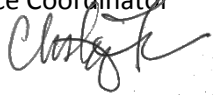




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

March 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Projects Proposed in Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #1 and Environmental Impact Statement: EFH No Further Consultation Necessary

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 three projects proposed for implementation in the in the Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #1 and Environmental Assessment will have minimal effects on EFH. As a result, HCD did not provide any conservation recommendations and 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.

- Joe's Bayou Recreation Area Improvements
- St Andrew's State Park
- Gulf Islands National Seashore Okaloosa Unit



### 3 FL projects

Mark Sramek - NOAA Federal <mark.sramek@noaa.gov>

Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 11:57 AM

To: "Christy Fellas, NOAA" <christina.fellas@noaa.gov>

Hi Christy,

From my review of the additional information and updated imagery provided in the BE form and evaluation of the project area using Google Earth Pro software associated with the Joe's Bayou Rec Improvements Project proposed in Choctowatchee Bay, Okaloosa County, Florida, we anticipate any adverse effects that might occur on marine and anadromous fishery resources would be minimal and, therefore, do not have any essential fish habitat conservation recommendations to provide regarding these activities. No further consultation is necessary with our office unless the project scope or location change.

Mark

On Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM Christy Fellas, NOAA <christina.fellas@noaa.gov> wrote:

Mark: There are the last three projects we need to talk about. Wanted to provide the links and updates since you last looked at the BE forms. We can discuss further on Monday!

(1) Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL) Okaloosa Unit

See forwarded email from Christy on 3-1-19

(2) Joe's Bayou Rec Improvements

[https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA\\_pl/06\\_Env\\_Compliance/01\\_BE\\_Forms/BE%20Forms\\_Version3/FL-RPEA\\_REC6\\_Joe's%20Bayou%20Rec\\_BE%20Form.docx](https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA_pl/06_Env_Compliance/01_BE_Forms/BE%20Forms_Version3/FL-RPEA_REC6_Joe's%20Bayou%20Rec_BE%20Form.docx)

UPDATED text about seagrass and aerial photos depicting seagrass areas.

(3) St Andrews State Park

[https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA\\_pl/06\\_Env\\_Compliance/01\\_BE\\_Forms/BE%20Forms\\_Version3/FL-RPEA\\_REC9\\_StAndrews%20Park\\_BE%20Form.docx](https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA_pl/06_Env_Compliance/01_BE_Forms/BE%20Forms_Version3/FL-RPEA_REC9_StAndrews%20Park_BE%20Form.docx)

UPDATED text about seagrass and aerial photos depicting seagrass areas.

thanks.

Christy



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**Fwd: Call to discuss Okaloosa cofferdam**

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**Mark Sramek - NOAA Federal** <mark.sramek@noaa.gov>

Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 11:35 AM

To: "Christy Fellas, NOAA" <christina.fellas@noaa.gov>

Good late morning Christy,

Thank you for providing the applicant's email below as well as seagrass aerial image and RECS map as attachments. From my review of the additional information provided and evaluation of the project area using Google Earth Pro software imagery, we anticipate any adverse effects that might occur on marine and anadromous fishery resources would be minimal and, therefore, do not have any essential fish habitat conservation recommendations to provide regarding these activities. No further consultation is necessary with our office unless the project scope or location change.

Were there additional projects you would like to discuss during our 12:30 scheduled call? If not, I don't foresee the need to discuss further unless you have additional questions. Please advise and thanks again for the additional information.

Mark

[Quoted text hidden]



### 3 FL projects

Mark Sramek - NOAA Federal <mark.sramek@noaa.gov>

Mon, Mar 4, 2019 at 12:03 PM

To: "Christy Fellas, NOAA" <christina.fellas@noaa.gov>

Hi again Christy,

From my review of the additional information and updated imagery provided in the BE form and evaluation of the project area using Google Earth Pro software associated with the St. Andrews State Park improvements proposed in Grand Lagoon/St. Andrews Bay, Bay County, Florida, we anticipate any adverse effects that might occur on marine and anadromous fishery resources would be minimal and, therefore, do not have any essential fish habitat conservation recommendations to provide regarding these activities. No further consultation is necessary with our office unless the project scope or location change.

Mark

On Fri, Mar 1, 2019 at 5:00 PM Christy Fellas, NOAA <christina.fellas@noaa.gov> wrote:

Mark: There are the last three projects we need to talk about. Wanted to provide the links and updates since you last looked at the BE forms. We can discuss further on Monday!

(1) Gulf Islands National Seashore (FL) Okaloosa Unit

See forwarded email from Christy on 3-1-19

(2) Joe's Bayou Rec Improvements

[https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA\\_pl/06\\_Env\\_Compliance/01\\_BE\\_Forms/BE%20Forms\\_Version3/FL-RPEA\\_REC6\\_Joe's%20Bayou%20Rec\\_BE%20Form.docx](https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA_pl/06_Env_Compliance/01_BE_Forms/BE%20Forms_Version3/FL-RPEA_REC6_Joe's%20Bayou%20Rec_BE%20Form.docx)

UPDATED text about seagrass and aerial photos depicting seagrass areas.

(3) St Andrews State Park

[https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA\\_pl/06\\_Env\\_Compliance/01\\_BE\\_Forms/BE%20Forms\\_Version3/FL-RPEA\\_REC9\\_StAndrews%20Park\\_BE%20Form.docx](https://dwh.nmfs.noaa.gov/fl/pl/WA_pl/06_Env_Compliance/01_BE_Forms/BE%20Forms_Version3/FL-RPEA_REC9_StAndrews%20Park_BE%20Form.docx)

UPDATED text about seagrass and aerial photos depicting seagrass areas.

thanks.

Christy