

***FORT PICKENS FERRY SUPPORT FACILITIES AND SHUTTLE SERVICE
RELEVANT CORRESPONDENCES***

**GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE – US DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**

JUNE 2015

LETTERS SENT BY NPS

AGENCY CONSULTATION

- From Gulf Islands National Seashore to National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the Endangered Species Act, February 5, 2015
- From Gulf Islands National Seashore to National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the Magnuson-Stevens Act, January 30, 2015
- From Gulf Islands National Seashore to State Historic Preservation Officer regarding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, January 30, 2015.
- From Gulf Islands National Seashore to United States Army Corps of Engineers regarding the Clean Water Act and NPS Management Policies 2006, January 30, 2015.
- From Gulf Islands National Seashore to United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the Endangered Species Act, January 30, 2015.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

- Gulf Islands National Seashore to various tribes (listed below), request for information for the *Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment*, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida Address, January 30, 2015.
 - Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Tribal Council Chairman
 - Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Historic Preservation Officer
 - Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Chief
 - Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Director of Cultural Preservation
 - Chickasaw Nation, Governor
 - Chickasaw Nation, NAGPRA Representative
 - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Chief
 - Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Chief
 - Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Chief
 - Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Kialegee Tribal Town, Mekko
 - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Section 106 Coordinator
 - Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Chairman
 - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Chief
 - Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, Tribal Archeologist/Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Muscogee Creek Nation, Principal Chief
 - Muscogee Creek Nation, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Muscogee Creek Nation, Interim Manager Assistant
 - Poarch Band of Creek, Tribal Chairman
 - Poarch Band of Creek, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

- Seminole Tribe of Florida, Chairman
- Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Chief
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Historic Preservation Officer
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Town King
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe, Chairman
- Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

RESPONSES RECEIVED BY NPS

- From US Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, to Gulf Islands National Seashore, February 11, 2015
- From Chickasaw Nation to Gulf Islands National Seashore, February 13, 2015
- From Jena Band of Choctaw Indians to Gulf Islands National Seashore, February 27, 2015
- From Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas to Gulf Islands National Seashore, March 3, 2015
- From Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma to Gulf Islands National Seashore, March 9, 2015
- From Seminole Tribe of Florida, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, to Gulf Islands National Seashore, March 13, 2015
- From Florida State Clearinghouse to Gulf Islands National Seashore, March 26, 2015, with enclosures:
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, March 18, 2015
 - Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Northwest District Office
 - Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, February 18, 2015
- From US Fish and Wildlife Service, Panama City Field Office, to Gulf Islands National Seashore, April 2, 2015

[Per NMFS's request, all ESA consultation should be submitted via email:
nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov]



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process and is proposing to have an environmental assessment (EA) available for public and agency review in Spring 2015. This letter also serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended. We have also contacted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A separate letter is being sent to initiate informal consultation regarding designated essential fish habitat.

Compliance was completed and consultation was conducted for previous planning efforts related to this project. The NPS received concurrence from NMFS for construction of the ferry pier in an letter dated August 22, 2011 (attached). Compliance for the Pensacola Bay ferry operation was completed with the "Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project" in the selected alternative for the *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*, on which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was a cooperating agency.

The park solicited scoping comments during a public comment period from September 17 through October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Daniel R. Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

August 22, 2011, concurrence letter

 Project Area (353.47 Acres)

NORTH



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEI, AerialGrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PENSACOLA BAY



GULF
OF
MEXICO

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Project Area

Gulf Islands National Seashore



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-5505
727.824.5312, FAX 824.5309
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

AUG 22 2011

F/SER31:CH

Ms. Nina Kelson
Gulf Islands National Seashore
Department of Interior
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563

Mr. Michael Malsom
Mobile District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Re: SAJ-2011-01150

Dear Ms. Kelson and Mr. Malsom:

This responds to the National Park Service (NPS) March 5, 2010, letter requesting National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurrence with your project-effect determinations pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the NPS's proposal to construct the Fort Pickens Passenger Ferry Pier and operate a ferry service at the Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS), Florida. The NPS has requested the necessary construction permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; therefore, both federal agencies are consulting under the ESA. NMFS requested additional information via e-mail on April 21, 2010, which NPS provided, in part, on July 9, 2010. A second request for information was sent via e-mail on August 17, 2010, and a conference call was held on April 26, 2011, to discuss the proposed action and reiterate our request. Information was received on June 6, 2011. NMFS requested further information regarding proposed ferry operations via e-mail on July 7, 2011, which was received via e-mail July 19, 2011. NPS determined that the proposed activities may affect but are not likely to adversely affect five species of swimming sea turtles, Gulf sturgeon, and Gulf sturgeon designated critical habitat under NMFS' purview. NMFS' determinations regarding the effects of the proposed action are based on the description of the action in this informal consultation. You are reminded that any changes to the proposed action may negate the findings of the present consultation and may require reinitiation of consultation with NMFS.

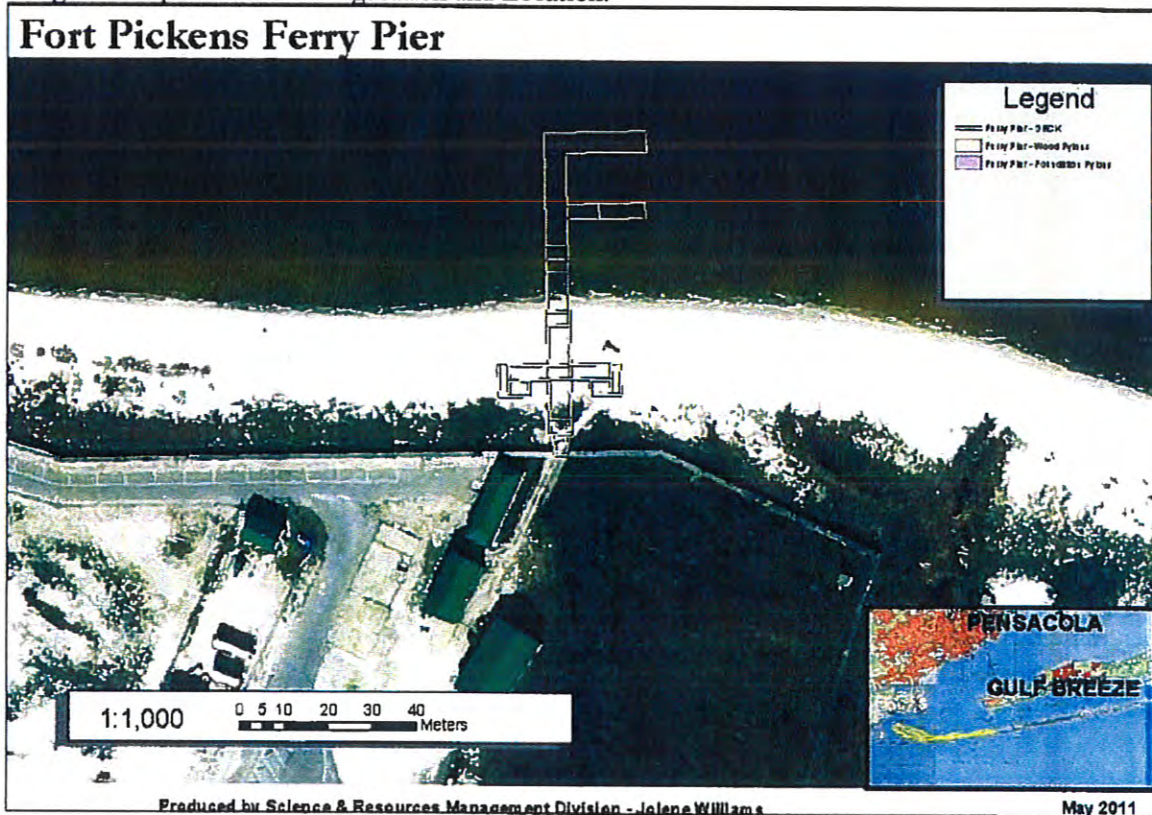
The NPS proposes to construct a permanent pier in the Fort Pickens Area of the GUIS as part of a new regional water transportation system to accommodate a pedestrian ferry service to Fort



Pickens from the mainland. The Fort Pickens Area is located on the Pensacola Bay side on the westernmost end of Santa Rosa Island. The proposed pier is located in the Fort Pickens Area of Santa Rosa Island in Escambia County, Florida, at latitude 30.32983°N and longitude 87.28888°W (NAD83). The proposed ferry service will navigate a designated route in Pensacola Bay.

