

ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA

COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT
FINAL INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX H **Pertinent Correspondence**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Noah Valenstein
Secretary

August 9, 2017

Mr. Jason Spinning
Chief, Coastal Section
Environmental Branch
Planning & Policy Division
USACE, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Dear Mr. Spinning,

The Department has concluded that the proposed St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project is consistent with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program and its associated statutes. It is likely the project would qualify for a Joint Coastal Permit, which would include water quality certification.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 850-245-7617 or Lainie.edwards@dep.state.fl.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lainie Edwards".

Lainie Edwards, Ph.D.
Program Administrator- Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program
Division of Water Resource Management
Dept. of Environmental Protection



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

November 21, 2016

Jason A. Kirk
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Service Consultation Code: 04EF2000-2016-F-0351
Date Received: May 26, 2016
Consultation Initiation Date: October 20, 2016
Project: St. Lucie County, Coastal Storm
Risk Management Project
County: St. Lucie

Dear Colonel Kirk:

This document transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) decision document to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the placement of sand along approximately 3.4 miles (mi) of shoreline along Hutchinson Island, St. Lucie County, Florida (Project). The Corps determined that the Project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect the endangered leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), and the threatened Northwest Atlantic Ocean (NWAO) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the endangered beach jacquemontia (*Jacquemontia reclinata*), the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the threatened red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*; manatee), and terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated critical habitat. For the purposes of this document, the five identified sea turtles will be referred to collectively as sea turtles. This document is provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) share Federal jurisdiction for sea turtles under the Act. The Service has responsibility for sea turtles on the nesting beach and the NOAA Fisheries has jurisdiction for sea turtles in the marine environment. The NOAA Fisheries will assess and consult with the Corps concerning potential impacts to foraging and swimming sea turtles, critical habitat in the marine environment, and all other marine species under their jurisdiction within the Project area in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Our analysis in this document will only address activities that may impact nesting sea turtles, their nests and eggs, and hatchlings as they emerge from the nest and crawl to the sea. Please note the provisions of this consultation do not apply to sea turtles in the marine environment, such as swimming juvenile and adult sea turtles or loggerhead critical habitat in the marine environment. If applicable, you are required to consult with the NOAA Fisheries on this Project. For further information on Act compliance with the NOAA Fisheries, please contact Rachel Sweeney, Chief of the Interagency Cooperation Branch, by e-mail at rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov or by phone at 727-209-5953.

This analysis is based on information provided in the Corps' May 20, 2016, letter. A complete record of this consultation is on file at the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida.

Consultation History

On May 26, 2016, the Service received a copy of the Corps' letter dated May 20, 2016.

On October 13, 2016, the Service emailed the Corps a request for additional information.

On October 17 and 20, 2016, the Service received emails from the Corps in response to our request for additional information. Following receipt of all the responses, the Service had sufficient information to initiate formal consultation with the Corps concerning the potential effects of the Project on sea turtles, manatees, piping plovers, red knots, beach jacquemontia, and designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Corps proposes to place beach compatible sand on approximately 3.4 mi of shoreline along Hutchinson Island, St. Lucie County, Florida. The proposed Project involves the placement of sand within a fill template which extends between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reference monuments R-99 and the Martin County line. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is a cooperating agency for this Project due to the proposed use of Outer Continental Shelf sand resources located within a portion of the St. Lucie Shoal complex. Using a hopper dredge, approximately 420,000 cubic yards (cy) of sand will be placed within the fill template for the initial construction of the design profile. Two renourishment events averaging 390,000 cy each are expected to occur at 18-year intervals. Once the dredge material has been deposited within the fill template, bulldozers will move and grade the material to produce the authorized beach design which is characterized by a 20-foot (ft) berm extension from the toe of the 2008 dune profile.

All beach corridors, staging areas, and pipeline corridors will be selected to avoid affects to upland habitat. Construction vehicles and equipment must traverse or be stored within these designated areas, corridors, and/or within the pipeline corridor. In addition, all construction pipes will be placed parallel to the shoreline and positioned as far landward as possible up to the

vegetated dune line. Existing vegetated habitat at these sites and corridors shall be protected to the maximum extent possible to minimize disturbance; therefore, impacts associated with the beach access corridors, pipeline corridors, staging areas, and beach fill template are not anticipated. If impacts occur, all impacted areas and vegetation will be restored to preconstruction condition and elevation. In addition, all impacts to nearshore hardbottom habitat and seagrasses will be avoided. All loose debris will be removed and properly disposed of prior to sand placement.

The proposed Project will be conducted during the day and nighttime hours working 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The intent of the Project is to provide shoreline stabilization along the shoreline.

The proposed Project area lies within Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) Unit FL-P11, Hutchinson Island. This unit is part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (System) which supports suitable habitat for species listed under the Act. Section 6 of CBRA (16 U.S.C. § 3505) permits certain federal expenditures and financial assistance within the System if it meets one of the exceptions (A-G) and it is also consistent with the three purposes of CBRA, which include: 1) minimize the loss of human life; 2) minimize wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues; and 3) minimize damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources. In a letter to the Corps dated November 2, 2016 (Appendix A), the Service determined that the proposed Project meets the section 6 (G) exemption and is consistent with the three purposes of CBRA.

Minimization measures

The Corps will follow and implement the Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) and the Terms and Conditions identified in the revised Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (2015-SPBO; Service 2015), and the Conservation Measures of the Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P³BO; Service 2013) that apply to the Project. The P³BO conservation measures will also minimize effects to red knots.

To minimize impacts to manatees from the proposed Project, the Corps has agreed to follow and implement the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (FWC 2011), and the minimization measures outlined for manatees in the 2015-SPBO and the Corps' SBPO biological assessment (Corps 2011).

Action Area

The action area is defined as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. The Service identifies the action area to include the sand fill template, staging areas, beach access and pipeline corridors, and the St. Lucie Shoal complex. The Project is located along the Atlantic Ocean, Hutchinson Island, St. Lucie County, Florida, at latitude 27.2883 and longitude -80.2112.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Beach jacquemontia

Although the Service's Geographic Information System (GIS) data does not document any beach jacquemontia in the Project area, it may be present due to suitable habitat. In addition to the minimization measures outlined in the Corps' SPBO biological assessment (Corps 2011), the following minimization measures shall be followed to reduce potential impacts on beach jacquemontia.

1. Surveys shall be performed preconstruction to determine the presence of beach jacquemontia. Surveys must be performed during the growing season (May through November) or, at a minimum, when dormant vegetation is present. Plant locations must be recorded using a Global Position System, photographs, and written descriptions of the location and extent of growth. To preclude intentional or unintentional disturbance or harm, the exact location of plants should not be marked until necessary for construction design, surveys, and implementation. Marking of plant locations must use noninvasive, temporary techniques such as pin flagging. Surveys must be performed by personnel who have training or experience in identification of beach jacquemontia.
2. All construction personnel shall be educated concerning the presence and location of beach jacquemontia and the minimization measures to be implemented to avoid all potential impacts to the plant.
3. A 25-ft buffer shall be created between any existing beach jacquemontia and construction activities, equipment storage, and beach access corridors.
4. Unless otherwise directed by the Service, all plant site markings must be removed post construction.
5. All marked sites shall be reinspected post construction. Any disturbance or other impacts to beach jacquemontia shall be photographed and recorded in a narrative report and immediately shared with the Service's South Florida Ecological Services Office. Based on the Service's review, remedial action may be necessary.

Based on the implementation of minimization measures listed above and those outlined in the Corps' 2011 biological assessment, and the fact that beach jacquemontia has not been documented in the area, the Service concurs that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species.

Piping plover

The Service has determined the Project's impact to non-optimal piping plover habitat is consistent with the analysis in the P³BO. As previously stated, the Corps has agreed to follow and implement the Conservation Measures outlined in the P³BO that apply to the Project. As it relates to survey guidelines defined in P³BO Conservation Measure #2, the Service approves a reduction in the survey effort, and the following revised survey guidelines can be implemented by the Corps:

1. One preconstruction winter shorebird survey will be conducted within a 10-day timeframe beginning the first Friday in February, as outlined in the Florida Shorebird Alliance's Winter Shorebird Survey (<http://flshorebirdalliance.org>). If the February preconstruction survey is not possible, two preconstruction winter shorebird surveys will be conducted as close as possible to the February dates and at least 15 days apart, and reported to the FWC (<https://public.myfwc.com/crossdoi/shorebirds/loginform.aspx>). Preconstruction surveys will not be conducted between May 16 and July 14. If piping plovers are documented during the preconstruction survey, the Service will be contacted for potential implementation of additional conservation measures prior to construction commencement. In addition, a February winter shorebird survey will be conducted as outlined above, for 2 years post-construction. All shorebird survey data will be forwarded to the Service annually upon completion.
2. The person(s) conducting the surveys must demonstrate the qualifications and ability to identify shorebird species and be able to provide the information outlined in the Winter Shorebird Survey.

Because the Project, as proposed, is consistent with the analysis for non-optimal piping plover habitat in P³BO, the Corps has concurrence for the piping plover for this Project through the concurrence contained within P³BO. A report must be submitted by July 31 of each year in which monitoring is completed, as described in Term and Condition 9 of the P³BO.

Red knot

Red knots may use the Project area during winter and migration periods. In Florida, red knots are commonly found along sandy, gravel, or cobble beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, shallow coastal impoundments, mangrove and brackish lagoons. Red knots forage along sandy beaches during spring and fall migration throughout Florida. To date, critical habitat has not been proposed or designated for the red knot. According to our GIS database and eBird (eBird 2016), no red knots have been documented in the action area. Because suitable habitat for the red knot and piping plover is similar, minimization measures for potential effects to red knots in non-optimal habitat will be incorporated into the Project, through the Corps' implementation of the Conservation Measures to reduce impacts on piping plovers for projects located in non-optimal piping plover habitat as outlined in the P³BO.

Based on the implementation of P³BO's Conservation Measures, the fact that red knots have not been documented in the area, and the Project area is located in non-optimal red knot habitat, the Service concurs that the Project, as proposed, may affect but is not likely to adversely affect this species.

Sea turtles

The Project is located adjacent to sea turtle nesting habitat, and therefore could adversely affect nesting sea turtles, their nests, and hatchlings. The purpose of the proposed Project is to protect the shoreline from ongoing erosion. Without the restorative activities, erosion is expected to

continue, potentially impacting sea turtle nesting. Consequently, the proposed Project could have beneficial effects to nesting sea turtles.

The Service has determined the Project's effects concerning sand placement activities are consistent with those analyzed in the 2015-SPBO. Therefore, it is appropriate to apply the 2015-SPBO to the Project. Based on the Corps' commitment to implement the minimization measures, RPMs, and the Terms and Conditions identified in the 2015-SPBO that apply to the Project, the Project's take coverage for listed sea turtles is henceforth covered under the 2015-SPBO.

Terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated critical habitat

As previously stated, the Project will occur along a stretch of beach that is designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat. The Project may directly or indirectly impact biological and physical features of critical habitat for the NWAO DPS of the loggerhead sea turtle along approximately 3.4 mi of beach along Hutchinson Island. The 3.4 mi of beach along Hutchinson Island represents 15.5 percent of Critical Habitat Unit LOGG-T-FL-09, and 0.45 percent of all designated critical habitat in the NWAO DPS. The Service has determined the Project effects on designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat are consistent with those analyzed in the 2015-SPBO. Consequently the Service concurs that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated Critical Habitat Unit LOGG-T-FL-09.

West Indian manatee

The Project occurs within the geographic range of the manatee and is located in the manatee consultation area. The Corps has agreed to implement the FWC *Standard Manatee Construction Conditions for In-water Work* (FWC 2011), the minimization measures outlined in the 2015-SPBO, and the minimization measures outlined in the Corps' SPBO biological assessment (Corps 2011), to avoid potential impacts on manatees. Based on the proposed protection measures, the Service concurs that the Project, as proposed, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species. The Project is not located within designated critical habitat for the manatee.

REINITIATION NOTICE

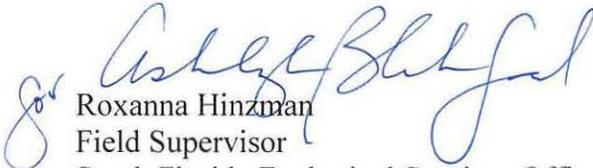
This concludes consultation on the action outlined in the request. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if:

1. The amount or extent of incidental take outlined in the 2015-SPBO is exceeded. In instances where the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded, any operations causing such take must cease pending reinitiation;
2. New information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this analysis;

3. The agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not considered in this analysis; or
4. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

Thank you for your cooperation in the effort to conserve fish and wildlife resources. Should you have additional questions or require clarification regarding this letter, please contact Jeff Howe at 772-469-4283.

Sincerely yours,


Roxanna Hinzman
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc: electronic only

Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Paul Stodola)

DEP, Tallahassee, Florida (Lanie Edwards)

EPA, West Palm Beach, Florida (Ron Miedema)

FWC, Tallahassee, Florida (FWC-CPS, Robbin Trindell)

NOAA Fisheries, Fort Lauderdale, Florida (Audra Livergood)

NOAA Fisheries, West Palm Beach, Florida (Jocelyn Karazsia)

Service, St. Petersburg, Florida (Anne Marie Lauritsen, Peter Plage)

LITERATURE CITED

- eBird.org. 2016. An online database of bird distribution and abundance [Internet]. Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Ithaca, New York [cited November 9, 2016]. Available from: <http://www.ebird.org>.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). 2011. Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work 2011. Tallahassee, Florida [Internet]. [cited November 10, 2016]. Available from: http://myfwc.com/media/415448/Manatee_StdCondIn_waterWork.pdf
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). 2011. Statewide Programmatic Biological Assessment. Beach Placement and Shore Protection, Coast of Florida. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Jacksonville, Florida.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2013. Programmatic piping plover biological opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Service Log No. 04EF1000-2013-F-0124) for shore protection activities in the geographical region of the north and south Florida Ecological Services Field Offices (May 22, 2013). Jacksonville and Vero Beach Field Offices, Florida.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2015. Statewide programmatic biological opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Service Log No. 41910-2011-F-0170) for shore protection activities along the coast of Florida (March 13, 2015). Jacksonville, Panama City, and Vero Beach Field Offices, Florida.

Appendix A



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960



November 2, 2016

Gina Paduano
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Service CPA Code: 04EF2000-2016-CPA-0161
Date Received: May 20, 2016
Project: St. Lucie County, Coastal Storm
Risk Management Project
County: St. Lucie

Dear Ms. Paduano:

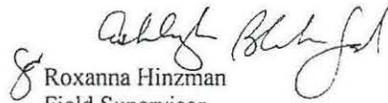
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) request for a consistency determination under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) for the St. Lucie County, Coastal Storm Risk Management Project's Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The Corps specifically requested confirmation that the Corps can award and administer the contract for the TSP beach nourishment project along the privately owned parcels in Unit P11 and remain in compliance with CBRA.

Section 6 of CBRA (16 U.S.C. § 3505) permits certain federal expenditures and financial assistance within the Coastal Barrier Resource System if it meets one of the exceptions (A-G) and it is also consistent with the three purposes of CBRA, which include: 1) minimize the loss of human life; 2) minimize wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues; and 3) minimize damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

The Service has determined that the TSP meets the section 6 (G) exemption and is consistent with three purposes of CBRA. Expenditure 6 (G) is for nonstructural shoreline stabilization that is designed to mimic, enhance, or restore a natural stabilization system. The Corps has indicated that no Federal funds will be spent within privately owned land in Unit P11 including the work conducted along the beach adjacent to: 1) the approximately 750 feet of private land at the northern boundary of the project area (Department of Environmental Protection monument R-98), 2) the approximately 150 feet of private land north of Dollman Park, and 3) the approximately 2,000 feet of land adjacent to Dollman Park. The Corps will award and administer the contracts for work in these areas; however, all activities including the salaries of individual Corps staff will be paid for with private funds.

Thank you for your cooperation in the effort to protect fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Jeff Howe or Ashleigh Blackford at 772-562-3909.

Sincerely yours,


Roxanna Hinzman
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc: electronic only
Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Jason Spinning, Paul Stodola)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960



November 2, 2016

Gina Paduano
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

Service CPA Code: 04EF2000-2016-CPA-0161
Date Received: May 20, 2016
Project: St. Lucie County, Coastal Storm
Risk Management Project
County: St. Lucie

Dear Ms. Paduano:

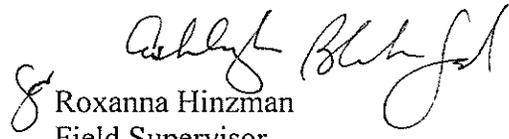
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Section 6 of CBRA (16 U.S.C. § 3505) permits certain federal expenditures and financial assistance within the Coastal Barrier Resource System if it meets one of the exceptions (A-G) and it is also consistent with the three purposes of CBRA, which include: 1) minimize the loss of human life; 2) minimize wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues; and 3) minimize damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.

The Service has determined that the TSP meets the section 6 (G) exemption and is consistent with three purposes of CBRA. Expenditure 6 (G) is for nonstructural shoreline stabilization that is designed to mimic, enhance, or restore a natural stabilization system. The Corps has indicated that no Federal funds will be spent within privately owned land in Unit P11 including the work conducted along the beach adjacent to: 1) the approximately 750 feet of private land at the northern boundary of the project area (Department of Environmental Protection monument R-98), 2) the approximately 150 feet of private land north of Dollman Park, and 3) the approximately 2,000 feet of land adjacent to Dollman Park. The Corps will award and administer the contracts for work in these areas; however, all activities including the salaries of individual Corps staff will be paid for with private funds.

Thank you for your cooperation in the effort to protect fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Jeff Howe or Ashleigh Blackford at 772-562-3909.

Sincerely yours,


Roxanna Hinzman
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc: electronic only
Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Jason Spinning, Paul Stodola)



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Jonathan P. Steverson
Secretary

July 8, 2016

Paul E. Stodola
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District, Planning Division
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Integrated Draft
Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment of a Coastal Storm Risk
Management Study, St. Lucie County, Florida
SAI # FL201605187623C

Dear Paul:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the proposed Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), *Florida Statutes*; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

Based on the information contained in the submittal, the state finds that the proposed DEA consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent regulatory reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will continue to be determined during the ongoing state's environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, *Florida Statutes*.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me at 850/717-9076 or Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us .

Paul E. Stodola
FL201605187623C
Page 2 of 2
July 8, 2016

Yours sincerely,

Chris Stahl

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

2017 - CPA - 0002

AB

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CESAJ-PD-EC (ER 200-2-2)

MAY 20 2016

Bundled
with:

2016-TA-0351
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Coordination Act Report for the St. Lucie County, Florida, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRМ).

PURPOSE: To document an informal understanding between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), South Florida Ecological Services Field Office.

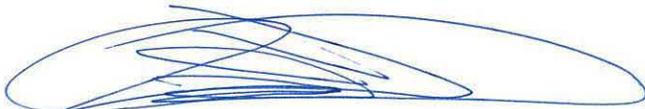
Background. The St. Lucie County CSRМ study was authorized by Resolution Dockets 2634 and 2757 dated April 11, 2000 and July 23, 1998, respectively. Funding was added by Congress in the appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003 to begin the reconnaissance study; the feasibility study proceeded under that authorization. The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within the study area of the St. Lucie County, Florida coastline. St. Lucie County's barrier Islands can be eroded by frequent winter storms (northeasters) as well as tropical storms and hurricanes. The Corps is developing and evaluating alternative plans that address coastal storm risk management, as well as incidental opportunities for preservation of environmental resources and recreation for the southern portion of Hutchinson Island. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of Interior, is a cooperating agency under the National Environmental Policy Act for this project due to the proposed use of Outer Continental Shelf sand resources located within a portion of the St. Lucie Shoal complex.

Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The study's TSP consists of beach nourishment/renourishment along approximately 3.4 miles of shoreline between Florida Department of Environmental Protection monuments R-98 (just north of Normandy Beach Access) and the Martin County line. The design beach fill template is characterized by a 20 foot berm extension from the toe of the 2008 dune profile. Beach fill material required includes an average of 530,400 cubic yards for initial construction of the design beach profile and approximately 2 renourishment events averaging 380,000 cubic yards each. This project proposes to use sand from St. Lucie Shoal, which contains material compatible with the native sand within the study area, and has a sufficient quantity for a 50-year planning horizon.

SUBJECT: Coordination Act Report for the St. Lucie County, Florida, Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRSM).

Coordination. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., March 10, 1934, as amended 1946, 1958, 1978, and 1995) requires Federal agencies to consult with the Service regarding the impacts to fish and wildlife resources and the proposed measures to mitigate these impacts. Additional coordination authorities exist through the review process of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended 1975 and 1982) and the consultations required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA; 7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. December 28, 1973). The Service continues to coordinate and consult with the Corps through NEPA and the ESA in which impacts to fish and wildlife resources are adequately addressed via these two authorities. The Service will include comments relevant to FWCA in the Services response to the Corps' ESA coordination letter.

Agreement. The undersigned, Corps and the Service, agree to utilize the St. Lucie CSRSM Study NEPA review and ESA consultation processes to complete coordination responsibilities under the FWCA. This agreement will avoid duplicate analysis and documentation as authorized under 40 CFR section 1500.4 (k), 1502.25, 1506.4, and is consistent with Presidential Executive Order for Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, released January 18, 2011.



Ashleigh Blackford
Chief, Planning and Resource Conservation

Roxanna Hinzman, Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office



Jason Spinning
Chief, Coastal Section



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Mr. Jason Spinning
Environmental Branch, Jacksonville USACE
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

May 3, 2016

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2016-1278/ Received by DHR: March 28, 2016
Project: St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study
Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) South Hutchinson Island Reach from
FDEP Range Monument R98 to R115+10000 Feet,
Near Shore Sand Placement from North and South St. Lucie Shoals
St. Lucie County

Mr. Spinning:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

We have reviewed the above referenced TSP from the Feasibility Study. This office concurs that there will likely be no effect on historic properties conditioned upon the maintenance of 500 foot buffers around shipwrecks and anomaly clusters located in the borrow areas.

For questions, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Preservationist, Compliance and Review at Robin.Jackson@doh.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D.,
Director, Division of Historical Resources, and
State Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

MAY 02 2016

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Regulation (33 CFR 230.11), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (report) for the St. Lucie County, Florida, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study. A discussion of the study background and Tentatively Selected Plan is included as Enclosure 1.

In addition, this letter serves as an invitation to a public meeting scheduled for June 2, 2016 to provide stakeholders an opportunity to further discuss the proposed work with Corps and St. Lucie County staff. Information about the meeting is included as Enclosure 2.

