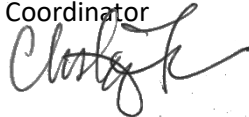




MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

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

DATE: January 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Florida TIG Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment #2 Restoration
Projects: MMPA No Further Evaluation Needed

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Fall 2020), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Protected Resource Division (PRD), the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the projects listed below will not require further evaluation for animals protected by the Marine Mammal Protection Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Representatives from NMFS' Protected Resources Division in the Southeast Regional Office provided technical assistance on these projects and reviewed the biological evaluation (BE) forms. Some projects due to the nature of the work or location (upland) were determined to have no effects on marine mammals. Appropriate measures and best management practices were included in or attached to the BE forms for some projects where appropriate and will be implemented to avoid and minimize effects marine mammals, thus authorizations under the MMPA are not required. If any project is modified in a way that could change these determinations it will be reevaluated as appropriate.

Projects that will not have any adverse effects on marine mammals:

- Johnson Beach Access Management and Habitat Protection
- Pensacola Beach Fort Pickens Road Wildlife Lighting Retrofits
- Assessing Risk and Conducting Public Outreach to Reduce Vessel Strikes on Sea Turtles along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Florida Gulf Coast Enhanced Marine Mammal Stranding Network
- Apollo Beach Recreational Fish Hatchery Facility
- Engineering and Design for Pensacola Beach Park West Fishing Pier and Access Improvements



Projects that avoid and minimize effects to marine mammals:

- Reducing Threats to Sea Turtles through Removal of In-water Marine Debris along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Perdido Key Sediment Placement
- Increased Observers and Outreach to Reduce Incidental Hooking of Sea Turtles in Recreational Fisheries along Florida's Gulf Coast
- Gomez Key Oyster Reef Expansion and Breakwaters for American Oystercatchers
- Pensacola Community Maritime Park Public Fishing Marina
- Baars Park and Sanders Beach Kayak Fishing Trail Access Upgrades
- Gulf Breeze Parks Boating and Fishing Access Upgrades
- Lincoln Park Boat Ramp and Dock Improvements
- Florida Artificial Reef Creation and Restoration - Phase 2