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**Subject:**Announcing Release of the Revised Joint Policy on the Role of State Agencies in the  
ESA

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Greetings:

While you may have already heard from US FWS, I wanted to make sure you are aware that NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are pleased to announce our updated Interagency Policy regarding the role of State Agencies in Endangered Species Act activities.

We are updating this Interagency Policy, in place since 1994, which reflects our commitment to coordinate with the States and provides direction to agency employees regarding how we should work together in implementing the ESA for species conservation and recovery. The policy discusses how we work together in several areas, including Prelisting Conservation, Listing, Consultations under Section 7, Habitat Conservation Planning, and Recovery.

We coordinated these updates to this Policy through the ESA Joint Task Force, receiving valuable input from the States that reflect developments in our partnership for conservation over the past 20 years. Our work is not static, we constantly learn from the best available science and best management practices how to better accomplish our conservation mission.

Thank you for the part you play in helping us conserve and protect our natural legacy.  
Eileen

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