A copy of the draft report is available for your review at the St. Lucie County Library-Fort Pierce Branch located at 101 Melody Lane, Fort Pierce, Florida 34950. It is also available online at the following website. Click on St. Lucie County, then scroll down to St. Lucie County CSRM Project and click on the draft report or appendices.

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx>

Please submit questions or comments on the draft report in writing to the letterhead address above or by email (Paul.E.Stodola@usace.army.mil) by June 17, 2016.

Sincerely,

Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Enclosure 1: St. Lucie County CSRM Study

Project Background

The St. Lucie County CSRM study was authorized by Resolution Dockets 2634 and 2757 dated April 11, 2000 and July 23, 1998, respectively. Funding was added by Congress in the appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003 to begin the reconnaissance study; the feasibility study proceeded under that authorization. The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within the study area of the St. Lucie County, Florida coastline. St. Lucie County's barrier Islands can be eroded by frequent winter storms (northeasters) as well as tropical storms and hurricanes. The Corps is developing and evaluating alternative plans that address coastal storm risk management, as well as incidental opportunities for preservation of environmental resources and recreation for the southern portion of Hutchinson Island.

Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP)

The TSP consists of beach nourishment/renourishment along approximately 3.4 miles of shoreline between Florida Department of Environmental Protection monuments R-98 (just north of Normandy Beach Access) and the Martin County line. The design beach fill template is characterized by a 20 foot berm extension from the toe of the 2008 dune profile. Beach fill material required includes an average of 530,400 cubic yards for initial construction of the design beach profile and approximately 2 renourishment events averaging 380,000 cubic yards each. This project proposes to use sand from St. Lucie Shoal, which contains material compatible with the native sand within the study area, and has a sufficient quantity for a 50-year planning horizon.

Enclosure 2: Public Meeting for St. Lucie County CSRSM Study

DATE: June 2, 2016

TIME: 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM

PLACE: Regency Island Dunes, 8650 So. Ocean Drive, Jensen Beach, FL 34957

The public meeting will feature an open house from 6:30 to 7:00 PM where you will be able to informally discuss the project with Corps and St. Lucie County staff. Following the open house, you will be invited to stay for a brief presentation on the proposed project from 7:00 – 7:15 PM, including: summary of the Tentatively Selected Plan; environmental impacts; and project schedule. A formal comment period will be held after the presentation. Federal and State natural resource agencies are also being invited to attend.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

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St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

FEB 22 2016

F/SER47/PW

Colonel Jason A. Kirk, Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Dear Colonel Kirk:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has received the letter dated January 21, 2016, requesting participation as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, St. Lucie County, Florida.

On June 23, 2015, the NMFS participated in a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers briefing on the project. Given the information provided, impacts to NOAA-trust resources may result from the proposed placement on the beach of sand dredged from offshore shoals. Therefore, the NMFS agrees to serve as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA. Due to staffing and travel constraints, our participation in the preparation of the EA for this project may be limited to our review and comment on draft National Environmental Policy Act documents, teleconferences, and occasional travel to meetings.

We appreciate your invitation to serve as a cooperating agency on the EA for the study. Please direct related correspondence to Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia at our West Palm Beach office, 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 110, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33401. She may be reached by telephone at (561) 249-1925, or by e-mail at Jocelyn.Karazsia@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Crabtree, Ph.D.
Regional Administrator

cc: F, Leathery
F/SER, Strelcheck, Silverman, Blough
F/SER3, Bernhart, Sweeney
F/SER4, Fay, Dale
F/SER47, Wilber
Files





United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

FEB 09 2016

Mr. Jason Spinning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Spinning:

Thank you for your January 21, 2016, letter requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) become a cooperating agency during preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study in St. Lucie County, Florida. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District (Corps) has evaluated several alternatives, consisting of an array of various structural and non-structural measures, to accomplish the identified project planning goals and objectives. Beach nourishment and dune construction were included among the structural measures carried forward within the final array of alternative plans being evaluated. The structural measures may require use of federal sand resources located approximately 3.5 miles offshore within the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) at St. Lucie Shoals. Section 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) grants BOEM the authority to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for shore protection, beach or wetlands restoration, or for use in construction projects funded in whole or part or authorized by the federal government.

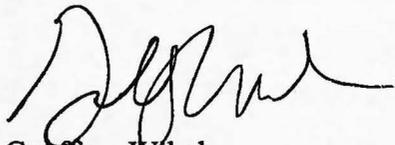
BOEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency since BOEM has sole jurisdiction over mineral leasing on the OCS. As a cooperating agency, BOEM expects to: participate and provide input in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of the Corps, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which BOEM has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the Corps; provide comment on draft versions of the EA when requested; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities. Several NEPA documents have been previously prepared by the Corps and/or BOEM considering the potential environmental effects of dredging offshore sand resources within the vicinity of the project area. BOEM expects to collaborate with the Corps to identify the existing NEPA analyses that can be used to ensure the most efficient and effective treatment of potential effects, while also considering and incorporating new information and science when appropriate.

BOEM recognizes the importance of initiating and agrees to participate in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act Section (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. The lead agency in ESA Section 7 consultation for potential impacts on protected species will be designated by jurisdiction and in

accordance with 50 CFR §402.07. BOEM is a joint consulting agency with the Corps in the ongoing re-initiated consultation for the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion, for which this project would be included as a component of the proposed action. BOEM anticipates that this consultation will be concluded prior to any planned construction date for this project and will serve as the consultation mechanism for the in-water dredging and placement activities of both agencies. The Corps would be the lead agency and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning use of the Florida Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion as the appropriate consultation mechanism for addressing effects from placement activities to listed species under FWS purview. Additionally, the Corps will notify FWS of BOEM's interconnected action and cooperating role. BOEM and the Corps will consult jointly with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division on essential fish habitat. BOEM anticipates that the Corps will be the lead federal agency for ensuring NHPA Section 106 compliance. BOEM expects to act in a consulting role, especially when coordinating with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the use of OCS sand resources and all related cultural resource survey activities. BOEM requests that the Corps involve BOEM in all deliberations with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers so that BOEM's involvement in the undertaking is understood. The Corps will be following Subpart C procedures to obtain a consistency concurrence from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Joint Coastal Permit process in compliance with Section 307 of the CZMA.

BOEM looks forward to working with the Corps during this process. We would greatly appreciate it if the Corps would include us on all public notices and correspondence to other federal and state agencies concerning this project. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Doug Piatkowski at (703) 787-1833 or by e-mail at douglas.piatkowski@boem.gov.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Wikel
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment

cc: Jeffrey Reidenauer, Leasing Division
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

bc: Official File
Chief, DEA
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Piatkowski, DEA



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

MAY 31 2006

TO THE ADDRESSEES ON THE ENCLOSED LIST:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is gathering information to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Lucie County, Florida. A reconnaissance report has been completed and resulted in the recommendation to continue the study into the feasibility phase. The most immediate and critical needs of the local communities are to address beach and dune erosion and protect State Highway A1A and environmental attributes. This study will determine the Federal interest in participating in a locally supported, cost-shared shore protection project to address St. Lucie County's coastal issues.

The study area, enclosed, covers about 5 miles of shoreline from the Sand Dollar Shores development (R-88) south to the county line (R-115). The entire coast of St. Lucie County is subject to storm damage and shoreline erosion. One of the most critically eroding areas, located at Ft. Pierce Beach, was addressed under a previously authorized Shore Protection Project and is not included in this study. Potential sand borrow areas to be investigated are also shown on the enclosure but other sources may be developed.

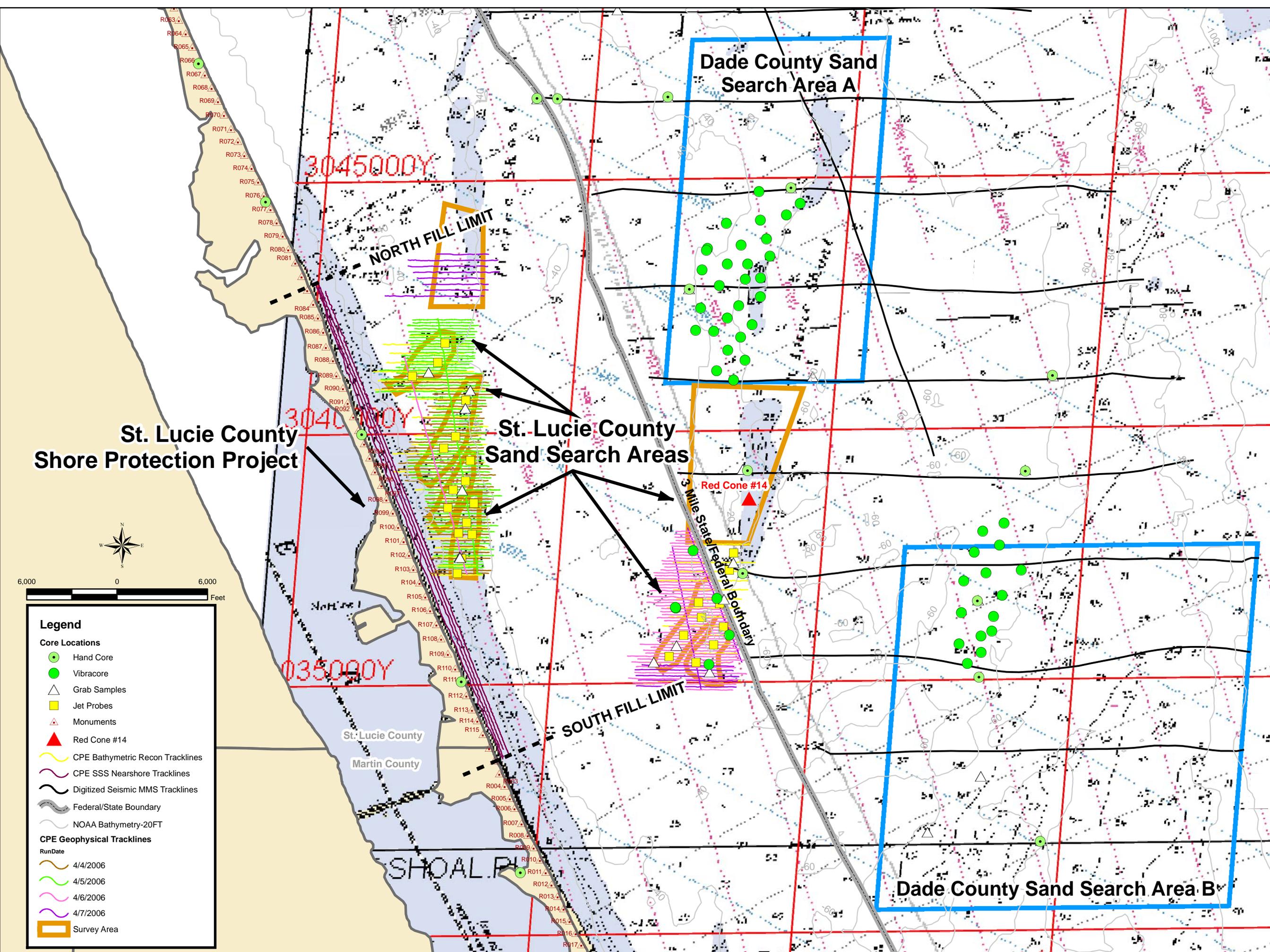
We welcome your views, comments and information about Environmental and Cultural resources, study objectives and important features within the described project area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Mr. Paul DeMarco at telephone number 904-232-1897, Planning Division, Environmental Branch and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stuart J. Appelbaum".