The proposed pier will be an "F" configuration attached to the existing seawall, crossing the beach uplands and extending approximately 240 feet into Pensacola Bay (see Image 1), where water depths range from the shallow swash zone at the base of the pier to approximately -10 feet mean low water at the pier's terminus. The portion of the access walkway located over water will be 16 feet by 240 feet, the terminal platform will be 16 feet by 60 feet, and the secondary platform will be 11.6 feet by 60 feet. Construction will be conducted from a shallow-draft barge, and piles will be driven or jetted into place. The pier will only be utilized for docking by the Fort Pickens ferries. Recreational vessels and vessels operating under commercial use permits will not be permitted to moor at the proposed pier. According to the 2010 Biological Assessment conducted by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting Inc., there are no seagrass beds located within the project site. The applicant will use turbidity controls during the in-water portion of the work. Once construction is completed, "No Fishing" signs will be posted on the pier. The applicant will comply with NMFS' *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions*, dated March 23, 2006. The construction time frame is 6 months, including 3 months of in-water work.

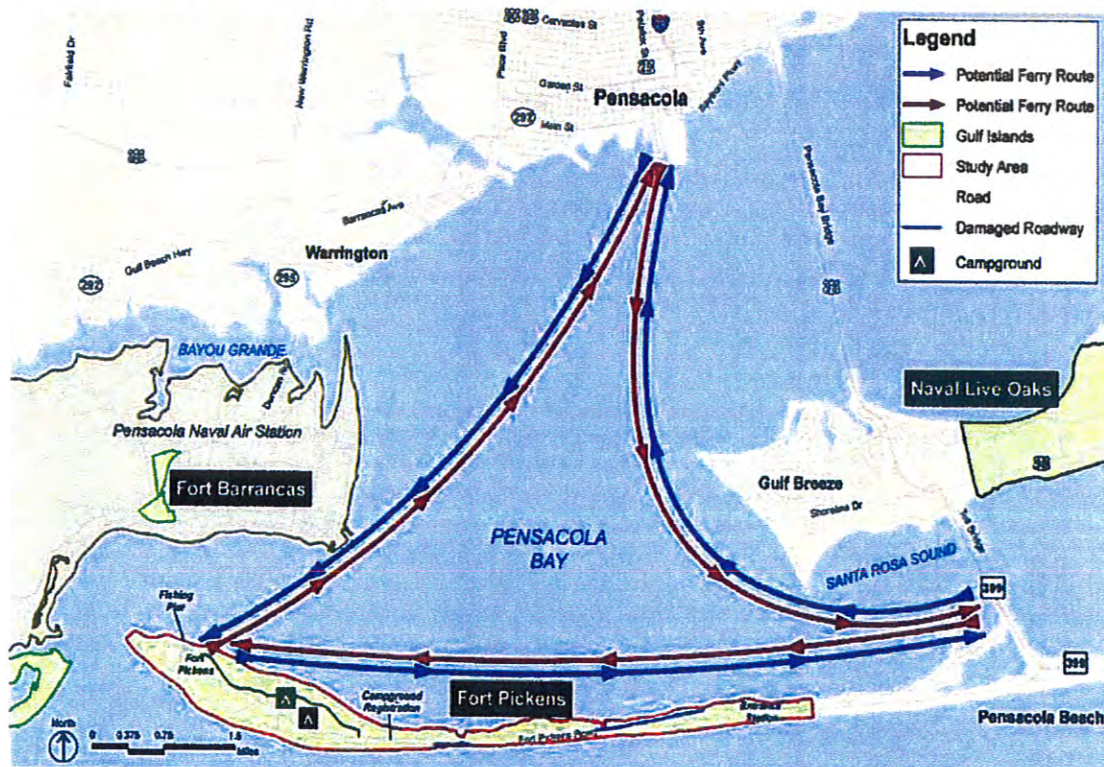
Image 1. Proposed Pier Configuration and Location.



The ferry service will include two vessels: each vessel will travel a 3-stop loop, in opposite directions, 3 times a day. Ferry traffic will follow a designated navigational route (see Image 2).

Ferry vessels will traverse the designated route and stops will be made at the proposed Fort Pickens ferry pier, Pensacola Harbor (located on the mainland), and the Pensacola Beach pier (located on the eastern side of Santa Rosa Island). The proposed 3-stop loop round-trip is approximately 23.3 miles. Existing piers and access infrastructure will be used at the Pensacola Harbor and the Pensacola Beach pier. NPS anticipates that the two ferries combined will run a total of 6 round-trips per day during a 15-week peak season, depending on weather conditions and demand. Ferry service will operate 6 days a week, Tuesday through Sunday, during daylight hours only. The passenger ferry vessels will be approximately 65 feet long, hold up to 150 passengers, and cruise at a maximum 12-20 knots.

Image 2. Ferry route and stop locations.



NPS proposes the following precautionary measures to protect sea turtles from ferry vessel strikes. The NPS will incorporate the below measures into the ferry service contract.

1. Captain and crew members will be trained to and will observe for the presence of sea turtles while operating the vessel.
2. If sea turtles are observed greater than 50 yards ahead of the vessel, the captain will reduce vessel speed and alter vessel route to maintain a minimum 50-yard distance.
3. If sea turtles are observed within 50 yards ahead of the vessel, the captain will reduce vessel speed to 5 knots and alter vessel route to maintain a minimum 50-yard distance.
4. If a sea turtle is struck by the ferry, consultation must immediately be initiated. No take of any species is being authorized under this consultation. All injured or dead sea turtle sighting must be reported to the Florida's Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network at 1-800-404-3922. Incidents of take of sea turtles resulting from ferry traffic must also be reported immediately (and cite consultation I/SER/20100/01415) to NMFS, Southeast

Regional office via phone at (727) 824-5312 and by e-mailing:
takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov.

Five ESA-listed species of sea turtles (the endangered leatherback, Kemp's ridley, and hawksbill; the threatened/endangered¹ green; and the threatened loggerhead), smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon may occur at the project site. The proposed project is located within designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat Unit 9, Pensacola Bay. The habitat features that are essential for the conservation of Gulf sturgeon present in Unit 9 include prey abundance, water quality and sediment quality necessary for normal behavior, growth and viability, and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways necessary for passage within and between riverine, estuarine and marine habitats. Of these essential features, NMFS believes prey abundance, water quality, and safe and unobstructed migratory pathways may be affected.

NMFS has identified the following potential effects to sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon and concluded that they are not likely to be adversely affected by the proposed action. Effects to sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon include the risk of injury from construction, which will be discountable due to the species' mobility and the implementation of NMFS' *Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions*. Sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon are likely to avoid the area during construction due to noise. The effects on these species due to avoidance of, and exclusion from, potential foraging habitat due to construction activities are insignificant because they are temporary and only a small area will be affected, relative to the foraging habitat available in Pensacola Bay. Disturbance from construction activities (pile driving) and related noise will be intermittent and only occur during the day. Turbidity curtains will only enclose the small project area, will be removed upon project completion, and will not appreciably interfere with use of the area by listed species.

Vessel traffic resulting from the creation of a ferry service to Fort Pickens will increase the amount of vessel traffic within the action area. Vessel traffic can pose a risk of collisions between a vessel and sea turtle. However, NMFS believes that the risk of vessel strike impacts to sea turtles resulting from ferry traffic is discountable due to the species' mobility and the required harm avoidance measures. Incorporation of the aforementioned precautionary measures, including training ferry crew members to observe for swimming sea turtles, and restricting ferry speeds when turtles are observed, will further reduce the likelihood of the ferry striking a swimming sea turtle during operations. Additionally, the introduction of a scheduled ferry service could potentially reduce the number of recreational vessels traversing from the mainland to Fort Pickens, as well as the number of private commercial transport services, which are currently making trips from the mainland to Fort Pickens. Based on the above, we believe that the risk of vessel strike impacts to sea turtles from ferry operations is discountable.

NMFS and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service jointly designated Gulf sturgeon critical habitat on April 18, 2003 (50 CFR 226.214). NMFS believes the project is not likely to adversely affect Gulf sturgeon critical habitat in Unit 9, Santa Rosa Sound. Effects on prey abundance due to the construction of the pier will be insignificant. Gulf sturgeon prey may be removed by the placement of the pier supports; however, prey under the remaining pier will not be affected and sturgeon will still be able to forage once construction is completed. Water quality impacts from the project will be insignificant because turbidity resulting from construction will be temporary

¹ Green turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations in Florida and the Pacific Coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.

and minimized by the use of turbidity curtains. The use of turbidity curtains will prevent Gulf sturgeon from entering the project site during construction. However, the effects to safe and unobstructed migratory pathways will be insignificant as access will not be blocked by pier construction. Impacts to all essential features in designated critical habitat Unit 9 will be insignificant and will not affect the ability of Unit 9 to provide for normal behavior, growth, and viability of Gulf sturgeon life stages.

This concludes your consultation responsibilities under the ESA for species under NMFS' purview. Consultation must be reinitiated if a take occurs or new information reveals effects of the action not previously considered, or the identified action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, or if a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the identified action.

We have enclosed additional information on other statutory requirements that may apply to this action, and on NMFS' Public Consultation Tracking System to allow you to track the status of ESA consultations. If you have any questions, please contact Calusa Horn (727) 824-5312 or by e-mail at calusa.horn@noaa.gov. Thank you for your continued cooperation in the conservation of listed species.

Sincerely,



for Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

Ref: I/SER/2011/01415

File: 1514-22.p



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Mark Sramek
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Mr. Sramek:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS) has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process and is proposing to have an environmental assessment (EA) available for public and agency review in Spring 2015. This letter also serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act), and NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

Species of sea turtles are known to exist within the Fort Pickens Area of GUIS. Impacts on sea turtles could result from the proposed changes to beach access patterns within the project area. This action would include designating a specific path for beach access near Battery 234 (see project area graphic) and could include the installation of a walkway. A separate letter is being sent to initiation informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding threatened and endangered species and critical habitat.

Compliance was completed and consultation was conducted for previous planning efforts related to this project. The NPS received concurrence from NMFS for construction of the ferry pier in an email dated August 23, 2011 (attached). Compliance for the Pensacola Bay ferry operation was completed with the "Gulf Islands National Seashore Ferry Project" in the selected alternative for the *Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*, on which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was a cooperating agency.

The park solicited scoping comments during a public comment period from September 17 through October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

August 23, 2011, concurrence email

Mark Thompson
<Mark.Thompson@noaa.gov>

08/23/2011 12:48 PM

To Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
cc Michael.F.Malsom@usace.army.mil,
Rick_Clark@nps.gov, Veronica Beech
<Veronica.Beech@noaa.gov>,
Holly.M.Millshap@usace.army.mil
bcc

Subject Re: Fort Pickens Passenger Ferry Pier - NMFS
Consultation for Essential Fish Habitat----Corrected....

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, (NMFS-HCD) has received your request for concurrence under the essential fish habitat (EFH) provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act regarding the construction of a pier in Pensacola Bay at the Fort Pickens area, Escambia County, Florida. We have reviewed the information provided and the NMFS-HCD does not have any EFH conservation recommendations to offer. Accordingly, we have NO objections to the project.

Thank you for your effort to comply with the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. If you have any questions regarding these comment, please contact myself or Veronica Beech at 850-234-5061.

Sincerely,

Mark Thompson

--

Mark Thompson, Team Leader
Habitat Conservation Division
Florida Gulf Coast, Alabama, Mississippi
Panama City Office 850-234-5061
Fax 850-234-2492

 Project Area (353.47 Acres)

NORTH



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PENSACOLA BAY



GULF
OF
MEXICO

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and
Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Project Area

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Gulf Islands National Seashore





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Ms. Alissa Slade Lotane
R.A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Dear Ms. Lotane:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area and area of potential effect are shown on the attached figures.

To comply with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the environmental assessment (EA) is being prepared to assess potential impacts on natural and cultural resources. The EA will include an assessment of cultural resources potentially affected by the proposed action. The NPS will also prepare an Assessment of Effect in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended), as applicable. Full NHPA compliance will be conducted by the park separately from, but concurrent with, the EA. This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore has begun the NEPA and NHPA Section 106 compliance process and is proposing to have an EA available for public and agency review in Spring 2015.

The park solicited scoping comments during a public comment period from September 17 through October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

Area of Potential Effect (graphic)

Project Area (353.47 Acres)

NORTH



2,000 Feet

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, iGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

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PENSACOLA BAY



Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and
Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Project Area



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore

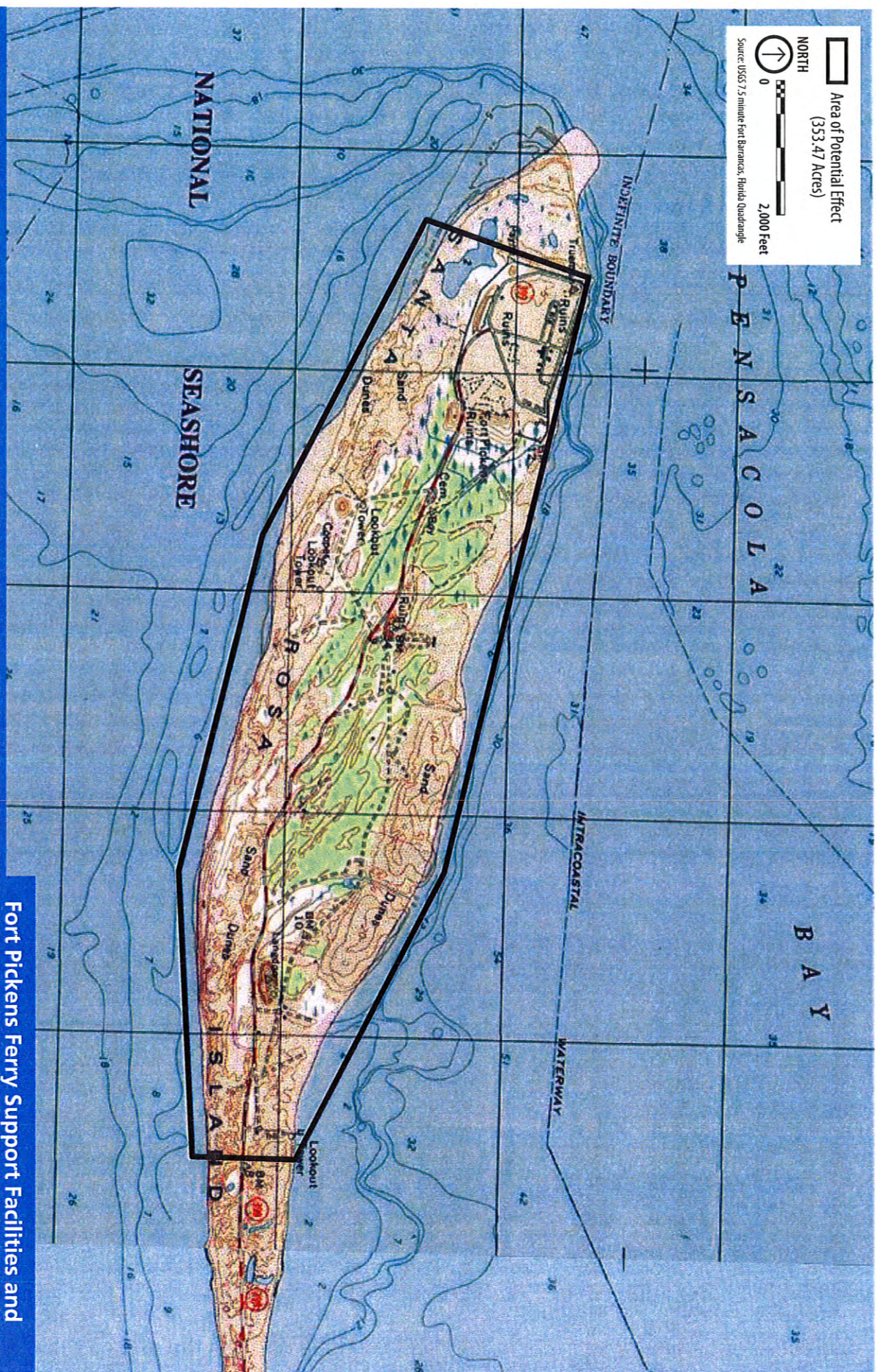
Area of Potential Effect

(353.47 Acres)

NORTH

0 2,000 Feet

Source: USGS 7.5 minute Fort Barranca, Florida Quadrangle



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Gulf Islands National Seashore

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Area of Potential Effect



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Ed Sarfert
Senior Project Manager
Pensacola Regulatory Office
Jacksonville District, US Army Corps of Engineers
41 North Jefferson St., Suite 301
Pensacola, FL 32502

Dear Mr. Sarfert:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve existing facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process and is proposing to have an environmental assessment (EA) available for public and agency review in Spring 2015. This letter also serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the Clean Water Act, as amended, and NPS *Management Policies 2006*. The NPS is aware that this project is located within a 100 year floodplain and has adjacent wetlands. The only wetlands that may be impacted would be during utility trenching in the vicinity of Battery 234.

The park solicited scoping comments during a public comment period from September 17 to October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

IPAC Report – NWI Excerpt

 Project Area (353.47 Acres)

NORTH



0 2,000 Feet

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, i-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PENSACOLA BAY



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OF
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Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Project Area

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore





Trust Resources List

Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Swainson's Warbler (<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Swallow-Tailed Kite (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Wilson's Plover (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering

NWI Wetlands ([USFWS National Wetlands Inventory](#)).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Data Limitations, Exclusions and Precautions

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.



Trust Resources List

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery and/or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Exclusions - Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Precautions - Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

The following wetland types intersect your project area in one or more locations:

Wetland Types	NWI Classification Code	Total Acres
Estuarine and Marine Deepwater	E1UBL	226823.7033
Estuarine and Marine Wetland	E2EM1P	0.4243
Estuarine and Marine Wetland	M2USP	330.6695
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1/SS1Cd	6.2359
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1F	4.1675
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1As	0.4238
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1C	19.5935
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1A	12.0457
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1/SS3Cd	10.0944



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1/FO4A	11.6782
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1/FO4Cd	11.48
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1Ad	13.4456
Freshwater Emergent Wetland	PEM1Cd	21.9828
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Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PFO4C	0.4556
Freshwater Pond	PUBH	7.7805
Riverine	R2UBHx	3.0864



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Catherine Phillips, PhD
Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1601 Balboa Avenue
Panama City, FL 32405

Dear Dr. Phillips:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process and is proposing to have an environmental assessment (EA) available for public and agency review in Spring 2015. This letter also serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended.

During these initial stages, the NPS has initiated preliminary data gathering efforts. An IPaC report (attached) lists the following species as possibly occurring within the project area: reticulated flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma bishop*), piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), wood stork (*Mycteria americana*), choctaw bean (*Villosa choctawensis*), fuzzy pigtoe (*Pleurobema strodeanum*), narrow pigtoe (*Fusconaia Escambia*), round ebonyshell (*Fusconaia rotulata*), Atlantic sturgeon (Gulf subspecies) (*Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynchus) desotoi*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), gopher

tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*). This letter is a formal request for additional information your agency may have concerning federal and state rare, threatened, and endangered species which are documented or reasonably suspected within the vicinity of Gulf Islands National Seashore. We have also contacted the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The park solicited scoping comments during a public comment period from September 17 to October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel R. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

IPaC Report

 Project Area (353.47 Acres)

NORTH



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PENSACOLA BAY



GULF
OF
MEXICO

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Project Area



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

Panama City Ecological Services Field Office

1601 BALBOA AVENUE

PANAMA CITY, FL 32405

(850) 769-0552

<http://www.fws.gov/panamacity/specieslist.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/panamacity/pcdata.html>

Project Name:

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Trust Resources List

Project Location Map:



Project Location Measurements:

Area : 368.0 ac.

Length : 6.1 mi.

Project Counties:

Escambia, FL



Trust Resources List

Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):

MULTIPOLYGON (((-87.2961203 30.3311912, -87.2876359 30.3298188, -87.2880651 30.3268184, -87.2847177 30.3251144, -87.2830869 30.3255589, -87.2813703 30.325633, -87.2783662 30.3253737, -87.2763063 30.3243365, -87.2766067 30.3228917, -87.2672511 30.3199282, -87.2644616 30.3199652, -87.2581101 30.3188538, -87.2575952 30.3170015, -87.2621013 30.3167792, -87.2651053 30.3180018, -87.2687531 30.3180388, -87.2707702 30.3187427, -87.2713281 30.3186316, -87.2737313 30.3197429, -87.2760058 30.320632, -87.2785808 30.3218915, -87.2805549 30.3208172, -87.2836448 30.3202616, -87.2866918 30.3205579, -87.2866488 30.322262, -87.287078 30.3251144, -87.2889234 30.3255218, -87.2902108 30.3254848, -87.293172 30.3244476, -87.2952748 30.325633, -87.2981072 30.3267498, -87.2961203 30.3311912)))

Project Type:

Transportation

Endangered Species Act Species List ([USFWS Endangered Species Program](#)).

There are a total of 17 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fishes may appear on the species list because a project could cause downstream effects on the species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section below for critical habitat that lies within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Species that should be considered in an effects analysis for your project:

Amphibians	Status		Has Critical Habitat	Contact
Reticulated flatwoods salamander (<i>Ambystoma bishopi</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Birds				
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) Population: except Great Lakes watershed	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>) Population:	Proposed Threatened	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office



Trust Resources List

Red-Cockaded woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Wood stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>) Population: AL, FL, GA, MS, NC, SC	Threatened	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Clams				
Choctaw bean (<i>Villosa choctawensis</i>)	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Fuzzy pigtoe (<i>Pleurobema strodeanum</i>)	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Narrow pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia escambia</i>)	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Round Ebonyshell (<i>Fusconaia rotulata</i>)	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Fishes				
Atlantic sturgeon (Gulf subspecies) (<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynchus) desotoi</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Mammals				
West Indian Manatee (<i>Trichechus manatus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Reptiles				
Eastern Indigo snake (<i>Drymarchon corais couperi</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office



Trust Resources List

Gopher tortoise (<i>Gopherus polyphemus</i>) Population: eastern	Candidate	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Green sea turtle (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>) Population: FL, Mexico nesting pops.	Endangered	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Hawksbill sea turtle (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Kemp's Ridley sea turtle (<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info		Panama City Ecological Services Field Office
Leatherback sea turtle (<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Panama City Ecological Services Field Office

Critical habitats within your project area: ([View all critical habitats within your project area on one map](#))

The following critical habitats lie fully or partially within your project area.

Fishes	Critical Habitat Type
Atlantic sturgeon (Gulf subspecies) (<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus (=oxyrhynechus) desotoi</i>) Population: Entire	Final designated critical habitat

FWS National Wildlife Refuges ([USFWS National Wildlife Refuges Program](#)).

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

FWS Migratory Birds ([USFWS Migratory Bird Program](#)).

The protection of birds is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec.



Trust Resources List

10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. For more information regarding these Acts see: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/RegulationsandPolicies.html>.

All project proponents are responsible for complying with the appropriate regulations protecting birds when planning and developing a project. To meet these conservation obligations, proponents should identify potential or existing project-related impacts to migratory birds and their habitat and develop and implement conservation measures that avoid, minimize, or compensate for these impacts. The Service's Birds of Conservation Concern (2008) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

For information about Birds of Conservation Concern, go to:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Management/BCC.html>.

To search and view summaries of year-round bird occurrence data within your project area, go to the Avian Knowledge Network Histogram Tool links in the Bird Conservation Tools section at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

For information about conservation measures that help avoid or minimize impacts to birds, please visit:

<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CCMB2.htm>.

Migratory birds of concern that may be affected by your project:

There are 30 birds on your Migratory birds of concern list. The underlying data layers used to generate the migratory bird list of concern will continue to be updated regularly as new and better information is obtained. User feedback is one method of identifying any needed improvements. Therefore, users are encouraged to submit comments about any questions regarding species ranges (e.g., a bird on the USFWS BCC list you know does not occur in the specified location appears on the list, or a BCC species that you know does occur there is not appearing on the list). Comments should be sent to [the ECOS Help Desk](#).

Species Name	Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC)	Species Profile	Seasonal Occurrence in Project Area
American Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
American bittern (<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Bachman's sparrow (<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round



Trust Resources List

Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Gull-billed Tern (<i>Gelochelidon nilotica</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Henslow's sparrow (<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Le Conte's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Least Bittern (<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Lesser Yellowlegs (<i>Tringa flavipes</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Loggerhead Shrike (<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Magnificent Frigatebird (<i>Fregata magnificens</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Marbled Godwit (<i>Limosa fedoa</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Mississippi Kite (<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Nelson's Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Prothonotary Warbler (<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Red-headed Woodpecker (<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Reddish egret (<i>Egretta rufescens</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round
Rusty Blackbird (<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Seaside Sparrow (<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>)	Yes	species info	Year-round



Trust Resources List

Short-billed Dowitcher (<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Snowy Plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Swainson's Warbler (<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Swallow-Tailed Kite (<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering
Wilson's Plover (<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Wood Thrush (<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>)	Yes	species info	Breeding
Yellow Rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>)	Yes	species info	Wintering

NWI Wetlands ([USFWS National Wetlands Inventory](#)).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Data Limitations, Exclusions and Precautions

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.



Trust Resources List

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Trust Resources List

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Freshwater Pond	PUBH	7.7805
Riverine	R2UBHx	3.0864



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Ronnie Thomas, Tribal Council Chairman
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Rd 56
Livingston, Texas 77351

Dear Mr. Thomas:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

This letter serves as notification that Gulf Islands National Seashore has begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process and is proposing to have an environmental assessment (EA) available for public and agency review in Spring 2015. The NPS will prepare an Assessment of Effect in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As part of the proposed action, the NPS is considering adaptive reuse of historic structures within the Fort Pickens Historic District, as discussed with the SHPO on November 21, 2014, site visit. We appreciate your input, and we will continue coordination with your office during preparation of the Assessment of Effect, in accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

The park solicited scoping comments during a comment period from September 17 to October 17, 2014. Information regarding the current status of this project is available through the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>.

We appreciate your initial input on this project and look forward to working with you as we move forward. If you would like any additional information regarding this project, please contact Jolene Williams by telephone 228-230-4132 or by email at jolene_williams@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)

Project Area (353.47 Acres)



NORTH



0 2,000 Feet



Sources: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

PENSACOLA BAY



GULF
OF
MEXICO

Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Environmental Assessment

Project Area

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Gulf Islands National Seashore





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Rd 56
Livingston, Texas 77351

Dear Mr. Celestine:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Tarpie Yargee, Chief
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
PO Box 187
Wetumka, OK 74883

Dear Chief Yargee:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Augustine Asbury
Director of Cultural Preservation
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
PO Box 187
Wetumka, OK 74883

Dear Director Asbury:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Sincerely,

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Bill Anoatubby, Governor
Chickasaw Nation
PO Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821

Dear Governor Anoatubby:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

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Project Area (graphic)



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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida Address

Virginia Nail
NAGPRA Representative
Chickasaw Nation
PO Box 1548
Ada, OK 75821

Dear Ms. Nail:

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Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Gregory E. Pyle, Chief
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
PO Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Dear Chief Pyle:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Project Area (graphic)



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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Ian Thompson
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
PO Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702-1210

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

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Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Kevin Sickey, Chief
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
PO Box 818
Elton, LA 70532

Dear Chief Sickey:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Linda Langley
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
PO Box 10
Elton, LA 70532

Dear Ms. Langley:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Cheryl Smith, Chief
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
PO Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

Dear Chief Smith:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Dana Masters
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71342

Dear Ms. Masters:

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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Tiger Hobia, Mekko
Kialegee Tribal Town
PO Box 332
Wetumka, OK 74883

Dear Mekko Hobia:

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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Fred Dayhoff
Section 106 Coordinator
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
HC 61 SR Box 68, Old Loop Road
Ochopee, FL 32141

Dear Mr. Dayhoff:

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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Colley Billie, Chairman
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Tamiami Station PO Box 440021
Miami, FL 33144

Dear Chairman Billie:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)





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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Phyllis J. Anderson, Chief
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 6257
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Dear Chief Anderson:

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Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



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1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida Address

Kenneth Carleton
Tribal Archeologist/THPO
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
PO Box 6257
Philadelphia, MS 39350

Dear Mr. Carleton:

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee Creek Nation
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Chief Tiger:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Emman Spain
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Muscogee Creek Nation
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Mr. Spain:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida Address

Terry Cole
Interim Manager Assistant
Muscogee Creek Nation
PO Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Mr. Cole:

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Buford Rolin, Tribal Chairman
Poarch Band of Creek
5811 Jack Springs Rd
Atmore, AL 36502

Dear Chairman Rolin:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Project Area (graphic)



United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Robert Thrower
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Poarch Band of Creek
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Dear Mr. Thrower:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

James E. Billie, Chairman
Seminole Tribe of Florida
6300 Stirling Rd
Hollywood, FL 33024

Dear Chairman Billie:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Paul Backhouse
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Dear Mr. Backhouse:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Leonard Harjo, Principal Chief
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Seminole Tribal Office
Hwy 59 and 270 Intersection
Wewoka, OK 74884

Dear Chief Harjo:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Natalie Harjo
Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
PO Box 1768
Wewoka, OK 74884

Dear Ms. Harjo:

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L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

George Scott, Town King
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okemah, OK 74859-0188

Dear King Scott:

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Gulf Islands National Seashore
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Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Charles Coleman
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
PO Box 188
Okema, OK 74859

Dear Mr. Coleman:

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Project Area (graphic)



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National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

Earl Barbry, Sr., Chairman
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
PO Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Dear Chairman Barbry:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve facilities and add a shuttle system at Fort Pickens in Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida District to better serve visitors using the approved seasonal passenger ferry service between Fort Pickens, Pensacola, and Pensacola Beach. This project is needed due to a lack of suitable facilities for operational support and services for ferry passengers, and limited access opportunities for ferry passengers. The project area is shown on the attached figure.

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Gulf Islands National Seashore
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Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563



L7617 (GUIS-SRS)

January 30, 2015

Subject: Request for Information for the Environmental Assessment Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
Address

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Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Tunica-Biloxi Indian Tribe
PO Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

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Daniel R. Brown

Superintendent

Enclosures:

Project Area (graphic)



Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>

Ferry Support Facility / Shuttle Service Project - Information for EA1 message

Payne, Lyal C SAJ <Lyal.C.Payne@usace.army.mil>

Wed, Feb 11, 2015 at 11:41 AM

To: "Williams, Jolene" <jolene_williams@nps.gov>, "Payne, Lyal C SAJ" <Lyal.C.Payne@usace.army.mil>

Jolene

On 9 Feb 2015, my office received the National Park Service (NPS) request for response from the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding this project. The 30 Jan 2015 NPS correspondence acknowledges that NPS is seeking informal consultation with the Corps pursuant to the Clean Water Act and NPS management policies 2006. The correspondence references the presence of wetlands in the project area and notes that the only wetlands that might be disturbed would be associated with utility trenching in the vicinity of Battery 234.

The NPS correspondence notes that project information may be viewed at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/guis>. The Corps has accessed and reviewed documents found at the referenced link. The documents provide a general overview of the project. The Corps has not reviewed the NPS management policies 2006.

The Corps feedback regarding the referenced wetlands is to avoid and minimize impacts to the maximum extent possible by using directional bore in lieu of open trench if feasible, implement erosion controls as would be accomplished with any similar construction effort and upon completion of the work, re-establish pre-project contours, elevations and vegetative cover.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and pls let me know if you have questions.

Clif Payne
Section Chief
Regulatory Division
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
41 North Jefferson Street Suite 301
Pensacola, Florida 32502

Voice Line - 850-433-8732
Fax - 850-433-8160
lyal.c.payne@usace.army.mil



Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>

RE: Fort Pickens Ferry Support

2 messages

Timothy Baugh <Timothy.Baugh@chickasaw.net>
To: "jolene_williams@nps.gov" <jolene_williams@nps.gov>

Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 8:47 AM

Dear Ms. Williams:

As far as we can establish, The Chickasaw Nation did not have a presence on the Gulf Islands off of the Alabama and Florida. Thank you for the invitation to consult, but we must respectfully decline. We appreciate your efforts to preserve and protect significant historic properties. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Best Wishes,

Timothy G. Baugh, PhD
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Divison of Historic Preservation
Chickasaw Nation
P. O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821-1548
580.272.1106
Ext. 62211
timothy.baugh@chickasaw.net

Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
To: Timothy Baugh <Timothy.Baugh@chickasaw.net>

Fri, Feb 13, 2015 at 9:14 AM

Thank you for responding...jolene
[Quoted text hidden]

Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
NEPA Environmental Compliance
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

Leatherbee, Erin

From: Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2015 2:54 PM
To: Lee Terzis; David Ogden; Steven Culver; Murphy, Mariah
Subject: Fwd: EA of Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, Gulf Islands National Seashore, FL

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

fyi

Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
NEPA Environmental Compliance
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Alina Shively <ashively@jenachoctaw.org>
Date: Fri, Feb 27, 2015 at 1:45 PM
Subject: EA of Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, Gulf Islands National Seashore, FL
To: "jolene_williams@nps.gov" <jolene_williams@nps.gov>

Dear Ms. Williams:

Regarding the above-mentioned project, the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians' THPO hereby requests a copy of the Environmental Assessment, upon completion, as we are concerned with any Cultural Resources that may be affected by this project. This information may be sent via the contact information below.

Also, Ms. Masters has resigned her position as of November 2014. Information should be sent to Alina J. Shively, Deputy THPO. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Alina J. Shively

Jena Band of Choctaw Indians

Deputy THPO

P.O. Box 14

Jena, LA 71342

(318) 992-1205

ashively@jenachoctaw.org

Leatherbee, Erin

From: Terzis, Lee <lee_terzis@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 4:38 PM
To: Walsh, Rita; Murphy, Mariah
Subject: Fwd: Ferry Support Facilities & Shuttle Service

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: _GUIS Fort Pickens

FYI for the record.

Lee Terzis
NPS Denver Service Center Transportation Division
1155 E Pearl St
Monticello, FL 32344
(850) 997-9972 office
(720) 724-3406 cell



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
Date: Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 4:26 PM
Subject: Re: Ferry Support Facilities & Shuttle Service
To: Bryant Celestine <Celestine.Bryant@actribe.org>
Cc: David Ogden <David_Ogden@nps.gov>

sure thing!

Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
NEPA Environmental Compliance
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

On Tue, Mar 17, 2015 at 2:48 PM, Bryant Celestine <Celestine.Bryant@actribe.org> wrote:

Thank you! I'll take a look when I get a chance and would appreciate a copy of the completed report.

Bryant J. Celestine

Historic Preservation Officer

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

571 State Park Road 56

Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 563 – 1181 (office)

(936) 933 – 7297 (cell)

Celestine.bryant@actribe.org

From: Williams, Jolene [mailto:jolene_williams@nps.gov]

Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 5:34 PM

To: Bryant Celestine

Cc: David Ogden

Subject: Re: Ferry Support Facilities & Shuttle Service

Hi Bryant

attached is a map of the Fort Pickens area showing 2 Native American Archaeological sites and an excerpt of our archaeological sites management information system with information. NPS archaeologists are working on a schedule for additional archeological fieldwork in the area of potential effect, which we anticipate will happen this spring. If you would like, we can send you the Phase I archeological report after it is complete.

any questions, please ask, thanks

Jolene Williams

Environmental Protection Specialist

NEPA Environmental Compliance

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief

Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene.Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

On Tue, Mar 3, 2015 at 12:03 PM, Bryant Celestine <Celestine.Bryant@actribe.org> wrote:

Dear Ms. Williams:

I have reviewed the January 30, 2015 letter as well as the “Public Boards” on the NPS website; however, I am not in possession of any archaeological information pertaining to the project site as well as the indirect areas of potential effect. While the general public should not have immediate access to such information, as the Historic Preservation Office for the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas with affiliation in the state of Florida and the project area, we are not able to determine the impacts to cultural assets as a result of the project, regardless of whether the action is taken under the National Environmental Policy Act or National Historic Preservation Act. If archaeological information or surveys are available, we would appreciate a copy for our records and for our review.

Thank you,

Bryant J. Celestine

Historic Preservation Officer

Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas

571 State Park Road 56

Livingston, Texas 77351

(936) 563 – 1181 (office)

(936) 933 – 7297 (cell)

Celestine.bryant@actribe.org

Leatherbee, Erin

From: Terzis, Lee <lee_terzis@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 6:48 PM
To: Walsh, Rita; Murphy, Mariah
Subject: Fwd: EA for Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, NPS, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: _GUIS Fort Pickens

FYI for the admin record.

L.

Lee Terzis
NPS Denver Service Center Transportation Division
1155 E Pearl St
Monticello, FL 32344
(850) 997-9972 office
(720) 724-3406 cell



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
Date: Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 6:22 PM
Subject: Re: EA for Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project, NPS, Gulf Islands National Seashore, Florida
To: Lindsey Bilyeu <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com>

we will, thanks Lindsey

...jolene

Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
NEPA Environmental Compliance
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief

Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

On Mon, Mar 9, 2015 at 2:48 PM, Lindsey Bilyeu <lbilyeu@choctawnation.com> wrote:

Ms. Williams,

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma thanks the Gulf Islands National Seashore for the correspondence regarding the above referenced project. This project lies in the Choctaw Nation's area of historic interest. The Choctaw Nation requests to be a consulting party on this project.

Gulf Islands National Seashore contains land that was inhabited by the Pensacola, who are ancestral to the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma. Please forward our office a copy of the project's EA and Assessment of Effect.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 580-924-8280 ext. 2631.

Thank you,

Lindsey D. Bilyeu

NHPA Senior Section 106 Reviewer

Historic Preservation Department

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 1210

Durant, OK 74701

580-924-8280 ext. 2631

lbilyeu@choctawnation.com

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**SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM**

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

30290 JOSIE BILLIE HWY
PMB 1004
CLEWISTON, FL 33440

PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117



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TONY SANCHEZ, JR.

SECRETARY
LAVONNE KIPPENBERGER

TREASURER
PETER HAHN

March 13, 2015

Jolene Williams
National Park Service
Gulf Islands National Seashore
1801 Gulf Breeze Parkway
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
Phone: 228-230-4312
Email: jolene_williams@nps.gov

Dear Ms. Williams,

Subject: Request for Information, Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project
THPO#: 0028432

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) thanks you for contacting the Tribe regarding the above referenced project. This letter is to acknowledge that the STOF-THPO received your letter on February 12, 2015. Although we have no objections to the project at this time, because the APE falls within a geographic region that is of ancestral and historical importance to the Tribe the STOF-THPO would like to remain in consultation with the NPS and to receive periodic updates. Thank you and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

Bradley M. Mueller, M.A., Supervisor
STOF-THPO-Compliance Review Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
Office: 863-983-6549 x12245
Email: bradleymueller@semtribe.com



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BUILDING
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000

RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA
LT. GOVERNOR

JONATHAN P. STEVERSON
SECRETARY

March 26, 2015

Ms. Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
Gulf Islands National Seashore
3500 Park Road
Ocean Springs, MS 39564

RE: National Park Service – Scoping Notice – Fort Pickens Ferry Support Facilities and Shuttle Service Project at Gulf Islands National Seashore – Escambia County, Florida.
SAI # FL201502097184

Dear Ms. Williams:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the referenced public notice under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), *Florida Statutes*; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) advises that the construction or renovation of buildings south of the ferry dock and implementation of a shuttle service within the immediate vicinity of Fort Pickens and east approximately one mile to the campground store do not appear to pose any significant threat to imperiled wildlife or their habitats. FWC does, however, recommend that shuttle drivers be trained to be aware of, and avoid, wildlife; specifically small, slow-moving, and cryptic species, that may be encountered on the road. Shuttle speeds should not exceed 15 mph in order to afford the public utilizing the shuttle service to observe the unique ecosystems of the barrier island and to provide shuttle drivers sufficient time to avoid any wildlife encountered on the road. For additional information and coordination on the FWC's recommendations, please contact Dr. Brad Gruver at (850) 617-6062 or Brad.Gruver@MyFWC.com, or Mr. Justin Davis at (850) 767-3623 or Justin.Davis@MyFWC.com.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Northwest District Office staff has reviewed the proposal and notes that construction of the proposed support facilities may require the issuance of an environmental resource permit under Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code, for management of stormwater runoff. A pre-application meeting is recommended to determine the state's permitting requirements. For further information and assistance, please contact Mr. Scott Casey at (850) 595-0574 or Scott.Casey@dep.state.fl.us.

Ms. Jolene Williams
Page 2 of 2
March 26, 2015

Based on the information contained in the scoping notice and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, at this stage, the state has no objections to the proposed federal action. To ensure the project's consistency with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP), however, the concerns identified by the DOS in their letter must be addressed prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, *Florida Statutes*.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me at Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us or (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,



Lauren P. Milligan, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Enclosures

cc: Ashley Livingston, DEP, Northwest District
Scott Sanders, FWC



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

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Project Information	
Project:	FL201502097184
Comments Due:	03/20/2015
Letter Due:	04/01/2015
Description:	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - SCOPING NOTICE - FORT PICKENS FERRY SUPPORT FACILITIES AND SHUTTLE SERVICE PROJECT AT GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE - ESCAMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	NPS - FORT PICKENS FERRY/SHUTTLE SERVICE, GULF ISLANDS NAT. SEASHORE - ESCAMBIA
CFDA #:	15.916
Agency Comments:	
WEST FLORIDA RPC - WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
No Comments	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
The DEP's Northwest District Office staff has reviewed the proposal and notes that construction of the proposed support facilities may require the issuance of an environmental resource permit under Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code, for management of stormwater runoff. A pre-application meeting is recommended to determine the state's permitting requirements. For further information and assistance, please contact Mr. Scott Casey at (850) 595-0574 or Scott.Casey@dep.state.fl.us.	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No Comment/Consistent	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
The FWC advises that the construction or renovation of buildings south of the ferry dock and implementation of a shuttle service within the immediate vicinity of Fort Pickens and east approximately one mile to the campground store do not appear to pose any significant threat to imperiled wildlife or their habitats. FWC does, however, recommend that shuttle drivers be trained to be aware of, and avoid, wildlife; specifically small, slow-moving, and cryptic species, that may be encountered on the road. Shuttle speeds should not exceed 15 mph in order to afford the public utilizing the shuttle service to observe the unique ecosystems of the barrier island and to provide shuttle drivers sufficient time to avoid any wildlife encountered on the road. For further information and coordination on the FWC's recommendations, please contact Dr. Brad Gruver at 850-617-6062 or Brad.Gruver@MyFWC.com, or Mr. Justin Davis at 850-767-3623 or Justin.Davis@MyFWC.com.	

For more information or to submit comments, please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD, M.S. 47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

Visit the [Clearinghouse Home Page](#) to query other projects.

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620 South Meridian Street
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Hearing/speech-impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

March 18, 2015

Ms. Lauren Milligan, Clearinghouse Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: SAI #FL201502097184, National Park Service, Scoping Notice – Fort Pickens
Ferry Facilities and Shuttle Service

Dear Ms. Milligan:

The Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, Species Conservation Planning Section, of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has coordinated our agency's review of the Scoping Notice for the Fort Pickens Ferry Facilities and Shuttle Service project and provides the following comments and recommendations in accordance with the Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program (15 CFR 930 Subpart C).

Project Description

Since 2009, the National Park Service has been working to establish water access to the Fort Pickens area of Gulf Islands National Seashore. In 2011, an Environmental Assessment of the proposed project was completed to identify potential threats to environmental resources. Recently, the park constructed a dock for use by a future ferry service; however, other landside facilities to support visitation via ferry are currently lacking. Although there are a number of historic buildings available for adaptive reuse, they currently offer limited accommodations for the comfort and orientation of ferry visitors. Proposed infrastructure improvements in the vicinity of the newly constructed ferry dock include facilities associated with orientation/gateway/wayfinding information, ferry ticketing/concessions, public restrooms, and passenger queuing.

At present, ferry visitors arriving at Fort Pickens can walk or rent bicycles to visit the beaches and other attractions within the immediate Fort Pickens area. However, there is currently no alternative transportation service available to improve visitor circulation to sites that are further away, such as the campground and amphitheater. A shuttle service has been proposed that would provide park visitors an alternate method of transportation from the Fort Pickens area east to the outlying historic gun batteries (Battery 234 and Battery Cooper), amphitheater, and campground.

Potentially Affected Resources

At the time of this response letter an Environmental Assessment (EA) specific to the Fort Pickens Ferry Facilities and Shuttle Service project had not been submitted to reference the environmental resources identified by the National Park Service as potentially being affected by the project and corresponding mitigation measures that might be applicable. However, pages 6 and 7 in the *Public Scoping Boards_10082014* for this project provide

maps of the proposed location of support facilities and the shuttle service route, respectively. FWC staff are familiar with the project area and potential species of concern therein. Therefore, the comments and recommendations below were made using local knowledge in accordance with the information and maps provided in the *Public Scoping Boards_10082014* document. We would like to review the EA when it is available and may have additional comments at that time.

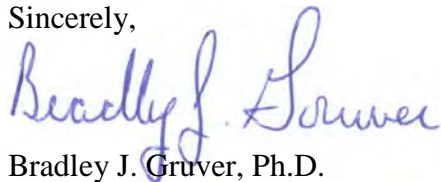
Comments and Recommendations

Construction of new or renovation of existing buildings due south of the newly constructed ferry dock do not appear to pose any significant threat to imperiled wildlife or their habitats. The footprints of the proposed facilities are small in size and fall within an already disturbed section of ground adjacent to existing infrastructure.

The implementation of a shuttle service within the immediate vicinity of Fort Pickens and east approximately one mile to the campground store also does not appear to pose any significant threat to imperiled wildlife or their habitats. We do recommend that shuttle drivers be trained to be aware of, and avoid, wildlife; specifically small, slow-moving, and cryptic species, that may be encountered on the road. We also recommend that shuttle speeds not exceed 15 mph in order to afford the public utilizing the shuttle service to observe the unique ecosystems of the barrier island and to provide shuttle drivers sufficient time to avoid any wildlife encountered on the road.

At this time, the proposed project is consistent with our Chapter 379, Florida Statutes authorities under the Florida Coastal Management Program. If you or your staff would like to coordinate further on the recommendations contained in this report, please contact me at 850-617-6062, or email me at Brad.Gruver@MyFWC.com, and I will be glad to help make the necessary arrangements. If your staff has any specific questions regarding our comments, please contact Justin Davis at 850-767-3623 or by email at Justin.Davis@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,



Bradley J. Gruver, Ph.D.
Section Leader
Species Conservation Planning Section
Division of Habitat and Species Conservation

SCH-106-NPS-G015
2015-0699

RECEIVED

COUNTY: ESCAMBIA

FEB 26 2015

DEP Office of
Intergovt'l Programs

DATE: 2/9/2015

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 3/20/2015

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 4/1/2015

SAI#: FL201502097184

MESSAGE:

STATE AGENCIES

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

FISH and WILDLIFE
COMMISSION

X STATE

WATER MNGMNT.
DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY
UNIT

RPCS & LOC
GOVS

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - SCOPING NOTICE
- FORT PICKENS FERRY SUPPORT FACILITIES
AND SHUTTLE SERVICE PROJECT AT GULF
ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE - ESCAMBIA
COUNTY, FLORIDA.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA Federal Consistency

AGENCY CONTACT AND COORDINATOR (SCH)
3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
FAX: (850) 245-2190

- ☐ No Comment
- ☐ Comment Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable
- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
- ☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- ☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: Historical Resources/Historic Preservation

Reviewer: Timothy Parsons, Deputy SHPO

Date: 2/18/15

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2015 FEB 12 P 5:21

Leatherbee, Erin

From: Williams, Jolene <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2015 4:58 PM
To: Steven Culver; Murphy, Mariah
Cc: Mark Nicholas; Cassity Bromley
Subject: Fwd: L7617 (GUIS-SRS)/FWS #2015-TA-0085 Ft Pickens Ferry Support

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: _GUIS Fort Pickens

below is the response from USFWS.

any questions, please ask, thanks

Jolene Williams
Environmental Protection Specialist
NEPA Environmental Compliance
Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Research Permitting
Hurricane Plans Section Chief
Gulf Islands National Seashore (GUIS)
National Park Service
email: Jolene_Williams@nps.gov
Office: 228-230-4132

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Yanchis, Kristi** <kristi_yanchis@fws.gov>
Date: Thu, Apr 2, 2015 at 3:33 PM
Subject: L7617 (GUIS-SRS)/FWS #2015-TA-0085 Ft Pickens Ferry Support
To: Jolene Williams <jolene_williams@nps.gov>
Cc: Patricia Kelly <Patricia_Kelly@fws.gov>

Hi Jolene-

Thank you for informing us of the upcoming EA. We would like to review and provide comments on that document when the draft is ready. The Service does see this as a beneficial project to our trust resources, so the impacts will likely be minimal from our standpoint.

I wanted to let you know that it is not necessary based on this project area to address the follow species, as habitat does not exist for them in your project area or immediately outside. I was thinking this info can save you time in your EA.

-reticulated flatwood salamander

- red-cockaded woodpecker
- woodstork
- choctaw bean
- fuzzy pigtoe
- narrow pigtoe
- round ebonyshell
- Eastern indigo snake
- gopher tortoise

--

Kristi Yanchis
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Panama City Field Office
1601 Balboa Ave.
Panama City, FL 32405

Ph: (850)769-0552 x252

Fax: (850)763-2177