



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

**OCT 22 2014**

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SER-2014-15032

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/HC3 – Leslie Craig

FROM: *for* F/SE – Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D. *Miles M. Croom*

SUBJECT: Deepwater Horizon-Early Restoration Plan  
Phase III, Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultations  
for the Gulf Island National Seashore (GINS) Ferry Project  
(SER-2010-1415)

This memorandum responds to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Restoration Center's (RC) September 12, 2014, letter and supporting materials for the Gulf Island National Seashore (GINS) ferry service project (previously submitted as the Fort Pickens Passenger Ferry Pier). This project is among a suite of projects proposed for implementation in Phase III of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Early Restoration Plan (DERP). The NMFS RC, on behalf of the natural resources trustees (the Trustees) for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, is serving as the lead agency for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation for this project.

In 2011, NMFS Protected Resources Division (PRD) Section 7 completed a consultation for the proposed project (SER-2010-1415); at that time, we concurred with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination that the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect, loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. We concluded that the risk of injury to protected species, from the National Park Service's (NPS) pier construction, was discountable because of the species' mobility, the low level of noise produced, and the implementation of NMFS' *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions*. The effects on these species due to avoidance of, and exclusion from, potential foraging habitat due to construction activities were insignificant because they were temporary and only a small area would be affected, relative to the foraging habitat available in Pensacola Bay. The original NPS request for concurrence was on the Fort Pickens passenger ferry pier construction, which included the passenger ferry service, however, the ferry service was never implemented. The NOAA RC is now funding the purchase of the two ferry vessels in order to implement the ferry service. Your September 12, 2014, memorandum states that the scope of the project has not changed from that previously assessed; the site conditions are the same as those described in the previous consultation, and you are not aware of any new information that would change the previous determinations. Your memorandum also states the project will be implemented as described in the NMFS PRD's August 22, 2011, letter of concurrence, including adherence to the precautionary measures, and best management practices. Therefore, you determined that the currently proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green, leatherback, and hawksbill sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf sturgeon critical habitat, and requested NMFS PRD's concurrence with that determination.

Additionally, since the 2011 consultation was completed, NMFS PRD designated critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). As stated in your September 12, 2014, memorandum, you determined that this project is not located within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat and consequently, you believe the project will have no effect on that critical habitat.

We reinitiated consultation on your September 12 request on September 18, 2014. Our determination regarding the effects of the described proposed actions are based on the description of the actions in this informal consultation. Any changes to the proposed actions may negate the findings of the present consultation and may require reinitiation of consultation with NMFS PRD.

*Background: Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Early Restoration*

Under the Oil Pollution Act, designated agencies of the federal government and affected state governments act as trustees on behalf of the public. The Trustees are charged with recovering damages from the responsible parties to restore the public's natural resources that sustained injuries. NOAA shares trusteeship with the other natural resource trustees over all of the resources that will benefit from these restoration actions. The Trustees developed the Early Restoration selection process to be responsive to the purpose and need for conducting Early Restoration. Early Restoration project selection is a process requiring several steps: (1) project solicitation, (2) project screening, (3) negotiation with BP, and (4) public review and comment.

The Trustees released a Phase I Early Restoration Plan (ERP) in April 2012, a Phase II ERP in December 2012, and a draft Phase III ERP on May 6, 2013. On June 26, 2014, the Trustees released a final Phase III Plan. These plans contain a series of restoration actions that may be selected independently by the Trustees. NMFS PRD has previously completed consultations on the Phase I ERP projects and 39 of the projects included in the Phase III ERP.<sup>1</sup>

The Phase I ERP consists of 8 projects that address an array of injuries and are located throughout the Gulf of Mexico (See Appendix 1). Specifically, Phase I includes 2 oyster projects (1 in Louisiana and 1 in Mississippi), 2 marsh projects (1 in Louisiana and 1 in Alabama), a nearshore artificial reef project in Mississippi, and 2 dune projects and a boat ramp enhancement project in Florida. Consultation on the Phase I projects was completed on April 2, 2012. NMFS PRD determined that 1 of the marsh projects and both dune projects would have no effect on listed species and that other projects are not likely to adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS PRD's purview. NMFS PRD evaluated potential impacts on listed species (5 species of sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon and smalltooth sawfish) from placement of material, site exclusion, and dredging, and determined that these effects will be discountable or insignificant because of the species' mobility and ability to find suitable habitat for foraging in the surrounding areas. NMFS PRD also evaluated potential impacts to sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon from fishing activities associated with the artificial reef project and determined that the effects are discountable because the enhancement of the existing artificial reefs is not expected to induce new fishing effort or increase the risk of harmful interactions between recreational fishers and listed species. The boat ramp project will enhance 2 existing boat ramps and create 2 new public boat ramps that will allow the launch of an additional 92

