



Appendix B

**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

January 29, 2009 F/SER46/GC:jk
225/389-0508

Mr. Gib Owen
Environmental Planning and Compliance Branch
Planning, Programs, and Management Division
New Orleans District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 60267
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160-0267

Dear Mr. Owen:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the draft **Individual Environmental Report (IER) #12** transmitted by letter from Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins dated January 5, 2009. The draft IER evaluates and quantifies the impacts associated with providing 100-year level of hurricane protection through the construction of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway West Closure Complex.

NMFS staff has previously concurred with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) recommendations on IER #12 outlined in the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report. We find the recommendations provided previously to the New Orleans District by FWS have been adequately incorporated into the document. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft IER #12.

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

Sincerely,

for

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

c:
FWS, Lafayette
EPA, Dallas
LA DNR, Consistency
F/SER46, Swafford
Files

