



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

January 21, 2014

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources
NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701

Re: DWH-ERP-Request for section 7 Endangered Species Act Informal Consultation for *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill Phase III Early Restoration Plan project *North Breton Island Restoration*

Dear David,

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center requests informal consultation with your office, under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), for impacts from the North Breton Island Restoration Project. This project has the potential to affect the following federally listed species administered by NOAA Fisheries:

Sea Turtles (Green-T, Hawksbill-E, Leatherback-E, Loggerhead-T, Kemp's Ridley-E)

The NOAA Restoration Center, a Lead Federal Agency, is requesting consultation on behalf of the Natural Resource Trustees for *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill. Enclosed please find a Biological Assessment and a NMFS ESA Checklist for this Phase III Early Restoration Project. It is our expectation that the proposed project will have a significant net benefit to the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.

For further questions about the project, please contact Jamie Schubert of our staff at 409-621-1248.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Leslie Craig

Supervisor, Southeast Region, NOAA Restoration Center
NOAA Fisheries Office of Habitat Conservation

