UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
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St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

JUL 16 2014

F/SER31:NA
SER-2014-13124

MEMORANDUM FOR: F/HC3 – Leslie Craig

FROM: for F/SE – Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D. Miles M Croom

SUBJECT: 10 Batched DWH-ERP, NOAA RC
Boat Ramp/Dock Improvements, Multiple Counties, Florida

Table 1. Projects included in this batched consultation

#	Project Name	Project Location[1]	NMFS Project Number
1	Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvements	Pensacola, Escambia County 30.3116°N, 87.4219°W	SER-2014-13124
2	Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp Improvements	Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County 30.37245°N, 87.17782°W	SER-2014-13131
3	Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps-Waterfront Park	Apalachicola, Franklin County 29.71261°N, 85.02068°W	SER-2014-13127
4	Franklin County Parks and Boat Ramps-Indian Creek Park	Eastpoint, Franklin County 29.73946°N, 84.89865°W	SER-2014-13135
5	Frank Pate Boat Ramp	Port St. Joe, Gulf County 29.81099°N, 85.30562°W	SER-2014-13119
6	Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvements	Freeport, Walton County 30.48634 °N, 86.13663 °W	SER-2014-13140
7	St. Andrews Marina Boat Dock	Panama City, Bay County 30.16909°N, 85.70287°W	SER-2014-13277
8	Earl Gilbert Boat Ramp	Panama City, Bay County 30.105200 °N, 85.60386°W	SER-2014-13272
9	Mashes Sands Park Improvement-Boat Ramp and Dock Renovations	Panacea, Wakulla County 29.97251°N, 84.34569°W	SER-2014-13085
10	St. Marks Boat Ramp Improvements	St. Marks, Wakulla County 30.15145 °N, 84.20977°W	SER-2014-13278

[1] All coordinates are North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)

This memo responds to the 10 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center (NOAA RC) letters received between February 4 and 19, 2014, requesting National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurrence under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for project-effects determinations for 10 boat ramp/dock improvement projects comprising the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Draft Phase 3 Early Restoration Plan (DERP). The NOAA RC, a lead federal agency, is requesting consultation on behalf of the natural resource trustees for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. You requested concurrence from NMFS with your determinations that the projects may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect, Gulf sturgeon, and 5 species of sea turtles (loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green, leatherback, and hawksbill), and smalltooth sawfish (Projects 1-10) and Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (Projects 1-3). On February 24, 2014, NMFS decided to batch these 10 projects into a single consultation based on the similarity of the proposed activities. NMFS requested additional information, from the applicant, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), via email on February 18, 19, 21, and 24, 2014. We asked for clarification of that information via email on March 18; April 4, 9, 11, and 16, 2014; May 12, 19, and 27, 2014; and June 9, 10, 12, 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2014. We received responses between April 4, 2014, and June 19, 2014. We initiated consultation on June 12, 2014. NMFS's determinations regarding the effects of the proposed actions are based on the descriptions of the actions in this informal consultation. Any changes to the proposed actions may negate the findings of the present consultation and may require reinitiation of consultation with NMFS.

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Early Restoration

Under the Oil Pollution Act, designated agencies of the federal government and affected state governments act as trustees on behalf of the public. The trustees are charged with recovering damages from the responsible parties to restore the public's natural resources that sustained injuries. NOAA shares trusteeship with the other natural resource trustees (the Trustees) over all of the resources that will benefit from these restoration actions. The Trustees developed the Early Restoration selection process to be responsive to the purpose and need for conducting Early Restoration. Early Restoration project selection is a step-wise process comprised of: (1) project solicitation, (2) project screening, (3) negotiation with BP, and (4) public review and comment.

The Trustees released a Phase I Early Restoration Plan (ERP) in April 2012, a Phase II ERP in December 2012, and a draft Phase III ERP on May 6, 2013. On June 26, 2014, the Trustees released a final Phase III Plan. These plans contain a series of restoration actions that may be selected independently by the Trustees. NMFS has previously completed consultations on the Phase I ERP projects and 15 of the projects included in the Phase III ERP.[2]

The Phase I ERP consists of 8 projects that address an array of injuries and are located throughout the Gulf of Mexico (See Appendix 1). Specifically, Phase I includes 2 oyster projects (1 in Louisiana and 1 in Mississippi), 2 marsh projects (1 in Louisiana and 1 in Alabama), 1 nearshore artificial reef project in Mississippi, 2 dune projects, and a boat ramp enhancement project in Florida. Consultation on the Phase I projects was completed on April 2, 2012. NMFS determined that one of the marsh projects and both dune projects would have no

[2] Neither of the Phase II ERP projects involve in-water work and, therefore, NMFS did not receive a request for section 7 consultation.

effect on listed species and that other projects are not likely to adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS's purview. NMFS evaluated potential impacts on listed species (5 species of sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon and smalltooth sawfish) from placement of material, site exclusion, and dredging, and determined that these effects will be discountable or insignificant because of the species' mobility and ability to find suitable habitat for foraging in the surrounding areas. NMFS also evaluated potential impacts to sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon from fishing activities associated with the artificial reef project and determined that the effects are discountable because the enhancement of the existing artificial reefs is not expected to induce new fishing effort or increase the risk of harmful interactions between recreational fishers and listed species. The boat ramp project will enhance 2 existing boat ramps, and create 2 new public boat ramps that will allow an additional 92 vessels to be launched. The purpose of these projects is to relieve traffic and congestion at other boat ramps in the areas. NMFS determined that any increase in vessel strike risk to sea turtles is discountable because the new boat ramps are likely to be used by people who currently have vessels and a previous NMFS analysis concluded that a typical dock or marina project in Florida that introduces less than 300 new vessels to an area will have an insignificant or discountable effect on sea turtles.

Three of the Phase I projects (1 boat ramp, 1 oyster project, and 1 nearshore artificial reef project) are located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The boat ramp is located in Unit 9, and the oyster project and artificial reef project are located in Unit 8. NMFS determined that the boat ramp project is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 9 because the construction will occur in the same footprint and will be to the same dimensions as the existing piers, any increases in suspended sediments in the water column (i.e., turbidity) are expected to be localized and temporary and insignificant, and the texture and quality of the sediments and its ability to support prey items are expected to be the same pre- and post-project. NMFS similarly concluded that the oyster project and artificial reef project will not adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 8 because the placement of clean, toxin-free material will not alter the water or sediment quality and the addition of this material to existing hardbottom will not alter prey availability.

To date, NMFS has completed 10 consultations on 15 individual projects out of a total of 35 projects included in Phase III (See Appendix 2). These projects are 1 fish hatchery project, 4 artificial reef projects (3 in Texas and 1 in Florida), 2 oyster projects (1 in Florida and 1 in Alabama), 4 living shoreline projects (1 in Alabama, 1 in Mississippi and 2 in Florida), a scallop enhancement project in Florida, a Florida beach enhancement project, a North Breton Island, Louisiana, restoration project, and a Mississippi fishing pier project. As with the Phase I projects, NMFS evaluated potential impacts on listed species (5 species of sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon) from placement of material, site exclusion, and dredging, and determined that these effects will be discountable or insignificant because of the species' mobility and ability to find suitable habitat for foraging in the surrounding areas. NMFS also evaluated the impacts of noise created from construction, where applicable, and determined that the risk of short- or long-term exposure to harmful noise is discountable, and any sounds heard by them will have insignificant health effects. NMFS determined that the potential impacts to sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon from fishing activities associated with the 4 artificial reef projects are discountable because the enhancement of the existing artificial reefs is not expected to induce new fishing effort. NMFS also determined that the risk of vessels strike impacts to turtles from future use of the artificial

reef sites is discountable because use of the site will generally coincide with fair weather patterns and calm sea states that will allow boaters to detect and avoid any sea turtles in their path.

Eight of the Phase III projects (3 living shoreline projects, the beach enhancement project, the Florida oyster reef project, the scallop enhancement project, the Florida artificial reef project, and Florida fish hatchery) are located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The living shoreline projects are located in Units 8, 9, and 13. The beach enhancement project is located in Unit 11, the oyster project is located in Units 9 and 13, the scallop enhancement project is located in Units 9, 10, 12, and 13, the artificial reef project has a component located in Unit 11 and the fish hatchery is located in Unit 9. NMFS determined the scallop enhancement project will have no effect on of Gulf sturgeon critical habitat and that the other projects are not likely to adversely affect the essential features of Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (water quality, sediment quality, prey abundance, and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways). The oyster reef project will place clean, non-toxic material over existing hardbottom, which will make any impacts to water quality, sediment quality, or prey abundance discountable. The beach enhancement project will improve sediment quality and effects to prey abundance, water quality and migratory pathways will be insignificant because the work will take place in shallower water than normal foraging depths, any increased turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels, and sand placement in the shallow waters along the beach will not interfere with migration. The Florida artificial reef project will have no effect on the sediment quality. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and will not reduce prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the modules. Any impacts to migratory pathways will be discountable because the reef structures are in open water and spaced out sufficiently for Gulf sturgeon to move. The fish hatchery project will have no effect on sediment quality. The effects to water quality and prey abundance will be insignificant because the turbidity will be temporary and within natural background levels and the 8-inch-diameter seawater intake pipe for the fish hatchery will not reduce prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the pipe. The pipe will rise 1-2 ft above the sediment/water interface and the applicant will be using a screen around the intake pipe creating a protective environment or buffer that will not exceed 15 cm/s screen flow-through speed thereby eliminating ESA-listed species entrapment or impingement and consequently there will be no impact on to migratory pathways. Last, the living shoreline projects may temporarily increase turbidity and displace some prey species but these impacts are expected to be insignificant. With respect to prey abundance, the living shoreline projects are expected to have long-term beneficial impacts by increasing prey abundance in adjacent areas.

Current Project

This project is part of the Phase III ERP and will renovate existing boat ramps and/or adjacent boat docks in Florida coastal waters. Projects 1-3 are located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003), but they are not in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Projects 4-10 are not located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitats (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003), or in designated loggerhead sea turtle critical habitats (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014).

Cofferdams
All 10 projects will require installing a turbidity curtain to encapsulate the work area and to contain suspended sediments. The renovation Projects 1-3, and 7-9 involve the use of coffer- or bladder dam constructed between the waterward extent of the ramp and the land. The water within the dams will be pumped out to upland storage ponds or run through a filter system to remove any sediment in the water before returning it to the receiving waterbody. The work area will be kept dry by use of de-watering pumps and will be pumped out to the same upland storage ponds previously mentioned before returning it to the receiving waterbody. This de-watering operation will be run continuously throughout the construction of the ramps. Once the ramps are completed, the de-watering pumps will be shut down and the dams will be removed.

Dock Renovations
For Projects 3, 5-7, and 9-10, the applicants will renovate the boat docks adjacent to the boat ramps. The in-water construction will be limited to the placement of a coffer/bladder dam for the boat ramp renovation and the pile removal and replacement for the dock renovations. These in-water construction activities involve the following steps:

1. Pile removal will be undertaken with shore-based equipment for Projects 9 and 10.
2. All piles will be placed with shore-based equipment using one or a combination of the following methods:
   i. water jetting
   ii. vibratory or impact pile driving
   iii. mechanical auguring
3. Dock renovations associated with the following renovations projects will require:
   i. The placement of (up to) 12 wood piles with 8-inch (in) diameters for Project 3.
   ii. The placement of (up to) 20 woodpiles with 8-in diameter for Project 5.
   iii. The placement of 168 wood piles with 8-in diameters for Project 6.
   iv. The placement of (up to) fifteen 10-in x 10-in concretes piles for Project 7.
   v. The placement of (up to) 20 wood piles with 8-in diameters for Project 9.
   vi. The placement of (up to) 16 wood piles with 8-in diameters for Project 10.

No submerged aquatic vegetation are present at project sites, but if encountered they will be avoided. The FWC or its working crew will follow NMFS publications listed below:

a. *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions*, dated March 23, 2006 (enclosed), for Projects 1-10.
b. *Measures for Reducing Entrapment Risk to Protected Species*, dated May 22, 2012 (enclosed), for Projects 1-10.
c. *Construction Guidelines in Florida for Minor Piling-Supported Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV), Marsh or Mangrove Habitat*, dated March 2008 (enclosed), for Projects 3, 5-7, and 9-10.

Implementation of the above guidelines will help reduce the likelihood that any protected species are negatively affected within proposed project areas. Each project is described in detail below and locations are shown in Figure 1. All coordinates of the project locations are represented in North American Datum 1983.