Stuart J. Appelbaum
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure



Dade County Sand Search Area A

Dade County Sand Search Area B

St. Lucie County Shore Protection Project

St. Lucie County Sand Search Areas

NORTH FILL LIMIT

SOUTH FILL LIMIT

3 Mile State Federal Boundary

St. Lucie County

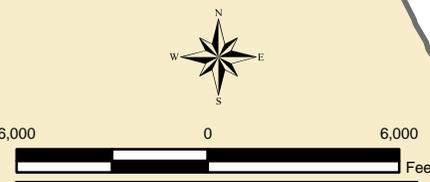
Martin County

SHOALS

3045000Y

3040000Y

3035000Y



Legend

Core Locations

- Hand Core
- Vibracore
- △ Grab Samples
- Jet Probes
- △ Monuments
- ▲ Red Cone #14

- CPE Bathymetric Recon Tracklines
- CPE SSS Nearshore Tracklines
- Digitized Seismic MMS Tracklines
- Federal/State Boundary
- NOAA Bathymetry-20FT

CPE Geophysical Tracklines

- RunDate
- 4/4/2006
 - 4/5/2006
 - 4/6/2006
 - 4/7/2006

- Survey Area

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CITY OF FT. PIERCE
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CHAIR, PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL OF SOUTH
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**OCEAN DUNES CONDOMINIUM
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JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957-2693**

**OCEAN TOWERS CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATES
9400 SOUTH OCEAN DRIVE OFFICE
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**OCEANA CONDOMINIUM I & II
9940 SOUTH OCEAN DRIVE OFFICE
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957-2499**

**OCEANA SOUTH II CONDOMINIUM
10600 SOUTH OCEAN DRIVE OFFICE
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957-2647**

**SAND DOLLAR SHORES CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION
7420 SOUTH OCEAN DRIVE
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957-2036**

**VENTURE THREE INC
10701 SOUTH OCEAN DRIVE
JENSEN BEACH, FLORIDA 34957-2683**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511
(727) 824-5317; FAX (727) 824-5300
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June 29, 2006

F/SER4:JK/pw

Colonel Robert M. Carpenter
District Engineer, Jacksonville District
Department of the Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville Regulatory Office, South Permits Branch
PO Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232

Dear Colonel Carpenter:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) reviewed the May 31, 2006, letter requesting our views, comments and information regarding your efforts to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in connection with evaluating the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Lucie County, Florida. Specifically, the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers (COE) is gathering comments and information pertinent to the renourishment of Sand Dollar Shores development (R-88) south to the county line (R-115). A map of potential nearshore and offshore sand borrow areas was provided in your letter. The following comments are provided in response to COE's National Environmental Policy Act scoping actions.

NOAA Fisheries is concerned that excavation of the offshore shoals could have significant adverse consequences to the shoreline and living marine resources. Although these particular offshore shoals have not been thoroughly studied with respect to fish utilization, NOAA Fisheries believes the shoals serve as a benthic nursery area, refuge, and feeding ground for a variety of fishery resources. The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) identifies sandy shoals as essential fish habitat (EFH) for migratory pelagic fish, including king mackerel, Spanish mackerel, cobia, and dolphin. Further, anecdotal evidence suggests that this shoal area is biologically unique and diverse, supporting fisheries that are economically and recreationally important, such as the migratory species listed above, sailfish, and prey species consumed by these fishery species. Clarke *et al.* (1988) and Michel *et al.* (2001) note the geomorphology of offshore shoals provide a unique assembly of micro-habitats that facilitate high biological productivity.

NOAA Fisheries also is concerned that mining the shoal for sand may alter the local wave climate bringing about erosion that could affect EFH. Through an evaluation of the potential impacts from dredging linear shoals in the U.S. Gulf and Atlantic continental shelves, Hayes and Nairn (2004) concluded that the deflation of a shoal feature could change wave patterns between the shoal and the shoreline. In turn, such dredging could change longshore and cross-shore sand-transport patterns and erosion and accretion rates along the shore. Kelley *et al.* (2004) verified this conclusion in their examination of a borrow site offshore Martin County (depths were approximately 8 to 10 m), and recommend application of wave transformation numerical modeling tools that recognize the random nature of incident waves as they propagate onshore when examining incremental and cumulative changes



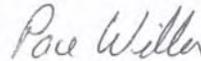
from sand dredging on the continental shelf.

Lastly, NOAA Fisheries is concerned that excavation of nearshore borrow areas in addition to the placement of fill in nearshore areas could adversely affect hardbottom habitat, which includes corals and worm reefs colonized by *Phragmatopoma lapidosa*. Nearshore hardbottom and worm reefs are also identified by the SAFMC as EFH and as habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC). These reefs reduce wave energy and stabilize shorelines (Kirtley 1967; Kirtley and Tanner 1968) and provide structural habitat for fishery organisms (Gore *et al.* 1977; Nelson 1989; Lindeman and Snyder 1999). Based on a recent conversation with the COE Project Manager, Paul DeMarco, we were advised efforts are underway to map and characterize the nearshore hardbottom within the project impact area. Avoidance and minimization of impacts to hardbottom resources will be important as the project moves forward through planning, design, and construction.

NOAA Fisheries recommends that the COE continue to coordinate closely with the Habitat Conservation Division to ensure the EFH assessment and NEPA documents contain sufficient detail. The consultation requirements in the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act direct federal agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries when the agency's activities may have an adverse affect on EFH. Please see 50 CFR 600.10 to 600.920 for details on EFH definitions and EFH assessments. In addition, NOAA Fisheries recommends that the EFH assessment include the results of an on-site inspection, the views of recognized experts on the habitat or species affects, a literature review, an analysis of alternatives to the proposed action, and analyses of the borrow site analyses using methods similar to those recommended in Kelley *et al.* (2004).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Related questions or comments should be directed to the attention of Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia at 11420 North Kendall Drive, Suite 103, Miami, Florida, 33176. She may be reached by telephone at (786) 263-0028 or by e-mail at Jocelyn.Karazsia@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



/ for

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: (via electronic mail)

EPA, West Palm Beach
FWS, Vero Beach
FWC, Tallahassee
FDEP, WPB
SAFMC
NMFS, PRD
MMS
F/SER47, Karazsia

Literature Cited:

Clarke, D.; Fredette, T.J.; Imsand, D. 1988. Creation of Offshore Topographic Features with Dredged Material. Environmental Effects of Dredging, Information Exchange Bulletin, Vol. D 88 5. Prepared by US Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MS.

Gore, R.H., Scotto, L.E., Becker, L.J., 1977. Community composition, stability, and trophic partitioning in decapod crustaceans inhabiting some subtropical sabellariid worm reefs. *Bulletin of Marine Science* 28: 221-248

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Kirtley, D.W., 1967. Worm reefs as related to beach stabilization. *Shore and Beach* 35: 31-34.

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Lindeman, K., and D. Snyder. 1999. Nearshore hardbottom fishes of southeast Florida and effects of habitat burial caused by dredging. *Fisheries Bulletin* 97: 508-525.

Michel, J, J.R. Nairn, J. Johnson, and D. Hardin. 2001. Development and Design of Biological and Physical Monitoring Protocols to Evaluate the Long-term Impacts of Offshore Dredging Operations on the Marine Environment. Herndon, Virginia: Minerals Management Service OCS Report MMS 2001-089, 116 pp. 1 appendix.

Nelson, W. 1989. Beach renourishment and hardbottom habitats: the case for caution. In S. Tait (ed.), *Proceedings of the 1989 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology*, p. 109-116. Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association, Tallahassee, Florida.



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

August 11, 2006

Mr. Paul M. DeMarco
Planning Division, Jacksonville District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers – Scoping Notice –
St. Lucie County Shore Protection Project Feasibility Study – St. Lucie County, Florida.
SAI # FL200606052397C

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

The enclosed comments provided by the Florida Department of State (DOS) were received after our previous letter, dated July 14, 2006, was mailed. Please be advised that these comments do not change our finding that, at this stage, the proposed activity is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. Please continue to coordinate with the DOS Division of Historical Resources to ensure protection of historic properties within the proposed project area.

If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (850) 245-2170.

Sincerely,

Lauren P. Milligan
Environmental Consultant
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

LPM/vh
Enclosure

cc: Laura Kammerer, DOS



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Sue M. Cobb
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

RECEIVED
AUG 11 2006
OIP / OLGA

Ms. Lauren Milligan
Director, Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

August 7, 2006

RE: DHR No.: 2006-4931/ Date Received by DHR: June 6, 2006
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers/ SAI #: FL200606052397C
*Scoping Notice – St. Lucie County Shore Protection Project Feasibility
Study - St. Lucie County, Florida*

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended and *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties* and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended*. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise Federal agencies as they identify historic properties (archaeological, architectural, and historical) listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assess effects upon them, and consider alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We reviewed the Florida Master Site File and our records for information to be addressed in an Environmental Impact Statement for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Lucie County. This office recommends first of all that project activities avoid the known shipwrecks and the prehistoric burial site located within the designated study area. Therefore, the Florida Master Site File should be contacted at (850) 245-6440, in order to obtain information about shipwrecks and the burial mound recorded within the proposed five-mile of shoreline.

In our prior review of a proposal to identify potential sand sources for beach renourishment in St. Lucie County, we received information that magnetometer and side scan sonar data had been compiled for the proposed offshore borrow areas. These sites appear to correlate with two of the potential sand borrow areas located within State waters on the Jacksonville District's map of the referenced project area. Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that the special conditions outlined in our letter to Florida Department of Environmental Regulation (DHR No. 2006-2460-B) dated April 19, 2006 must be followed if these sand search areas are developed (see enclosure).

This office previously reviewed a proposal to prospect for mineral resources within a Geophysical Survey (GS) area, recommended that a systematic remote sensing archaeological

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Archaeological Research
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Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
(954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

Northeast Regional Office
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Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Ms. Milligan, Tallahassee
August 7, 2006
Page 2

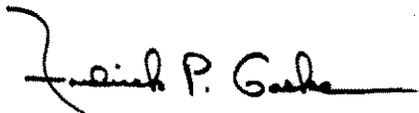
survey be performed within this area (DHR No. 2006-193). According the Jacksonville District's map of the referenced project area, part of the GS area appears to correlate with the sand source area located within State waters immediately south of the sand source area identified as "Red Cone #14," and the remainder appears to correlate with the Red Cone #14 area itself. According to our records, the resultant report has not been received for review by this office. Therefore, we reiterate our prior opinion that these areas should be investigated, and the resultant report coordinated with this office.

Our search further indicates that we previously reviewed a proposal to use the borrow sites identified on the Jacksonville District's map as the "Dade County Sand Search Area A" and the "Dade County Sand Search Area B" for the renourishment of Miami Beach (DHR No. 2006-3203). Our prior opinion was that a systematic remote sensing investigation be conducted within both borrow areas, and that recorded shipwreck sites within Area A—the America Wreck Site (8SL28) and the Halsey Wreck Site (1942)-UW44 (8SL30)—be relocated during this investigation. We additionally noted that a 500-foot buffer zone, or dredge exclusion area, is required around each shipwreck site. If avoidance were not possible, we advised that additional archaeological investigation would be required, including diver investigation by a marine archaeologist, or other professional experienced in underwater archaeology, to determine their significance. Our records indicate that the resultant survey report for Areas A and B has not been received in this office. Therefore, we reiterate our opinion that they be investigated, and the resultant report coordinated with this office, and that buffering must be performed, if Area A is developed as a sand source area.

In the event that other sand sources that have not been subjected to investigation are proposed as potential sand borrow areas, it is the opinion of this office that a standard systematic remote sensing survey be performed for the offshore borrow areas in order to avoid potential adverse effect to unrecorded shipwrecks. Should potential borrow areas that have not been investigated be developed on land, it is our opinion that that they be subjected to the standard professional cultural resource survey to avoid possible impact to unrecorded sites. This office looks forward to coordinating with the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers in the management and protection of historic properties associated with this project.

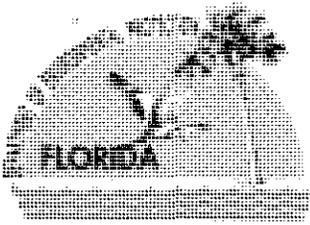
If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Janice Maddox, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail at jmaddox@dos.state.fl.us, or by telephone at 850/245-6333. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Office

Enclosure



Jeb Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

RECEIVED

17 July 2006

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

July 14, 2006

Mr. Paul M. DeMarco
Planning Division, Jacksonville District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers – Scoping Notice –
St. Lucie County Shore Protection Project Feasibility Study – St. Lucie County, Florida.
SAI # FL200606052397C

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced scoping notice.

Based on the information contained in the public notice and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed activity is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The applicant must, however, address the concerns identified by our reviewing agencies prior to project implementation. All subsequent environmental documents must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Jacqueline Larson at (850) 245-2182.

Sincerely,

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/jl
Enclosure

"More Protection, Less Process"

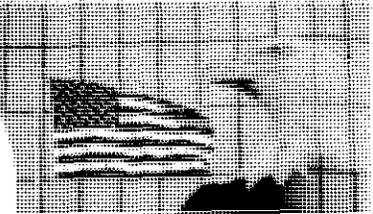
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Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

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Project Information	
Project:	FL200606052397C
Comments Due:	07/03/2006
Letter Due:	07/14/2006
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SCOPING NOTICE - ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY - ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	ACOE - ST. LUCIE COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY
CFDA #:	12.101
Agency Comments:	
TREASURE COAST RPC - TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
No Final Comments Received	
ST. LUCIE - ST. LUCIE COUNTY	
No Final Comments Received	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No Final Comments Received	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No Final Comments Received	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
No comments.	

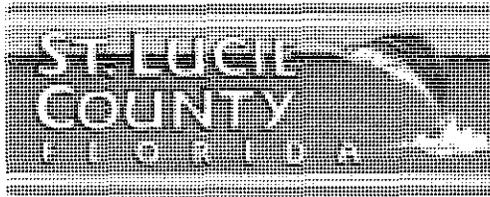
For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

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FRANNIE
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June 30, 2006

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

**RE: ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLORIDA FEASIBILITY STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

As the local sponsor for the St. Lucie County Feasibility project, we look forward to working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other agencies as we evaluate our shoreline protection needs through the federal process.

Beach erosion along the Atlantic coastline continues to be exacerbated by high frequency storms and hurricane activity. These storm events have inflicted severe damage to the beach and dune system of St. Lucie County, especially to the 5-mile feasibility study area. Several emergency dune restoration projects have been recently completed in this area to provide short-term storm damage reduction measures. We look forward to moving forward with the Corps in an expeditious manner to address this critically eroding shoreline.

We also recognize the importance of the cultural and environmental resources that exist within the study area and the St. Lucie Shoal. These resources are very important to the coastal environment as well as to the citizens of the Treasure Coast. It is very important that this process provides for a delicate balance between these resources and the shore protection project.

Should you have any questions or if you need further information, please contact Mr. Richard Bouchard, St. Lucie County Erosion District Manager, at (772) 462-1710.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Doug Coward in black ink.

Doug Coward, Chairman
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners

Handwritten signature of Frannie Hutchinson in black ink.

Frannie Hutchinson, Chair
St. Lucie County Erosion District

DC:FH

Cc: Board of County Commissioners
Doug Anderson, County Administrator
Dan McIntyre, County Attorney

Ray Wazny, Assistant County Administrator
Don West, Public Works Director
Richard Bouchard, Erosion District Manager



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Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

June 30, 2006

Dear Mr. DeMarco,

The Treasure Coast Chapter of the National Surfrider Foundation (TC Surfrider) recently received a copy of the "request for comments" letter from Stuart Appelbaum, addressing the shoreline protection project proposed for St. Lucie County beaches, from Sand Dollar Shores south to the Martin County line. We have also studied the Army Corps' map of potential "sand search areas" for this project.

Although we were not a direct recipient of Mr. Appelbaum's letter, as one of the Treasure Coast's most highly regarded environmental organizations addressing coastal issues, we are compelled to respond.

First, we would like to commend the Corps in their recent decision to take the St. Lucie Shoal off the potential "borrow" sites for a planned Miami Beach restoration project. This shoal, along with the other nearby shoals located off the coast of St. Lucie and Martin counties, not only serve as vital marine habitats, but may also provide shoreline protection from storm-generated wave action. TC Surfrider, teaming up with incoming Florida Senate President Ken Pruitt, gathered over 3,000 signatures in opposition to the proposed dredging of St. Lucie Shoal. (A copy of the petition is attached.) The public sentiment against this project was overwhelming.

While the St. Lucie Shoal and "Dade County Search Area B" appear not to be included in the upcoming feasibility plan for the "Sand Dollar" project, we are highly concerned with the wording in the letter: "Potential sand borrow areas to be investigated are also shown on the enclosure *but other sources may be developed.*" This language could suggest that St. Lucie Shoal may once again be targeted as a "borrow" site, despite tremendous community opposition.

Although we continue to be steadfastly opposed to the use of the St. Lucie Shoal as a sand source, any consideration of the Shoal or "Area B," as a sand source would require the same amount of research that was suggested for the Miami-Dade project, including further review of the wave impact modeling on the barrier island and a year-long monitoring of marine life. A programmatic EIS would be required, including a baseline population study to measure the number of mole crabs and other invertebrates that make their homes there. Sediment compatibility should also be reviewed thoroughly by an independent agency.

In 1998, the Corps wanted to "borrow" sand from Capron Shoal, 3 miles off Fort Pierce, to replenish beaches south of the Fort Pierce Inlet. But the shoal was home to a rare species called bryozoans, animals so tiny that a whole colony can live in the space between grains of sand. The Conservation Alliance of St. Lucie County and other groups fought the corps, because scientists thought that the tiny creatures were found nowhere else in the world. A corps study found that the microscopic animals live on several shoals off St. Lucie County but some species were found on Capron Shoal and nowhere else.

Our other concerns are focused on the proposed "St. Lucie County Sand Search Areas." Many of these areas are also important marine habitats, with living reef systems adjacent. As with the shoal areas, all of the above-stated studies should be taken. While TC Surfrider recognizes the importance of shoreline erosion management, it must not come at the expense of the natural marine resources that make Florida's Treasure Coast one of the few stretches of native coastline left in the state.

Another viable alternative is to re-nourish these beaches with sand from a compatible inland source.

You are probably aware of the history surrounding St. Lucie County's emergency dune restoration project in the wake of Hurricanes Francis and Jeanne. TC Surfrider Foundation played a large role in holding all parties accountable for this poorly conceived dune restoration project, and we helped force the county to remove 3.7 miles of incompatible "road bed material" that had been mined and trucked in. It was replaced with compatible sand from a local source.

While an unfortunate example, the St. Lucie dune project and other similarly and properly constructed projects proved that it is possible to re-nourish local beaches by bringing in sand from an inland source.

Regrettably, whether sand is used from an inland or offshore source, the present beach restoration technology offers only a "band-aid" solution at best. The Surfrider Foundation welcomes the opportunity to work together to develop better and more socially and environmentally responsible management approaches to local coastal erosion. With over 60,000 members worldwide, Surfrider has biologists and engineers studying every aspect of coastal preservation technology.

TC Surfrider requests that our organization be copied on all correspondence from the Corps Planning Division Environmental Branch regarding beach re-nourishment projects affecting St. Lucie and Martin counties. Please forward correspondence to: Treasure Coast Surfrider, P.O. Box 683, Jensen Beach, FL 34858. We also request that the Corps conduct properly-recorded public hearings on all proposed shoreline protection projects before proceeding with environmental impact studies. These hearings should be advertised well in advance in local newspapers so that taxpaying citizens have fair notice to respond and voice their thoughts and concerns.

Respectfully yours,

Andy Brady, Co-Chair, St. Lucie County

Chris Shultz, Co-Chair, Martin County

CC: Senator Ken Pruitt

St. Lucie County Commission

Martin County Commission



**Surfrider
Foundation.**

www.surfrider.org

We, the undersigned, supporters of the Surfrider Foundation Treasure Coast Chapter, are petitioning the US Army Corp of Engineers (Corps) to reject the so-called "borrowing" of sand from the St. Lucie shoal. The taxpayers' cost of Miami-Dade's "re-nourishment" project would be astronomical. This shoal is designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) under National Marine Fisheries Service protection; a barrier shoal providing protection to Hutchinson Island and our nuclear power plant; and important charter, commercial, and recreational fishing location, providing crucial economics and recreation for our communities. As the keepers of the Treasure Coast, we are vehemently against the Corps from allowing Miami-Dade and other Florida counties from stealing this shoal and our shoreline protection.

Name

Hometown

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Please return completed petitions to the next meeting or mail to:

Treasure Coast Surfrider Foundation P.O. Box 683 Jensen Beach, FL 34958

Email tcsurfrider@yahoo.com to find out next time/location of the Treasure Coast Surfrider meeting

For additional information, call 772-834-5858



**Surfrider
Foundation.**

June 30, 2006

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. DeMarco,

The Surfrider Foundation is submitting this comment letter regarding the shoreline protection project proposed for St. Lucie County beaches, from Sand Dollar Shores south to the Martin County line. The Surfrider Foundation is an international non-profit grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of our world's oceans, waves and beaches. The Surfrider Foundation now maintains over 50,000 members (4,000 in Florida alone) and 64 chapters across the United States and Puerto Rico, with international affiliates in Australia, Europe, Japan and Brazil (www.surfrider.org).

After studying the reconnaissance report and the map of potential "sand search areas" for this project, our organization is highly concerned with the wording in the letter: "Potential sand borrow areas to be investigated are also shown on the enclosure *but other sources may be developed.*" This language would suggest that St. Lucie Shoal may once again be targeted as a "borrow" site, despite overwhelming community opposition. The St. Lucie Shoal as a potential "borrow" site, along with the other nearby shoals located off the coast of St. Lucie and Martin counties, not only serve as vital marine habitats, but could like provide necessary shoreline protection from storm-generated wave action. After speaking with Dr. Mark Byrnes of Applied Coastal Tech, he confirmed my concerns about the use of this shoal and the potential barrier island erosion hot spots that would result from storm wave action, if this shoal was to be used. As suggested in the Miami-Dade Project additional wave modeling from the proposed use of the shoal would need to be done. In addition, any sediment compatibility testing should be done by an independent geologist.

While our organization recognizes the importance of beach management, projects must not come at the expense of the natural marine resources that make Florida's Treasure Coast one of the few stretches of native coastline left in the state. Florida's coastal management policies to protect all recreation, tourism and economic development; therefore, the corps focus should be the same. To take away the protection and recreation from the community to benefit only a 5-mile stretch would be in direct conflict.

