PHASE IV DEBRIS REMOVAL SURVEY
Preliminary Environmental Unit Review

Waterway: 8227 Orleans Parish nearshore waters (GOMMDP)

NOAA reviewer: Jordan Stout

Date: 15APR2008

Checklist of Environmental Factors – Assess the potential for impacts to the following resources/areas and coordinate as necessary:

☒ Habitat/environmental sensitivity

Restrict survey to waterway. Do not cause physical damage to wetland shorelines.

☒ Threatened/endangered species

Gulf Sturgeon may occur within the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, the Orleans Outfall Canal and within the Southern Yacht Club boat basins. Removal activities that impact water quality or the physical aquatic substrate requires emergency consultation with USFWS.

☐ Cultural/historical resources

☐ Oyster habitat

☒ State/federal/tribal lands

Coordinate with the Bayou Savage NWR for survey and removal of items along the shores of the Refuge, jack_bohannan@fws.gov (985/882–2000).

☒ Scenic waterway

Bayou St John is a Scenic waterway. Any survey and removal operations that occur at the mouth of Bayou St John may require coordination with LDWF (Keith Cascio 318/343-4045).

Summary and Conclusions of Environmental Review:

Habitat/environmental sensitivity: ESI maps indicate that brackish marsh dominate the shoreline East of South Point, a mixture of freshwater and intermediate marsh habitats dominate the shoreline from South Point to Lincoln Beach, thereafter ESI maps and aerial photography indicate that developed shorelines dominate to the Jefferson/Orleans Parish line.

Threatened/endangered species: ESI maps do not indicate Federally-listed species in open waters of Lake Pontchartrain or along the Orleans Parish lakeshore; however, ESI maps do

indicate that the Gulf Sturgeon (a Federally-designated Threatened species) occurs within the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, the Orleans Outfall Canal (between Bayou St John and the Southern Yacht Club) and within the Southern Yacht Club boat basins. Should debris removal activities impact water quality or the physical aquatic substrate, the USFWS recommends contacting Karen Soileau (337/291-3132) for emergency consultation beyond that provided in the USFWS' March 18, 2008 memorandum.

Cultural/historical resources: No arc available.

Oyster habitat: No oyster lease areas occur in this waterway.

State/federal/tribal lands: ESI index indicates the Bayou Savage National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) occurs along the Orleans Parish lakeshore between Lincoln Beach and Chef Menteur Pass. Coordinate with Bayou Savage NWR for survey and removal of items, jack_bohannan@fws.gov (985/882–2000).

Scenic waterway: ESI maps indicate that Bayou Saint John is a Historic and Scenic River and therefore is regulated under the Louisiana Scenic Waterways Act. Though the act does not prohibit the use of motorized boats in the waterways, there is a potential that constraints may be applied to other operations in accordance with the waterway-specific management plan. Any survey and removal operations that occur at the mouth of Bayou St John may require coordination with LDWF (Keith Cascio 318/343-4045).