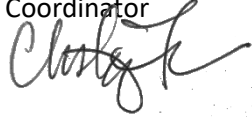




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

FROM: Christy Fellas, DWH Environmental Compliance Coordinator
NOAA Restoration Center, Southeast Region 

DATE: October 31, 2019

SUBJECT: Louisiana TIG RP/EA #4: Project Changes to Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area Pirogue Launch, No Additional ESA, EFH or MMPA Reviews Required

Based on my review of project materials including the updated Biological Evaluation form (Fall 2019), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD) and Habitat Conservation Division in the Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the project location change does not alter the previous determinations of no effect to species or habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act, designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) or animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The Pointe-aux-Chenes Wildlife Management Area pirogue launch has recently been changed to a new location from the one proposed in LA TIG restoration plan #4. The project area is located within a marsh management unit, so there are barriers that physically prevent dolphins and sea turtles from entering the area. Therefore the construction of the launch at the new location will have no effect on these protected species since they cannot access the site. In addition, the original analysis that determined there would be no effect to EFH remains the same since the habitat and location is similar to the previous location and no new effects will occur based solely on location change.

This project change will not require further evaluation under ESA, EFH or MMPA for species or habitats under the jurisdiction of NMFS. If the project is further modified in a way that could change these determinations, it will be reevaluated as appropriate.