We are also concerned that excavation of the nearshore borrow areas in addition to the placement of fill in nearshore areas could adversely affect hardbottom habitat, which includes corals and worm reefs. Nearshore hardbottom and worm reefs are identified by SAFMC and NOAA as EFH and as habitat areas of particular concern (HAPC). These reefs currently reduce wave energy and stabilize shorelines (Kirtley 1967; Kirtley and Tanner 1968) and provide structural habitat for fishery organisms (Gore *et al.* 1977;

Nelson 1989; Lindeman and Snyder 1999). Any mitigation would require kind-for-kind mitigation, which includes the design to be in the same amount of water-depth.

We hope that in the feasibility that there may be better alternatives to the “bandaid” 50-year massive dredge and fill projects. It has been well discussed for years (including a recent conference in Ft. Lauderdale in May) among Florida coastal engineers, geologists, county erosion administrators and other organizations that the opportunity for better inlet management and sand bypass could better serve Florida taxpayers. Other counties, such as Palm Beach and now Broward are using or are looking to use of sand bypass systems at major inlets. This alternative could create an environmentally, recreationally, and long-term cost-friendly solution, especially since we all know that 80% of our sand budget is interrupted by these inlets.

Please copy our organization on all correspondence including Notice of Intents. We didn't receive the 30 day comment letter, only a letter from Mr. Applebaum. We also request that at the release of the feasibility study that an adequate public comment period be advertised in local newspapers before proceeding with a future environmental impact study, so that residents of this community can provide local insight and knowledge for the area in which they live and work.

We welcome the opportunity to work together to develop better and more locally-designed and environmentally responsible management approaches to coastal erosion. Surfrider has available independent scientists and engineers across the US studying every aspect of coastal preservation technology.

Thank you for this opportunity,

Ericka D'Avanzo
Surfrider Foundation
Florida Regional Manager
Jensen Beach, FL

CC: Senator Pruitt
Martin County Commissioners
St. Lucie County Commissioners
Rep. Harrell



RECEIVED

JUL 05 2006

OCEANA SOUTH II

June 27, 2006

Att: Planning Division Environmental Branch:

Dear Mr. Paul DeMarco

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed feasibility study. With the effects of recent storms fresh on many of our minds your request for comments and concerns are timely.

We have reviewed the attached information you have provided and we have a few concerns that we feel must be addressed. The location of the proposed borrow areas, could be problematic for both the Dade county efforts as well as the current effort being considered for the St Lucie County. Given the limitations of scale presented in your charts it appears that the sand search are proposed for St Lucie County are fairly close to the shore yielding the possibility if wave reflection and refraction issues. It therefore requested that a wave refraction analysis be preformed and the results be independently reviewed, to insure no impact to adjoining shoreline areas. We would also like to understand the correlation of economic life with the availability of sand to maintain the project throughout its entire life. This is critical to understand the full costs associated with the project and to avoid cost increases during proposed renourishment.

The Dade County sand search area raises some interesting questions. We understand that the location for this search area is located in Federal waters controlled by the Mineral Management Agency. We are very curious why you are searching for sand in the waters off Martin and St Lucie Counties for a project over a hundred miles away and what effect if any

will result should more fill be needed for our area beaches.

Additionally, we have been following with great care the efforts associated with the Corps Shoreline Performance Assessment effort formally called S3P21. We hope that you will be using information gathered from this effort and it's associated economic and plan information analysis with the evaluation of affects from the recent hurricanes on Martin and St Lucie Counties.

In closing we would like to thank the Corps of Engineers for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to working with you as the study continues.

Nick Macchia, President
Oceana South II Condo Association

Re: Darlene Anderson

DAIMLERCHRYSLER

DaimlerChrysler Corporation

Paul G. Smuts

Vice President
Human Resources Operations
and Facilities Management

June 19, 2006

Mr. Paul DeMarco,

I have owned a condo on Hutchinson Island for the past 22+ years, and along with many others, am very concerned about the beach erosion.

As I hope we all realize, the sun & the beaches are the main reason people choose to live & vacation in Florida - so the continued viability of the Florida economy is tightly linked to the preservation of its beaches.

I strongly support the continuation of the feasibility study to protect the beaches & shore line in St. Lucie County. I trust we can count on your support for this vital project.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Smuts

4656 Oakhurst Ridge Rd.
Clarkston, Michigan 48348

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
Dept of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Fl. 32232-0019

Dear Mr. DeMarco,

We support the continuation to the next phase of the feasibility study for gathering information to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for evaluation of the feasibility of providing erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction and related purposes to the shores of St Lucie County.

Sincerely,

David O. Miner
Association Board of the Island Beach Club (60 unit Association)

Arden Peck

1707 Rio Vista Dr. Ft. Pierce, FL 34949

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
Dept of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

June 13, 2006

Dear Mr. DeMarco;

I want to thank you for your recent action recommending the continuation of the study regarding St. Lucie County's shore protection assessment.

Your proactive thinking was greatly appreciated by all of us who are working to protect our shrinking shoreline.

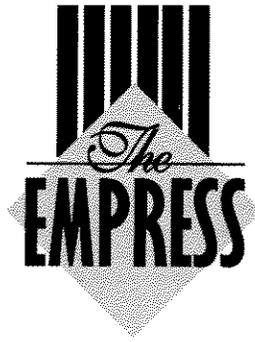
We look forward to your continued support and, of course, will assist you in any way we can.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arden Peck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Arden Peck, Director
St. Lucie County Chapter
Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association



June 11, 2006

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0010

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

This letter is written on behalf of the 117 unit owners in the Empress Condominium on the southeast coast of St. Lucie County and responds to the May 31st letter from Mr. Applebaum asking that input be sent to you. Our homes are currently very vulnerable to any high waves especially those caused by a hurricane. Because of this, we support all efforts that could lead to shoreline protection and a reduction in our current vulnerability to hurricanes.

A review of the aerial photographs you have of this area will easily show our current vulnerability. Photographs you have of our area before Hurricane Francis show our homes were protected by a dune about 89 feet wide vegetated with mature saw palmettos and a very wide beach. After hurricanes Francis and Jeanne, our dune was reduced to about 23 feet at its widest point with no dune in some places. Since that time, at our expense, we rebuilt the portions of the 23 feet wide dune that were washed away and vegetated the entire dune. As you know, the recent state and St. Lucie County effort added about 19 feet to our dune width in what was called an emergency dune restoration project. In their correspondence this was called a band-aid effort. That is not very comforting if your home is on the beach. The resultant dune that protects our homes is about 42 feet wide. We are in the process of vegetating the new portion of our dune. Our beach is very narrow. In fact, we had some minor wash over of our dune this last spring during the normal spring high tides. It is for this reason, as we said earlier, that we support efforts to improve the protection provided by our dune.

Since your study is to determine the federal interest in participating in this effort, we would like to know the steps we can take to increase the federal interest. If there is anything we can do in this regard, please contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

Steed Johnson, President
Empress Board of Directors

cc: Chuck Shelton
Bob Fedak

Florida Sportsman Communications Network
2700 S. Kanner Hwy.
Stuart, FL 34994
Phone: (772) 219-7400
Fax: (772) 219-6916

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Department of the Army
Corps of Engineers Jacksonville Regulatory Office,
South Permits Branch
PO Box 4970 Jacksonville, Florida 32232

Cc
St. Lucie County Commission
Richard Bouchard
St. Lucie County Erosion Administrator

Dear Mr. DeMarco;

This letter contains our comments on and questions about the proposed south St. Lucie County “beach nourishment” project.

Although it is not clear exactly what the project would entail, a dredge-and-fill project in this area has considerable potential to cause a variety of very serious environmental damage—damage that would also have significant social repercussions. The *Florida Sportsman Communications Network* is based in Stuart, Florida, and we are intimately familiar with the marine resources both in the project area and related to or near the potential “borrow areas.” We look forward to helping the Corps, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission and St. Lucie County to identify and quantify known resources.

The information we’ve received does not make the project details clear, except that a dredge-and-fill project is proposed for South St. Lucie beaches with several potential “borrow areas” under consideration. We have a number of questions, and we would appreciate a quick and complete response to the following questions organized by subhead.

Sand Compatibility

Primary complaints among anglers and divers about “beach nourishment” are a., impacts to forage such as beach invertebrates; b. degraded water clarity; and c. direct burial, dredging of, or indirect siltation of nearshore, shallow and offshore reefs. Some of these impacts can be minimized or avoided by carefully choosing high-quality fill material that is genuinely compatible with native beach sediments.

--In microns, what is the range in size, stratified by percentage, of native beach sediments and their character, e.g. quartz/carbonate ratio?

--In microns what are the ranges in sizes, stratified by percentage, of the materials sampled in each borrow areas. And, please describe fully their character. Are they quartz grains, skeletal carbonate grains (mollusks), or are they non-skeletal oiid grains, or come combination? What is the percentage of fine sediment (less than 30 microns) in the material examined from each borrow site?

--We would appreciate an opportunity to examine the samplings ourselves.

Project Scope

--Roughly how many yards of fill would be necessary?

--How far out into the ocean would the berm extend?

--Is fixed sand bypassing at the Fort Pierce Inlet being considered by the state and/or the Corps as a compliment or alternative to this project?

--Have breakwaters or similar structures been considered for the purposes of extending the life of the projects?

--Are alternative, more turtle-friendly templates being considered?

--Is a long-term strategy being developed, that takes into account anticipated sea-level rise and possibly finite sand resources?

Nearshore Hardbottom

--Chronic turbidity in the surf zone has been a reality since the botched St. Lucie Dune Restoration Project and the Martin Federal project were implemented. The number of days with visibility to conduct transect surveys are very limited. To what extent have the nearshore hardbottom resources been mapped and quantified? If so, what were the methods and materials and who was the contractor?

We want to make it clear that the proposed project area is blessed with abundant nearshore reef resources, including reefs built by the gregarious polychaete worm, *P. lapidosa*, which provide forage and cover for more then 530 marine species, including sea turtles. This beach is also a famous surf fishing destination (or you can fish toward

the beach from a boat) because species such as pompano, snook, tarpon, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, gray snapper and myriad other gamefish utilize the reefs as ambush points and for other reasons. Several of these species are federally managed, and the reefs are designated Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC). But most importantly, these reefs provide habitat for newly settled reef fish, such as grunts and snappers. Dr. Grant Gilmore, the scientist who has described virtually every fish on the Treasure Coast, has ample data showing that survival ratios are much lower among demersal fish on deeper reefs. Presently, we are unaware of any technology that successfully creates kind-for-kind habitat mitigation for nearshore hardbottom and **we will request that NMFS elevate this project should the project would impact these habitats or fish or fishing are impacted in any unreasonable way.**

Dredge Sites

While we realize that a number of borrow areas are identified on the map, we are concerned that the St. Lucie Shoal may still be considered as a potential dredging site. Recent community outcry against using the St. Lucie Shoal as a "borrow site" for a Dade County project was loud and universal. Allowing St. Lucie County to utilize that potential sand resource would presumably make the shoal fair game to every other coastal county. Our comments on that proposal are attached so you can reference our concerns.

Further, very valuable hard bottom resources are located in close proximity to several of the investigated sites. Some of these reefs are our best bottom fishing "numbers." Both Martin and St. Lucie counties have a highly successful artificial reef program, and it makes no sense to damage or even endanger existing natural or man-made reef resources when the community clearly values them so highly. Both recreational and commercial fishing are huge industries in this area, and both have suffered severely from the St. Lucie canal discharges, the St. Lucie dune project and the Martin County federal project.

