




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

May 20, 2022

SUBJECT: EFH No Further Consultation Necessary for Louisiana TIG Monitoring and Adaptive Monitoring Projects: Nekton References Ranges and Targets and Sea Turtle Habitat Use and Abundance in Eastern Louisiana Waters

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 (Spring 2022) 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 Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group will have no or 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. The projects are restorative in nature, and have been designed to minimize short term negative impacts to EFH and maximize long term positive impacts to EFH, or are expected to have no effect on EFH.

- Nekton References Ranges and Targets
- Sea Turtle Habitat Use and Abundance in Eastern Louisiana Waters

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.