



# South Central Coast Louisiana

## Draft Feasibility Study with Integrated Environmental Impact Statement



### Appendix A-6 Magnuson Stevens Act Compliance

November 2019

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVE  
NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

September 30, 2019

Regional Planning and Environmental  
Division South (RPEDS)

Craig Gothreaux  
Southeast Region, Habitat Conservation Division NOAA Fisheries  
5757 Corporate Blvd., Suite 375  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dear Mr. Gothreaux,

The US Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (District) is preparing a feasibility report with integrated environmental impact statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the proposed *South Central Coast Louisiana Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study*, located in St. Martin, Iberia, and St. Mary parishes, Louisiana. The study will determine if the work necessary to sustain 100-year level of hurricane storm damage risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified. The non-Federal sponsor is the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you the District made a No Effect determination in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA; 16 U.S.C. 1855(b)) consultation requirements of §305(b) for essential fish habitat impacts, and the Endangered Species Act, Section 7 for potential impacts to endangered species.

The District recently narrowed its list of feasible alternatives. Based on costs versus flood risk management benefit, the tentatively selected plan includes nonstructural measures within the 25-year floodplain. Nonstructural measures include elevating residential structures, buy outs, and flood proofing nonresidential structures. The nonstructural would take place in developed, terrestrial, urban settings.

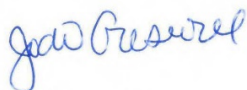
The project would not impact "Waters" defined as essential fish habitat. These waters include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle.

Enclosed for your information is the District's endangered species No Effect determination & documentation. This documentation provides a brief project description, relevant background information, study area location, and species information.

If the project changes or if additional information on the distribution of listed or proposed species becomes available, the District will reconsider its No Effect determination and coordinate any change in it as soon as possible.

While the NOAA Fisheries is under no obligation to respond to this letter, we welcome any comments, concerns, or new information that may change our determination. You may provide written comments/concurrence 30 days from date of letter. We look forward to working with your agency on this project and appreciate the working relationship thus far. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail, please contact Mr. Joe Jordan, Environmental Project Lead (309-794-5791).

Sincerely,



Jodi Creswell  
Environmental Planning Branch Chief

Enclosure