Cumulative Impacts

Dozens of "beach nourishment" projects have taken place in Southeast Florida, yet no adequate assessment of the cumulative impacts exists. The need for such studies has been recognized. FDEP's Southeast Coral Reef Initiative (SEACRI) is presently working on such an assessment. The project is not only limited to impacts from beach dredge-and-fill operations, and recognizes that multiple stressors on interconnected ecosystems (e.g. seagrass beds and coral reefs) can have cascading impacts on many trophic levels. But the assessment is incomplete and does not involve St. Lucie County.

Given the biological abundance and diversity in the proposed borrow areas and project areas, and their close proximity to North America's most biologically diverse estuary, the Indian River Lagoon, the Corps needs to take a hard look at the cumulative impacts and multiple stressors that have degraded these interconnected ecosystems. These stressors include, a. the 500-plus-billion gallons of nutrient-laden runoff that

fouled the St. Lucie River and parts of the IRL while causing a massive, persistent and toxic blue/green algae bloom; b. approximately 50 percent of the Martin County beach fill material was either fine sediment or materials that are abraiding into carbonate muds—a press disturbance persists in terms of water clarity and scouring particles; c. the St. Lucie County dune restoration project put more than 100,000 yards of mud into the system, resulting in a similar press disturbance; d. the Taylor Creek canal discharges; and e. the armoring of the IRL’s western shoreline in St. Lucie County and the impacts to seagrass beds.

As part of the feasibility study, the Corps should attempt to quantify the combined and cumulative impacts of all these stressors. We suggest that the ecosystems perhaps should not be stressed further at this time by a massive dredge-and-fill project.

The Taxpayer’s Rights

At minimum, the Corps can reduce impacts to nearshore hardbottom by starting the project farther south. It is completely inappropriate to dredge-and-fill one of two remaining native beaches on the island to protect property that hasn’t been constructed yet. No one should be allowed to live in the area on the north end of the project, known as “The Narrows.” But the Tesoro and other developments are planned or underway.

Like so many Corps projects, so-called “beach nourishment” simply encourages people to live in floodplains. Even worse, the Narrows is frequently the site of an ephemeral inlet, and was being considered for inclusion in the Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge. The project will only encourage further development in unsustainable locations. Since protecting AIA is also a goal, then perhaps the Corps should recommend elevating the roadway on pilings.

Furthermore, it should be noted that yesterday Citizens Property Insurance Corp., Florida’s insurer of last resort, announced that it will stop providing builders risk coverage for new buildings under construction in coastal areas. Already, in our opinion, the public is unfairly forced to subsidize beachfront interests with tax dollars for “beach nourishment,” and often a second time in terms of impacts to public trust resources, such as reefs. It makes no sense to make the public pay for a land reclamation project with tax dollars and natural resources, to give ground-floor protection to a few buildings that will never get insured. The project will likely fail, as will the buildings, and the public will be stuck with the tab, again.

Conclusion

While we realize that St. Lucie County is the sponsor, we are concerned that, to our knowledge, neither the County nor the Corps has engaged in any scoping or outreach to beach users and boaters or any other public interest. Since there is little community awareness about this proposed project, we insist that you extend the public comment period and immediately plan scoping and outreach meetings.

A feasibility study must proceed with a design template in mind, which means that the study is biased toward one approach despite the fact that the community would likely prefer to pursue alternatives to big, square beaches. The Corps has modified template designs both in Florida and in New Jersey to protect local resources. We would appreciate it if the Jacksonville District would demonstrate similar flexibility and work with the many community stakeholders.

Again, to insure that this project reflects the will of the community, and not just the will of beachfront interests, there is a dire need for outreach and scoping. We look forward to a quick response from your agency.

Thank you;

Terry Gibson
Managing Editor
For Staff



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/DHRC/BRMS/040270

Mr. Joseph Smith
Chair, Board of Commissioners
St. Lucie County
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

APR 17 2009

Dear Mr. Smith:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project*. The report describes the results of the Service's digital mapping pilot project and a framework for modernizing the remainder of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) maps. The pilot project was conducted pursuant to the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-514). Also enclosed are large-scale copies of the draft pilot project maps for the areas under your jurisdiction.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA, P.L. 97-348) of 1982 established the CBRS, a defined set of geographic units located along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Island coasts. These units are delineated on a set of maps enacted by Congress and maintained by the Service. Most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance that have the effect of encouraging development are prohibited within the CBRS. The CBRA does not prevent development, and it imposes no restrictions on development conducted with non-Federal funds. Congress enacted CBRA to minimize the loss of human life, reduce wasteful Federal expenditures, and minimize the damage to natural resources associated with coastal barriers.

The maps that currently depict the 3.1 million acres of the CBRS were created almost two decades ago and are outdated, difficult to use, and sometimes contain errors that affect private property owners. Congress directed the Service to modernize the CBRS maps using digital technology. Modernizing the CBRS maps will correct mistakes that affect private property owners; improve customer service and government efficiency; make CBRS information available in digital format for use in coastal planning and restoration efforts, including decisions related to sea level rise; and help secure the long-term integrity of the CBRS by limiting the need for future legislative changes. The Service has taken the first major step forward towards map modernization by completing the enclosed report to Congress that contains draft revised maps of 70 CBRS units (approximately 10% of the entire CBRS) and describes the feasibility, data needs, and costs of completing digital maps for the entire CBRS. The pilot project units are located in Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Louisiana.

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MAY 6 2009



Board of County Commission
District 3

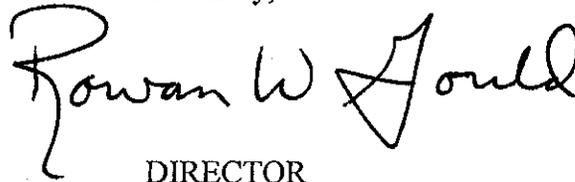
Mr. Joseph Smith

2

The Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-226) requires the Service to finalize the pilot project and prepare a second report to Congress, in consultation with the Governors of the States in which any CBRS units are located, and after providing an opportunity for the submission and consideration of public comments. The second report to Congress will contain the final recommended maps created under the pilot project and a summary of the comments received from the Governors of the States, other government officials, and the public regarding the pilot project maps. The Service announced the availability of the pilot project report and draft maps for public review and comment in a notice published in the *Federal Register* on **April 7, 2009**. We invite you to review the pilot project report and maps and provide input to the Service during the public comment period which closes on **July 6, 2009**. Additional information concerning CBRA and the pilot project can be found at the Service's Internet site:
http://www.fws.gov/habitatconservation/coastal_barrier.html.

We look forward to your input and involvement in this important process to finalize the CBRS digital mapping pilot project. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Gary Frazer, Assistant Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation, at (202) 208-6394.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rowan W. Gould". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "G".

DIRECTOR

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960



May 27, 2009

Eric P. Summa
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Service Log No.: 41420-2009-FA-0389
Date Received: February 9, 2009
Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project: Beach Renourishment in
CBRA Unit P11
County: St. Lucie

Dear Mr. Summa:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the maps and other information submitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the project listed above. This letter is submitted in accordance with Section 6 of the Coastal Barrier Resources System Act (CBRA). CBRA requires that the appropriate Federal officer consult with the Secretary of the Interior before making Federal expenditures or financial assistance available within the System.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Corps is requesting a consistency determination for an action affecting CBRA Unit P11 Hutchinson Island, located in St. Lucie County, Florida. Specifically, the Corps would like to evaluate the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Lucie County, Florida. In the original letter dated February 6, 2009, the Corps proposes to renourish 5 miles of shoreline from the Sand Dollar Shores Development (R-88) south to the county line (R-115). The Corps also requested information regarding any restrictions under CBRA for structural and nonstructural shore protection measures.

A second letter from the Corps was submitted on March 12, 2009, and provided further clarification to the original letter of request. The Corps identified two possible project alternatives, the first of which is to renourish 7.2 miles of shoreline from the Sand Dollar Shores development (R-88) south to the county line (R-115). The second alternative is to renourish approximately 3.6 miles of beach within three CBRA Unit P11 excluded areas which are located



approximately between monuments R-81 to R-84, R-89 to R-90, and R-100 to R-101, plus the remaining southern 2.4 miles of St. Lucie County beach outside the CBRA Unit P11. Additionally, the Corps is requesting a consistency determination with regard to measures to reduce “end losses” under this alternative such as terminal groins, groin fields, and breakwaters.

CBRA CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Portions of the project area described in the first alternative are within Unit P11 Hutchinson Island. Unit P11 is part of the System, located east of Port St. Lucie, Florida. This area supports suitable habitat for species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*), including the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), threatened loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), endangered leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*). The beaches of St. Lucie County support the fifth highest nesting density of sea turtles in Florida. The purposes of CBRA are to minimize the loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with units of the System.

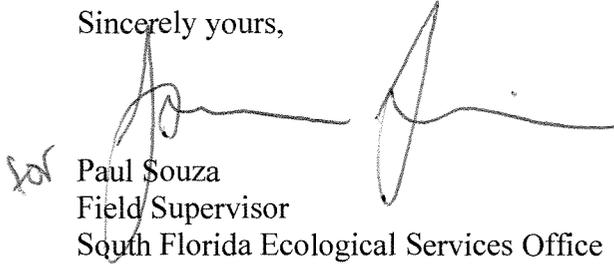
Section 6 of the CBRA provides an exception to Section 5, *Limitations on Federal Expenditures Affecting the System*, if the expenditure is for nonstructural shoreline stabilization projects that are designed to mimic, enhance, or restore a natural stabilization system.

Upon review of the St. Lucie County property appraisal maps, the primary ownership of land outside the excluded parcels of Unit P11 are privately owned and not under any perpetual conservation designation. Without permanent protection of the environmental attributes of these privately owned parcels, it is anticipated that renourishment of the beaches may encourage development of the privately owned parcels. Therefore, it is our conclusion that the proposed action as described in the first alternative does not meet the exception definition under Section 6 of CBRA.

We have no comment on the renourishment activities under the second alternative since they would occur within excluded areas that are outside the boundary of Unit P11. However, the placement of end structures such as groins or jetties within the excluded areas to maintain renourished sand in these areas is not consistent with CBRA. These structures would impede natural sediment transport and may accelerate erosion throughout the entire CBRA unit. This would cause indirect adverse effects to the natural environment for which this unit was designed to protect.

Thank you for your cooperation and effort in protecting federally listed species. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Debbie DeVore at 772-562-3909, extension 324.

Sincerely yours,

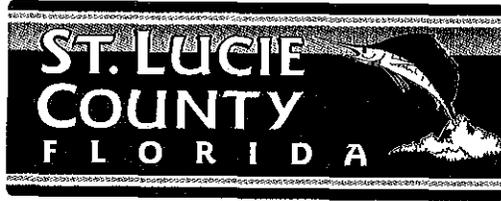
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Souza', with a large, stylized initial 'P' and 'S'.

Paul Souza
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc:

Service, Arlington, Virginia (Katie Niemi)
Service, Atlanta, Georgia (Cindy Bohn)

BOARD OF
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS



PAULA A. LEWIS
COMMISSIONER

July 24, 2009

Mr. Gary Frazer
Assistant Director, Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: CBRA System Digital Mapping Pilot Project for St. Lucie County, Florida

Dear Mr. Frazer:

On behalf of St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, we appreciate the opportunity to review the *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* which includes St. Lucie County, Florida. We have completed a comprehensive review of the proposed CBRA zone maps and have attached a list of our comments and a mapping inventory of County lands such as parks and preserves. The Board would like to emphasize two important issues which may negatively impact St. Lucie County as a result of this digital mapping effort

1. The reclassification of the port and inlet area into a CBRA Zone, as depicted on digital map 17 in Unit P10A, is a serious concern. The aquatic preserve area stops at North Bridge and does not continue south into the port and inlet area as depicted on the map. In recognition of this mapping error and maintaining consistency with the area excluded from the CBRA Zone immediately to the south, we respectfully request the port and inlet area also remain excluded from the CBRA Zone.
2. We request that all County parks and preserves, as correctly identified in our attached mapping inventory, be classified as Otherwise Protected Areas (OPAs). This includes allowing those properties proposed to be removed from an OPA to remain and designating any parks and preserves which are identified in a CBRA zone to be designated as an OPA.

