



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Office of General Counsel  
Natural Resources Section  
7600 Sand Point Way, N.E.  
Seattle WA 98115-6349

October 31, 2013

Ms. Cynthia K. Dohner  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1875 Century Boulevard  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

Dear Ms. Dohner:

Thank you for your letter dated August 22, 2013, inviting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to serve as a cooperating agency in the development of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the early restoration plan for Phase III and Early Restoration Project Types (ERP/ PEIS) related to the *Deepwater Horizon* (DWH) oil spill.

NOAA accepts this invitation. We also confirm that our role and assistance in this regard began when the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) initiated the effort to develop the ERP/ PEIS on behalf of the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustee Council based on DOI's verbal invitation at that time. As both a Trustee Council member and National Environmental Policy Act cooperating agency (40 CFR 1501.6), NOAA will continue to participate in the development of the ERP/PEIS; provide information and prepare analyses per its special expertise and jurisdictional responsibilities; make staff available to support interdisciplinary capability, and participate in public review processes.

In my role as NOAA's principal member serving the Trustee Council Executive Committee, please consider me the primary point of contact. I can be reached at (206) 790-9797 and by email at [craig.r.o'connor@noaa.gov](mailto:craig.r.o'connor@noaa.gov). We look forward to continuing work with the Department of the Interior on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Craig R. O'Connor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning.

Craig R. O'Connor  
Section Chief and Special Counsel

cc: Administrative Record

