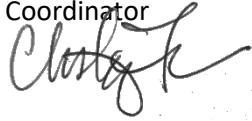




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: March 11, 2021

SUBJECT: Alabama TIG Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2
Restoration Projects: MMPA No Further Evaluation Needed

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation (BE) forms during Fall of 2017, and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD), the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the projects listed below will not require further evaluation for animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). These BE forms were finalized in March 2018 and this letter catalogs the outcome of those reviews.

Representatives from NMFS' Protected Resources Division in the Southeast Regional Office provided technical assistance on these projects and reviewed the biological evaluation (BE) forms. Some projects due to the nature of the work or location (upland) were determined to have no effects on marine mammals. Appropriate measures and best management practices were included in or attached to the BE forms for some projects where appropriate and will be implemented to avoid and minimize effects marine mammals, thus authorizations under the MMPA are not required. If any project is modified in a way that could change these determinations it will be reevaluated as appropriate.

Projects that do not require further evaluation under MMPA:

- Restoring the Night Sky, Assessment, Training, and Outreach (E&D)
- Lower Perdido Islands Restoration - Phase I
- Little Lagoon Living Shoreline
- Oyster Cultch Relief and Reef Configuration
- Oyster Hatchery at Claude Petet Mariculture Center, High Spat Production With Study
- Side-scan Mapping of Mobile Bay Relic Oyster Reef
- Weeks Bay Land Acquisition (Harrod Tract)
- Southwestern Coffee Island Habitat Restoration Project, Phase I (E&D)
- Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle (CAST) Habitat Usage and Population Dynamics
- Oyster Grow-Out and Restoration Reef Placement
- Enhancing Capacity for the Alabama Marine Mammal Stranding Network