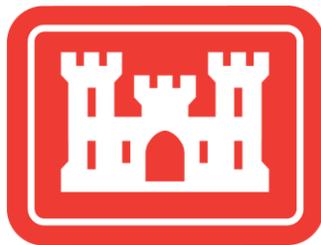


**HUDSON RIVER HABITAT  
RESTORATION  
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION  
DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Appendix G7:  
Essential Fish Habitat**



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
NEW YORK DISTRICT**

June 2019



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW YORK DISTRICT  
JACOB K. JAVITS FEDERAL BUILDING  
26 FEDERAL PLAZA  
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278-0090

June 20, 2019

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF  
Environmental Analysis Branch

Ms. Karen Greene  
Mid-Atlantic Field Office Supervisor and EFH Coordinator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory  
74 Magruder Road  
Highlands, NJ 07732

Dear Ms. Greene,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (District) in partnership with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the non-federal sponsor, will be releasing the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (FR/EA) for the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study (HRHR Study). The Draft FR/EA addresses the potential impacts associated with implementation of ecosystem restoration actions within the HRHR Study Area. The HRHR Study Area is defined as approximately 125 miles of the Hudson River, between Governor Mario M. Cuomo (formerly Tappan Zee) Bridge downstream to Troy Lock and Dam upstream, and associated tributaries up to the first natural barrier.

As discussed with your office in April 2018, the District will coordinate EFH consultation through this letter.

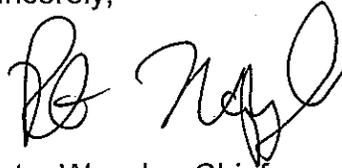
The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) includes the restoration of five sites throughout the Hudson River and its tributaries that will restore a mosaic of interconnected, large river habitats, and restore lost connectivity between the Hudson River and adjacent habitats. Specifically, the TSP consists of restoration measures that would restore two major side channels, creating 38 acres of intertidal and shallow water habitat; restore and create approximately 148 acres of wetlands; and reconnect 17 miles of tributary habitat to the river through the removal of three dams and one in-water utility pipe. The report is accessible on the District website at:  
<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil>

The District anticipates that there may be a variety of impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as a result of the implementation of the HRHR Ecosystem Restoration Plan; some may be temporary and related to construction activities and some may be permanent due to changes in habitat types. However, it is anticipated that ecosystem restoration would result in long-term, net benefits to managed species (all life stages), associated species, and EFH.

As project plans are further developed in the Pre-Construction Engineering and Design (PED) Phase, the District will coordinate with NOAA Fisheries and undertake project specific EFH consultation so that the effects of the individual actions can be evaluated and site-specific EFH conservation recommendations can be developed. The District requests your review and confirmation of concurrence with this overall assessment and path forward.

Should you have any questions regarding this action or the above requests please contact the project biologist, Matthew Voisine, by phone (917) 790-8718, or by email at [matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil](mailto:matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Weppeler', written in a cursive style.

Peter Weppeler, Chief  
Environmental Analysis Branch