MEMORANDUM FOR:

FILE

FROM:

Christy Fellas, DWH Environmental Compliance Coordinator

NOAA Restoration Center, DWH Program

DATE:

December 18, 2019

SUBJECT:

AL TIG RP/EA #2: No Further MMPA Consultation Needed for the Oyster

Hatchery at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation form (February 2018), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD) in the Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the Oyster Hatchery at Claude Peteet Mariculture Center will not impact species protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Best managements practices outlined in the BE form will be employed during construction to protect marine mammals from potential effects.

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