Appendix B. Verification Form

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) or the applicable state Department of Transportation (state DOT) will email a signed version of this completed form, together with any project plans, maps, supporting analyses, etc., to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office, Habitat Conservation Division (GARFO HCD) at NMFS.GAR.EFH.Consultation@noaa.gov, upon obtaining sufficient information. FHWA/state DOT must receive a response from GARFO HCD or wait at least 30 calendar days to proceed under the programmatic EFH consultation. FHWA will compile the information from the completed Verification Forms for the purposes of tracking and annual monitoring. FHWA/state DOT must include the completed Verification Form as part of a permit application with any other federal agency, such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or U.S. Coast Guard, to confirm that EFH consultation is complete.

Project Activity Type

1. ☒ Bridge repair, demolition, and replacement
2. ☐ Culvert repair and replacement
3. ☐ Docks, piers, and waterway access projects
4. ☒ Slope stabilization

Transportation Project Information

Project Name:	I-95 ETL NB Extension - Phase II	Project Number:	Various
Project Sponsor:	Maryland Transportation Authority	Contact Person:	Carl Chamberlin
Email:	cchamberlin@mdta.state.md.us	Phone:	410-537-5665
Latitude (e.g., 42.625884):		39.450927	
Longitude (e.g., -70.646114):		-76.321265	
City/Town, State:	Harford/Baltimore Counties, MD	Waterway:	Big & Little Gunpowder Falls, Winters Run
Project Description and Purpose:	The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) is designing and constructing I-95 Section 200 improvements in Baltimore and Harford Counties, Maryland. This includes of the I-95 bridge over Winters Run (lat. 39.450927; long. -76.321265) near the town of Clayton in Harford County. The improvements, since the last Essential Fish Habitat Verification Form on October 2021, at the Winters Run crossing include adjustment to the		
Anticipated Project Start Date:	9/20/24	Anticipated Project End Date:	10/20/27
Total area of impact to EFH (in acres): Include locus map with area of impact.		0.00	
Area of impacts to sensitive habitats (in square feet):		No impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) or oyster reefs allowed.	
Natural rocky habitat (e.g., bedrock, boulders, cobble, and/or gravel):		5,404	
Salt marsh:		0	
Areas containing shellfish (excluding oyster reefs):		0	
Intertidal mudflats:		0	
Area of impact to diadromous fish habitat:		5,404	

Potential Stressors Caused by the Activity (Check all that apply based on activity type)

☐Underwater Noise
☒Impingement/Entrainment and Entanglement
☒Water Quality/Turbidity
☒Habitat Alteration
☐Vessel Traffic

EFH Conservation Recommendation Checklist

FHWA/state DOT will indicate how the project addresses each of the programmatic EFH conservation recommendations, by selecting the appropriate check box and providing a brief explanation where necessary. If the project is not in compliance with a particular programmatic EFH conservation recommendation and FHWA/state DOT has still determined that the effects of a project on EFH are not substantial and the project is otherwise consistent with the FHWA programmatic EFH consultation, provide justification below under the conservation recommendations that is not included.

<u>Underwater Noise</u>

☒Check here if the EFH conservation recommendations in this section are not applicable because the project will not create underwater noise as a stressor. Proceed to the next stressor.

1. Use a soft start each day of pile driving, after a break of 30 minutes or more, and if any increase in pile installation or removal intensity is required. Build up power slowly from a low energy start-up over a 20-minute period to warn fish to leave the vicinity. This buildup shall occur in uniform stages to provide a constant increase in output.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

2. Noise-generating work conducted in diadromous streams within the spring diadromous fish TOY restriction listed in Appendix D must be isolated behind sealed, dewatered cofferdams, to avoid impeding fish migration.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Impingement/Entrainment and Entanglement

☐Check here if the EFH conservation recommendations in this section are not applicable because the project will not lead to impingement/entrainment and entanglement as a stressor. Proceed to the next stressor.

3. Turbidity control measures must be properly secured and monitored to ensure aquatic species are not entangled or trapped in the project area.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

4. Temporary intakes related to construction must be equipped with mesh size screening and approach velocity appropriate for the species and life stage anticipated. Per the NMFS Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design manual, screen openings must not exceed 3/32 inch and screen approach velocity must be less than .25 feet per second (ft/sec).
    - In New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, 2 millimeter (mm) wedge wire screens must be used with a maximum intake velocity of 0.5 feet per second (ft/sec).
    - In Virginia, a 1 mm wedge wire with a maximum intake velocity of 0.25 ft/sec).

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

5. No new permanent surface water withdrawal, water intakes, or water diversions.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: This is a roadway improvement project; no new permanent surface water withdrawal, water intakes or diversions are
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Water Quality/Turbidity

☐Check here if the EFH conservation recommendations in this section are not applicable because the project will not negatively affect water quality or create turbidity. Proceed to the next stressor.

