



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

November 9, 2007 F/SER46/RH: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 received the draft **Individual Environmental Report (IER) #19** provided by letter from Ms. Elizabeth Wiggins dated November 2, 2007. The draft IER evaluates and quantifies the impacts associated with the use of nine contractor-furnished borrow sites to restore levees to the 100-year level of hurricane protection.

NMFS has reviewed the draft IER and agrees that none of the borrow sites are located in areas classified as essential fish habitat or supportive of marine fishery resources. As such, we have no comments to provide on the draft IER.

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, Ruebsamen
Files