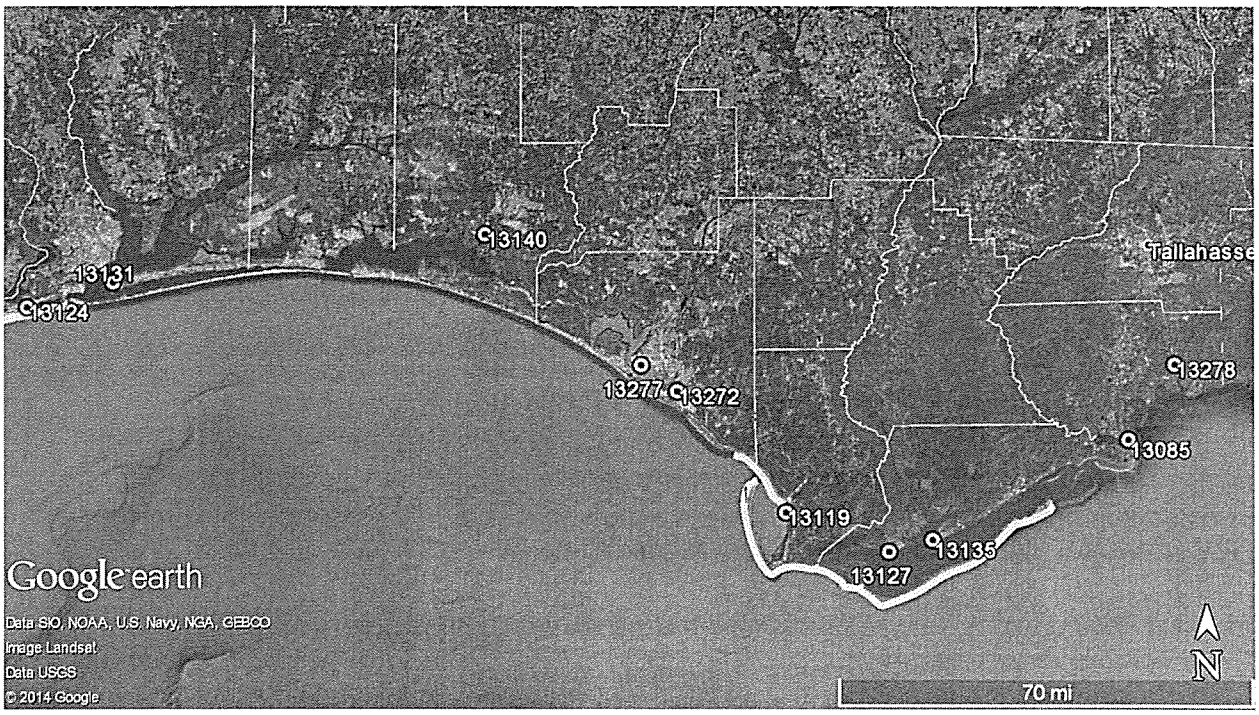

Figure 1. Image of the 10 proposed projects indicated by the green dots along the Florida panhandle region of northeastern Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf sturgeon critical habitat and critical habitat for loggerhead sea turtles are illustrated in red and pink polygons, respectively.

Figure 2. Image of the Big Lagoon State Park boat ramp improvement site with the cofferdam (red open rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (larger red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, Florida Department of Environmental Protection [FL DEP])

1. Big Lagoon State Park Boat Ramp Improvement (SER-2014-13124).
   The project is located in Pensacola Bay, Escambia County, Florida, at 30.3116°N, 87.4219°W (Figures 1 and 2). The site consists of a 2-lane boat ramp, although only 1 lane is currently being used. The project renovation will reconfigure the area, so that 2 boats can be removed/launched at the same time, which will require excavation in an area of approximately 100 square meters (m^2) or 1,076 square feet (ft^2), of which only a small portion will be in the subtidal area. The project involves a coffer/bladder dam encompassing the boat ramp that is 51.7 feet (ft) (15.75 meter [m]) by 63.1 ft (19.23 m) with a resulting footprint of 3,261 ft^2 (302.96 square meters [m^2], 0.07486 acre). The action will require the placement of a 340.9 ft (103.91 m) long turbidity curtain for the adjacent dock renovations which will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an area of 18,438 ft^2 (1,712.95 m^2, 0.42327 acre) (Figure 2). The project is located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9 (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003), but it is not in loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of silt, mud, and sand. The in-water work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 3. Image of the Gulf Breeze Wayside Park boat ramp improvement site with the cofferdam (red open rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

2. Gulf Breeze Wayside Park Boat Ramp Improvements (SER-2014-13131).
   The project is located in the City of Gulf Breeze, Santa Rosa County, Florida, at 30.37245°N, 87.17782°W (Figures 1 and 3). The applicant proposes to repair the cracks and damage to the existing boat ramp and seawall cap at Wayside Park. Neither the boat ramp nor sea wall cap repairs will involve the placing of piles. Repair to the existing seawall will not change or expand the seawall's overall footprint. The project involves a coffer/bladder dam,

encompassing the boat ramp, that is 39.91 ft (12.16 m) by 50.50 ft (15.39 m) resulting in a footprint of 2,015 ft^2 (187.20 m^2, 0.04625 acre). The action will require the placement of a 165.3 ft (50.38m) long turbidity curtain for the dock renovations, adjacent to the boat ramp, which will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an area of 4,058 ft^2 (377.00 m^2, 0.09316 acre) (Figure 3). The project is located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9 (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003), but it is not in loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand and silt. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 4. Image of the Waterfront Park improvement site with the dock enhancement (red polygon) and the turbidity curtain (red open rectangle). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

3. Waterfront Park Dock Improvement (SER-2014-13127).
The project is located in the City of Apalachicola, Franklin County, Florida, at 29.71261 °N, 85.02068 °W (Figures 1 and 4). The applicant proposes the construction of a floating dock at Waterfront Park. This action will require the placement of up to 12 wood piles with 8-in diameters to anchor the floating dock and link them to the existing dock in water depths from 0-4 ft (0-1.23 m) mean lower low water. The piles will be placed by water jetting and/or mechanical auguring from the uplands. The action will require the placement of a 125.5 ft (38.25m) by 92.7 ft (28.25 m) turbidity curtain for the dock renovations which will encompass an area of 11,637 ft^2 (1,081.12 m^2, 0.26715 acre) (Figure4). The space of 12 piles is equivalent to a cumulative area of 16.75 ft^2 (1.56 m^2, 0.00038 acre). The project is located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13 (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003), but it is not in

loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of silt and clay. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 5. Image of the Indian Creek Park boat ramp improvement site with the cofferdam (green rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

4. Indian Creek Park Boat Ramp Improvement (SER-2014-13135).
   The project is located in the City of Eastpoint, Franklin County, Florida, at 29.73946°N, 84.89865°W (Figures 1 and 5). The applicant proposes to renovate the existing boat ramp and replace the concrete retaining wall, holding back the soil along the ramp as it progresses from grade to the waterline, at Indian Creek Park. This action involves installing a coffer/bladder dam to surround the boat ramp and the placement of turbidity curtain for the ramp renovation and bulkhead work. The majority of this work is above the waterline and the remaining portion will be incorporated within the area enclosed by the bladder dam. The project involves a boat ramp coffer/bladder dam encompassing the boat ramp that is 41.32 ft (12.59 m) by 14.76 ft (4.50 m) resulting in a footprint of 609.88 ft^2 (56.66 m^2, 0.01400 acre). The action will require the placement of a 145.9 ft (44.47 m) long turbidity curtain, which will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an area of 3833.86 ft^2 (356.18 m^2, 0.08801 acre) (Figure 5). The project is not located in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or in loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand and silt. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

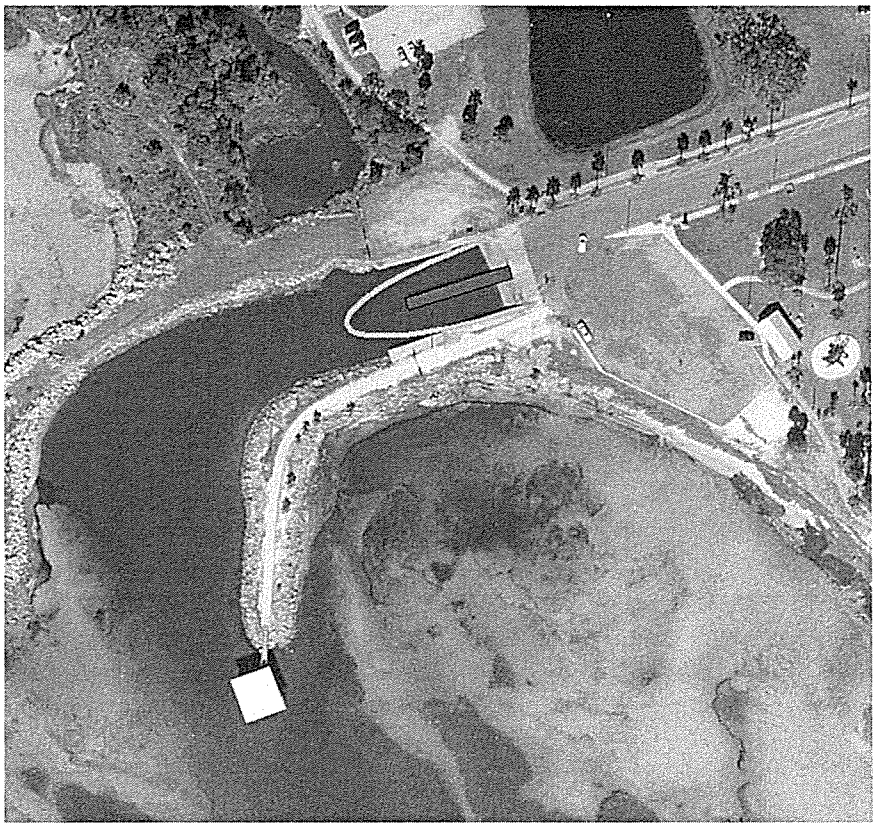

Figure 6. Image of the Frank Pate boat ramp improvement site with the dock enhancement (red polygon) and the turbidity curtain (green arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

5. Frank Pate Boat Dock Improvement (SER-2014-13119).
   The project is located in the City of Port St. Joe, Gulf County, Florida, at 29.81099°N, 85.30562°W (Figures 1 and 6). There is an existing 2-lane boat ramp at the site with the 2 lanes separated by a boarding dock. The applicant proposes to renovate and extend the existing boarding dock and construction of a new staging area. This action includes an upland fish cleaning station tied to existing wastewater treatment infrastructure (i.e., water and sewer lines). If the fish cleaning station will not be tied into the existing water and sewer lines, the fish cleaning station will be withdrawn as part of the improvement project. The proposed improvements involve the installation of up to twenty 8-in wood piles (no piles will be removed). The piles will be placed by water jetting and/or mechanical auguring from the uplands. The action will require the placement of a 312.2 ft (95.16 m) long turbidity curtain for the dock renovations which will encompass the existing dock resulting in an area of 7,939 ft^2 (737.56 m^2, 0.18225 acre) (Figure 6). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand, silt, and mud. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 7. Image of the Lafayette Creek boat dock expansion (red polygon) and the turbidity curtain (green). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

6. Lafayette Creek Boat Dock Improvement (SER-2014-13140).
   The project is located in the City of Freeport, Walton County, Florida, at 30.48634°N, 86.13663°W (Figures 1 and 7). There is an existing wooden boardwalk and boat dock, which extends to the north-northeast of the boat ramp, that provides space to accommodate 10 boats. The shoreline within the project area is armored, but in the surrounding area, the shoreline is predominantly natural. This project will extend the existing boat dock to accommodate additional vessels. The project construction will require 168 wood piles with 8-in diameters for the 400-ft dock extension resulting in a 7,359 ft^2 (683.67 m^2, 0.16893 acre) dock footprint. The piles will be pushed down and then driven (hammered) from the uplands until it meets refusal. The action will require an 870.4 ft (265.30 m) long turbidity curtain, which will encompass an area of 55,973.37 ft^2 (5,200.10 m^2, 1.28497 acre) (Figure 7). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand, silt, and mud. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 8. Image of the St. Andrews Marina boat docking facility with the cofferdam (green rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

7. St. Andrews Marina Boat Dock (SER-2014-13277).
   The project is located in the City of Panama City, Bay County, Florida, at 30.16909°N, 85.70287°W (Figures 1 and 8). The applicant proposes to add 3 boat slips, replace the existing boat ramp, and replace a fixed wooden dock with a floating concrete dock at the St. Andrews Marina docking facility. The addition of fifteen 10-in by 10-in concrete piles, placed as part of the work to install the floating dock and develop 3 new slips, will be placed by water jetting and/or mechanical auguring from the shore-based equipment. The project involves a coffer/bladder dam, encompassing the boat ramp, that is 52.78 ft (16.09 m) by 31.25 ft (9.53m) with a resulting footprint of 1,649 ft^2 (153.19 m^2, 0.03785 acre). The action will require the placement of a 198.9 ft (60.62 m) long turbidity curtain, for the dock renovations adjacent to the boat ramp, and will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an area of 5,222 ft^2 (485.14 m^2, 0.11988 acre) (Figure 8). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand and fine silt. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 9 months.

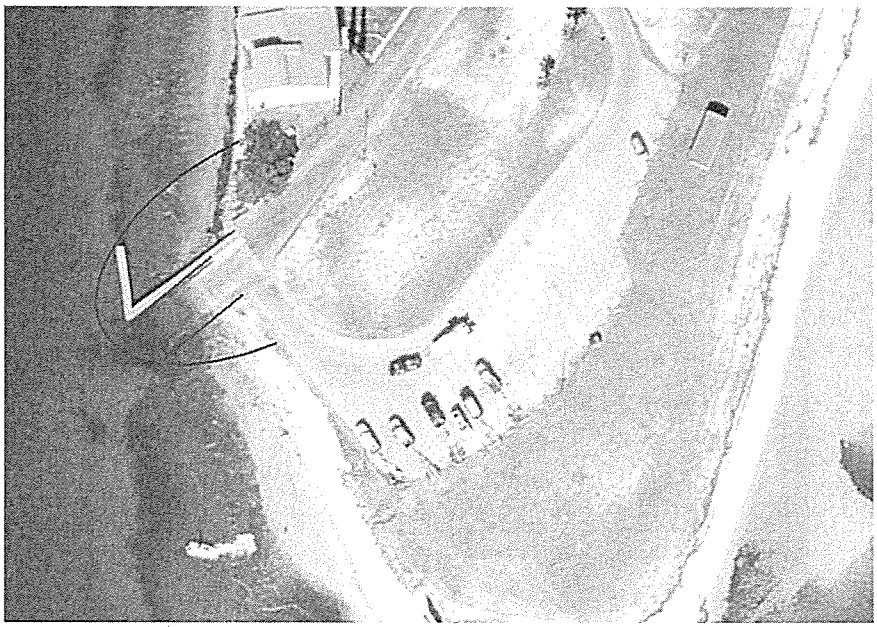

Figure 9. Image of the Earl Gilbert boat ramp with the cofferdam (red open rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

8. Earl Gilbert Boat Ramp (SER-2014-13272).
   The project is located in the City of Parker, Bay County, Florida, at 30.105200°N, 85.60386°W (Figures 1 and 9). The applicant proposes to conduct repairs to replace damaged sections with new wood material in order to improve the safety of the dock and repair the existing boat ramp within the current boat ramp footprint. The general size, material, and design of the dock will not change. The L-shaped dock has an approximate surface area of 600 ft^2 (55.74 m^2, 0.01377 acre). The project involves a coffer/bladder dam, encompassing the boat ramp, that is 59.46 ft (18.12 m) by 28.36 ft (8.64 m) with a resulting footprint of 1,686 ft^2 (156.63 m^2, 0.03870 acre). The action will require the placement of a 254.2 ft (77.48 m) long turbidity curtain for the dock renovations, adjacent to the boat ramp, which will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an area of 9,017 ft^2 (837.71 m^2, 0.20700 acre) (Figure 9). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of silt, sand, and mud. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

Figure 10. Image of the Mashes Sands Park boat ramp improvement site with the coffer/bladder dam perimeter (white open rectangle) and the turbidity curtain (red line). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

9. Mashes Sands Park Boat Ramp and Dock Improvement (SER-2014-13085).
The project is located in the Ochlockonee Bay, City of Panacea, Wakulla County, Florida, at 29.97251°N, 84.34569°W (Figures 1 and 10). The applicant proposes to renovate the Mashes Sands Park boat ramp and adjacent dock. This action involves the removal and replacement of 16 piles using shore-based equipment. The pile replacement will entail using 8-in diameter wood piles, which will be placed using a combination of water jetting, pushing, and mechanical auguring. The dock renovations will be constructed within the existing footprint. The project action involves a coffer/bladder dam, encompassing the boat ramp, that is 90 ft (27.4 m) by 15 ft (4.6 m) resulting in a footprint of 1,350 ft^2 (125.42 m^2, 0.03099 acre). The action will also require the placement of a 140 ft (42.67m) long turbidity curtain for the dock renovations, which will be placed across the canal to encompass the dock as well as the boat ramp. This will result in a 140-ft-wide (42.67 m) by 350-ft-long (106.68 m) polygon and will encompass the coffer/bladder dam resulting in an approximate area of 49,000 ft^2 (4,552.25 m^2, 1.12488 acre) (Figure 10). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand, fine sediment, and mud. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 6 months.

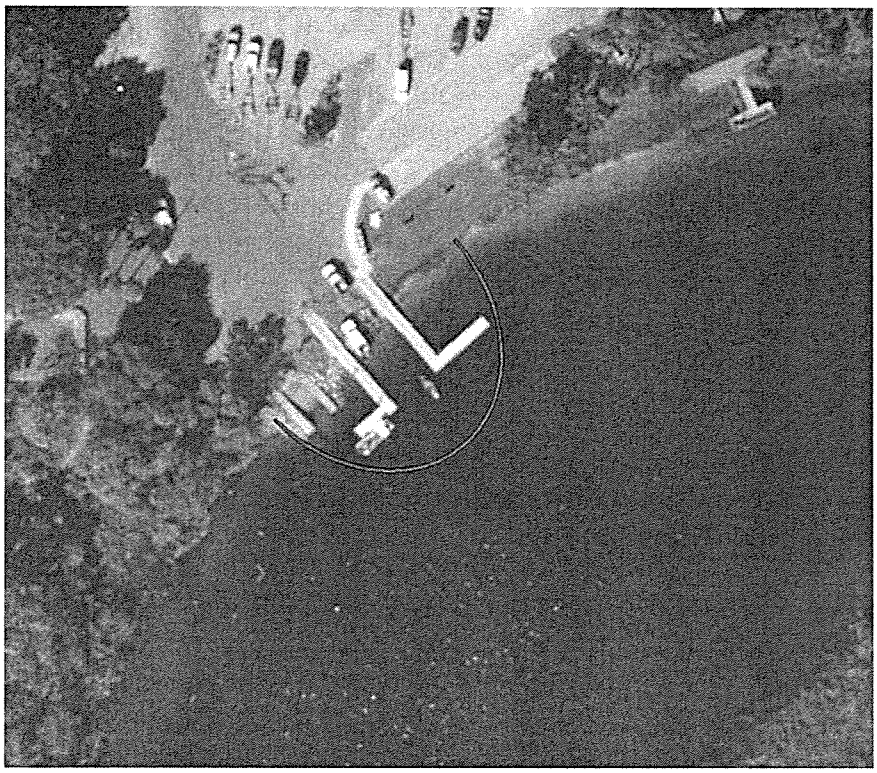

Figure 11. Image of the St. Marks Boat ramp improvement site with the turbidity curtain (red arc). (©2014, C. Robertson, FL DEP)

10. St. Marks Boat Ramp Improvements (SER-2014-13278).
    The project is located in the City of St. Marks, Wakulla County, Florida, at 30.15145°N, 84.20977°W (Figures 1 and 11). The applicant proposes to improve the existing boat ramp by constructing a dock up to 50 ft (15.24 m) long and approximately 8 ft (2.44 m) in width, composed of wood, metal grating or composite decking anchored to pilings. The project will require the placement of sixteen 8-in wood piles, which will be placed using a combination of water jetting, pushing, and mechanical auguring. The project footprint involves the placement of a 247.2 ft (75.35 m) long turbidity curtain having an approximate area of 9,595 ft^2 (891.41 m^2, 0.22027 acre) (Figure 11). The project is not in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat (68 FR 13370, March 19, 2003) or loggerhead critical habitat (79 FR 39855, July 10, 2014). Benthic conditions are a mix of sand and fine silt. The in-water portion of this work will not exceed 3 months.

NMFS believes leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles will not be present, thus, they will not be affected, because their very-specific foraging and life history requirements are not met in or near the action areas. The leatherbacks are deepwater, pelagic species and the hawksbills are associated with coral reefs. We also believe, due to the infrequent (i.e., fewer than 1 per year) reported sightings of smalltooth sawfish in the proposed project areas, smalltooth sawfish are not likely to be present, thus will not be affected by project activities.[3]

[3] NMFS. 2006. Recovery Plan for Smalltooth Sawfish *(Pristis pectinata)*. Prepared by the Smalltooth Sawfish Recovery Team for the National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, MD.

Three ESA-listed species of sea turtles (Kemp's ridley; the threatened/endangered[4] green; and the threatened loggerhead) and the threatened Gulf sturgeon can be found in or near the action area and may be affected by the project. Of the proposed projects, only Projects 1-3 are located in designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. None of the proposed projects are located in designated loggerhead critical habitat (Figure 1). The essential features of Gulf sturgeon critical habitat present in Units 9 and 13 include: abundant prey items; water quality and sediment quality necessary for normal behavior, growth, and viability of all life stages; and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways necessary for passage within and between riverine, estuarine, and marine habitats.

Species Effects

NMFS has identified the following potential effects to the three ESA-listed sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon, from the boat ramp and dock enhancement in the multiple counties, and concluded that they are not likely to be adversely affected.

1. Listed species may be temporarily unable to use the sites for forage or refuge habitat due to potential avoidance of in-water activities, but this effect will be insignificant, given the short duration of the in-water work. In addition, the project sites consist of sand, fine sediment, silt, clay, and mud and are unlikely to attract sea turtles because they lack physical features, which could be used for foraging or shelter.

2. Temporary displacement is a potential effect at the project sites. The exclusion from the project areas for foraging or use as refuge habitat may be due to potential avoidance behavior of construction activities and related noise; however these effects will be insignificant because there are suitable forage and refuge habitat adjacent to the project areas.

3. Species' foraging may be affected if sediment displacement and increased turbidity affects prey availability and their foraging success due to the in-water work. The increases in turbidity will be temporary, highly localized, and short-lived. The applicant will implement NMFS's *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions*, which will provide further protection and the presence of mandatory turbidity curtains creates a barrier to species proximity to operating equipment. Construction in the project areas will have discountable effects on listed species due to the small construction footprints and the species' ability to avoid disturbed areas. Additionally, Gulf sturgeon are opportunistic feeders that forage over large distances and thus will be able to locate prey throughout Units 9 and 13 in areas unaffected by these actions. Because of their feeding morphology, they are typically found at slightly deeper depths (greater than 6 ft) where there is lower wave energy.[5] The sites do not provide typical foraging or

[4] Green turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations in Florida and the Pacific coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

[5] Bolden, S. NMFS Memorandum dated June 8, 2007: Gulf sturgeon critical habitat: analysis of foraging habitat with application to ESA Section 7 consultations. NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division.

refuge habitat for this species, because they all contain waters shallower than 6 feet.

4. Gulf sturgeon and sea turtles may be adversely affected by the pile-driving noise. The piles will be placed via water jetting, pushing, and mechanical auguring or a combination of all the methods. Table 2 shows the threshold levels for fish and sea turtles for impact pile driving and pile jetting, respectively. Noise produced from pile driving of wood and concrete piles is below any injury-causing noise levels and is not discussed further. Considering the potential for disturbance, there is a possibility that pile driving noise may affect the behavior of listed species. The use of pile drivers exceeds the 150 dB re 1μPa (RMS) and 160 dB re 1μPa dB (RMS) noise levels considered to be potentially disturbing to sawfish and sea turtles, respectively. The noise levels produced from the installation of wood and concrete piles has a disturbance distance of 215 m for sawfish and 46 m for sea turtles (Table 3). Due to the species' mobility, animals are unlikely to remain in the area if the noise is bothersome. Because similar habitat present in the project area is also present in adjacent areas, any sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon that may temporarily leave the project area during construction have similar habitat available in the immediate area. Pile-driving noise will be temporary and the project sites will be accessible once the construction activities have ended. We believe that temporary noise produced by pile driving of piles will have insignificant effects on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.

Table 2. Noise levels produced by pile driving strikes do not produce injury-causing levels of noise for these the pile types driving by impact hammer for docks and seawalls.

Pile Type	Source Level (dB re 1 μPa)	Noise Level Above Injury (dB re 1 μPa)
≤14-inch-diameter wood piles		
Impact hammer	195 dB (peak) and 175 dB (SEL)	0 dB (no injury potential)
Vibratory hammer	186 dB (peak) or 170 dB (SEL)	
≤24-inch-diameter concrete piles		
Impact hammer	200 dB (peak) and 175 dB (SEL)	0 dB (no injury potential)
Vibratory hammer	192 dB (peak) or 178 dB (SEL)	

[a] Pile-driving data derived from the 2012 revised Appendix I found in CALTRANS (2009). Source levels were back-calculated from the reported measurement distance to the pile using 15 logR cylindrical spreading loss.

Table 3. Noise levels produced and distance from a pile that noise reaches for the pile types used for these 26 docks and seawall construction projects

Pile Type	Source Level (dB re 1 μPa)	Fish Disturbance Distance (m)	Turtle Disturbance Distance (m)
≤14-inch-diameter wood piles			
Impact hammer	185 dB (RMS)	215	46
Vibratory Hammer	170 dB (RMS)	22	5
≤24-inch-diameter concrete piles			
Impact hammer	185 dB (RMS)	215	46
Vibratory Hammer	170 dB (RMS)	22	5

Augers drills are used to create a pilot hole by drilling a hole in which the pile is placed. These activities can temporarily increase ambient noise levels in an area, but are not expected to result in adverse effects to listed species. Noise levels from small-scale drilling operations that are representative of dock construction methods have been measured to be no more than 107 dB re 1 μPa (0-peak) at 7.5 m from the source.[6] Our back-calculation[7] resulted in an approximate source level no greater than 120 dB re 1 μPa (peak). Auger drilling noise is below the behavioral and injury thresholds used in this analysis (i.e., 150 dB re 1μPa [RMS] and 160 dB re 1μPa dB [RMS] for sawfish and sea turtles, respectively), and its effect is insignificant. Jetting uses high-pressure water sprayed beneath the pile to excavate sediment and sand layers that is often used in conjunction with other pile driving methods to assist penetration of the pile into the substrate. Noise measurements taken with water jetting turned on or off during pile driving resulted in no additional noise recorded above that of the pile driving noise.[8] The loudest reported source levels for jetting[9] would fall below 150 dB re 1 μPa RMS threshold for behavioral disturbance to fish within 6.56-16.40 ft (2-5 m) of a pile. Water jetting noise is below the behavioral and injury disturbance levels for all listed species potentially in the areas and thus would have insignificant effects on the behavior of listed species.

5. Sport fishermen launching their boats from the renovated boat ramps will be an indirect effect of the proposed action. These and other high-speed recreational boats can strike sea turtles, leading to injury or death. The proposed actions are renovations of already existing boat ramps. Therefore, there will not be a net gain

[6] Willis, M.R., M. Broudic, M. Bhurosah, and I. Masters. 2010. Noise Associated with Small-Scale Drilling Operations. Paper submitted to the 3rd International Conference on Ocean Energy. Bilbao, Spain.
[7] Back-calculated 7.5 m using a 15 logR intermediate spreading loss equation. 15 log(7.5 m) = 13.1259 dB
[8] CALTRANS. 2009. Technical Guidance for Assessment and Mitigation of the Hydroacoustic Effects of Pile Driving on Fish. Appendix I. Compendium of Pile Driving Sound Data, revised October 2012. Available: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/bio/fisheries_bioacoustics.htm
[9] Molvaer, O.I. and T. Gjestland. 1981. Hearing damage risk to divers operating noisy tools under water. Scandanavian Journal of Work and Environmental Health 7(4):263-70. The loudest reported noise from long-lance jetting was measured to be approximately 92 dB-A at 1,000 Hz which we converted to be approximately 152 dB re I μPa underwater.

in additional launching sites. We believe the risk of vessel strike impacts to sea turtles from construction and future use of the boat ramps is discountable.[10]

Based on the above analyses, all habitat-related effects to the Kemp's ridley, the threatened/endangered green, and the threatened loggerhead sea turtles and Gulf sturgeon will be insignificant. Based on this information, these projects are not likely to adversely affect species under our jurisdiction.

NMFS has also considered the effects of these projects in conjunction with the effects associated with the Phase I and Phase III projects that have previously undergone Section 7 consultations and concludes there are no additive effects of the overall projects that rise above the level of effects considered for each of the individual projects. The potential impacts to listed species from construction activities are limited in time and place, and cease to exist once the project is complete.

Critical Habitat Effects

NMFS believes that Projects 1-3 are not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Units 9 and 13. Of the 4 essential features of critical habitat (sediment quality, water quality, prey abundance, and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways), the water quality and prey abundance may be affected, but these effects will be insignificant.

1. Water quality impacts from project activities will be insignificant because increases in turbidity will be temporary. The project activities are limited to a short-term elevation in suspended sediments (i.e., turbidity) in the immediate vicinity of the project site associated with the placement of the seawater intake pipe in the water. Moreover the water transparency in the project area is naturally variable, affected by the passage of frontal systems, wind waves, storms, strong tides, and commercial fishing (e.g., shrimp trawling activities). The overall suspended sediment levels in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9 will not be measurably affected and the effects are insignificant.

2. Gulf sturgeon prey abundance (and consequently, sturgeon foraging success and energy expenditures) will be insignificantly affected within the temporarily affected areas because ample alternate comparable Gulf sturgeon prey exists in and contiguous to the affected areas. Turbidity curtains will be placed in all the projects, but only Projects 1-3 are in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.
    i. Project 1 has a turbidity curtain encompassing an area of 18,438 ft^2 (1,712.95 m^2, 0.42328 acre)
    ii. Project 2 has a turbidity curtain encompassing an area of 4,058 ft^2 (377.00 m^2, 0.09316 acre)
    iii. Project 3 has a turbidity curtain encompassing an area of 11,638 ft^2 (1,081.21 m^2, 0.26717 acre)

[10] Barnette, M. NMFS Memorandum dated April 18, 2013: Threats and Effects Analysis for Protected Resources on Vessel Traffic Associated with Dock and Marina Construction. NMFS Southeast Regional Office, Protected Resources Division.

Gulf sturgeon will still be able to forage around the turbidity curtains. Project 3 is the only action where the amount of bottom acreage (potential forage habitat) is affected by the placement and permanent presence piles. The area displaced by twelve 8-in wood piles, the maximum potential number of piles, is a very small fraction of the total area available in Unit 13. The 12 piles will occupy a cumulative area of 16.76 ft^2 (1.56 m^2) of the 4,099,562,280 ft^2 (380,861,798 m^2) of critical habitat in Unit 13, which equates to an alteration of 4.087×10^{-7} % of the foraging habitat to Gulf sturgeon in that critical habitat unit. The prey availability overall in the immediate area is not adversely affected. The 12 piles in the sediment in critical habitat would preclude sturgeon from feeding within the footprint of the piles, and sinking the piles might result in displacing some prey items, but it would not adversely affect prey availability overall in the areas surrounding the pile. The pile placement method (i.e., water jetting, pushing, or mechanical augering) might only result in moving prey items outside the footprint of the pile. This would still allow foraging next to the pile, thereby serving the feeding function of the critical habitat. Additionally, sturgeon are opportunistic feeders and are known to forage over large areas. Ample alternate similar habitat exists nearby, and immediately adjacent to the project site. Sturgeon will be able to locate prey throughout Units 9 and 13 in areas unaffected by this action and in available sandy areas adjacent to those impacted by this project.

Because all of the potential impacts to essential features will be insignificant, the action is not likely to adversely affect the ecological value or functioning of the critical habitat unit.

NMFS has also considered the effects of this project on Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in conjunction with the effects associated with the Phase I and Phase III projects that have previously undergone Section 7 consultations. We conclude there are no additive effects of the overall projects that rise above the level of effects considered for each of the individual projects. The potential impacts to water and sediment quality from construction activities associated with all of these projects are localized and temporary. Similarly, any impacts to prey abundance will be localized and although some projects may displace some prey species, none are expected to reduce overall prey abundance in the project area or critical habitat unit as prey species can quickly recolonize the project areas after construction. Last, there are no impacts to migratory pathways expected as a result of the Phase I or Phase III boat ramp/dock projects or Phase III living shoreline and oyster cultch projects, each of which contain Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9 and 13.

Summary

Finally, we concur with your project-effect determinations that the projects are not likely to adversely affect Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, and green sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.

This concludes the NOAA Restoration Center's consultation responsibilities under the ESA for species under NMFS's purview. Consultation must be reinitiated if a take occurs or new information reveals effects of the action not previously considered, or the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an adverse effect to the listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.

We have enclosed additional relevant information for your review. We look forward to further cooperation with you on other projects to ensure the conservation of our threatened and endangered marine species and designated critical habitat. If you have any questions on this consultation, please contact Nicolas Alvarado, Consultation Biologist, at (727) 209-5955, or by email at Nicolas.Alvarado@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Miles M. Croom

for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Attachments:

1. *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions* (Revised March 23, 2006)
2. *Measures for Reducing Entrapment Risk to Protected Species* (Revised May 22, 2012)
3. *Dock Construction Guidelines over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat* (Revised March, 2008)
4. *PCTS Access and Additional Considerations for ESA Section 7 Consultations* (Revised June 11, 2013)

File: 1514-22.C

Appendix 1 Phase I Early Restoration Plan Projects with corresponding Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS)

Ref.	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	Determinations
P1-1	SER-2012-889	Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation – NRDA Early Restoration Project	Project proposed involves the creation of marsh within the project footprint of the larger Lake Hermitage Marsh Creation Project. The primary goals of the Project are: (1) to restore the eastern Lake Hermitage shoreline to reduce erosion and prevent breaching into the interior marsh, and (2) to re-create marsh in the open water areas south and southeast of Lake Hermitage. The marsh creation project will substitute approximately 104 acres of created brackish marsh for approximately 5-6 acres (7,300 linear feet) of earthen terraces.	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat. All activities associated with the Lake Hermitage Restoration project are outside the known range of Gulf sturgeon. Sea turtles are not likely to be at the dredge site in the Mississippi River, which is 70 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. Additionally, sea turtles are not likely to be at the marsh restoration site.
P1-2	SER-2012-889	Louisiana Oyster Cultch Project	Project involves (1) the placement of oyster cultch onto approximately 850 acres of public oyster seed grounds throughout coastal Louisiana, and (2) construction of an oyster hatchery facility that will produce supplemental larvae and seed. The project consists of placing oyster cultch material on public oyster seed grounds to produce seed- and sack-sized oysters to compensate the public for impacts to oyster areas exposed to oil, dispersant, and response activities.	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-3	SER-2012-889	Mississippi Oyster Cultch Restoration	Project consists of placing oyster cultch material on public oyster seed grounds in the footprint of existing oyster cultch areas to produce seed- and sack-sized oysters to compensate the public for impacts to oyster areas exposed to oil, dispersant, and response activities.	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.
P1-4	SER-2012-889	Mississippi Artificial Reef Habitat	Project includes the deployment of artificial reefs in bays and nearshore Mississippi Sound waters in and off of Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat.
P1-5	SER-2012-889	Marsh Island (Portersville Bay) Marsh Creation	Project involves the addition 50 acres of salt marsh to the existing 24 acres along Marsh Island in the Portersville Bay portion of Mississippi Sound in south Mobile County, Alabama. This entails the construction of a permeable segmented breakwater, the placement of sediments, and the planting of native marsh vegetation.	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles or Gulf sturgeon. The project is not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-6	SER-2012-889	Alabama Dune Restoration Cooperative Project	Project will restore 55 acres of dune habitat by installing sand fencing and planting native dune vegetation in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, Alabama	Project will have no effect on listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS jurisdiction. NMFS does not believe there will be any direct or indirect effects to our listed species or designated critical habitat, as all activities will occur solely in upland areas.
P1-7	SER-2012-889	Florida Boat Ramp Enhancement and Construction Project	Project will entail repairing the existing Navy Point Park public boat ramp, located in a developed residential area in Pensacola Bay, and constructing the new Mahogany Mill public boat ramp that will be located in a commercial and industrial area in Pensacola Bay	Project is not likely to adversely affect sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. The Navy Point project is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 9, Pensacola Bay. The remaining boat ramp projects are not located in designated critical habitat.
P1-8	SER-2012-889	Florida (Pensacola Beach) Dune Restoration	Native dune vegetation will be planted on the primary dune on Pensacola Beach in Escambia County, Florida	This project will have no effect on listed species or designated critical habitat under NMFS jurisdiction. NMFS does not believe there will be any direct or indirect effects to listed species or designated critical habitat, as all activities will occur solely in upland areas.

Appendix 2 Phase III Early Restoration Plan Projects with corresponding Public Consultation Tracking System (PCTS)

Reference	PCTS Tracking #	Project	Description	Determinations
P3-1	SER-2014-12910	Texas Artificial Reefs Corpus	3 projects are designed to install artificial reefs in Texas coastal waters. They are not located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat, or loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles).
P3-2	SER-2014-12916	Texas Artificial Reefs Freeport		
P3-3	SER-2014-12920	Texas Artificial Reefs Matagorda		
P3-4	SER-2014-12924	Alabama Oyster Cultch	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance 319 acres of oyster reefs within historic footprint of oyster reefs in Mobile Bay. It is not located within any designated critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon).
P3-5	SER-2014-12925	Hancock County Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion and restore oyster and marsh habitat by (1) use of breakwater materials to reduce shoreline erosion, (2) creation of 46 acres of salt marsh, and (3) enhancement of 46 acres of oyster reef habitat that have historically supported oyster habitat. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 8, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed action are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-6	SER-2014-12926	Swift Tract Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by creating breakwaters (8,500 ft) from natural materials (15,800 tons of riprap and 2,200 yd^3 of bagged oyster shell). Covering 2.9 acres of fine-grained sediment. It is not located within any designated critical habitats.	The project effects determination of the proposed action are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon). Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-7	SER-2014-13016	FL Pensacola Bay Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by expanding existing breakwaters at 2 sites (25,000 tons of riprap, covering 5 acres of fine-grained sediment total) and backfilling marsh areas with 102,000 yd^3 of fill, total. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed action are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish were withdrawn.
P3-8	SER-2014-13083	FL Cat Point Living Shorelines	The applicant proposes to reduce shoreline erosion by expanding an existing breakwater structure (up to 0.3 miles) and creating 1 acre of salt marsh habitat. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 13, but not within loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed action are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish were withdrawn.

P3-9	SER-2014-13017	Beach Enhancement Project at Gulf Island National Seashore	The applicant proposes to remove fragments of asphalt and road-base material from a long, thin area approximately 20 feet (ft) by 2 miles long (211,200 ft^2 or 4.8 acres) in the inter- and sub-tidal zone within the GUIS. The project is located within Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat Unit 11 and is approximately 4 miles east of Loggerhead Critical Habitat Unit LOGG-N-33.	The project effects determination of the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or designated critical habitats for these species.
P3-10	SER-2014-13018	North Breton Island Restoration	The applicant proposes to dredge 3.7 million cubic yards (yd^3) (2.8 x 10^6 cubic meters (m^3)) of sand, silt, and clay materials, using a cutterhead dredge, from 1 or more sites within offshore shoals borrow sites from a water depth range of 6-20 feet (ft) or 1.8-6.1 meters (m) deep mean lower low water (MLLW). The in-water project footprint is 38 square miles (mi^2) or 98.4 square kilometers (km^2); 41.4 mi^2 (or 106.4 km^2) including proposed North Breton Island restoration The project is not located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat, or loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon).
P3-11	SER-2014-13026	MS Popp's Ferry Causeway Park	The applicant proposes to install 4 fishing piers and 1 overlook pier, covering approximately 5,000 ft^2 of open water with vibratory hammering. It is not located within any designated critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed action are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species Kemp's ridley, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon). Leatherback and hawksbill sea turtles were withdrawn.
P3-12	SER-2014-13079	FL Oysters Cultch	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance oyster populations in Pensacola and Apalachicola Bays in FL (total placement of 42,000 yd^3 of cultch material over 210 acres of previous oyster reefs). It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Units 9 and 13. It is not located in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, or Gulf sturgeon) or Gulf sturgeon designated critical habitat.
P3-13	SER-2014-13080	FL Scallop Enhancement	The applicant proposes to restore and enhance scallop production by the placement of scallop spat into FL coastal waters. It is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Units 9, 10, 12, and 13. It is not located in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or Gulf sturgeon) and no effect on Gulf sturgeon designated critical habitat.
P3-14	SER-2014-13081	FL Artificial Reef	The applicant proposes to build and deploy artificial reefs offshore in Florida coastal waters in 5 Florida counties (Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, and Bay Counties). The project spans 123 miles (107 nautical miles [NM] or 198 kilometers [km]) along the coast of Florida in the nearshore as well as the offshore zone. Some project sites are located within Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 11, although there are no sites in loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles) and are not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 11.
P3-15	SER-2014-13077	FL Gulf Coast Marine Fisheries Hatchery/Enhancement Center	The applicant proposes to construct and operate a saltwater sportfish hatchery, on a 10-acre vacant lot, to enhance recreational fishing opportunities through aquaculture, in Pensacola Bay, Escambia County, Florida.	The project effects determination of the proposed actions are not likely to adversely affect ESA listed species (leatherback, Kemp's ridley, hawksbill, loggerhead, or green sea turtles) and are not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9.