

In Reply Refer To:

02ETCP00-2024-0027135

Date: May 6, 2024

Memorandum

To: Compliance Supervisor, Deepwater Horizon Gulf Restoration Office, Fairhope, AL

From: Beau Hardegree, Project Leader Date Texas Restoration Office, Corpus Christi, TX

Subject: Informal Consultation for the proposed project: Deepwater Horizon Texas Trustee Implementation Group - Reducing Marine Debris Impacts on Birds and Sea Turtles along the Texas coast.

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your memorandum on April 10, 2024. This response is in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA). We have reviewed your proposed project(s) and concur with your April 10, 2024 determinations for endangered and threatened species, their critical habitat, and at-risk species (should they become listed). We based our concurrence on the justification below. Where more than one justification was applicable, multiple boxes are checked and additional comments are added.

Species-specific surveys were conducted and there are no endangered, threatened, or at-risk species or designated critical habitat on site. Comments:

Endangered, threatened, and at-risk species are not known from and are not expected to occur within the vicinity of the proposed project. Comments:

Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure that any effects to listed species (or at-risk species should they become listed) are insignificant or discountable. Comments:

In addition to the BMPs listed in the current biological evaluation form, all the proposed marine debris removal methods are included in the Regionwide Restoration Plan 1/ Environmental Assessment Biological Evaluation form submitted in 2020.

Critical habitat is not present on site and does not occur within the vicinity of the proposed project. Comments:

Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures have been included within the project description to ensure PCEs and/or critical habitat will not be adversely modified or

destroyed. Comments:

No essential components of the habitat will be altered

- The proposed project is completely beneficial to the listed or at-risk species and/or critical habitat considered. Comments:

Unless the project description changes, or new information reveals that the effects of the proposed action may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the ESA is necessary.

If you have questions, please contact Adriana Leiva at 281-898-5686 or email adriana_leiva@fws.gov