



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Atlanta, Georgia 30345

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

### Memorandum

Date: August 11, 2021

To: Chief, Planning and Consultation Branch, Gulf Restoration Office, Fairhope, AL

From: Supervisor, Environmental Review Division, South Atlantic-Gulf and Mississippi Basin Regions, Atlanta, GA

Subject: Section 7 Consultation for Implementation Juvenile Gulf Sturgeon –Gulf-wide Population Dynamics and Habitat Use

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your July 1, 2021, memorandum. This response is in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). We have reviewed your proposed project and concur with your determinations for endangered and threatened species, their critical habitat, and at-risk species (should they become listed). We base our concurrence on the information provided in the July memorandum and related information as provided below.

West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*): Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure that any effects are insignificant or discountable.

West Indian Manatee critical habitat is not present on site and does not occur within the vicinity of the proposed project.

Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*): The July memorandum indicated that the project is covered by previously existing permits that allow for the activities described in the project description.

Gulf Sturgeon critical habitat: Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure critical habitat will not be adversely modified or destroyed.

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 questions or need any additional information, please contact Heath Rauschenberger, PhD, at 904-731-3203 or via email at [heath\\_rauschenberger@fws.gov](mailto:heath_rauschenberger@fws.gov).