



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

OCT 03 2024

IN REPLY REFER TO:
2024-0103291

Mr. Michael Barron
Wildlife Biologist – Compliance Coordinator
USFWS – Gulf Restoration Office
341 N. Greeno Road
Fairhope, Alabama 36532

Dear Mr. Barron:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Regionwide TIG funding proposal titled “Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles”, in Alabama, submitted by Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Our comments are provided in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

The proposed project would target marine debris hotspots where marine debris poses a hazard to birds and sea turtles. Based on the information provided in your biological evaluation, we concur with your determination that the proposed project “may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect” the Alabama beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus ammobates*), eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis ssp. jamaicensis*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Kemp’s ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), and Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*). We also concur with your determination that the proposed project will not adversely modify critical habitat for the Alabama beach mouse and loggerhead sea turtle.

The project activities involve removing the threat and impact of marine debris within coastal watersheds for rare species, therefore, the proposed action should result in beneficial effects to these species. If you have any questions or comments regarding this letter, please contact Shannon Holbrook in this office at (251) 222-9390.

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office