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<sup>1</sup> None of the Phase II ERP projects involved in-water work and therefore, NMFS PRD did not receive a request for Section 7 consultation.

vessels. The purpose of these projects is to relieve traffic and congestion at other boat ramps in the area. NMFS PRD determined that any increase in vessel strike risk to sea turtles is discountable because the new boat ramps are likely to be used by people who currently have vessels. A previous NMFS PRD analysis concluded that a typical dock or marina project in Florida that introduces fewer than 300 new vessels to an area will have an insignificant or discountable effect on sea turtles.<sup>2</sup>

Three of the Phase I projects (1 boat ramp, 1 oyster project, and the nearshore artificial reef project) are located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The boat ramp is located in Unit 9, while the oyster and artificial reef projects are located in Unit 8. NMFS PRD determined that the boat ramp project is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 9 because the construction will occur in the same footprint and will be the same dimensions as the existing piers. Any increases in suspended sediments in the water column (i.e., turbidity) are expected to be localized and temporary and insignificant, and the texture and quality of the sediments and its ability to support prey items are expected to be the same pre- and post-project. NMFS PRD similarly concluded that the oyster project and artificial reef project will not adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 8 because the placement of clean, toxin-free material will not alter the water or sediment quality and the addition of this material to existing hard bottom will not alter prey availability.

To date, NMFS PRD has completed 18 consultations on 33 individual projects out of a total of 39 projects<sup>3</sup> included in Phase III (See Appendix 2). These projects are:

- 4 artificial reef projects (3 in Texas and 1 in Florida)
- 2 oysters projects (1 in Florida and 1 in Alabama)
- 4 living shoreline projects (1 in Alabama, 1 in Mississippi, and 2 in Florida)
- 10 Florida boat ramp/dock projects
- 1 Florida scallop-enhancement project
- 1 Florida beach-enhancement project
- 1 Louisiana-North Breton Island restoration project
- 1 Mississippi fishing pier project
- 2 Florida observation/canoe launch dock projects
- 1 Florida erosion-control project
- 1 Florida small fishing pier project
- 1 Florida oyster reef and salt marsh-enhancement project
- 1 Florida fish hatchery project
- 1 Florida-St. George Island bulkhead improvements project
- 1 Texas ship artificial reef
- 1 Florida Mexico Beach marina project

As with the Phase I projects, NMFS PRD evaluated potential impacts on listed species (5 species of sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon) from placement of material, site exclusion, and dredging, and determined that these effects will be discountable or insignificant because of the species' mobility and ability to find suitable habitat for foraging in the surrounding areas. NMFS PRD

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<sup>2</sup> Barnette, M. Threats and Effects Analysis for Protected Resources on Vessel Traffic Associated with Dock and Marina Construction. NMFS SERO PRD Memorandum. April 18, 2013.

<sup>3</sup> Five additional restoration projects were included on September 12, 2014.

also evaluated the impacts of noise created from construction, where applicable, and determined that the risk of short- or long-term exposure to harmful noise is discountable, and any sound heard by the ESA-listed species will have insignificant health effects. NMFS PRD determined that the potential impacts to sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon from fishing activities associated with the 4 artificial reef projects are discountable because the enhancement of the existing artificial reefs is not expected to induce new fishing effort. NMFS PRD also determined that the risk of vessel strike impacts to turtles from future use of the artificial reef sites is discountable because use of the site will generally coincide with fair weather patterns and calm sea states that will allow boaters to detect and avoid any sea turtles in their path. Subsequently, in the consultation on the Texas ship artificial reef, NMFS PRD recognized that the effects of recreational fishing for reef fish and reef fish vessels on sea turtles were analyzed in NMFS's Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Fishery Biological Opinion dated September 30, 2011. NMFS PRD concluded that because the artificial reef would not result in any net increase in fishing activities and would not result in any measurable change in the Gulf-wide distribution of fishing effort or the distribution of turtles, the Texas ship artificial reef project would not result in any fishing or vessel impact beyond those described in the 2011 biological opinion.

