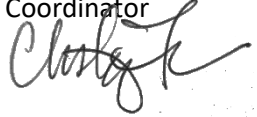




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: October 15, 2024

SUBJECT: Open Ocean TIG RP/EA #4: Phased ESA, EFH and MMPA Compliance for
Select Fish and Water Column Invertebrate Restoration Projects

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Summer 2024), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that these projects may need additional review once the methodologies and locations are determined.

The Fish and Water Column Invertebrates (FWCI) restoration projects listed below include initial steps for planning, community outreach and some desktop activities such as modeling and data analysis. These activities do not have effects to species or habitats listed under the Endangered Species Act, designated Essential Fish Habitat or animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction NMFS.

- FWCI Alternative 2: Next Generation Fishing
- FWCI Alternative 4: Reduction of Diverse Threats to Fish and Water Column Invertebrates
- FWCI Alternative 5: Education and Stewardship Partnerships with Charter Anglers

Once the project planning, outreach and other initial analysis is complete or next steps are identifies for each project, the OO TIG will evaluate potential effects that may require additional compliance. These details will be capture in an updated BE form which will be reviewed by the appropriate agencies. Any future compliance documents will be included in the administrative record and posted on the project portal page.