



**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>

August 3, 2017

F/SER46: AC/RS

Christy Fellas  
NOAA Restoration Center  
Deepwater Horizon NRDA Program  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Ms. Fellas:

The NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Habitat Conservation Division (NMFS HCD) has reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment for the Bessie Heights Wetlands Restoration Project. We concur that any adverse impacts that might occur to EFH would be offset by the long-term benefits to federally managed species provided by restored estuarine emergent marsh. Therefore, NMFS HCD does not object to this project and no further EFH consultation is required.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact Mr. Aaron Chastain of our Galveston Facility at (409) 766-3699.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Virginia M. Fay".

Virginia M. Fay  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Habitat Conservation Division

