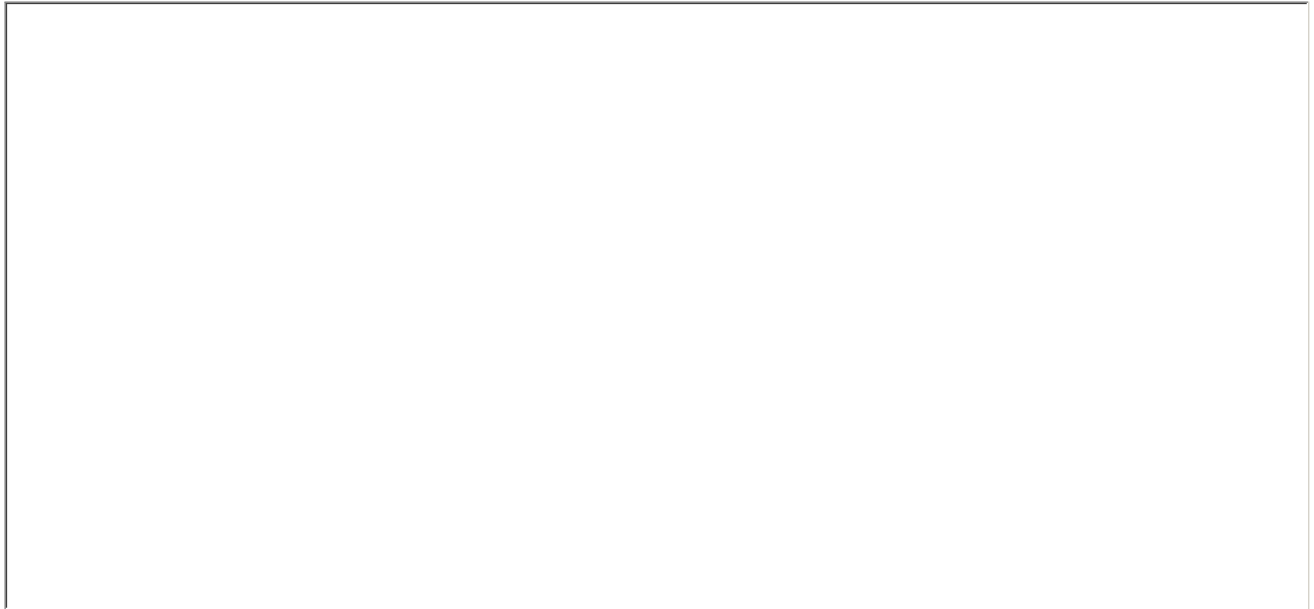
**CRRT Emergency Consultation**  
**Designated Critical Habitat Checklist (see Appendix A for Sources of Information)**

CRITICAL HABITAT	Occurs in Response Area	RESPONSE: Will Adversely Modify	RESPONSE: Will Not Adversely Modify	Service Response	AGENCY
Acropora (Puerto Rico Unit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Acropora (St. Thomas/St. John Unit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Acropora (St. Croix Unit)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Green Sea Turtle (3 nm Culebra Island, PR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Hawksbill Sea Turtle (3 nm Mona and Monito, PR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Leatherback Sea Turtle (3 nm Sandy Point, St. Croix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		NMFS
Leatherback Turtle (Beach, Sandy Point, St. Croix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		USFWS
Hawksbill Turtle (Beaches, Mona Island, PR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		USFWS
Sea Turtles (Bravo, Resaca, Cayo Norte, Culebrita Beaches, Culebra, PR)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		USFWS

