Authenticity.
Passion.
Success.

Endangered Species Act Section 7 Mapper

- Online interactive mapping tool
- Developed for NOAA Fisheries
- Significantly improved ESA Section 7 consultation process in 2 regions
- Used by NOAA Fisheries, action agencies, industries and the public!

Established in 2007, **Lynker** has several offices including in **Honolulu, HI**. We deliver innovative solutions to support global environmental sustainability and economic prosperity as a trusted partner to governments, communities, and industry. We are passionate about what we do and the high value we provide to marine, coastal, inland, and ocean research and conservation across the US and beyond.

Certifications

HUBZone Certified | CMMI-Dev Level 3 | ISO 9001:2015 | ISO 27001 | ISO 20000

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Project Overview

The **ESA Section 7 Mapper** is an online, interactive mapping tool that identifies where NOAA Fisheries recommends ESA Section 7 consultations should occur due to potential impacts to ESA-listed species or their critical habitat.

The underlying **S7 Consultation Areas** data build consolidates – *for the first time* – disparate data sources in an intuitive, spatial format. This data organizes input from Subject Matter Experts to align with Section 7 consultation requirements. The resulting data can be reused for additional purposes, both internal and public-facing.

Users identify a proposed action area and **the Mapper generates a detailed report** of the listed species and Critical Habitat found therein, including life history, behavior, seasonality, and relevant scientific and regulatory references.

Features

- Data vetted by experts for all ESA-listed species and Critical Habitat within the region;
- Inherently spatial information presented spatially – not just in text or tables;
- Interactive, workflow-driven map interface providing site-specific information;
- Generated reports which can be copied directly into consultation requests;
- New "S7 Consultation Areas" database, which can support additional planning, analysis, and assessment needs via integration with new or existing web maps and story maps.

Benefits

The Section 7 Mapper has **reduced consultation timelines** from greater than 30 days to less than 10 days in many cases. It ensures consultation requests arrive with accurate and complete site-specific information, thereby expediting the process of determining whether further consultation with NOAA is necessary.

The Mapper also captures and consolidates NOAA's institutional knowledge to produce a **Common Operational Picture** shared by species experts, consultation biologists, and action agencies. This promotes clear, transparent, and uniform decision making and helps identify data improvement needs.

Technology

Lynker uses the collaborative tools of **Google Workspace** (including Gmail, Calendar, Drive, Docs, Sheets, Meet, and Chat) to support data development and all aspects of project management.

Lynker assembled the Section 7 Consultation Area geodatabase using **ArcGIS**, and leveraged **NOAA GeoPlatform** – NOAA's enterprise ArcGIS Online for Organizations platform – to easily share, review, and edit geospatial data with non-GIS users, host the data online for integration into web maps, and develop the custom Section 7 Mapper application.

See It In Action

The Section 7 Mapper for the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Region launched in April 2018, and is available at the link below.
https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/greater-atlantic-region-esa-section-7-mapper

The Southeast Region's Mapper will go live in Spring 2022.