



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

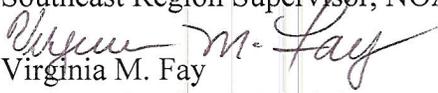
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March 27, 2014

MEMORANDUM TO: Leslie Craig  
Southeast Region Supervisor, NOAA Restoration Center

FROM:   
Virginia M. Fay  
Assistant Regional Administrator, Habitat Conservation Division

SUBJECT: Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment review for improvements  
at the Indian Creek Park, Apalachicola Bay, Franklin County,  
Florida

In response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps proposes to improve Indian Creek Park by: (1) constructing restroom facilities and connecting them to an existing nearby central wastewater facility, (2) installing an informational kiosk, and (3) renovating the existing boat ramp, bulkhead, and parking area to enhance water access. Estuarine water column and sand substrates will be impacted and are identified and described as EFH under provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

As specified in the Magnuson-Stevens Act, EFH consultation is required for federal actions which may adversely affect EFH. As the federal action agency, NOAA's Restoration Center prepared an EFH assessment and provided that document for our review by electronic mail dated March 13, 2014. The Southeast Region's Habitat Conservation Division (SER HCD) has reviewed the EFH assessment and finds the Restoration Center adequately evaluated potential project impacts to the federally managed species occurring within the influence of the project. We concur with the EFH assessment that project construction is not likely to adversely affect EFH and any disturbance to species will be minor and brief. The SER HCD has no EFH conservation recommendations to provide pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act at this time. Further consultation is not necessary unless future modifications are proposed and such actions may result in adverse impacts to EFH.

cc:  
F/SER-Giordano  
F/HC3-Schubert  
F/SER4-Dale  
F/SER46-Thompson

