



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

April 8, 2008

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 reviewed the draft **Individual Environmental Report (IER) #22** titled "Government Furnished Borrow Material #2; Jefferson and Plaquemines Parishes, Louisiana." The draft IER evaluates and quantifies the impacts associated with the use of five government-furnished borrow sites to restore levees in the New Orleans area vicinity 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, Swafford
Files

