

Comparison of the Contents of Biological Assessments, Biological Evaluations, and Biological Opinions

Contents of a Biological Assessment (50 CFR 402.12)	Required to initiate formal consultation (50 CFR 402.14)	Recommended Contents of a BA, BE, or Initiation Request*	Contents of a Biological Opinion
		Consultation History (optional)	Consultation History
	(1) A description of the action to be considered (2) A description of the specific area that may be affected by the action	Description of the Proposed Action (including action deconstruction, conservation measures, and monitoring feedback loops)	Description of the Proposed Action (including action deconstruction, conservation measures, and monitoring feedback loops)
			Status of the Species Status of its Critical Habitat
(1) The results of an on-site inspection of the area affected by the action to determine if listed or proposed species are present or occur seasonally (2) The views of recognized experts on the species at issue (3) A review of the literature and other information	(3) A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action (6) Any other relevant available information on the action, the affected listed species, or critical habitat	Environmental Baseline: Status of the Species in the Action Area Status of Critical Habitat in the Action Area	Environmental Baseline: Status of the Species in the Action Area Status of Critical Habitat in the Action Area
(4) An analysis of the effects of the action on the species and habitat, including consideration of cumulative effects, and the results of any related studies. (5) An analysis of alternate actions considered by the Federal agency for the proposed action.	(4) A description of the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat and an analysis of any cumulative effects (5) Relevant reports, including any environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or biological assessment prepared	Effects of the Action: Effects of activities on species Effects activities on Critical Habitat	Effects of the Action: Effects of activities on species Effects of activities on Critical Habitat
Conclusion: Is the action likely to adversely affect individuals of the listed species? Is the action likely to adversely affect Critical Habitat?	Conclusion: Is the action likely to adversely affect individuals of the listed species? Is the action likely to adversely affect Critical Habitat?	Conclusion: Is the action likely to adversely affect individuals of the listed species? Is the action likely to adversely affect Critical Habitat?	Conclusion: Is the action likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species? Is the action likely to adversely modify Critical Habitat?
			Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (only with a conclusion of jeopardy or adverse modification)
			Incidental Take Statement: Reasonable and Prudent Measures Terms and Conditions
			Conservation Recommendations
			Re-initiation Requirements
References Cited	References Cited	References Cited	References Cited

* Any request for formal or informal consultation (no matter what it is called) could be formatted this way.