

PROCESSES AND VOCABULARY TO GATHER LIGHTING RESEARCH ON WILDLIFE

Using phrases like **“species occurrence / biodiversity assessment”** and explicitly listing the animal groups (aquatic, amphibian, bird, terrestrial) will make your request clear across most English-language international contexts.

When contacting agencies, you can use general terms that encompass multiple species types.

General Terms/ Phrases for Global Wildlife Queries

1. **Local wildlife inventory”** – Covers all animals in the vicinity.
2. **“Species occurrence / presence data”** – Common in environmental science and ecology.
3. **“Protected / threatened species survey”** – Signals interest in endangered or conservation-priority species.
4. **“Aquatic, amphibian, avian, and terrestrial species”** – Explicitly covers the major ecological groups affected by bridge lighting.
5. **“Biodiversity assessment near [project site]”** – A widely recognized term in environmental permitting and consultancy.
6. **“Environmental / ecological baseline study”** – Often used by environmental consulting firms or government agencies before construction.

Suggested Query Template (International)

“We are planning nighttime lighting for [bridge/project location] and would like to assess potential impacts on local wildlife. Could you provide species occurrence data, habitat maps, or guidance on aquatic, amphibian, bird, and terrestrial species, including any protected or threatened species in the area?”

Which Authorities to Contact

- **National or Regional Wildlife Agencies / Ministries of Environment** – e.g., Environment Canada, UK Natural England, Australia Dept. of Agriculture, Water & Environment.
- **Protected Area / National Park Authorities** – Especially for rivers, wetlands, or ecologically sensitive sites.
- **Local Conservation or Ecological NGOs** – Many countries have active biodiversity monitoring groups.
- **Academic / University Departments** – Zoology, Ecology, or Environmental Science departments often maintain species data.
- **Environmental Consultants** – Especially in countries where wildlife data is managed privately.

United States focused

Here is an overview of agencies and terms for authoritative information.

1. State Wildlife Agencies

These are the most direct source for local species information:

- Usually called **Department of Fish and Wildlife or Fish and Game Department**.
- They track **fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds** in specific water bodies or regions.
- They often have GIS databases of critical habitats, endangered species, and migration corridors.

Best query term: “species list / critical habitat / aquatic and amphibian species near [location]”

2. State or Local Parks Departments

- Often maintain **natural areas, rivers, and wetlands** under their jurisdiction.
- Can provide local surveys or guidance on **protected species and sensitive areas**.

3. Federal Agencies (as applicable)

- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS):** For endangered species, migratory birds, and wetlands.
- **NOAA Fisheries / National Marine Fisheries Service:** For rivers, estuaries, and marine environments.
- **Army Corps of Engineers:** For bridges spanning navigable waters; they may have environmental impact assessments with species data.
- **Coast Guard:** More relevant to navigable waters and shipping channels; less about species, more about operational constraints.

4. Local Environmental Commissions / Conservation Districts

- County-level or municipal agencies may have **habitat maps, wildlife surveys, or mitigation guidelines**.
- Can be especially useful in urban areas with fragmented habitats.

5. Academic & Nonprofit Sources

- Universities, environmental NGOs, and local naturalist societies often maintain species inventories.
- Example: Audubon chapters for birds, local herpetology societies for amphibians and reptiles.

Contact

For feedback, partnerships, or further information, please feel free to contact us at leni@lslp.net.

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