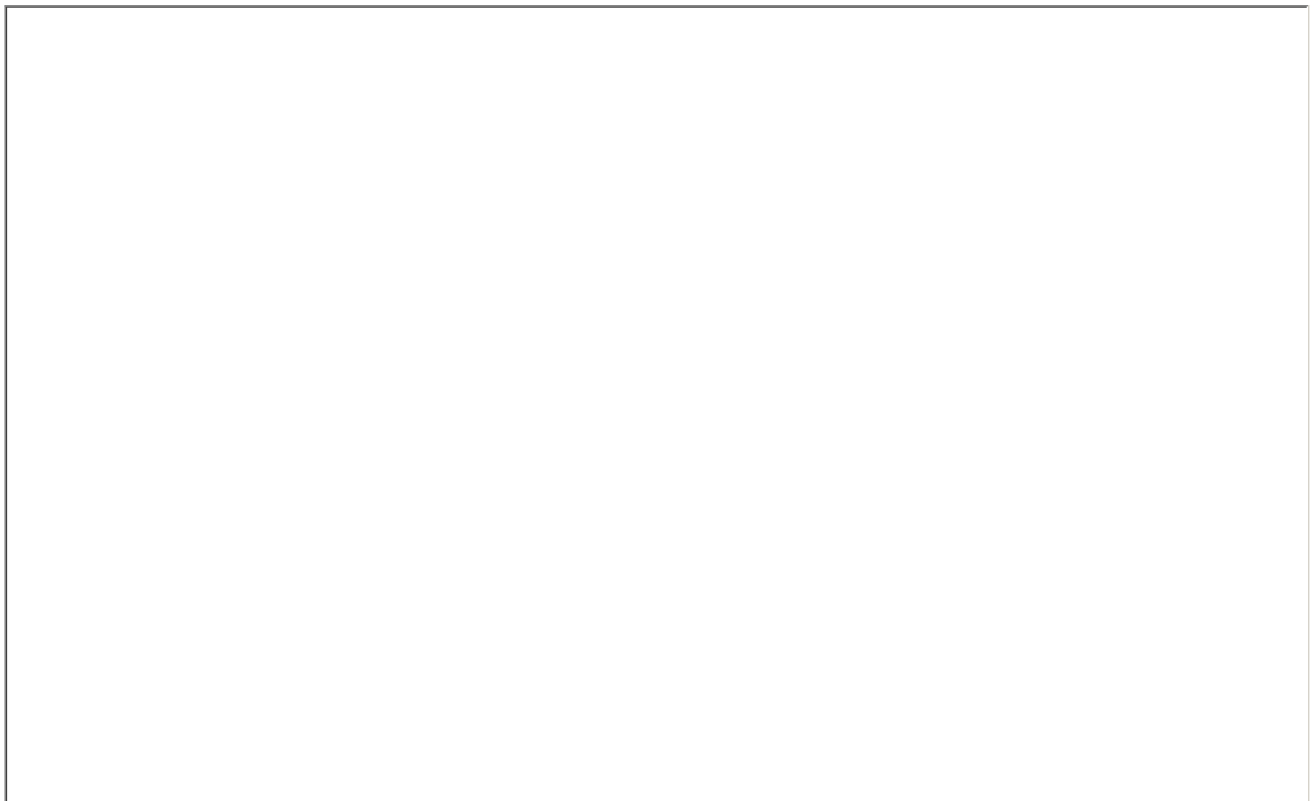
**HABITAT TYPE CHECKLIST (see ESI Maps and NOAA benthic habitat maps)**

Habitat Type	Check all that apply	Response will affect	Response will not affect	How response will affect or why it won't affect
Seagrass	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Live and Hard Bottoms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coral Reef	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Algal Plains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sand and Shell Substrate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Salt Marsh/Herbaceous Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Intertidal Flats/Salt Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Coastal Lagoon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mangrove/Pterocarpus Wetland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sandy Beach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Rocky Shore	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

List any standard protective measures that will be used

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for listing standard protective measures.

NMFS PRD or USFWS Recommendations for Listed Species or Critical Habitat Likely to be Adversely Affected and NMFS HCD EFH Recommendations

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for providing NMFS PRD or USFWS Recommendations for Listed Species or Critical Habitat Likely to be Adversely Affected and NMFS HCD EFH Recommendations.

