



# Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel Deepening Project, Louisiana



## Appendix B: Annex 5 – Endangered Species Act

**January 2025**

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Southeast Regional Office  
263 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505  
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/region/southeast>

10/30/2024

F/SER31:SC  
SERO-2024-01145

Jordan Logarbo  
Biologist, Regional Planning and Environment Division, South  
New Orleans District Corps of Engineers  
Department of the Army  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Ref.: Port Fourchon Belle Pass Deepening, Port Fourchon, Lafourche Parish, Louisiana –  
EXPEDITED TRACK

Dear Jordan Logarbo,

This letter responds to your October 7, 2024 request pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the subject action.

We reviewed the action agency's consultation request document and related materials. Based on our knowledge, expertise, and the action agency's materials, we concur with the action agency's conclusions that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the NMFS ESA-listed species and/or designated critical habitat.

Updates to the regulations governing interagency consultation (50 CFR part 402) were effective on May 6, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 24268). We are applying the updated regulations to this consultation. The 2024 regulatory changes, like those from 2019, were intended to improve and clarify the consultation process, and, with one exception from 2024 (offsetting reasonable and prudent measures), were not intended to result in changes to the Services' existing practice in implementing section 7(a)(2) of the Act. 84 Fed. Reg. at 45015; 89 Fed. Reg. at 24268. We have considered the prior rules and affirm that the substantive analysis and conclusions articulated in this letter of concurrence would not have been any different under the 2019 regulations or pre-2019 regulations.

This concludes your consultation responsibilities under the ESA for species and/or designated critical habitat under NMFS's purview. Reinitiation of consultation is required and shall be requested by the action agency where discretionary Federal action agency involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law and: (a) take occurs; (b) new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered in this consultation; (c) the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not previously considered in this consultation; or (d) if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.



We look forward to further cooperation with you on other projects to ensure the conservation of our threatened and endangered marine species and designated critical habitat. If you have any questions on this consultation, please contact Shelby Casali, Consultation Biologist, by email at [Shelby.Casali@noaa.gov](mailto:Shelby.Casali@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

SHOTTS.KELLY.M  
ARISE.1365865457

Digitally signed by  
SHOTTS.KELLY.MARISE.13658  
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Date: 2024.10.30 13:09:24 -04'00'

for

David Bernhart  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
for Protected Resources

File: 1514-22-f.7

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Logarbo, Jordan Rita CIV \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[CEMVN \(USA\); \[REDACTED\] nmfs ser esa consultations - NOAA Service Account; CESAJ-NMFS Informal](#)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] EXP LOC Port Fourchon Belle Pass Deepening, SERO-2024-01145  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 30, 2024 1:37:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [SERO-2024-01145 Fourchon Belle Pass LOC FINAL.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Jordan,

Please see the NMFS letter of concurrence (LOC) attached in reference to the project, Port Fourchon Belle Pass Deepening, SERO-2024-01145. Thank you for your assistance through this process and helping to protect our resources. Please confirm receipt of this email, and let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

[REDACTED]

**ESA CONSULTATION SCIENTIST**

SFI Contractor in Support of Office of Protected Resources  
Southeast Regional Office, NMFS  
NOAA Fisheries | U.S. Department of Commerce

[REDACTED]  
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