6. Install soil erosion, sediment, and turbidity controls and maintain them in effective operating condition during construction. Remove controls upon completion of work, after all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work waterward of ordinary high water or the high tide line, are permanently stabilized.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

7. Install and remove any in-water soil erosion, sediment, and turbidity controls outside the TOY restrictions in Appendix D.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

8. Work that produces greater than minimal turbidity or sedimentation in diadromous streams or EFH must not be done during the TOY restriction(s) in Appendix D.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

9. Prevent construction debris and sediment from entering aquatic areas and remove all construction debris and excess/deteriorated materials and dispose of in an upland area.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

10. Dredged and/or excavated materials, including any fine-grained materials removed from inside culverts, shall either be moved to an upland location and stabilized to prevent reentry into the waterway or disposed of at a previously approved disposal site.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

11. Completely remove and do not reuse existing creosote piles that are affected by project activities and do not install new creosote piles.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: Creosote piles are not being used or affected by the project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not applicable
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

12. Coat any chemically or pressure treated piles (CCA, ACQ, etc.) with an impact-resistant, biologically inert substance. Coat the piles at the point of manufacture, not on site.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: No chemically or pressure treated piles are being used on this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

13. Derelict, degraded, or abandoned piles, except for those inside of existing work footprints for piers, must be completely removed or cut and driven three feet below the surface.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: No derelict, degraded or abandoned piles are a part of this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

14. Ensure that raw concrete does not contact the water; wet pours of concrete must be confined within sealed forms until the concrete is set or pre-cast members installed.

☐ Not met:

☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
☒ Shown on project plans
☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Habitat Alteration

☐Check here if the EFH conservation recommendations in this section are not applicable because the project will not cause habitat alteration. Proceed to the next stressor.

15. Remove temporary and/or obsolete structures and fills in their entirety. Use geotextile barriers prior to placement of temporary fill material to ensure complete removal.

☐ Not met:
☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
☒ Shown on project plans
☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

16. Install a riprap bedding layer (such as a gravel filter blanket or geotextile) prior to riprap placement to prevent underlying soils from washing through the riprap during high water.

☐ Not met:
☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
☒ Shown on project plans
☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

17. Return areas impacted by temporary activities, fills, or structures to pre-construction or better condition, including elevations and substrate, and replant with native species.

☐ Not met:
☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
☒ Shown on project plans
☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

18. Temporary monitoring devices shall be removed and the substrate restored to preconstruction elevations no later than 24 months from initial installation, or upon completion of data acquisition.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: Temporary monitoring devices are not associated with this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

19. Pipelines and cables that cross a waterway must not rest on the substrate. They may be attached to an overwater structure or be buried to allow an area to return to preexisting conditions.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

20. Any fill, including planting media and placement of any seed shellfish, spatted-shell, or cultch must be free of all non-native or invasive species and/or contaminants. An invasive species control plan must be part of the project if the transportation agency cannot guarantee this.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

21. Prevent dislodging of coir logs, mats, or native oyster shell.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

22. Incorporate measures to increase the ambient light transmission under overwater structures.

☒ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:

■ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met: The Phase II project consists of widening of existing structures and must be at the same elevation. Separation of structures is

☐ Shown on project plans

☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

23. The lowermost part of floating docks must be ≥ 18 inches above the substrate at all times, to avoid grounding and propeller scour and to provide adequate circulation and flushing.

■ Not met:

■ Not applicable, provide reasoning: Floating docks are not associated with this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not applicable

☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:

☐ Shown on project plans

☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

24. Conduct and submit pre-dredge benthic biological surveys to determine benthic communities present and conduct post-dredge surveys to ensure targeted depths have been reached and to determine benthic recovery.

■ Not met:

■ Not applicable, provide reasoning: Dredging is not associated with this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not applicable

☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:

☐ Shown on project plans

☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

25. Grain size of any sediment used as part of habitat restoration must be the same size or larger than the native material at the site.

☐ Not met:

☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:

☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

■ Met:

■ Shown on project plans

■ Included in description, other terms and conditions

26. If rock relocation is necessary, move them to an area of equivalent depth and substrate.

☐ Not met:

☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:

☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

■ Met:

■ Shown on project plans

■ Included in description, other terms and conditions

27. Incorporate natural habitats (e.g., living shorelines) and soft approaches (e.g., vegetative plantings and large woody debris) into the stabilization design in addition to or instead of hardened structures. See NOAA's Guidance for Considering the Use of Living Shorelines for more information.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

■ Met:
- ■ Shown on project plans
- ■ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Sensitive Habitats (SAS, natural rocky habitats, intertidal areas, and areas containing shellfish)

28. Locate all temporary structures, construction, access, and dewatering actives outside of sensitive habitats.

■ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ■ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification: One bridge foundation and stream bank stabilization at Winters Run is necessary within Winters Run's natural rocky habitat and

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

29. Prior to construction, identify and mark in the field any SAV at the project site. An SAV survey is required for activities adjacent to mapped or known SAV if a survey has not been conducted in three years.

