



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office
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In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/DH NRDAR

Memorandum

May 2, 2022

To: Patricia Kelly, Panama City Ecological Services Field Office, Panama City, FL

From: Assistant Restoration Manager, Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office

Subject: Coastal Barrier Resources Act Consistency Determination Request for Implementation of the Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) Program (2022-2027)

The Department of the Interior Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office is working through various environmental compliance consultations on post-settlement proposed restoration projects. We are currently working on the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) consistency determination for the project: Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) Program (2022-2027). The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group has evaluated and intends to implement the project.

We used the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) mapper (<https://www.fws.gov/cbra/maps-and-data> [accessed May 2, 2022]) to determine if the proposed project is located within a CBRS Unit or within an Otherwise Protected Area (OPA). The proposed project does occur within CBRS Units and OPAs. Please refer to Table 1 below for the CBRS Units involved and the consistency determination for the project.

Project Location

The proposed project is located in coastal Louisiana. Please see project map below (Figure 1).

Description of the Proposed Action or Project

The proposed project is designed to restore natural resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Please see below for project description and consistency analysis.

Applicable Exception(s) under 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)

Specific Exceptions

- ☒ 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)(6)(A): **Projects for the study, management, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitats**, including acquisition of fish and wildlife habitats, and related lands, stabilization projects for fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational projects.

Justification for Exception

Please see below for Justification for Exception.

Contact Information

Please provide response via email to the following:

Michael Barron
Environmental Compliance Coordinator
Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office
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Table 1. Proposed Project and Location Relative to CBRS Units and OPA Units

Proposed Project	CBRA Consistency Determination
Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) Program (2022-2027)	<p>Programmatic activities include the following Louisiana parishes: Cameron, Vermilion, Iberia, St. Mary, St. Bernard, Plaquemines, Jefferson, Lafourche, and Terrebonne.</p> <p>Potential actions could occur within the following CBRS units and OPAs:</p> <p>CBRS Units: LA-01, LA-02, S01, S01A, S02, S03, S04, S05, S06, S07, S08, LA-07, S09, S10, LA-09, LA-10, S11</p> <p>OPA Units: LA-03P, LA-04P, LA-05P, LA-08P</p>

Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) Program (2022-2027)

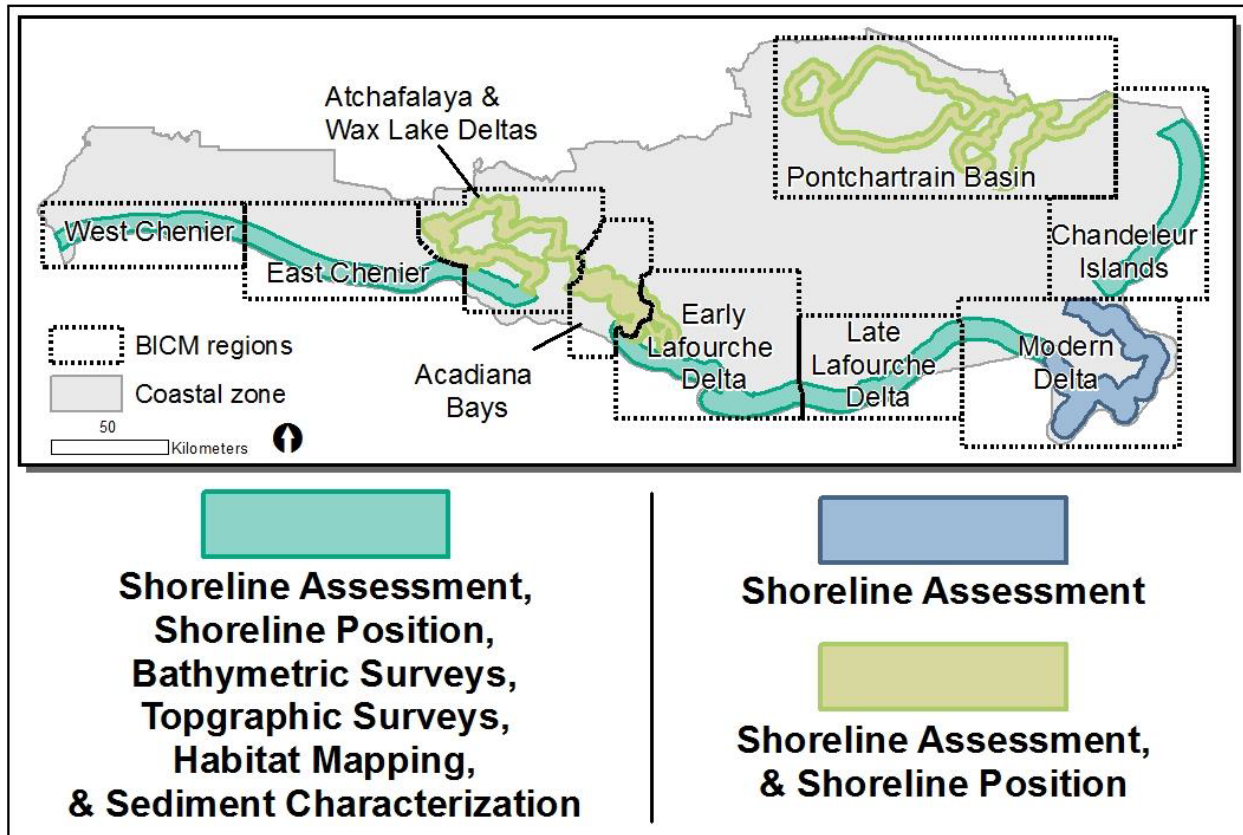
This monitoring and adaptive management activity is intended to support evaluation of regional restoration outcomes within the Louisiana Restoration Area; perform data aggregation and data management; resolve critical information gaps and uncertainties for restoration planning, inform restoration decision-making; and perform monitoring to inform the design and implementation of future restoration projects. The Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group can use the data provided by this effort to assess changes in the barrier shoreline ecosystem allowing for assessment of the influence of the comprehensive, integrated portfolio of restoration projects at a coast-wide or sub-region within Louisiana and relative to other drivers and long-term trends.

