

Appendix D
EFH Programmatic Consultation
Verification Form

Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat Consultation for United States Army Corps of Engineers Activities and Projects Regularly Undertaken in South Carolina - Verification Form

This form will be filled out by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Charleston District) for activities and projects regularly undertaken in the tidally-influenced waters of South Carolina using the Programmatic Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Consultation with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, Habitat Conservation Division (SERO HCD). Upon obtaining sufficient information, the Charleston District will submit the form to SERO HCD for their review and response. After receiving a response from SERO HCD, the Charleston District will keep the completed form(s) for reporting purposes.

In addition to the information required below, the Charleston District must also provide a list of all recommended management practices that will not be adhered to (with justification provided). This list may use the same numbers as the recommended management practices listed in Section 5.

PART I.

Project Activity Type

- 1. Dredging
- 2. Placement of Dredged Material
- 3. Transportation of Dredged Material
- 4. Beneficial Use - Beach and Nearshore Placement

Waterway Name: Murrells Inlet/Main Creek		Latitude (e.g., 42.6258): 33.5302	Longitude (e.g., -70.6461): -79.0331
<p>Work Description: A total of 460,000 cubic yards of sandy material is expected to be dredged from the Murrells Inlet channel. Maintenance dredging will be by means of a hydraulic cutterhead dredge that will transport the sand through a pipeline to be discharged as a slurry and placed directly on the front beach at GCB, at the terminal west end of the south jetty on HBSP, and on the front beach at HBSP. During construction, temporary training dikes of sand will be used to contain the discharge and control the fill placement. Fill sections will be graded by land-based equipment, such as bulldozers, as necessary to achieve the desired placement profile.</p>			
<p>Total area of impact to EFH (in acres), broken down by individual types of EFH: 65 acres - intertidal and subtidal coastal marine bottoms 20 acres - coastal inlets/water column</p>		<p>Programmatic EFH Consultation Appendix A Project Reference Number: Project 1 (Murrells Inlet)</p>	

USACE Charleston District Project Information

Part II.

USACE's Determination of Effects to Essential Fish Habitat

The Charleston District will select the appropriate determination:

The activity complies with all elements of the Programmatic EFH Consultation, including all Programmatic EFH Consultation recommended best management practices, and adverse effects to EFH will not be substantial.

The activity does not comply with all of the elements of the Programmatic EFH Consultation, including some Programmatic EFH Consultation recommended best management practices. However, the justification below demonstrates that the adverse effects to EFH are not substantial. This does not apply to Programmatic EFH Consultation recommended best management practices that are not applicable to the project.

Justification for Not Incorporating All EFH conservation measures

If the project does not comply with all of the applicable Programmatic EFH Conservation measures and the Charleston District has still determined that the effects of a project on EFH are not substantial and the project is otherwise consistent with the Programmatic EFH Consultation, provide justification below and identify which conservation measures, provided in the Programmatic EFH Consultation as BMPs, are not included:

The average annual net sediment transport for the project area is estimated at 240,000 cubic yards. For this event, it is estimated that approximately 460,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand will be placed at both the front beach of Garden City and the northern tip of Huntington Beach State Park. This exceeds the recommended 50% as outlined in Section 5.2.2, Recommended BMP 7, The Murrells Inlet project included the creation of a deposition basin. The basin is designed to catch sediment prior to entering the channel. The overall project anticipated routine dredging and disposal of the material along the nearby shoreline, every 3 years. However, dredging and placement activities have typically occurred approximately every 7 years. Recent storms have caused substantial erosion along the beach. The amount of material proposed for placement does not exceed 50% of the cumulative amount of sediment transport during the dredging interval timeframe i.e., 1,680,000 cubic yards cumulative transport total [7 years at 240,000/year]. The beneficial use activities would protect existing structures from future storms and erosion. Based on the above, the effects of the project on EFH are not substantial. As currently scheduled, USACE anticipates that dredging and beneficial use beach placement on the upcoming project will be completed between September 15, 2023 and March 2024.

USACE, Charleston District preparer:

Erica L. Fritz

Name

Signature



May 5, 2023

Date

Part III.

SERO HCD Determination (To be filled out by NMFS SERO HCD)

After receiving the Verification Form, SERO HCD will contact the Charleston District with any concerns.

SERO HCD concurs with the Charleston District's determination that the proposed project is consistent with the Programmatic EFH Consultation (without the need for justification).

SERO HCD concurs with the Charleston District's determination that the proposed project is consistent with the Programmatic EFH Consultation, with justification described above.

SERO HCD does not concur with the Charleston District's determination that the project is consistent with the Programmatic EFH Consultation. The Charleston District must conduct additional coordination with SERO HCD and a separate individual EFH consultation may be required.

SERO HCD reviewer:

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