Sixteen of the Phase III projects (3 living shoreline projects, 1 Florida artificial reef project, 1 Florida fish hatchery, 3 Florida boat ramp projects, 1 Florida beach-enhancement project, 2 Florida oyster reef projects, 1 scallop-enhancement project, 1 erosion-control project, 2 observation/canoe launch docks, and 1 Florida St. George Island bulkhead improvements) are located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The living shoreline projects are located in Units 8, 9, and 13. The Florida fish hatchery is located in Unit 9. The boat ramp projects are located in Units 9 and 13. The beach-enhancement project is located in Unit 11. The oyster projects are located in Units 9 and 13. The scallop-enhancement project is located in Units 9, 10, 12, and 13, the erosion-control project is located in Unit 12, the observation/canoe launch dock projects are in Units 10 and 12, and the St. George Island bulkhead improvements project is located in Unit 13.

NMFS PRD determined that the scallop-enhancement project and Florida fish hatchery project will have no effect on Gulf sturgeon critical habitat and that the other projects are not likely to adversely affect the essential features of Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (water quality, sediment quality, prey abundance, and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways). The oyster reef projects will place clean, non-toxic material over existing hard bottom, which will make any impacts to water quality, sediment quality, or prey abundance discountable. The beach-enhancement project will improve sediment quality and effects to prey abundance, water quality and migratory pathways will be insignificant because the work will take place in shallower water than normal foraging depths. Any increased turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and sand placement in the shallow waters along the beach will not interfere with migration. The Florida artificial reef project will have no effect on the sediment quality. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and will not reduce prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the modules. Any impacts to migratory pathways will be discountable because the reef structures are in open water and spaced out sufficiently for Gulf sturgeon to move. The installation of the 8-inch-diameter seawater intake pipe for the fish hatchery project will have no effect on sediment quality. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because the turbidity will be temporary, within natural background levels, and will not reduce prey availability in the areas surrounding the pipe.

Similarly, the boat ramp and dock projects will have no effect on sediment quality. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and will not reduce prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the ramps or docks. The erosion control structure project will have no effects on sediment quality as the composition of the dredge materials to be placed behind the groins are expected to be similar or identical to what is currently present. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and will not reduce prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the modules. The living shoreline projects may temporarily increase turbidity and displace some prey species, but we expect these impacts to be insignificant. With respect to prey abundance, the living shoreline projects are expected to have long-term beneficial impacts by increasing prey abundance in adjacent areas. The St. George Island bulkhead improvements project may affect water and sediment quality from construction activities, but they will be short-lived and localized. Similarly, any impacts to prey abundance will be localized, and is not expected to reduce overall prey abundance in the project area or critical habitat unit.

Only 4 projects of the Phase III projects (3 Texas artificial reefs and 1 ship artificial reef project) are located in loggerhead critical habitat LOGG-S-02-Gulf of Mexico (*Sargassum*). NMFS PRD determined that none of the project actions would affect the location of convergence zones, surface-water downwelling areas, or other locations where there are concentrated components of the *Sargassum* community in water temperatures suitable for optimal growth of *Sargassum* and inhabitation of loggerheads. All 4 artificial reef project actions would not adversely affect the availability of prey for hatchling loggerhead sea turtles or other material associated with *Sargassum* habitat. They will not affect the water depth or proximity to currents necessary for offshore transport, foraging and cover. While the vessels associated with these projects may transit through *Sargassum* habitats, those vessel tracks are not anticipated to scatter *Sargassum* mats to the point of appreciably affecting the functionality of the primary constituent elements (PCEs). Therefore, any adverse effects to the PCEs of *Sargassum* habitat will be insignificant.

Vessel traffic resulting from the creation of a ferry service to Fort Pickens will increase the amount of vessel traffic within the action area. Vessel traffic can pose a risk of collisions between a vessel and sea turtle. However, NMFS believes that the risk of vessel strike impacts to sea turtles resulting from ferry traffic is discountable due to the species' mobility and the required harm avoidance measures. Incorporation of the precautionary measures, including training ferry crew members to observe for swimming sea turtles, and restricting ferry speeds when turtles are observed, will further reduce the likelihood of the ferry striking a swimming sea turtle during operations. Additionally, the introduction of a scheduled ferry service could potentially reduce the number of recreational vessels traversing from the mainland to Fort Pickens, as well as the number of private commercial transport services, which are currently making trips from the mainland to Fort Pickens. Based on the above, the risk of vessel strike impacts to sea turtles from ferry operations is discountable.

