UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

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OCT 11 2005 F/SER3: JAM

Mr. John Rapp
NOAA Restoration Center
National Marine Fisheries Service
LSU
Sea Grant Building
Baton, Rouge, LA 70803

Dear Mr. Rapp:

This correspondence responds to your letter dated August 12, 2005, and enclosed Programmatic Biological Assessment for the Louisiana Regional Restoration Planning Program, Draft Final Regional Restoration Plan for Region 2 (PBA). NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received your submission on August 15, 2005. In your letter you determined that the activities identified in the PBA would not affect federally-listed whales and was not likely to adversely affect federally-listed sea turtle and Gulf sturgeon nor Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. You requested us to contact you if we disagreed with this determination.

The extremely comprehensive PBA identifies projects that facilitate restoration of natural resources injured by oil spills in southeastern Louisiana. None of the projects identified are actually planned for construction. Therefore since no specifics as to project location, time of implementation, or effect to federally listed species are identified, NMFS cannot consult on this PBA. NMFS will consult on the individual projects when they are proposed to be implemented.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the NOAA Restoration Center in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Moore, natural resource specialist, at (727) 824-5312, or by e-mail at jennifer.moore@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

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