
Southeast Texas (SETX)
and
Southwest Louisiana (SWLA)
Area Contingency Plan

State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Notification, Coordination and
Consultation
(Federal/State of Louisiana Guidance)

Annex M2
May 2025

Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana Area Contingency Plan

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Section Number	Change Date	Name
1				
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1000 Introduction

1100 Purpose

This Annex outlines the relationship between the Louisiana State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) as it relates to notification, coordination and consultation under the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

1200 Background

The National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106, among other requirements, requires that “Federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) with a reasonable opportunity to comment.” Additionally, it requires that the Federal agency involved “consult on the Section 106 process with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO)” (36 CFR 800).

Within Louisiana, each of the three USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) within the coastal zone, are required to ensure timely notification to the SHPO. The required notification, and follow-on coordination and/or consultation, applies to any USCG approved *response actions* involving oil discharge or hazardous substance mitigation activities within the coastal zone. The three USCG FOSCs are:

- Sector New Orleans
- Marine Safety Unit Houma
- Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur (covers southwest LA; Lake Charles area)

2000 Action

In the event of an oil spill that itself, or its associated response actions, may reasonably impact cultural resources within the State of Louisiana, and which involve response actions being overseen by the USCG, the appropriate USCG FOSC, or their representative, will be responsible for *initiating contact* with the LA SHPO, conveying to the SHPO the location of the impacted/potential impacted area, and the types and locations of associated response actions. The Divisions of Archaeology and Historic Preservation within the Office of Cultural Development together serve as the SHPO staff for the State of Louisiana and are responsible for the protection of cultural resources (such as historic structures, cemeteries, and archeological sites) across Louisiana. In this initial contact, the USCG FOSC, or their representative, will inform the SHPO of the location of the actual spill and/or potential actions associated with the response. The SHPO will make the determination whether these actions threaten any known cultural resource or if there is a reasonable likelihood unknown cultural resources could be threatened, and whether there is a necessity for formal consultation.

If the SHPO determines that no known cultural resources exist in the response area and there is a low likelihood of resources being present, the SHPO will provide their determination in the form of an email back to the FOSC, or their representative. This documentation will be provided to the Environmental Unit, if established, and filed within the incident-specific documentation. Additionally, as the federal action agency within the coastal zone, the USCG FOSC, or designated

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representative, must ensure that all SHPO determinations are filed within the unit-specific administrative record. This SHPO determination may describe conditions, locations, or actions, which if realized, may result in the necessity for formal consultation with the SHPO along with any guidance regarding unknown resources.

If the SHPO determines that the described activities will impact known resources, or there is a reasonable likelihood of resources being present, the SHPO will immediately notify the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) or designated representative so the USCG can initiate formal consultation per (36 CFR 800). Other State agencies such as the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office (LOSCO) may be included/updated on **the consultation process but the consultation MUST be federally undertaken between the FOSC and the SHPO**. As mentioned earlier, the USCG FOSC, or designated representative, must ensure that all relevant consultation documents are filed within the unit-specific administrative record.

3000 SHPO Interactions

3100 Example 1

A designated USCG FOSC representative contacted the LA SHPO representative via email to inform them of ongoing response activities along the GIWW at the four corners intersection extending eastward, as is standard practice.

The SHPO responded to the FOSC representative via email after reviewing all documentation with a simple email stating that "There are no known historic properties in the proposed response area and there is a low likelihood of such resources being present. Our office has no concerns for the proposed response action." The USCG FOSC representative filed this information within the unit-specific administrative record. No further coordination was necessary with the SHPO.

3200 Example 2

A designated USCG FOSC representative contacted the LA SHPO representative to inform of an oil spill associated **mitigation operations related to a sunken vessel removal in Grand Isle**. Upon review of information and materials conveyed by the USCG FOSC, the SHPO determined that a historic property was present in or immediately adjacent to the response area, or that there was a reasonable likelihood that such a resource was in or immediately adjacent to the response area.

Upon receiving this information, the USCG, as the lead federal agency, initiated formal consultation with the SHPO per 36 CFR 800. The USCG worked with SHPO to determine if any historic properties are present in the response area and would be impacted by the proposed actions. USCG will work with the LA SHPO to implement appropriate best management practices to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects. Upon completion, the USCG FOSC, or designated representative, ensured that all Section 106 consultation documents are filed within the unit-specific administrative record.

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Table 1: Contact Info				
Agency	Name	Title	Email	24-hr
LA Office of Cultural Development	Rachel Watson	State Archeologist, SHPO Emergency Response Coordinator (lead contact)	rwatson@crt.la.gov	225 405-3751
LA Office of Cultural Development		State Historic Preservation Office (alternative contact)	section106@crt.la.gov	225 405-3751
USCG Eighth District	Dr. Keyth Pankau	District Response Advisory Team (DRAT) Supervisor	Keyth.A.Pankau2@uscg.mil	855 GULF SAR (485-3727)