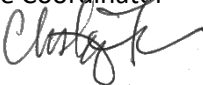




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

January 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Projects Proposed in Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #2 and Environmental Assessment: EFH No Further Consultation Necessary

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-267), established procedures designed to identify, conserve, and enhance Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for those species regulated under a Federal fisheries management plan (FMP). A Federal agency must prepare an EFH Assessment for any Federal action that may adversely affect EFH (50 CFR 600.920(e)(1)). A Federal agency must first determine whether their action may adversely impact EFH. If a Federal agency determines that a Federal action may adversely impact EFH, then the Federal agency must prepare an EFH assessment. If a Federal agency determines that a Federal action will not adversely affect EFH, then the Federal agency is not required to prepare an EFH Assessment.

Based on my review of project materials (Fall 2020) in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) in the Southeast Regional Office (SERO), the NOAA Restoration Center determined that the projects listed below, proposed for implementation in the in the Florida Trustee Implementation Group Restoration Plan #2 and Environmental Assessment, will have minimal effects on EFH.

Consultation is complete and HCD did not provide any conservation recommendations and none of the projects below require further EFH evaluation.

- Johnson Beach Access Management and Habitat Protection
- Perdido Key Sediment Placement
- Pensacola Beach Fort Pickens Road Wildlife Lighting Retrofits
- Increased Observers and Outreach to Reduce Incidental Hooking of Sea Turtles in Recreational Fisheries along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Reducing Threats to Sea Turtles through Removal of In-water Marine Debris along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Assessing Risk and Conducting Public Outreach to Reduce Vessel Strikes on Sea Turtles along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Florida Gulf Coast Enhanced Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- Gomez Key Oyster Reef Expansion and Breakwaters for American Oystercatchers
- Pensacola Community Maritime Park Public Fishing Marina



- Baars Park and Sanders Beach Kayak Fishing Trail Access Upgrades
- Engineering and Design for Pensacola Beach Park West Fishing Pier and Access Improvements
- Gulf Breeze Parks Boating and Fishing Access Upgrades
- Lincoln Park Boat Ramp and Dock Improvements
- Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration - Phase 2
- Apollo Beach Recreational Fish Hatchery Facility

Should any project be modified in a way that could adversely impact EFH, this determination will be reevaluated as appropriate and future consultation could be necessary.