



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

SEP 26 2012

Mr. Robin Riechers
Director of Coastal Fisheries
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744-3291

RE: Texas proposed Planning Zones in the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) offshore of Corpus Christi

Dear Mr. Riechers:

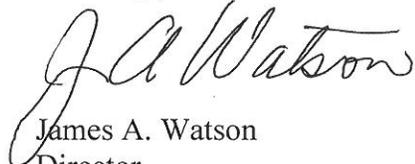
On behalf of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), I want to thank you for taking the time to meet with me to discuss the Rigs to Reefs policy for offshore Texas. BSEE has reviewed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Artificial Reef Program's *Proposed Planning Zones: Texas Rigs-to-Reefs Program in the Gulf of Mexico Offshore of Corpus Christi, Texas*. We concur with the proposed addition of Zones "A" and "B" to your Artificial Reef Plan for reefing decommissioned oil and gas infrastructure.

The BSEE Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Region Environmental Enforcement Branch will individually review each reefing proposal for compliance with BSEE artificial reef policy and GOM Regional Engineering, Stability, and Environmental Reviewing Standards and Reef-Approval Guidelines found in the Rigs-to-Reefs Policy Addendum approved on December 29, 2009.

While the BSEE policy allows no new reef sites within 5 miles of preexisting artificial reef sites, your proposal would permit no new sites within 1 statute mile of preexisting artificial reef sites (except within the two special subzones of Zone A, which places no limit on proximity). After several coordination meetings between BSEE staff and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff, BSEE agrees to review, on a case-by-case basis, reefing proposals that meet the siting requirements of the proposed plan. However, the proposed sites must not hinder future oil and gas, marine mineral or renewable energy activity operations. Furthermore, the proposed sites must not endanger nearby infrastructure or protected resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in and comment on your proposed plan. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Herb Leedy at (504) 736-2776, or at daniel.leedy@bsee.gov.

Sincerely,



James A. Watson
Director

2014 JUN 10 10:00 AM
BUREAU OF SEA FISH AND WILDLIFE
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI