

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

PHIL BRYANT COVERNOR

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Gary C. Rikard, Executive Director June 13, 2019

Certified Mail No. 7017 0530 0000 5971 6834 Mr. Ralph Humphrey Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, Inc. P.O. Box 223 Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

Dear Mr. Humphrey:

Mississippi Gulf Fishing Re:

Banks, Cat Island Reef

Enhancement Harrison County

COE No. SAM201801011PAH WQC No. WQC2018058

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, Ralph Humphrey, an applicant for a Federal License or permit to conduct the following activity:

Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Cat Island Reef Enhancement: The applicant proposes to place clean fill materials, which will include concrete culverts, rubble, steel hull vessels, reef balls, pyramids, and more, for artificial offshore reefs in the defined limits of existing Fish Havens. These reefs are located in both State and Federal waters. The reefs of this project in State and Federal waters will have minimum clearances of 7-19 and 23-85 feet below mean low water, respectively. The applicant has stated that all work done for the reefs will be done in accordance with the National Fishing Enhancement Act of 1984. In State waters, the acreages of sites FH-8/2018-1018, FH-9/11/2018-1019/21, FH-10/2018-1020, and FH-14/2018-1024 are 29.29, 358.77, 10.25, and 49.05, respectively. In Federal waters, the acreages of sites FH-1/2018-1011, FH-2/2018-1012, FH-3/2018-1013, FH-4/2018-1014, FH-5/2018-1015, FH-6/2018-1016, FH-7/2018-1017, FH-12/2018-1022, and FH-13/2018-1023 are 564.92, 1516.83, 8.21, 263.82, 362.73, 58.71, 707.39, 2972.15, and 8895.67, respectively. [SAM201801011PAH, WQC2018058].

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. Material shall be clean and non-polluting, free of trash, debris, asphalt, etc.
- 2. Turbidity outside the limits of a 750-foot mixing zone shall not exceed the ambient turbidity by more than 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units.
- 3. 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,
Krystel Riddyl

Krystal Rudolph, P.E., BCEE

Chief, Environmental Permits Division

KR: bgw

cc:

Mr. Philip Hegji, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District

Ms. Willa Brantley, Department of Marine Resources

Mr. David Felder, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mrs. Molly Martin, Environmental Protection Agency