How to Guide: Submitting Natural Resource Evaluations (NRE) to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Consultations Flow Chart

District drafts the NRE & conducts technical assistance with the applicable NMFS **Environmental Technical Advisory Team (ETAT)** member*, as needed



District completes draft NRE w/all information required by NMFS for consultation.



OEM reviews NRE



District finalizes NRE

Notes:

* Gulf Coast: David Rydene, Ph.D., Fish Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

East Coast: Kurtis Gregg, M.S., Natural Resource Specialist, National Marine Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, 2198 Edison Avenue, MS2814, Jacksonville, FL 32204

- **District should disregard the automatic, stock response from the NMFS portal email, since it does not apply to FDOT projects.
- ***If an email is not submitted to nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov, the request will not be logged into the NMFS system and no official request for consultation will exist.
- ****Due to the differences between NMFS's ESA and EFH review processes, the NMFS letter completing the EFH Consultation process is typically received prior to NMFS's ESA Consultation completion letter.

INFORMAL ESA CONSULTATION

District submits NRE to NMFS ETAT Member via email or through the EST.



NMFS ETAT Member drafts the ESA expedited informal consultation document and sends to the District via email.



District reviews the ESA expedited informal consultation document.



If **not satisfied** with the expedited consultation document, the District makes the necessary revisions in track changes and emails to the ETAT member. The District and the ETAT member coordinate to finalize the document.

If **satisfied** with the expedited consultation document, the District transfers the document to FDOT letterhead, signs and dates the document.



District submits the ESA expedited consultation request document to

nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@noaa.gov** and cc's the NMFS ETAT member. Or, if file is too large (>25mb), District submits the document to the NMFS ETAT member via the EST or the FDOT File Transfer Appliance (FTA) and submits an email requesting expedited consultation to the above email address, cc'ing the NMFS ETAT member.***



NMFS reviews the expedited consultation package and, if satisfied, issues the ESA Section 7 concurrence letter via email to the District point of contact.

FORMAL ESA CONSULTATION

District submits the NRE/Biological Assessment (BA) and request for formal consultation letter to OEM



OEM submits the NRE/BA and formal consultation request cover letter to the NMFS ETAT member through the EST and, additionally, emails the formal consultation request letter to nmfs.ser.esa.consultations@no aa.gov** and cc's the NMFS ETAT member.



NMFS reviews the consultation package and, if complete and acceptable, issues the Biological Opinion via email to the FDOT point of contact.



Due to the differences between NMFS's ESA and EFH review processes, the NMFS letter completing the EFH Consultation process is typically received prior to NMFS's ESA Consultation

HELPFUL TIP -

completion letter.

EFH CONSULTATION****

With Informal ESA Consultation

District submits the standalone **EFH Consultation request letter** and the NRE to the ETAT member through the EST.



NMFS reviews the NRE and, if complete and acceptable, issues the letter detailing any conservation recommendations and the completion of the EFH consultation process via email to the District point of contact.

With Formal ESA Consultation

District submits the standalone EFH Consultation request letter to OEM concurrently with the formal ESA consultation package



OEM submits the EFH Consultation request letter to NMFS via the EST concurrently with the formal ESA consultation package



NMFS reviews the NRE and, if complete and acceptable, issues the letter detailing any conservation recommendations and the completion of the EFH consultation process via email to the FDOT point of contact.