

From: Colarusso, Phil
To: ["Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal"](#)
Subject: RE: fish startle devices
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 3:11:00 PM

Chris,

They will be doing monitoring for fish within the area fenced off for construction. The question becomes what do they do if they spot a sturgeon inside the fish deterrent system. I'm assuming that blasting/dredging would not proceed, but how do they get the fish out and can they encourage the fish to leave the area in anyway. I realize this is a remote possibility, but divers will be in the water doing the survey prior to blasting, so we want to give them direction on how to proceed if they come up with that issue.

Phil

From: Christine Vaccaro - NOAA Federal [mailto:christine.vaccaro@noaa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2013 10:50 AM
To: Colarusso, Phil
Subject: fish startle devices

Hi Phil,

I apologize for not getting back to you sooner--I was out sick with a nasty chest cold/sore throat that unfortunately has affected my ability to speak (hence, this email)....

Anyway, the fish startle devices are specific to winter flounder--to keep them out of the dredge area. Winter flounder and Atlantic sturgeon have different hearing ranges. A similar question came up in another rock blasting project, where they were also using fish startle devices, which did not effect Atlantic sturgeon, because Atlantic sturgeon were not able to hear the frequencies. Thus, we feel comfortable with the determination that the usage of startle devices will have no effect on Atlantic sturgeon.

Because considerable fish passage is available for Atlantic sturgeon outside the blast radius and outside of the actual action area in New Bedford Harbor, any potential effects to passage have been sufficiently minimized to insignificant levels.

Cheers,
Chris

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