



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

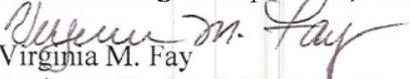
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April 11, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Leslie Craig  
Southeast Region Supervisor, NOAA Restoration Center

FROM:   
Virginia M. Fay  
Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division

SUBJECT: Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment review for the proposed restoration/improvement work for the Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp in Big Lagoon, Escambia County, Florida

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the proposed work for the Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement Project includes boat ramp construction, adding an additional lane to the boat ramp, expanding boat trailer parking, improving traffic circulation at the boat ramp, and providing a new restroom facility to connect the park to the regional sanitary sewer collection system. Estuarine water column and sand substrates will be impacted and are identified and described as EFH under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

As specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, EFH consultation is required for federal actions which may adversely affect EFH. As the federal action agency, NOAA's Restoration Center prepared an EFH assessment and provided that document for our review by electronic mail dated April 9, 2014. The Southeast Region's Habitat Conservation Division (SER HCD) has reviewed the EFH assessment and finds the Restoration Center adequately evaluated potential project impacts to the federally managed species occurring within the influence of the project. We concur with the EFH assessment that project construction is not likely to adversely affect EFH and any disturbance to species will be minor and brief. The SER HCD has no EFH conservation recommendations to provide pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act at this time. Further consultation is not necessary unless future modifications are proposed and such actions may result in adverse impacts to EFH.

cc:  
F/SER-Giordano  
F/HC3-Schubert  
F/SER4-Dale  
F/SER46-Thompson

