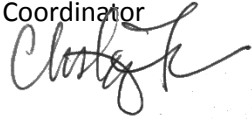




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: July 12, 2024

SUBJECT: Florida Restoration Plan 4: ESA, EFH No Effect Determinations and No  
MMPA Authorization Needed for Lower Suwannee National Wildlife  
Refuge Hydrologic Restoration (Phase 2)

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation form (February 2024), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD) and Habitat Conservation Division in the Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the project will have no effect on species or habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) or animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

This is due to the very minimal field-based activities associated with this planning project. Most activities are desk-based and involve engineering and design. Some limited field work will include surveys to facilitate final design and permitting. These types of activities are not expected to have any effects on protected species or habitats under NMFS' ESA or EFH jurisdiction. There is no potential for take of animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of NMFS, thus an authorization is not needed.

If a project is altered in a way that could have adverse effects on species and/or habitats under NMFS' jurisdiction, this determination will be reevaluated as appropriate and future consultation could be necessary.