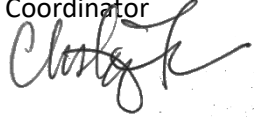




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: April 4, 2023

SUBJECT: OO TIG RP3 Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at
Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge Project: Activities Covered by
Existing ESA Compliance

Based on my review of the project materials (February 2023) describing the seabird project at Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that project proposed for NRDA funding by the OO TIG has existing coverage from previous compliance efforts under the Endangered Species Act, under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The project would continue some activities to those proposed in 2012 when NMFS completed an ESA consultation, including attraction of seabirds to new locations, enhancement of biosecurity measures and rodent bait stations (if warranted). Bait pellets will not be distributed aerially, thus the effects to species and habitats under NMFS jurisdiction are reduced compared to activities previously analyzed. The proposed activities fit within the existing ESA analysis completed in 2012 and do not require further ESA consultation at this time. If the project is modified in a way that may not be covered by existing analyses, it will be reevaluated as appropriate.