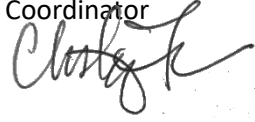




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MEMORANDUM FOR: FILE

FROM: Christy Fellas, DWH Environmental Compliance Coordinator
NOAA Restoration Center 

DATE: October 4, 2023

SUBJECT: Deep-Sea Benefits Monitoring and Adaptive Management Project: No Effect to NMFS EFH

Based on my review of project materials including the Biological Evaluation forms (Fall 2023), and in coordination with representatives from NOAA's Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) in the Southeast Regional Office, the NOAA Restoration Center (RC) determined that the proposed project will have no effect on essential fish habitat (EFH) designated by the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act under the jurisdiction of National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Thus, no consultation is needed.

For more detail on the existing compliance documents refer to the Biological Evaluation form for this project and the administrative record. This project will not require further evaluation for the effects to EFH. If the project is modified in a way that may not be covered by existing permits, it will be reevaluated as appropriate.