

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE NORTHEAST REGION 55 Great Republic Drive Gloucester, MA 01930-2276

June 17, 2013

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street, N.E. Washington, D.C. 20426

## **RE:** Support for US Fish and Wildlife Service extension of time request to comment on proposed study plans.

Dear Ms. Bose:

We are filing this letter in support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) request for an extension of time to provide comments on the proposed study plan. The USFWS seeks to extend the scheduled deadline of July 15 until July 30 to provide final comments on the draft proposed study plans being developed for Turners Falls (P-1889) and Northfield Mountain Pump Storage (P-2485). We agree with the USFWS' background statements and rational for the request. Of particular interest to us will be the timing of a field reconnaissance for the Instream Flow Study which our staff intends to participate. This field reconnaissance is scheduled for the week of July 8 and will inform our comments. For these reasons, we support the USFWS request for an extension of time.

We appreciate your consideration of the request. If you have questions, please contact Bill McDavitt (<u>william.mcdavitt@noaa.gov/</u> 978-675-2156) in the Habitat Conservation Division.

Sincerely, un Louis A. Chiarella

Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat Conservation



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