



MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: January 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Projects Proposed in Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #1 and Environmental Impact Statement: EFH No Effect Determination

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), established procedures designed to identify, conserve, and enhance Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for those species regulated under a Federal fisheries management plan (FMP). A Federal agency must prepare an EFH Assessment for any Federal action that may adversely affect EFH (50 CFR 600.920(e)(1)). A Federal agency must first determine whether their action may adversely impact EFH. If a Federal agency determines that a Federal action may adversely impact EFH, then the Federal agency must prepare an EFH assessment. If a Federal agency determines that a Federal action will not adversely affect EFH, then the Federal agency is not required to prepare an EFH Assessment.

Based on my review of project materials (Fall 2018) in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) in the South East Regional Office (SERO), the NOAA Restoration Center determined that all projects proposed for implementation in the in the Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #1 and Environmental Assessment will not affect EFH because the projects are upland, restricted to planning or have been designed to avoid adverse affects on EFH. As a result, none of the projects below require further EFH evaluation. Should any project be modified in a way that could adversely impact EFH, this determination will be reevaluated as appropriate.

- Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida) Beach and Dune Habitat Protection
- Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida) Invasive Plant Removal
- Gulf Islands National Seashore (Florida) Night Sky Restoration (P&D)
- St Vincent National Wildlife Refuge Predator Control
- Perdido River and Bay Paddle Trail
- Carpenter Creek Headwaters Park Amenities
- Topsail Hill State Park Improvements
- Camp Helen State Park Improvements
- St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge Coastal Trail Connection, Spring Creek to Port Leon
- Pensacola Bay and Perdido River Watersheds - Nutrient Reduction
- Lower Suwannee River Watershed - Nutrient Reduction
- Carpenter Creek Headwaters Water Quality Improvements
- Pensacola Beach Reclaimed Water System Expansion



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
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- Rattlesnake Bluff Road and Riverbank Restoration
- Pensacola Bay Unpaved Roads Initiative (P&D)
- Alligator Lake Coastal Dune Lake Hydrologic Restoration
- City of Port St. Joe Stormwater Improvements
- City of Carrabelle's Lighthouse Estates: Septic Tank Abatement - Phase II
- Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge Hydrological Restoration (P&D)
- Lower Charlotte Harbor Flatwoods Hydrologic Restoration Initiative, Yucca Pens Unit (P&D)