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

February 11, 2014

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources
NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701

Re: DWH-ERP-Request for section 7 Endangered Species Act Informal Consultation for *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Phase III Early Restoration Plan boat ramp projects (a total of 8) in Florida: *Florida Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Indian Creek Park (Indian Creek Park), Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Waterfront Park (Waterfront Park), Enhancement of Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps – Abercrombie Boat Ramp (Abercrombie Boat Ramp),, Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp Improvements (Gulf Breeze), Big Lagoon State Park, FWC Strategic Boat Access: City of Mexico Beach Marina (Mexico Beach Marina), FWC Strategic Boat Access: City of Port St. Joe Frank Pate Boat Ramp (Frank Pate Improvements), Florida FWC Strategic Boat Access: Walton County, Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvements project (Lafayette Creek Boat Ramp).*

Dear David,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center requests informal consultation with your office, under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for impacts from eight boat ramp projects. These projects may affect but are not likely to adversely affect the following federally listed species administered by NOAA Fisheries:

Sea Turtles (Green-T, Hawksbill-E, Leatherback-E, Loggerhead-T, Kemp's Ridley-E)

Gulf Sturgeon and Critical Habitat

Smalltooth Sawfish

The NOAA Restoration Center, a Lead Federal Agency, is requesting consultation on behalf of the Natural Resource Trustees for *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill. Enclosed, please find Biological Assessments and NMFS ESA Checklists for these Phase III Early Restoration Projects

For further questions about these projects, please contact Jamie Schubert of our staff at 409-621-1248.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Leslie Craig

Supervisor, Southeast Region, NOAA Restoration Center
NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation

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