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| <b><i>NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE PROCEDURE 02-110-23</i></b><br>Effective on: July 1, 1994   |  |
| To be reviewed on: October 1, 2023  |  |
| Protected Resources Management<br>Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species   |  |
| Policy for the Ecosystem Approach to the Endangered Species Act   |  |
| <b>NOTICE:</b> This publication is available at: <a href="http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/index.html">http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/op/pds/index.html</a>  |  |
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| <b>Type of Issuance:</b> Renewal, August 2018   |  |
| <b><i>SUMMARY OF REVISIONS:</i></b><br>This policy was previously classified as ‘MOAs/MOUs/Cooperative Agreements/inter-Agency Cooperative’ (PDS number 02-301-06). The is a joint policy with FWS regarding the Endangered Species Act, so the policy has been renewed under the policy directive that establishes the framework for NMFS ESA implementation (02-110). |  |
| Signed _____<br>Donna Wieting<br>Director, Office of Protected Resources  |  |
| Date _____  |  |

I. Introduction

This is NMFS’ policy on how to incorporate ecosystem considerations in Endangered Species Act actions regarding listing, interagency cooperation, recovery and cooperative activities.

II. Objective

The purpose of this cooperative policy is to promote healthy ecosystems through activities undertaken by the Services under authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended, and associated regulations in Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

III. Guidance

The July 1, 1994 Federal Register Notice *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants: Notice of Interagency Cooperative Policy for the Ecosystem Approach to the Endangered Species Act*, published by Fish and Wildlife Service and NMFS (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/1994/07/01/94-16025/endangered-and-threatened-wildlife-and-plants-notice-of-interagency-cooperative-policy-for-the>), is NMFS' official policy. That Notice should be cited when referencing this policy.