




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: October 2, 2019

SUBJECT: Open Ocean TIG RP/EA #2: ESA, EFH and MMPA No Effect Determinations

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Summer 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 following projects will have no effect to species or habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act, designated Essential Fish Habitat or animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS):

**Restoration Type: Fish and Water column invertebrates**

- Communication Tools to Reduce Bycatch
- Reduction in Mortality from Barotrauma

**Restoration Type: Sea Turtles**

- Gulf of Mexico Sea Turtle Atlas
- Long-term Nesting Beach Habitat Protection for Sea Turtles
- Developing a Gulfwide Comprehensive Plan for In-water Sea Turtle Data Collection
- Identifying Methods to Reduce Sea Turtle Bycatch in the Reef Fish Bottom Longline Fishery

**Restoration Type: Marine Mammals**

- Compilation of Environmental, Threats, and Animal Data for Cetacean Population Health Analyses (CETACEAN)

This due to the nature of the project only including data analysis and tool development in an office setting or the project being outside the jurisdiction of NMFS based on location. These projects may be within the jurisdiction of US Fish and Wildlife.

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