



# United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Mississippi Ecological Services Field Office  
6578 Dogwood View Parkway, Suite A  
Jackson, Mississippi 39213  
Phone: (601)965-4900 Fax: (601)965-4340

March 27, 2020

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
2020-I-0582

Ms. Erin Chandler  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Gulf Restoration Office  
341 Greeno Road North, Suite A  
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Ms. Chandler:

The Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Mississippi Field Office has reviewed the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill natural resource restoration project titled "Oyster Spawning Reefs in Mississippi". Our comments are in reference to compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would include the restoration or creation of a minimum of 100 acres and a maximum of 400 + acres of high-relief cultch placements in up to six locations in the Mississippi Sound and areas including St. Louis Bay, Heron Bay, Back Bay/Biloxi Bay, Graveline Bay, Pascagoula Bay, and Grand Bay in Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties.

We concur with your determination that the proposed project "may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect" the West Indian manatee. Unless the project description changes, or new information reveals that the effects of the proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the ESA is necessary.

If you have any questions, please contact David Felder in this office, telephone (601) 321-1131.

Sincerely,

*Stephen Ricks*  
Stephen M. Ricks  
Field Supervisor  
Mississippi Field Office