



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

December 20, 2024

Laurie Rounds
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #4: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles (Draft RP/EA #4)
Projects located in Texas Coastal Management Zone
Texas CMP#: 25-1039-F2

Dear Ms. Rounds:

The Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group (TIG) is responsible for restoring natural resources and their services within the Open Ocean Restoration Area that were injured by the DWH oil spill. The TIG is proposing ten projects for implementation in a restoration plan titled Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #4: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles (Draft RP/EA #4). Five of the proposed projects require consistency review.

Fish and Water Column Invertebrates projects under review are: Return 'Em Right: Species and Area Expansion (Reduction of Postrelease Mortality from Barotrauma in Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Recreational Fisheries), Reduction of Diverse Threats to Fish and Water Column Invertebrates, and Communication, Adaptive Management, Planning, and Integration. Sea Turtle projects under review are the Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Stranding Network and Emergency Response Enhancements and Gulf-Wide Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction.

On October 30, 2024, the NOAA published the Notice of Availability of the Deepwater Horizon Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #4: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles in the Federal Register. On October 21, 2024, NOAA submitted a consistency determination to the GLO, as required for proposed federal activities in the state's coastal zone. NOAA's Consistency Determination asserted that the proposed activities were consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the applicable, enforceable policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program (TCMP). Upon being deemed administratively complete the GLO posted the matter for public notice and comment in the Texas Register. The GLO did not receive any comments.

After close coordination between NOAA and GLO staff, GLO can confirm that at this phase, the projects are consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the TCMP. Because the plan is at the draft EA stage, detailed information about specific locations and the effects on coastal resources for tasks associated with the proposed alternatives has not yet been generated. For the alternatives that will require USACE authorization, the GLO will conduct a full consistency review of those projects when the USACE publishes them for public or interagency comments.

I look forward to continuing a close collaboration between our organizations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (512) 463-7497 or at federal.consistency@glo.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Leslie Koza
Federal Consistency Coordinator
Texas General Land Office