

Checklist of Information Needed to Complete Section 7 Consultations for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division Applications

Project Specifications:

- Project or name of applicant, Action ID number

North Breton Island Restoration

- Describe the location of the project site (address and latitude/longitude information).
Location data **must** be given datum (e.g., NAD83) and lat/long format using decimal-degrees (**not** minutes and seconds): e.g., 27.71622N, 80.25174W.
On-line conversion: <http://www.fcc.gov/mb/audio/bickel/DDDMSS-decimal.html>

North Breton Island and offshore east, approximately 29.461311N, 89.146914W

- In which body of water is the project located? If on a river or estuary, state the approximate navigable distance from the bay, ocean, or gulf).

North Breton Island is at the southern end of the Chandeleur Chain, separating Breton Sound from the Gulf of Mexico.

Site Description:

- Describe any existing structures and their use - for instance, acreage of overwater structures, if it's an existing marina, how many boat slips are present and what is their size.

None

- Is the project location within designated critical habitat?

Not that we are aware of.

- If project occurs in critical habitat, are PCEs present?

N/A

- What are the baseline conditions within the project area, including substrate type?

The submerged substrate generally consists of shallow, soft sand, mud and/or clay.

- Are seagrasses present in the project area? Include percent coverage estimates by species and the relative location of seagrass in relation to proposed structures. Was a seagrass or benthic habitat survey completed? If so, please submit. *

Seagrasses are not known to be in the project area.

- Are mangroves present in or near the project area? Which species (red, black, white) and how much?

Black mangroves dominate an interior portion of the island.

- Are corals present in or near the project area? Include density or percent coverage estimates by species and describe proximity of corals to proposed structures.

No

- Was a benthic survey conducted within Johnson's seagrass growing season (April 1 - August 31)? Date of Survey

Yes

No

Construction Methods/ Project Description:

- Construction methods, including description of any demolition of existing structures or removal of debris. Will the work be done from a barge or uplands?

Approximately 3.7 Million cubic yards of sand, silts and clays material would be dredged from the borrow area with a 30-inch diameter hydraulic dredge with a cutterhead. The material will be transported via pipeline from the borrow area to Breton Island restoration site. Dredged material retention dikes will be constructed on the island and in shallow water to contain the dredged material for marsh restoration then degraded after construction. Dozers will shape the sand for the dune and beach portions of the project.

- For docks, what type of decking will be used? If grated, provide manufacturer's name/ address/grating type, and percent light transmittance (%LT) of the grating design used? If wooden planks, what is the proposed spacing between the deckboards (½-inch, ¾-inch, 1-inch, other?). *Has the applicant been advised that COE-NMFS project review is significantly simplified and expedited for dock designs incorporating ≥43% LT grated decking, or 1-inch deckboard- and walkway-spacing, over Johnson's seagrass areas? Proposed height of dock? Orientation of the dock (N, S, etc.)?*

N/A

- Piling construction methodology. Are pile driving methods adequately described and are potential impacts to species adequately addressed? Will submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) be impacted by pile installation? *If necessary, will the applicant's contractor adjust the spacing between piles to avoid driving piles onto Johnson's seagrass? Avoiding all piling impacts to JSG will significantly simplify and expedite the COE-NMFS project review process.*

N/A

- Number of new slips and size of slips, if applicable. If new construction includes High-and-Dry boat storage, what is the High-and-Dry vessel storage capacity?

N/A

- How big are the boats that are planned to be moored at the dock (either in the water or on a boatlift), if known?

N/A

- For all projects **not** involving docks or marinas (i.e., seawalls, jetties, etc.), please provide project description.

Restore a total of 3.0 miles (16,000 linear feet) of beach (76.2 acres), dune (138.7 acres), and back barrier marsh (137.3 acres) habitat on North Breton Island for a total of 352 acres of barrier island restored. The dune would be 9 feet-high by 400 feet-wide at the base and 100 feet-wide at the top, the beach would be 3 feet-high by 200 feet-wide, and the back barrier marsh would be 500 feet-wide by 3 feet-high for a total project width of 1,100 feet. Borrow areas are likely to be within an offshore shoal area east of North Breton Island.

- Dredging? If yes, describe depth of cut, dredge type used, how many cubic yards, and what will be done with the spoil. Describe bottom sediments. Describe area hydrodynamics, i.e., average current speed and direction.

