

Dr. Williams and Mr. Fell,

Attached are two documents pertaining to the NOAA Fisheries Service designation of critical habitat for elkhorn and staghorn corals under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). I thank you for your willingness to serve as peer reviewers of these documents, especially under the extremely short deadline of *December 7, 2007*. These documents are in a pre-decisional/pre-dissemination status. Thus, please keep these documents confidential.

The attached documents are the Proposed Critical Habitat designation and the Draft 4(b)(2) Report. The former provides the basis for our determination to designate critical habitat. It includes the full discussion of the biological basis for our determination. It also includes a summary of the second document, the Draft 4(b)(2) Report. The Draft 4(b)(2) Report fulfills the ESA requirement to consider economic, national security, and other relevant impacts of the designation.

We are requesting that you review these documents for the scientific information on which we based our determination. Please limit your review to the portions of these documents that is within your area of expertise. Further, we request that you do not provide review of the determination itself.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I appreciate your assistance.

Jennifer