



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

JAN 13 2015

Memorandum

To: Ecological Services Field Office Supervisors: Panama City, Florida; Daphne, Alabama; Jackson, Mississippi; Lafayette, Louisiana; and Clear Lake, Texas

From: Deputy Deepwater Horizon, Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR), Case Manager *Debra L. McCQ.*

Subject: Request to Convert Conference Reports and Conference Opinions to Informal Consultations and Biological Opinions for the Rufa Red Knot

The *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) Case Management Office recently completed Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 conferencing with your offices regarding multiple projects (and any components within) that are part of the *Deepwater Horizon* Phase III Early Restoration (see Tables 1 and 2). These conferences each evaluated potential impacts from the projects to the rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), a species which was proposed for listing as threatened under the ESA. For the projects listed in Table 1, your offices concurred that the projects may affect, but were not likely to adversely affect, the red knot should the species become listed. For the projects listed in Table 2, we determined rufa red knot may be taken during project implementation and conference opinions were issued.

As you are aware, the final rule listing the rufa red knot as a threatened species was published on December 11, 2014. The rule becomes effective on January 12, 2015. None of the Early Restoration Phase III projects have been implemented at this time. Because all the conferences were completed recently and none of the project descriptions have changed except as noted in Table 1, we have concluded our previous determinations for the rufa red knot are still valid (Table 1 and 2). We request your concurrence (via initials, check box, and signature on the attachments) thereby confirming the conference reports as informal consultations or biological opinions, as appropriate. All other information and determinations remain the same (or as documented via other correspondence). If you have questions or concerns regarding this request for consultation, please contact Ashley (Buchanan) Mills, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, at 812-756-2712 or ashley_buchanan@fws.gov.

Attachments (2)

ATTACHMENT – Table 1

Phase III Early Restoration Projects that may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the threatened rufa red knot. DOI made “NLAA” determinations during conferencing and field office concurrence was received. DOI has concluded that these determinations are still valid. Check box and signature requested below. Place your initials by the project title for which your office has jurisdiction and you are providing your concurrence.

Concurrence []

Non-Concurrence, attach comments []

Tom R...
Signature of Reviewing Field Office

1-16-2015
Date

Deputy Field Supervisor
Title

Table 1. Phase III Early Restoration Projects that may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the threatened rufa red knot.

Initials	State	Title	Conference Concurrence Date
<i>TR</i>	AL	Oyster reef restoration in Mobile County, Alabama	October 28, 2013
<i>TR</i>	AL	Swift Tract living shoreline, Baldwin County, Alabama	January 21, 2014
<i>TR</i>	AL	Gulf State Park Enhancement Project	May 16, 2014
	FL	St. Andrews Marina Docking Facility Expansions, Earl Gilbert Dock and Boat Ramp Improvements, Oak Shore Drive Pier, and Panama City Marina Improvements, Bay County, Florida	March 24, 2014
	FL	Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Project, Florida	March 20, 2014
	FL	Florida Cat Point Living Shoreline, Franklin County, Florida	March 20, 2014
	FL	Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps (Abercrombie Boat Ramp Project*, Waterfront Park Improvement Project, Indian Creek Park Boat Ramp Project, Eastpoint Fishing Pier Improvement Project, and St. George Island Fishing Pier Improvement Project)	March 24, 2014
	FL	Gulf County Recreation Project – Highland View Boat Ramp and Port St. Joe Frank Pate Boat Ramp, Florida	May 1, 2014
	FL	Strategically Provided Boat Access Along Florida’s Gulf Coast - City of Mexico City Beach Marina	March 24, 2014
	FL	Navarre Beach park Gulfside Walkover Complex and Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration, Florida	May 1, 2014
	FL	Oyster Cultch Project, Florida	January 23, 2014
	FL	Florida Pensacola Bay Living Shoreline Project, Florida	February 6, 2014
	FL	Perdido Key Dune Restoration and Perdido Key State Park Beach Boardwalk Improvements	April 4, 2014
	FL	Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration, Florida	January 23, 2014

FL	Scallop Enhancement Project, Florida	January 23, 2014
FL	Shell Point Beach Nourishment Project, Wakulla County, Florida	February 6, 2014
FL	St. Joseph Bay Seagrass Recovery Project, Florida	October 21, 2013
FL	Wakulla County Mashie Sands Park Improvements, Florida	March 24, 2014
FL	Walton County Boardwalks and Dune Crossovers and Deer Lake State Park Development	March 10, 2014
FL	Gulf County Recreation Project - Windmark Beach Fishing Pier Improvements	May 1, 2014
FL	Beach Enhancement at Gulf Island National Seashore	November 1, 2013
LA	Louisiana Marine Fisheries Enhancement, Research, and Science Center	February 13, 2014
LA	Chenier Ronquille Restoration, Louisiana	June 13, 2014
LA	Shell Island Restoration, Louisiana	June 13, 2014
MS	Pascagoula Beachfront Promenade	January 3, 2014
TX	Galveston Island State Park	February 14, 2014

* The Abercrombie portion of the project has been removed by the project sponsor since the conference. All other aspects of the project remain the same.