Establishing a Point of Reference

* Status of the Species and Critical Habitat
402.14(c) Initiation of formal consultation:

(1) A description of the action

(2) A description of the specific area that may be affected by the action

(3) A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action

(4) A description of the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat and an analysis of cumulative effects

(5) Relevant reports

(6) Any other relevant available information on the action, the affected listed species or critical habitat.

Why do we need to know?
402.14(g) Service responsibilities:

1. Review all relevant information provided by the Federal agency or otherwise available.

2. Evaluate the current status of the listed species or critical habitat.

3. Evaluate the effects of the action and cumulative effects on the listed species or critical habitat.

4. Formulate its biological opinion as to whether the action, taken together with cumulative effects, is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

*Why do we need to know?*
* General Behavior
* Sensitivity to Stimuli (e.g., light, sound, temperature)
* Behavioral Responses to Stimuli
* Resilience (or not)
* Limiting Factors

* Discuss the species’ biology relative to effects
*The resources and space needed for breeding, feeding, and sheltering

*What are limiting factors?
* The Services need relevant local information on threats to the species
* BOTH: What is happening to the species AND what is not happening for the species

*WHY?*
The Services use the information you provide in the BA to assess changes in:

* Reproduction
* Numbers
* Distribution
* Fecundity
* Reproductive lifespan
* Recruitment
* Age of sexual maturity
* Allee effects
* Seed banks
* Survival rate
* How many populations
* Size of the populations
* Sources and sinks
* Range
* Metapopulations
* Fragmentation of populations
* Immigration
* Emigration
* Barriers
Status of Recovery Implementation
Specific areas occupied by the species at the time of listing on which are found those physical or biological features:

- essential to the conservation of the species
- which may require special management consideration

Unoccupied areas determined to be essential to the conservation of the species.
* Physical or biological features that support:
  Breeding
  Feeding
  Sheltering

* Defined in recent critical habitat designations

* Think about:
  Sensitivity
  Resilience

* Primary Constituent Elements
The best scientific and commercial information available

*Information Standard*