



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

GARY C. RIKARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 20, 2018

Certified Mail No. 7017 1450 0000 4597 6312

Mr. Joe Jewel
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR)
1141 Bayview Avenue
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Dear Mr. Joe Jewel:

Re: Ms. Department of Marine
Resources, MS Reef Zone 1
Jackson County
COE No. SAM201800558RCV
WQC No. WQC20180028

Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U. S. C. 1251, 1341), the Office of Pollution Control (OPC) issues this Certification, after public notice and opportunity for public hearing, to Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR), an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Ms. Department of Marine Resources, MS Reef Zone 1: The purpose of the development is to increase the availability of fishing and diving opportunities on desirable habitat. The site is in the vicinity of other favorable fishing areas for local fishermen. The construction of the artificial reef habitat in this area is expected to enhance fishing opportunities by providing a more diverse habitat. The proposed reef zone is a five-sided polygon that will cover 1936 acres with a minimum clearance of 30 feet of all structures deployed in the reef zone. Material used for construction will consist of steel hull vessels, materials of design such as pyramids and reef balls, and materials of opportunity such as clean concrete culverts or rubble. Steel hull vessels will be transported and deployed according to protocol developed by hired contractors. Materials of design will be lowered to the sea floor via cables, one piece at a time to minimize any disturbance to the sea floor while ensuring that materials are oriented correctly. Concrete rubble will be deployed over the side of a barge using an excavator. No mitigation will be necessary for this project as the objective of the project is to create an artificial reef site by periodic deployments of approved reef material in a manner that does not adversely affect the surrounding environments or the

organisms inhabiting those environments. [SAM201800558RCV, WQC20180028].

The Office of Pollution Control certifies that the above-described activity will be in compliance with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and Section 49-17-29 of the Mississippi Code of 1972, if the applicant complies with the following conditions:

1. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
2. No sewage, oil, refuse, or other pollutants shall be discharged into the watercourse.

The Office of Pollution Control also certifies that there are no limitations under Section 302 nor standards under Sections 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act which are applicable to the applicant's above-described activity.

This certification is valid for the project as proposed. Any deviations without proper modifications and/or approvals may result in a violation of the 401 Water Quality Certification. If we can be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krystal Rudolph".

Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE
Chief, Environmental Permits Division

KR: cs

cc: Mr. Rudolph C. Villarreal, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
Ms. Jennifer Wilder, Department of Marine Resources
Mr. Paul Necaise, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Mrs. Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency