



Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DPEIS) for the *NOAA Restoration Center Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*.

This DPEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with programmatic approaches to coastal habitat restoration within the NOAA Restoration Center and other NOAA programs implementing similar habitat restoration activities. In the DPEIS, NOAA proposes to fund or otherwise implement coastal habitat restoration activities through its existing programmatic framework and related procedures. NOAA contains multiple programs that carry out habitat restoration projects throughout the coastal United States, which includes the Great Lakes and territories. Many of these programs are housed within the National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Habitat Conservation's Restoration Center (NOAA RC). Projects implemented by NOAA vary in terms of their size, complexity, geographic location and NOAA involvement, and often benefit a wide range of habitat types and affect a number of different species. Fish passage, hydrologic/tidal reconnection, shellfish restoration, coral recovery, salt marsh and barrier island restoration, erosion prevention, debris removal, and invasive species removal, are all examples of project types implemented by NOAA through its various programs.

Written comments on the DPEIS should be directed via mail, fax, or electronic mail to the responsible official identified below by March 20, 2015.

Responsible Official: Frederick C. Sutter
Director, Office of Habitat Conservation
Restoration Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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Sincerely,

For: Patricia A. Montanio
NOAA NEPA Coordinator

Enclosure

