

# Appendix IV: Comments from the Department of Commerce



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 28, 2018

Ms. Anne-Marie Fennell  
Director, Natural Resources and Environment  
U.S. Government Accountability Office  
441 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Fennell:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) draft report titled *Combating Wildlife Trafficking: Opportunities Exist to Improve the Use of Financial Rewards* (GAO-18-279).

The Department of Commerce agrees with GAO's recommendations. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is developing procedures to ensure financial rewards specific to the Endangered Species Act and the Lacey Act are closely tracked, clearly documented, and better communicated. NOAA will also review the effectiveness of its use of financial rewards.

If you have any questions, please contact MaryAnn Mausser, GAO Liaison, at (202) 482-8120 or [MMausser@doc.gov](mailto:MMausser@doc.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Wilbur Ross

Enclosure