■ Not met:
- ■ Not applicable, provide reasoning: No SAVs are present within the project area, therefore this conservation recommendation is not applicable
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

30. Provide compensatory mitigation for all permanent and temporary impacts to sensitive habitats. This could include a contribution to an existing in-lieu fee program. When impacts are unavoidable:
    - conduct a biological survey to map the coverage of the sensitive habitats;
    - develop a compensatory mitigation plan for biological resource losses, including success criteria, monitoring plan, and long-term maintenance plan;

- submit the results of the biological survey and the mitigation plan to GARFO HCD for review; and
- undertake compensatory mitigation prior to or concurrent with any impacts to sensitive habitat.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

31. Where construction requires heavy equipment operation in or across wetlands or mudflats, the equipment shall have low ground pressure (typically ≤ 3 pounds per square inch); be placed on construction timber mats that are adequate to support the equipment; or be operated on dry or frozen wetlands such that shear pressure does not cause subsidence of the wetlands immediately beneath equipment and upheaval of adjacent wetlands. Construction mats must not be dragged into position.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

32. Habitat restoration or mitigation projects must not result in a permanent conversion or loss of sensitive habitats.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

33. No dredging shall occur within:
    - intertidal areas;
    - 100 feet of SAV; or
    - 25 feet of SAS, natural rocky habitats, or areas containing shellfish.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: Dredging is not associate with this project, therefore this conservation recommendation is not applicable
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

34. The height of docks and piers must be at least four feet above salt marsh substrate and must be greater than or equal to the width of the deck, to minimize shading impacts. The height must be measured from the marsh substrate to the bottom of the longitudinal support beam.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: No docks or piers are associated with this project and no components of the project occur within salt marsh substrate
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

35. Outlets must not discharge directly into sensitive habitats.

☒ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☒ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification: With the exception of bridge drainage, this conservation recommendation will be met throughout the corridor through

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Fish Passage/Migration Habitat

36. Design replacement crossings to provide diadromous and resident fish and aquatic organism passage. Structures must:
    - provide sufficient water depth and maintain suitable water velocities during migration periods; and
    - maintain or replicate natural stream channel and flow conditions.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

37. Incorporate climate change projections into the project design. Use the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP) 8.5/high greenhouse gas emission scenario and RCP 4.5/intermediate greenhouse gas emission scenario (IPCC 2014) and the global mean and regional sea level rise projections for

intermediate-high and extreme scenarios referenced in Sweet *et al*. (2017) in design calculations for replacement structures.

☒ Not met:
- ☒ Not applicable, provide reasoning: The project is located outside the zone of global mean and regional sea level rise influence and no structures are proposed
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

38. Replaced or upgraded crossings must be "in kind" or go up in order of preference set out in NMFS' Anadromous Salmonid Passage Facility Design:
    - Road abandonment and reclamation or road realignment to avoid crossing the stream.
    - Bridge or stream simulation spanning the stream flood plain, providing long-term dynamic channel stability, retention of existing spawning areas, maintenance of benthic invertebrate production, and minimized risk of failure. If a stream crossing is proposed in a segment of stream channel that includes a salmonid spawning area, only full-span stream simulation designs are acceptable.
    - Embedded pipe culvert, bottomless arch designs or non-floodplain spanning stream simulation.
    - Hydraulic design method, associated with more traditional culvert design approaches- limited to low stream gradients (0 to 1%) or for retrofits.
    - Culvert designed with an external fishway (including roughened channels) for steeper slopes.
    - Baffled culvert or internal weirs- to be used only for when other alternatives are infeasible.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

39. For activities that require soil erosion, sediment, and turbidity controls
    - in non-tidal streams containing diadromous fish:
        i. They must not encroach >25% of the stream width measured from ordinary high water during the diadromous TOY restriction; and
        ii. They must maintain safe, timely, and effective downstream fish passage throughout the project.
    - in tidal waters:
        i. They must not encroach >50% of a tidal stream's width as measured from mean high water.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☒ Met:
- ☒ Shown on project plans
- ☒ Included in description, other terms and conditions

Vessel Traffic

☒ Check here if the EFH conservation recommendations in this section are not applicable because the project will not use vessels.

40. Project vessels shall be operated in adequate water depths to avoid propeller scour and grounding at all tides. Shallow draft vessels will be used in shallow areas to maximize the navigational clearance between the vessel and the bottom substrate. Spuds may be used to elevate the vessel.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

41. Project vessels shall not be moored in or use spuds in SAV or be located in such a way that the vessel could shade SAV.

