

Advocacy Comments on FWS' Conflict Management Proposal for the Double-Crested Cormorant

On July 20, 2020, the Office of Advocacy submitted comments to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on its proposed rule to establish a state and Tribal permit for take of the double-crested cormorant:

- On June 5, 2020 the U.S. Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a proposed rule to establish a new permit for State and federally recognized Tribal wildlife agencies for the management of double-crested cormorants.¹
- The Service also published a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that discusses several potential regulatory alternatives the Service considered in implementing a management plan for the species.²
- Advocacy encouraged the Service to reconsider its choice of alternatives presented in the DEIS, and to instead choose alternative C. Alternative C would implement both a State and Tribal permit as well as an aquaculture depredation order, thus helping to minimize the burden on small private aquaculture facilities.

¹ Migratory Bird Permits: Management of Conflicts Associated With Double-Crested Cormorants (Phalacrocorax auritus) Throughout the United States, 85 Fed. Reg. 34578 (June 5, 2020).

² See Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Management of Conflicts Associated with Double-Crested Cormorants (March 2020), available at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FWS-HQ-MB-2019-0103-1412>.