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ESA Section 7 Consultation Process

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What is the ESA?

Enacted in 1973, the purpose of the ESA is to conserve endangered and threatened species and their ecosystems.

What is Section 7?

Section 7 of the ESA outlines the procedures for Federal interagency cooperation to conserve federally listed species and designated critical habitat.



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Section 7- Interagency Cooperation

ESA Section 7(a)(1) directs Federal agencies to implement programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species.

ESA Section 7(a)(2) requires Federal agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries or the US Fish and Wildlife Service when any project or action they take may affect an ESA-listed species or designated critical habitat.



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“The Services” = Consulting Agencies



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- all cetaceans
- all pinnipeds (except walrus)
- other marine species (e.g., sunflower sea star)
- anadromous fish (e.g., salmon)



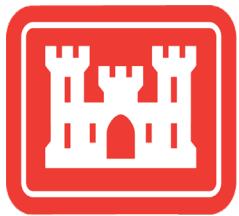
- walrus, polar bear, sea otter
- birds
- freshwater fish
- other terrestrial species, including plants



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Action Agencies

Federal agencies that authorize, fund, or carry out actions that may affect listed species

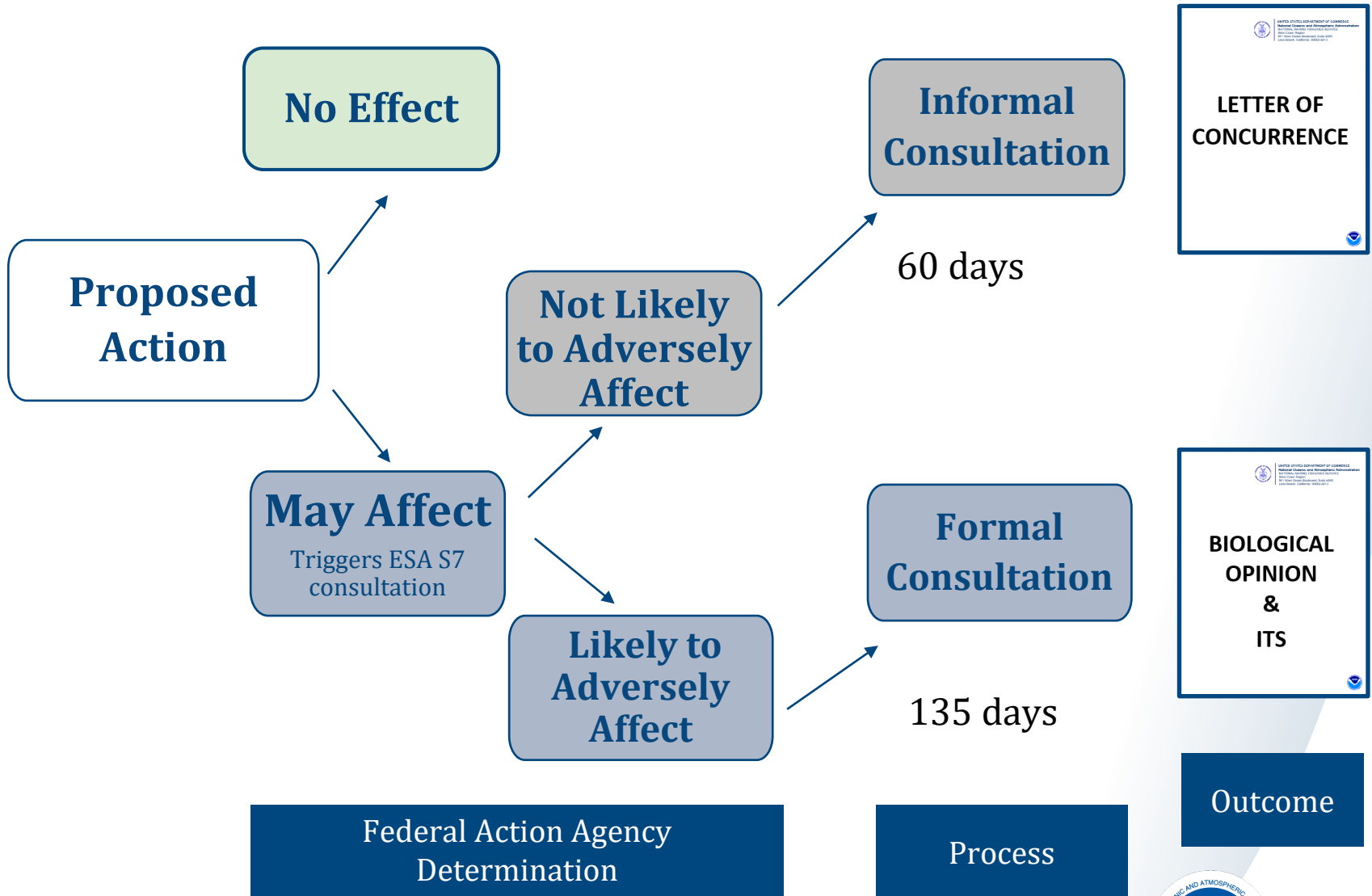


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Consultation Process



Reinitiation Triggers

1. Amount of authorized incidental take is exceeded
2. New information reveals effect of agency action may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered
3. Modifications to the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered
4. New species or critical habitats have been added to the ESA list



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Questions?