☐ Not met:
- ☐ Not applicable, provide reasoning:
- ☐ Project is unable to accommodate, provide justification:

☐ Met:
- ☐ Shown on project plans
- ☐ Included in description, other terms and conditions

NEW CLAUSE

Other Justification for Use of the Programmatic EFH Consultation

If the project is outside of the covered activities in the programmatic EFH consultation (i.e., is one of the actions described in the Excluded Activities list noted below) and FHWA/state DOT believes the effects are not any more significant and that the project should be eligible for programmatic EFH consultation, provide additional justification in the space below. FHWA/state DOT must provide appropriate rationale and GARFO HCD must review and approve it. The automatic concurrence period does not apply for transportation activities in this section that fall outside of the programmatic EFH consultation as described.

◯ The project is not listed as an excluded activity.

◉ The project is listed as an excluded activity.

Indicate the activity number from the list below (1 through 21): 1, 10,

Provide additional justification on why the activity should be eligible:

The project largely consists of widening of the existing roadway structure. Activities 1 and 10 below cannot be met

Activities that Require Individual Consultation

1. Any work (including anchoring) that results in impacts to:
   - existing or historically mapped submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) beds or areas within 100 feet of existing or historically mapped SAV beds;
   - ≥ 1,000 square feet of salt marsh, areas containing shellfish, and intertidal areas;
   - ≥ 100 square feet of natural rocky habitat (e.g., bedrock, boulders, cobble, and/or gravel);
2. Stream channelization.
3. Any temporary structures, construction access, and dewatering activities proposed to be in place for ≥ two years.
4. Slip-lining or invert lining existing culverts.
5. Any permanent structures longer than 150 linear feet over salt marsh.
6. Construction of new or expansion of existing boating facilities17 or ferry terminals.
7. Independent pedestrian trails or bridges located directly adjacent to an existing crossing.
8. New or improvement dredging.
9. Any nearshore disposal or beach nourishment activities.
10. New fill/stabilization placed below mean low water in excess of 200 linear feet (lf).
11. Replacement or maintenance of:
    - sloped stabilization structures > 200 lf and waterward of the existing toe, or
    - vertical structures > 18 inches waterward of the existing face and > 200 lf.
12. In-water utility lines ≥ 100 lf installed by trench excavation, or ≥ 200 lf installed by jetplow, fluidization or other direct burial methods.
13. Thin layer deposition as a part of wetland restoration.
14. Placement of any seed shellfish, spatted-shell, or cultch in SAS.
15. Any exploratory trenching or other similar survey activities.
16. Airgun seismic activities.
17. Any new permanent surface water withdrawal, water intakes, or water diversions.
18. Any blasting or use of explosives that affects EFH or diadromous species habitats.
19. Construction of new bridges or culverts, where no crossing existed previously.
20. Any new or replacement causeways (raised roadways across waters or wetlands).
21. Any in-water work on dams, tide gates, or breakwaters.

FHWA's Determination of Effects to Essential Fish Habitat and Signature
After reviewing the programmatic EFH conservation recommendations in Appendix A, FHWA/state DOT will select the appropriate determination:

○ The activity is in compliance with all programmatic EFH conservation recommendations in the FHWA programmatic EFH consultation and adverse effects to EFH will not be substantial.

◉ The activity is not in compliance with all of the programmatic EFH conservation recommendations in the FHWA programmatic EFH consultation, however, the justification below demonstrates that the adverse effects to EFH are not substantial. This does not apply to EFH conservation recommendations that are not applicable to the project.

Use the electronic fillable fields to include the name and signature of the FHWA/state DOT preparing this Verification Form, along with the date.

Carl Chamberlin
FHWA/state DOT Name


Signature

3/18/24
Date

By providing your determination and signature, you are certifying that to the best of your knowledge the information provided in this form is accurate and based upon the best available scientific information. This form must be filled out and signed by FHWA or state DOT staff, as an officially designated non-federal representative. Do not lock the form when saving, as HCD will be unable to sign and finalize. Email this Verification Form as a fillable PDF to NMFS.GAR.EFH.Consultation@noaa.gov.

GARFO HCD Determination and Signature (To be filled out by NMFS)
After receiving the Verification Form, GARFO HCD will contact FHWA/state DOT with any concerns. HCD will email the completed form back to the FHWA/state DOT for record keeping.

○ GARFO HCD concurs with FHWA's determination that the proposed project is consistent with the programmatic EFH consultation (without the need for justification).

○ GARFO HCD concurs with FHWA's determination that the proposed project is consistent with the programmatic EFH consultation, with justification described above.

○ GARFO HCD does not concur with FHWA's determination that the project is consistent with the programmatic EFH consultation. FHWA/state DOT must conduct additional coordination with GARFO HCD and a separate individual EFH consultation may be required.

GARFO HCD Name Signature

Date