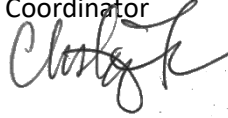




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: June 3, 2020

SUBJECT: LA TIG RP/EA #5: No Further MMPA Evaluation Needed for Oyster Restoration Projects

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation form (January 2020) the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that three oyster projects will not require further evaluation under the Marine Mammal Project Act (MMPA). These projects are:

1. Hatchery-based Oyster Restoration
2. Cultch-based Oyster Restoration
3. Enhancing Oyster Recovery Using Brood Reefs

Representatives from NMFS' Protected Resources Division in the Southeast Regional Office provided technical assistance on this project. Appropriate measures and best management practices were included in the BE forms and will be implemented to avoid and minimize effects marine mammals, thus authorizations under the MMPA are not required.

If the project is modified in a way that could change these determinations it will be reevaluated as appropriate.