Approximately 3.7 Million cubic yards of sand, silts and clays material would be dredged from the borrow area with a 30-inch diameter hydraulic dredge with a cutterhead. Bottom sediments are known to consist of sand/mud mixtures. Cut map/depth will be developed following further geotechnical analyses. Hydrodynamics are associated with regional GOM/ Breton Sound factors.

- Blasting? If yes, describe explosive weights, blasting plan, etc.

N/A

- What is the intended construction schedule (how many days, weeks, or months for in-water work)?

Construction schedules are currently being developed. However, construction could take from 6 months to a year. (Note: construction windows in relation to potential effects to fish and wildlife resources will be addressed through ongoing consultations with FWS and NMFS).

Potential Effects on Species/Critical Habitat:

- Please explain any impacts/effects to the critical habitat's primary constituent elements - PCEs)? Please identify which critical habitat unit(s) is being affected (e.g., Gulf sturgeon have 14 units, seven under NMFS jurisdiction and seven under FWS jurisdiction).

N/A

- What will the effects be, if any, to each PCE?

N/A

- Square footage to be affected by project?

Dredge source area design is still being developed. Square footage will depend on cut depth and location/availability of suitable material within the project area.

- Will mangroves be impacted? Explain and quantify impacts.

No. The island mangrove community will remain intact.

- How will the habitat be changed/alterd as a result of the action? Could or will the alteration affect listed species? How?

Bathymetry of submerged habitat will change based on volume of source material removed. This area, however, could be expected to fill back in naturally given past observations of the dynamic nature of the local system.

Aerial extent of the island and submerged extent of the island platform will be enlarged toward it's it's expected shape/size had erosion not occurred (i.e., the current nature of it's historic footprint). Any alterations would expect to affect listed species only in a temporary manner (i.e, during construction).

•Listed species within the project area:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sea turtles | Smalltooth sawfish | Shortnose sturgeon |
| Elkhorn coral | Johnson's seagrass | North Atlantic right whales |
| Staghorn coral | Gulf sturgeon | Other whales |

•Explain potential effects to each species checked above:

Sea turtles do not historically nest on North Breton Island. Any impacts to migrating turtles would be expected to be temporary presence, sound, etc. during construction.

•Shading impacts from construction.

None.

•What is the estimated shadow effect of the boat (sq ft of shaded area beneath)?

N/A

•Discuss potential anchoring impacts to seagrass and corals. Discuss available water depth under the keel/propeller at Mean Low Water and the potential for prop dredging or blowouts. Discuss potential prop-scarring impacts to corals and seagrasses.

None

•Describe increased boat traffic impacts, if any. Are there posted speed zones in the area?

None

•Describe Noise Impacts (this section not applicable to single-family, multi-family, and marina dock projects where piles driven are 12 inches or less in diameter).

Any noise impacts would be expected to be temporary during dredge and fill activities (construction).

•Source level of noise exceeds 120 dB re 1uPa RMS for continuous noise
Yes No

•Source level exceeds 160 dB re 1 uPa RMS for impulsive noise
Yes No

•Source level exceeds 180 dB re 1 uPa zero to peak
Yes No

Effects Determination:

•For executing the action (i.e., construction activities)
No Effect NLAA May Affect

•For the result of the action (i.e., new dock)
No Effect NLAA May Affect

•If “No Effect” is determined for all species and critical habitat, please note your findings in a memorandum to your project file; no consultation/concurrence with/from NMFS is required.
Memo made N/A

Mitigation/Protective Measures:

•Will the applicant follow the August 2001 Dock Construction Guidelines?
Yes No

•Will the applicant follow the October 2002 Johnson's Seagrass Key?
 Yes No

•Will the Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions, dated March 23, 2006, be followed?
 Yes No

•If not following any of the above, please explain:

No docks will be constructed.

- Turbidity controls? If yes, description of type used.

Appropriate permits will be acquired and permit requirements complied with during project development and construction.

- What are the proposed avoidance, minimization, and compensatory measures?

Measures recommended through consultations with FWS and NMFS will be implemented.

Each consultation letter should address the impacts listed in the checklist and their associated effects on listed species and their critical habitat. An explanation of how the impacts occur, their effects, and any mitigative measures that will be implemented to reduce the projects effects on listed species and their critical habitat should be included in the consultation letter.

* If Johnson's seagrass is present, please consult the following:

- Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers National Marine Fisheries Service, dated August 2001*
- Key for Construction Conditions for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or Over Johnson's Seagrass (Halophila johnsonii) National Marine Fisheries Service U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, dated October 2002*

Updated: October 2008

Print Form

