February 28, 2003

IN REPLY
REFER TO: HPR-FL

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ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICE

Doctor Roy E. Crabtree
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
9721 Executive Center Drive, North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

Subject: Designation of a Non-Federal Representative to Conduct Informal Consultation Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires Federal agencies to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a critical habitat of such species.

In implementing Section 7, 50 CFR 402.08 provides an opportunity for a Federal agency to designate a non-Federal representative to conduct informal consultation or prepare a biological assessment. Based on these provisions, we hereby designate the Florida Department of Transportation to conduct informal endangered species consultation on behalf of our office.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. George Hadley at (850) 942-9650, extension 3011.

Sincerely,

/s/George B. Hadley
For: James E. St. John
Division Administrator

cc: Mr. Leroy Irwin, FDOT (MS-37)