## APPENDICES

### A. CRITICAL HABITAT MAPS AND BENTHIC HABITAT MAPS

NMFS, Southeast Region, Critical Habitat Maps

Southeast U.S. and U.S. Caribbean critical habitat metadata can be found on NMFS GIS page at:

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/maps\\_gis\\_data/protected\\_resources/critical\\_habitat/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/maps_gis_data/protected_resources/critical_habitat/index.html)

Maps and Metadata are available for: Elkhorn and Staghorn Coral, Green Sea Turtle, Hawksbill Sea Turtle, and Leatherback Sea Turtle

USFWS, Listed Species in the U.S. Caribbean

<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/es/PDF/CaribbeanCH.pdf>

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>

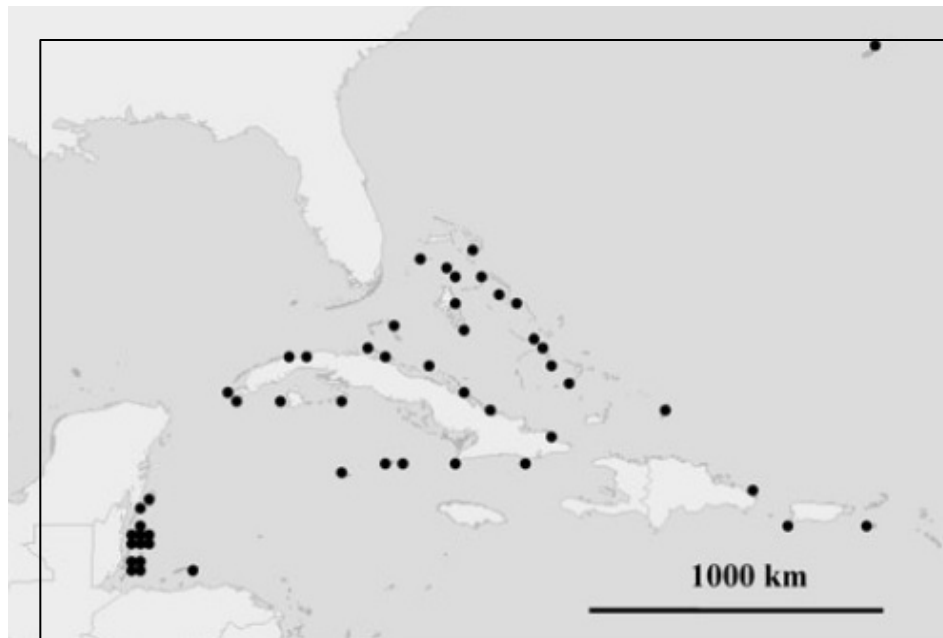
<https://fws.maps.arcgis.com/home/webmap/viewer.html?webmap=9d8de5e265ad4fe09893cf75b8dbfb77>

NOAA, National Ocean Service, Biogeography Program, Benthic Habitat Maps

[http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coralreef/usvi\\_pr\\_mapping.html](http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/coralreef/usvi_pr_mapping.html)

or <http://www.caribbeanfmc.com/Benthic%20Maps.html>

### B. MAP OF HISTORIC NASSAU GROUPEL SPAWNING AGGREGATIONS



Locations of known historic Nassau grouper spawning aggregations (from NMFS 2013<sup>1</sup>). The sites in the U.S. Caribbean include Bajo de Cico, Tourmaline, and Abrir la Sierra off western Puerto Rico and Red Hind and Grammanik Banks south of St. Thomas, USVI. A number of additional sites were identified around Puerto Rico particularly off the west and south coasts and around Vieques Island through interviews with fishers but these have not been confirmed (Ojeda-Serrano et al. 2007<sup>2</sup>).

<sup>1</sup> NMFS. 2013. Nassau Grouper, *Epinephelus striatus* (Bloch 1792), Biological Report

<sup>2</sup> Ojeda-Serrano, E., R. Appeldoorn, and I. Ruiz-Valentin. 2007. Reef fish spawning aggregations of the Puerto Rican shelf. University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico