



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

October 5, 2012 F/SER46/RH:jk
225/389-0508

Dr. John D. Foret, Ph.D.
NOAA Fisheries Service/SEFSC
Estuarine Habitats and Coastal Fisheries Center
646 Cajundome Boulevard, Room 175
Lafayette, Louisiana 70506

Dear Dr. Foret:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cheniere Ronquille Barrier Island Restoration (BA-76) project funded for engineering and design under the auspices of the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act.

NMFS has reviewed the draft EA and believes that all pertinent resources have been sufficiently described and likely project impacts to those resources adequately characterized. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft EA. In addition, because the project, as described in the EA, would help create and restore productive categories of essential fish habitat and benefit marine fishery resources, NMFS fully supports rapid implementation.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the draft EA.

Sincerely,

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
F/SER46, Swafford
F/SER4, Rolfes, Dale
Files

