

In Reply Refer To:

2022-0089864

September 28, 2022

Memorandum

To: Compliance Supervisor, Gulf Restoration Office, Fairhope, AL  
From: Acting Field Supervisor, Mississippi Field Office  
Subject: Informal Consultation for the Proposed Broad-Scale Vessel Surveys for Abundance and Distribution of Marine Mammals and Seabirds Project; Gulf of Mexico

This memorandum acknowledges our receipt of your memorandum on September 22, 2022. 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 and concur with your September 22, 2022, 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: West Indian Manatee

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 David Felder at 601-321-1131 or email [david\\_felder@fws.gov](mailto:david_felder@fws.gov).