No construction would occur as part of this proposed project. Vessels will be used for some data collection, such as bathymetry surveys. This is implementation of an existing monitoring program. Activities in the project area may include a variety of field data collections and desktop analysis which include: 1) shoreline assessment photography, utilizing airplane flights, and photo period comparisons; 2) coast-wide shoreline delineation and change analysis utilizing digitization of existing CIR aerial photography; 3) topography data collection utilizing LiDAR and RTK surveying, with elevation change analysis; 4) bathymetry data collections from 2KM inshore to 5KM offshore, utilizing a variety of small vessels, with elevation change analysis; 5) habitat delineation from existing CIR aerial photography, with habitat and land/water change analysis; 6) surficial sediment petite ponar or hand scoop grab sample data collections, with composition/change analysis; 7) vegetation composition data collection utilizing ocular estimations of cover with vegetation characterization analysis; 8) subsidence monitoring utilizing RTK of existing survey monuments, with change analysis; and 9) Focused shoreface overwash and recovery assessments utilizing similar field methods as components above including bathymetry, topography, sediment, and vegetation sampling; and 10) a final summary report. These tasks will include the continued maintenance and development of BICM program data delivery and formatting for all tasks.

Consistency Analysis

The proposed action is within the following CBRS Units: LA-01, LA-02, S01, S01A, S02, S03, S04, S05, S06, S07, S08, LA-07, S09, S10, LA-09, LA-10, S11. Therefore, this project is subject to a Consistency Analysis under CBRA. Within the CBRS Unit, the proposed action involves no construction and consists primarily of the study of fish and wildlife resources and habitats. Consequently, this activity is consistent with CBRA per exemption 16 U.S.C. 3505(a)(6)(A) for “Projects for the study, management, protection, and enhancement of fish and wildlife resources and habitats, including acquisition of fish and wildlife habitats, and related lands, stabilization projects for fish and wildlife habitats, and recreational projects.” The purposes of CBRA are “to minimize the loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and the damages to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with the coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts...” 16 U.S.C. §3501(b). This project is designed to enhance natural resources injured by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Accordingly, this project is consistent with the purposes of CBRA and the exemption discussed above.

Figure 1. Map showing the Louisiana Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) Program (2022-2027) project area.



Consistency Determination: The Service confirms that this project as described meets the selected CBRA exception(s) and requires no further case-by-case consultation.

Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring Program
 FWS# CBRA_FWCA_2022-38 until put into Ecosystem.



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Patricia Kelly
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8/17/2022

 Date