

APPENDIX H: CORRESPONDENCE

(Letter Received from US Dept of Interior – Fish & Wildlife Service)

Georgetown University Boathouse
Environmental Assessment

April 2006

MAR 18 2005



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Chesapeake Bay Field Office

177 Admiral Cochrane Drive

Annapolis, MD 21401



March 11, 2005

Mr. Jane O. Rowan
Schnabel Engineering North, LLC
510 East Gay Street
West Chester, PA 19380

RE: Project 04121249, Georgetown University - Boathouse, District of Columbia

Dear Ms. Rowan:

This responds to your letter, received January 29, 2005, requesting information on the presence of species which are federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened in the above referenced project area. We have reviewed the information you enclosed and are providing comments in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Except for occasional transient individuals, no proposed or federally listed endangered or threatened species are known to exist within the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required. Should project plans change, or should additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species become available, this determination may be reconsidered.

This response relates only to federally protected threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction. Limited information is currently available regarding the distribution of other rare species in the District of Columbia. However, the Nature Conservancy and National Park Service (NPS) have initiated an inventory of rare species within the District. For further information on such rare species, you should contact Marcus Koenen of the DC Natural Heritage Program at (202) 342-1443 ext. 216.

An additional concern of the Service is wetlands protection. Federal and state partners of the Chesapeake Bay Program have adopted an interim goal of no overall net loss of the Basin's remaining wetlands, and the long term goal of increasing the quality and quantity of the Basin's wetlands resource base. Because of this policy and the functions and values wetlands perform, the Service recommends avoiding wetland impacts. All wetlands within the project area should be identified, and if alterations of wetlands is proposed, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

Baltimore District, should be contacted for permit requirements. They can be reached at (410) 962-3670.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information relative to fish and wildlife issues, and thank you for your interests in these resources. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact Maricela Constantino at (410) 573-4542.

Sincerely,

G. A. Maser

for

Mary J. Ratnaswamy, Ph.D.

Program Supervisor, Threatened and Endangered Species