#### *Current Project*

After reviewing the submitted materials, NMFS PRD agrees with your assessment that the GINS ferry project has not changed in scope, and the site conditions are the same as those described in the previous consultation. The GINS ferry project is not located in designated critical habitat,

and we are unaware of any new information that would change the previous determinations, therefore our previous consultation is still valid.

NMFS PRD has also considered the effects of this project in conjunction with the effects associated with the Phase I and Phase III projects that have previously undergone Section 7 consultations and concludes there are no additive effects of the overall projects that rise above the level of effects considered for each of the individual projects. The potential impacts to listed species from construction activities are limited in time and place, and these cease once the project is complete.

Finally, we acknowledge the addition of the NOAA RC as the action agency and validate the original Section 7 consultation dated August 22, 2011, for which you requested ESA Section 7 consultation.

Consultation must be reinitiated if a take occurs or new information reveals effects of the action not previously considered, or the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the identified action. If you have any questions about this consultation, please contact Nicolas Alvarado, Consultation Biologist, at (727) 209-5955, or by email at [Nicolas.Alvarado@noaa.gov](mailto:Nicolas.Alvarado@noaa.gov).

**Appendix 1. Phase I Early Restoration Plan Projects with corresponding Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS)**

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P1-1	SER-2012-889	Louisiana Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation – NRDA Early Restoration Project	Project proposed involves the creation of marsh within the project footprint of the larger Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project. The primary goals of the project are the following: (1) to restore the eastern Lake Hermitage shoreline to reduce erosion and prevent breaching into the interior marsh, and (2) to re-create marsh in the open water areas south and southeast of Lake Hermitage. The marsh creation project will substitute approximately 104 acres of created brackish marsh for approximately 5-6 acres (7,300 linear feet [ft]) of earthen terraces.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat. All activities associated with the Lake Hermitage Restoration project are outside the known range of Gulf sturgeon. Sea turtles are not likely to be at the dredge site in the Mississippi River, which is 70 mi from the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, sea turtles are not likely to be at the marsh restoration site. The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-2	SER-2012-889	Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project	Project involves (1) the placement of oyster cultch onto approximately 850 acres of public oyster seed grounds throughout coastal Louisiana, and (2) construction of an oyster hatchery facility that will produce supplemental larvae and seed. The project consists of placing oyster cultch material on public oyster seed grounds to produce seed- and sack-sized oysters to compensate the public for impacts to oyster areas exposed to oil, dispersant, and response activities.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.
P1-3	SER-2012-889	Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration	Project includes the deployment of artificial reefs in bays and nearshore Mississippi Sound waters in and off of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.
P1-4	SER-2012-889	Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat	Project involves the addition 50 acres of salt marsh to the existing 24 acres along Marsh Island in the Portersville Bay portion of Mississippi Sound in south Mobile County, Alabama. This entails the construction of a permeable segmented breakwater, the placement of sediments, and the planting of native marsh vegetation.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-5	SER-2012-889	Mississippi Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Marsh Creation		

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P1-6	SER-2012-889	Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project	Project will restore 55 acres of dune habitat by installing sand fencing and planting native dune vegetation in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama.	The project will have no effect on listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS PRD's jurisdiction. NMFS PRD does not believe there will be any direct or indirect effects to our listed species or designated critical habitat, as all activities will occur solely in upland areas.
P1-7	SER-2012-889	Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement and Construction Project	Project will entail repairing the existing Navy Point Park public boat ramp, located in a developed residential area in Pensacola Bay, and constructing the new Mahogany Mill public boat ramp that will be located in a commercial and industrial area in Pensacola Bay.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The Navy Point project is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 9, Pensacola Bay. The remaining boat ramp projects are not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-8	SER-2012-889	Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration	Native dune vegetation will be planted on the primary dune on Pensacola Beach in Escambia County, Florida.	This project will have no effect on listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS PRD's jurisdiction. NMFS PRD does not believe there will be any direct or indirect effects to listed species or designated critical habitat, as all activities will occur solely in upland areas.



