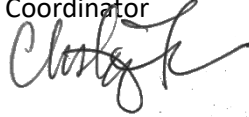




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: May 20, 2022

SUBJECT: MMPA Determinations for Louisiana TIG Monitoring and Adaptive
Monitoring Projects: Nekton Reference Ranges and Targets and Sea
Turtle Habitat Use and Abundance in Eastern Louisiana Waters

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Spring 2022), 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. Appropriate best management practices to reduce the potential take of marine mammals were incorporated into the BE forms for both the nekton reference range and the sea turtle habitat use and abundance project, or are included in existing permits, such as vessel strike avoidance measures. The projects were determined to have no adverse effects on marine mammals, thus authorizations under the MMPA are not required.