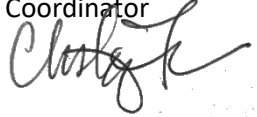




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: April 23, 2026

SUBJECT: Regionwide TIG RP 1: EFH No Effect Determinations and No MMPA  
Authorization Needed for Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking  
Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs, Florida Component (ID 318)

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation (BE) form (April 2026), the Improving Resilience for Oysters by Linking Brood Reefs and Sink Reefs - Florida Component project listed below 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 nature of the projects including monitoring at this time. This work may include surveys, water quality monitoring, quadrat sampling and oyster recruitment monitoring and geotechnical data collection (borings and/or cone tests). These types of activities are not expected to have any effects to protected habitats under NMFS' 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.

Once monitoring is complete, additional restoration activities may be pursued. At that point, an analysis of potential effects from construction and on the ground work that may affect habitats or species under NMFS' jurisdiction will be completed and a new BE form will be completed.