




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 

DATE: March 28, 2023

SUBJECT: Louisiana TIG MAIP: EFH No Effect Determination for Fisheries
Independent Monitoring Program

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (February 2023), and in coordination with representatives from the Habitat Conservation Division in the Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the project will have no effect designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

This is due to the sampling work that is unlikely to affect EFH – sampling via trawling, seines, nets and electrofishing to collect valuable data for the nearshore habitats and resources targeted for NRDA restoration, including coastal wetlands, oysters, nekton, and prey resources (e.g., shrimp, crab, fishes) for threatened and/or endangered species. This work may benefit EFH by monitoring these habitat types and applying the information to future restoration projects.

If this project is altered in way that could have adverse effects on EFH under NMFS' jurisdiction, this determination will be reevaluated as appropriate and future consultation could be necessary.