**Appendix 2. Phase III Early Restoration Plan Projects with corresponding Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS)**

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-1	SER-2014-12910	TX, Artificial Reefs, Corpus	The applicant will propose 3 projects to install artificial reefs in Texas coastal waters. They are not located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat but are located in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat (LOGG-S-02-Gulf of Mexico [ <i>Sargassum</i> ]).	These projects are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles) or loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat (LOGG-S-02-Gulf of Mexico [ <i>Sargassum</i> ]).
P3-2	SER-2014-12916	TX, Artificial Reefs, Freeport		
P3-3	SER-2014-12920	TX, Artificial Reefs, Matagorda		
P3-4	SER-2014-12924	AL, Oyster Cultch	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance 319 acres of oyster reefs within historic footprint of oyster reefs in Mobile Bay. It is not located within any designated critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon).
P3-5	SER-2014-12925	MS, Hancock County Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion and restore oyster and marsh habitat by (1) use of breakwater materials to reduce shoreline erosion, (2) creation of 46 acres of salt marsh, and (3) enhancement of 46 acres of oyster reef habitat that have historically supported oyster habitat. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 8, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-6	SER-2014-12926	FL, Swift Tract Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by creating breakwaters (8,500 ft) from natural materials (15,800 tons of riprap and 2,200 cubic yards [yd <sup>3</sup> ] of bagged oyster shell) covering 2.9 acres of fine-grained sediment. It is not located within any designated critical habitats.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon). Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-7	SER-2014-13016	FL, Pensacola Bay Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by expanding existing breakwaters at 2 sites (25,000 tons of riprap, covering 5 acres of fine-grained sediment total) and backfilling marsh areas with 102,000 yd <sup>3</sup> of fill, total. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish were withdrawn.

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-8	SER-2014-13083	FL, Cat Point Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by expanding an existing breakwater structure (up to 0.3 mi) and creating 1 acre of salt marsh habitat. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish were withdrawn.
P3-9	SER-2014-13017	FL, Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	The applicant proposes to remove fragments of asphalt and road-base material from a long, thin area approximately 20-ft-wide by 2-mi-long (211,200 ft <sup>2</sup> or ~4.8 acres) in the inter- and sub-tidal zone within the GUIS. The project is located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 11 and is not in loggerhead critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated critical habitats for these species.
P3-10	SER-2014-13018	LA, North Breton Island Restoration	The applicant proposes to dredge 3.7 million yd <sup>3</sup> (2.8 x 10 <sup>6</sup> cubic meters [m <sup>3</sup> ]) of sand, silt, and clay materials, using a cutterhead dredge, from 1 or more sites within offshore shoals borrow sites from a water depth range of 6-20 ft or 1.8-6.1 m MLLW. The in-water project footprint is 38 square miles (mi <sup>2</sup> ) or 98.4 square kilometers (km <sup>2</sup> ): 41.4 mi <sup>2</sup> (or 106.4 km <sup>2</sup> ) including proposed North Breton Island restoration. The project is not located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat or loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon).
P3-11	SER-2014-13026	MS, Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	The applicant proposes to install 4 fishing piers and 1 overlook pier, covering approximately 5,000 ft <sup>2</sup> of open water with vibratory hammering. It is not located within any designated critical habitat.	These projects are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon). Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-12	SER-2014-13079	FL, Oysters Culch	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance oyster populations in Pensacola and Apalachicola Bays in Florida (total placement of 42,000 yd <sup>3</sup> of culch material over 210 acres of previous oyster reefs). It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Units 9 and 13. It is not located in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	These projects are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or Gulf sturgeon designated critical habitat.
P3-13	SER-2014-13080	FL, Scallop Enhancement	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance scallop production by the placement of scallop spat into Florida coastal waters. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Units 9, 10, 12, and 13. It is not located in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) and no effect on Gulf sturgeon designated critical habitat.

