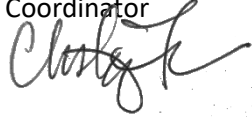




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: April 3, 2023

SUBJECT: Louisiana TIG MAIP: ESA, EFH No Effect Determinations and No MMPA
Authorization Needed for Louisiana's Coastwide Reference Monitoring
System (CRMS) Project

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation form (March 2023), 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 project will have no effect on species or habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) or animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

This due to the very minimal footprint of project activities – the stations already exist and the data would be collected at regular intervals for this project. These types of activities are not expected to have any effects to protected species or habitats under NMFS' ESA or EFH jurisdiction. There is no potential for take of animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of NMFS, thus an authorization is not needed.

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