



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Habitat Conservation Division  
c/o Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808-7353

November 9, 2010 F/SER46/RH:jk  
225/389-0508

Mr. Gregory DuCote  
Coastal Management Division  
Louisiana Department of Natural Resources  
Post Office Box 44487  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-4497

Dear Mr. DuCote:

Reference is made to Coastal Zone Consistency **C20050232** for the Pass Chaland to Grand Bayou Pass barrier shoreline restoration project (BA-35) authorized under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. Reference is made to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit 2004-0452-EFF for the Pelican Island barrier shoreline restoration project (BA-38) authorized under the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. This letter requests a modification to that permit to authorize the following changes: 1) construction of a larger marsh platform; 2) provide a secondary source of retention; and 3) to allow for additional work in the vicinity of the Empire Waterway jetty. The proposed modification would substitute Sheets 2, 3, 18 through 20 for those same drawings originally authorized, add Sheet 21, and substitute Sheets 22 through 33 for previous Sheets 21 through 28. The modifications are proposed to adapt to changed site conditions due to on-going erosion and to provide additional restoration benefits. Table 1 provides summary information regarding excavation and fill volumes and areas.

As shown on the attached drawings, we propose the following changes:

1. Increase the marsh fill platform by approximately 77 acres. This larger marsh platform would require deposition of a total of 1.6 million cubic yards (Mcy) of fill material (an increase of about 600,000 cy over the original authorization). Marsh fill retention dike design also has been modified to provide for an additional borrow canal to ensure adequate dike construction material is available.
2. Minor decrease (about 400,000 cy) in required beach fill volumes also are proposed due to recent construction of the state's emergency sand berm. All borrow areas remain as originally authorized. Minor changes in beach and dune alignment and fill footprint are included in the proposed modification. The proposed 227-acre beach and dune fill footprint is substantially similar to the originally authorized 232 acres.
3. Modification to conduct additional work in the vicinity of the Empire Waterway jetties. The current authorization includes removal of stone from the western jetty spur and





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

Habitat Conservation Division  
c/o Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808-7353

November 9, 2010 F/SER46/RH:jk  
225/389-0508

Mr. Michael Farabee, Chief  
Regulatory Branch, Eastern Evaluation Section  
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers  
Post Office Box 60267  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70160

**Attn: Darrell Barbara**

Dear Mr. Farabee,

Reference is made to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit **2004-0452-EFF** for the Pelican Island barrier shoreline restoration project (BA-38) authorized under the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act. This letter requests a modification to that permit to authorize the following changes: 1) construction of a larger marsh platform; 2) provide a secondary source of retention; and 3) to allow for additional work in the vicinity of the Empire Waterway jetty. The proposed modification would substitute Sheets 2, 3, 18 through 20 for those same drawings originally authorized, add Sheet 21, and substitute Sheets 22 through 33 for previous Sheets 21 through 28. The modifications are proposed to adapt to changed site conditions due to on-going erosion and to provide additional restoration benefits. Table 1 provides summary information regarding excavation and fill volumes and areas.

As shown on the attached drawings, we propose the following changes:

1. Increase the marsh fill platform by approximately 77 acres. This larger marsh platform would require deposition of a total of 1.6 million cubic yards (Mcy) of fill material (an increase of about 600,000 cy over the original authorization). Marsh fill retention dike design also has been modified to provide for an additional borrow canal to ensure adequate dike construction material is available.
2. Minor decrease (about 400,000 cy) in required beach fill volumes also are proposed due to recent construction of the state's emergency sand berm. All borrow areas remain as originally authorized. Minor changes in beach and dune alignment and fill footprint are included in the proposed modification. The proposed 227-acre beach and dune fill footprint is substantially similar to the originally authorized 232 acres.
3. Modification to conduct additional work in the vicinity of the Empire Waterway jetties. The current authorization includes removal of stone from the western jetty spur and placement of the material within the eastern jetty template to refurbish this degraded feature. Currently, the eastern jetty has become completely stranded from



Pelican Island with significant tidal currents running through this area. In order to accomplish the proposed beach and dune fill project components without that material migrating into the Empire Waterway channel, we propose to extend the eastern jetty using material from both the western spur and the southerly terminus of both the east and west jetties.

Please note that no additional landowners would be affected by the proposed modification. All affected property owners have been notified of the revised project design.

Additionally, in light of the Deepwater Horizon incident, NMFS has conducted contaminants assessments of all proposed borrow areas located in the Gulf of Mexico. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the findings of that assessment and has indicated that it believes that the sediments are appropriate for their intended use, including disposal in the ocean disposal sites currently authorized by your agency under Section 103 of the Marine Research, Protection and Sanctuaries Act.

Based on the enclosed information and construction plans and specifications, it is our determination that the proposed modification would not result in net adverse impacts to essential fish habitat (EFH). We find adequate compensation for all adverse impacts to EFH would be provided by the long term protection, creation, and nourishment of aquatic habitats associated with barrier shorelines and saline marsh.

We are requesting the New Orleans District authorize this modification at the earliest possible time. If you have any questions regarding the applications, the projects, or enclosed documents, please contact Rachel Sweeney at (225) 389-0508, extension 206. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Hartman  
Fishery Biologist  
Baton Rouge Field Office

Enclosures  
Revised Sheets  
Table 1

c:  
Kenneth Bahlinger, OCPR ✓  
Greg Ducote, LDNR  
Thomas Griggs, LDEQ