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-14	SER-2014-13081	FL, Artificial Reef	The applicant proposes to build and deploy artificial reefs offshore in Florida coastal waters in 5 Florida counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay counties. The project spans 123 mi (107 nmi or 198 km) along the coast of Florida in the nearshore as well as the offshore zone. Some project sites are located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 11, although there are no sites in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	These projects are not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles) and are not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 11.
P3-15	SER-2014-13077	FL, Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/Enhancement Center	The applicant proposes to construct and operate a saltwater sportfish hatchery on a 10-acre vacant lot to enhance recreational fishing opportunities through aquaculture in Pensacola Bay, Escambia County, Florida.	The project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles) and is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.
P3-16	SER-2014-13124	FL, Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.
P3-17	SER-2014-13131	FL, Gulf Breeze, Wayside Park Boat Ramp	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.
P3-18	SER-2014-13127	FL, Franklin County Waterfront Park Improvements	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13.
P3-19	SER-2014-13135	FL, Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps, Indian Creek Park	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-20	SER-2014-13119	FL, Port St. Joe, Frank Pate Boat Ramp Improvements	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-21	SER-2014-13140	FL, Walton County, Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvements	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-22	SER-2014-13277	FL, Panama City, St. Andrews Marina Boat Ramp	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-23	SER-2014-13272	FL, Parker Earl Gilbert Boat Ramp	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-24	SER-2014-13085	FL, Wakulla County, Marshes Sand Park Improvements	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-25	SER-2014-13278	FL, City of St. Marks, Boat Ramp	The applicant proposes to renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.
P3-26	SER-2014-13270	FL, Bayside Ranchettes Park Improvements	The applicant proposes the construction of a new parking area, a picnic table, an observation dock, and steps from the shoreline into the water allowing access to the bay.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 12.
P3-27	SER-2014-13275	FL, Navarre Beach Park Coastal Access and Dune Restoration	The applicant will construct new infrastructure to increase the public's opportunities to safely access coastal resources, including the beach and waters of Santa Rosa Sound. The project includes design and construction of 2 new beach-access boardwalks from the existing pavilion/parking lots to the Santa Rosa Sound and a new dock for launching canoes/kayaks.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 10.
P3-28	SER-2014-13086	FL, Norriego Point Restoration	The applicant will enhance and increase the public's enjoyment of the natural resources by stabilizing ongoing erosion and re-establishing Norriego Point using erosion control structures (groins) and placement of dredged sand fill.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 12.
P3-29	SER-2014-13101	FL, Apalachicola River Fishing Viewing – Cash Bayou	The applicant will improve public access at Cash Bayou by providing a small fishing and wildlife observation pier, a parking area with an entrance kiosk, and an information station along State Route 65, east of the Cash Creek Bridge.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon.

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-30	SER-2014-13276	NW FL, Estuarine Habitat Restoration, Protection, and Education	The applicant will improve and lengthen the existing interactive boardwalks, expand existing inter-tidal oyster reefs, and restore a degraded salt marsh.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 10.
P3-31	SER-2014-13886	FL, St. George Island Bulkhead Improvements	The applicant will repair approximately 275 ft of degraded bulkhead by removing existing, damaged/collapsed sections of the concrete sheet bulkhead, placing new sections of sheet pile, and constructing a new cap. The project is located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13.	The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13.
P3-32	SER-2014-12923	TX, Ship Artificial Reef Project	The applicant will acquire a 1,000-ft (304.80 m) ship that is a complete product ready for immediate use as an artificial reef (i.e., turnkey ship). The applicant will clean the vessel of any hazardous substances to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) criteria; they will also be responsible to pass all required Federal and State inspections, including EPA, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG); make any hull modifications as necessary or determined by the TPWD, transport the vessel to the deployment site; and subsequently sink the vessel on barren sand and silt substrate at a water depth of 135 ft (41.15 m) at MLLW. The project is not located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat, but is situated in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat (LOGG-S-02-Gulf of Mexico [ <i>Sargassum</i> ]).	The project is not likely to adversely affect leatherback, Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or loggerhead critical habitat LOGG-S-02-Gulf of Mexico ( <i>Sargassum</i> ).

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	NMFS PRD Determinations
P3-33	SER-2014-13144	FL, City of Mexico Beach Marina, Bay County	<p>The applicant proposes to construct a 1,700 linear-ft steel, sheet-pile retaining wall approximately 2 ft in front of the existing wooden retaining wall. The proposed volume of fill between the wall and the shore will be 440.7 yd<sup>3</sup>. The project also includes replacing 18 existing finger piers along the northern side, 3 finger piers along the western side, and creating 8 new finger piers (16 slips) located along the western edge of the canal, for a total of 56 boat slips. The finger piers will be 16 ft long by 3 ft wide, with a terminal piling being installed approximately 17 ft from the terminal pier. No seagrasses or mangroves were documented at the project site. Construction will take place from the uplands for the majority of the project; a small barge will be used for pier placement and dock construction. Piles will be installed primarily by low-pressure jet; however, a drop hammer may be used to finish installing the piles when necessary.</p>	<p>The project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon.</p>