



MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: December 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Mississippi TIG Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #3  
Restoration Projects: MMPA No Further Evaluation Needed

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Fall 2021), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD), the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the projects listed below will not require further evaluation for animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Representatives from PRD in the Southeast Regional Office provided technical assistance on these projects and reviewed the biological evaluation (BE) forms. Some projects due to the nature of the work or location (upland) were determined to have no effects on marine mammals. Appropriate measures and best management practices were included in or attached to the BE forms for some projects where appropriate and will be implemented to avoid and minimize effects marine mammals, thus authorizations under the MMPA are not required. If any project is modified in a way that could change these determinations it will be reevaluated as appropriate.

MMPA review is complete for the following projects:

- Bird Stewardship and Enhanced Monitoring in Mississippi
- Maintaining Enhanced Sea Turtle Stranding Network Capacity and Diagnostic Capabilities
- Improve Native Habitats by Removing Marine Debris from Mississippi Barrier Islands
- Reduction of Marine Mammal Fishery Interactions through Trawl Technique and Component Improvements
- Enhancing Marine Mammal Stranding Network Capacity and Diagnostic Capabilities