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BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, MARYLAND  
BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT  
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA  
SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, RHODE ISLAND

JAMES M. INHOFE, OKLAHOMA  
JOHN W. WARNER, VIRGINIA  
GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, OHIO  
JOHNNY ISAKSON, GEORGIA  
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA  
LARRY E. CRAIG, IDAHO  
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE  
CRAIG THOMAS, WYOMING  
CHRISTOPHER S. BOND, MISSOURI

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6175

BETTINA POIRIER, MAJORITY STAFF DIRECTOR  
ANDREW WHEELER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

August 25, 2008

The Honorable Todd J. Zinser  
Inspector General  
Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Inspector General Zinser:

I am writing in regards to the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Department of Commerce's NMFS-NOAA recently proposed revisions to the regulations governing consultations under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. I am very concerned about the activities that occurred within the Departments prior to the proposal's official release. Specifically, I ask that you investigate the premature and unauthorized release of the uncleared draft of the proposal, reportedly leaked from one of the Services' personnel to the National Wildlife Federation.

Maintaining the integrity of the interagency review process is of the utmost importance. The unauthorized release of such potentially controversial, yet critically-needed regulatory reforms indicates a serious abdication of duty among one of the Services' personnel. I hope that you share my concern about the need to uncover how this information leak occurred, including identification of the personnel responsible for this unethical and potentially illegal action.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works

Cc: Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez

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August 25, 2008

The Honorable Earl E. Devaney  
Inspector General  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Inspector General Devaney:

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Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on  
Environment and Public Works

Cc: Secretary Dirk Kempthorne