Our port, inlet, parks and preserves were often purchased and/or improved with state and federal funds. They are important assets to the community and designating them in CBRA zones appears to be in direct conflict with other state and federal programs in which the County regularly participates.

We appreciate the opportunity to coordinate this mapping effort with and request that you keep the County updated as this process moves forward. Should you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Richard Bouchard, the County's Erosion District Manager at 772-462-1710.

Mr. Gary Frazer
July 24, 2009
Page 2

Sincerely,



Paula A. Lewis, Chair
Board of County Commissioners

PAL:rb

Encl: 1) Bullet list of concerns and errors
 2) 3 pg. County owned parcel list
 3) 3 pg. Ariel maps

cc: Senator Bill Nelson w/attachment 1
 Senator Mel Martinez w/attachment 1
 U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings w/attachment 1
 U.S. Representative Tom Rooney w/attachment 1
 Board of County Commissioners w/attachment 1
 Faye W. Outlaw, MPA, County Administrator w/attachment 1
 Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator w/attachment 1, 2, 3
 Christopher Steers, Assistant County Administrators w/attachment 1
 Department Directors of St. Lucie County w/attachment 1
 Richard Bouchard, Erosion District Manager w/attachment 1, 2, 3
 Marc Meyers, Building Official, City of Fort Pierce w/attachment 1

John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project:
St. Lucie County - Addendum

Priority Concerns:

- The Fort Pierce Inlet and Port of Fort Pierce areas are parts of a Federally-maintained Deep-water Port (established in 1935) that is maintenance-dredged by the ACE using federal funds; improvements may potentially be planned for the area, such as shoreline stabilization and a sand-transfer plant, therefore, inclusion of the Port into the project area would not be sought at this time; the County requests no change in the Port area designation at this time.
- The County requests that all Parks and Preserves be converted to and/or remain in OPA status in order to allow Park amenities to be maintained and protected that do not contribute to additional development in these areas; updated shape-files of all Parks and Preserves on Barrier Island were transmitted, as requested, to update FWS files beyond the 2005 status depicted in the photo; Coastal Park and Preserve maps are being provided to clarify their locations, in support our request for retention of Park OPA status/reclassification.

Other Concerns/Mapping Errors Found:

- Labeling error: showing "Pepper Beach State Park" on Jack Island, which is actually "Fort Pierce Inlet State Recreation Area".
- Pepper Park Addition is actually entirely publicly-owned and can be included in the project in its entirety as an OPA; currently it has a section cut out, which was purchased July 31, 2006 (Park shape-files e-mailed as requested to support this item).
- Labeling error: the section of the Aquatic Preserve which is contiguous to the Port of Fort Pierce does not enter the Fort Pierce Port and Turning Basin Area; the north AP's southern limit is the north causeway island known as "Little Jim Island", as well as, the north causeway bridges.
- The boundary line lying along Blue Heron Blvd could be straightened at the point it reaches the dunes along the Atlantic Ocean; currently it is drawn with an angle to the north, which covers a strip of beachfront dune property in front of a completed development and no longer serves a restrictive purpose.
- Labeling error: "Frederick Davis Memorial Park" is actually "Frederick Douglass Memorial Park".
- The exclusion boundary adjacent/on the South Hutchinson Island Fire Station No. 8 (site acquired June 1, 1982), could be extended to exclude their facility from the project, since the project was required for public safety, not to encourage additional development.
- The exclusion boundary adjacent to the South Hutchinson Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (site acquired January 10, 1994), could be extended to exclude their facility due to the environmental benefits gained from the plant (removal of failing private package plants).
- In the comments for Unit P10A, Blue Hole; it is stated that the Queens Island Preserve (and the Indrio Blueway Buffer) are managed by St. Luce County Public Works. Queen's Island Preserve is actually managed by St. Lucie County

Mosquito Control District, and Indrio Blueway is co-managed by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District and the St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Dept.

- In the comments for Unit FL-14P, Pepper Beach; it is stated that Kings Island is managed by St. Lucie County Environmental Resources Dept. King's Island Park is actually managed by the St. Lucie County Mosquito Control District.
- Six, 400 foot tall wind turbines, are being proposed by FPL for the construction in the conservation area outside of the FPL Hutchinson Island Nuclear Power Plant; does this require a consistency consultation for the CBRA Unit?

**BOARD OF
COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**



CHRIS CRAFT
COMMISSIONER

October 6, 2009

Dave Stout
Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Fisheries and Habitat Conservation
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 830A
Arlington, VA 22203

RE: Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Stout:

Thank you for your time last week to meet with me regarding the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project. As we discussed, we are most concerned with the proposed addition of the Fort Pierce Inlet and associated Port area into a Coastal Barrier Resources Area (CBRA) in St. Lucie County, Florida.

As one example, we are concerned that port and inlet activities of the Federally-maintained inlet, turning basin, and associated jetties by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with a local entity as the local sponsor, may somehow be impacted in the future by inclusion in a CBRA zone. Please confirm that CBRA contains an exception for maintenance or new improvements to existing Federal navigation channels and related structures, including rock jetties.

We are also concerned about the potential future Federal construction of a sand bypassing facility located within the Inlet that would pass sand from either the north side of the Fort Pierce Inlet, currently an Otherwise Protected Area (OPA), or from the Inlet itself, to the south side of the Inlet. As we discussed, the south side of the Inlet, which is not currently in, nor proposed to be added to a CBRA zone, is a Federally-authorized beach nourishment project. The beach must be nourished routinely by the Corps of Engineers because of the impacts of the Fort Pierce jetty system on littoral sand transfer. Will you please comment on the future feasibility of a sand transfer facility in that area and the removal of sand from the Inlet or an OPA zone?

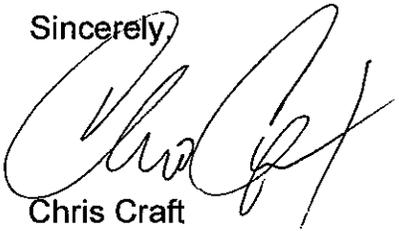
Mr. David Stout
October 6, 2009
Page 2

We remain concerned about the impacts a new CBRA designation may have on public and private upland development of areas near the port, particularly those on the east-facing side of the Indian River Lagoon. Will you please confirm that these areas have been designated as developed shorelines on the new maps and therefore have a 50 foot boundary from the shoreline to the CBRA zone? Also, will you please confirm that a shoreline stabilization structure in this area, such as a seawall, would be permitted to receive Federal funding for construction because it would not extend 50 feet into the water?

Finally, will you please confirm that any construction-related activities associated with port development beyond the 50-foot shoreline boundary would not be eligible for Federal funding?

Thank you again for meeting with me on this important issue. I appreciate the time you have taken to better educate me on CBRA zones and look forward to hearing from you on these specific concerns.

Sincerely,



Chris Craft
Board of County Commissioners

CC:rb

cc: Senator Bill Nelson
Senator George LeMieux
U.S. Representative Alcee Hastings
U.S. Representative Tom Rooney
Board of County Commissioners
Faye W. Outlaw, MPA, County Administrator
Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
Department Directors of St. Lucie County
Richard Bouchard, Erosion District Manager
Marc Meyers, Building Official, City of Fort Pierce



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/DHRC-BRMS/044276

MAR 15 2010

Mr. Chris Craft
Board of County Commissioners
St. Lucie County
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982

Dear Mr. Craft:

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 2009, regarding the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Digital Mapping Pilot Project, and thank you for meeting with the Service on September 17, 2009, concerning this matter. Your letter outlines your concerns with the proposed addition of the Fort Pierce Inlet and associated port area to CBRS Unit P10A. The other unit in the vicinity of the Fort Pierce Inlet is otherwise protected area (OPA) FL-14P.

The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA, P.L. 97-348) of 1982 established the CBRS, a defined set of geographic units along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Island coasts. Most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance, including Federal flood insurance, are prohibited within the CBRS. CBRA does not prevent development, and it imposes no restrictions on development conducted with non-Federal funds. Congress enacted CBRA to minimize the loss of human life, reduce wasteful Federal expenditures, and minimize the damage to natural resources associated with coastal barriers. Unit P10A was designated with the passage of CBRA in 1982.

In 1990, Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act (CBIA, P.L. 101-591) which expanded the CBRS by adding new units, enlarging some previously designated units, and adding OPAs as a new category of lands. An OPA is defined as an undeveloped coastal barrier within the boundaries of an area established under Federal, State, or local law, or held by a qualified organization, primarily for wildlife refuge, sanctuary, recreational, or natural resource conservation purposes. The only Federal spending prohibition within OPAs is the prohibition on Federal flood insurance. Unit FL-14P was designated as an OPA with the passage of the CBIA in 1990.

Recognizing the limitations and challenges associated with the existing set of CBRS maps, the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-514) directed the Secretary of the Interior to complete a Digital Mapping Pilot Project which includes draft digital maps for 50-75 units in the CBRS and a report to Congress that describes the results of the pilot project and the feasibility, data needs, and costs of completing digital maps for the entire CBRS.

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IN AMERICA** 

On April 7, 2009, the Service released its *Report to Congress: John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System Digital Mapping Pilot Project* for a 120-day public review and comment period, which closed on August 5, 2009. Units P10A and FL-14P are two of the 70 total units under review as part of the pilot project. The Service plans to review all comments received during the comment period and make adjustments to the pilot project maps, as appropriate, based on CBRA's criteria and objective mapping protocols. The Service will create a set of final recommended maps to address the comments made during the public comment period and to update the underlying base maps with newer aerial imagery. As part of this process, the Service may further modify the boundaries of Units P10A and FL-14P. The Service's official response to the public comments and final recommended maps will be included in a report to Congress, per the directives of the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-226). The pilot project maps will only become effective if they are enacted by Congress through new legislation.

The pilot project recommends adjusting the southern boundary of Unit P10A to include additional associated aquatic habitat surrounding and within OPA Unit FL-14P. CBRA defines a coastal barrier to include all associated aquatic habitats, including the adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters; however in carrying out the pilot project, the Service noted that the associated aquatic habitat had not been delineated consistently throughout the CBRS. In particular, channels are not mapped consistently throughout the CBRS. In some cases, the entire width of the channel is included; in other cases none of the channel is included; and often, about half of the channel is included within the CBRS. In the pilot project, the Service adopted a consistent approach for the placement of CBRS boundaries within channels. Because channels are part of a coastal barrier's associated aquatic habitat, we proposed to include the entire width of channels within pilot project System unit boundaries, including for Unit P10A.

Your letter expressed concern that potential future activities by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers within the Federally-maintained Fort Pierce inlet, turning basin, and associated jetties may be affected in the future if the inlet is included within the CBRS. We note that Section 6(a)(2) of the CBIA contains an exception for the "maintenance or construction of improvements of existing Federal navigation channels (including the Intracoastal Waterway) and related structures (such as jetties), including the disposal of dredge materials related to such maintenance or construction." This exception allows for maintenance as well as widening and deepening of existing Federal navigation channels and the disposal of related dredge materials within or outside of the unit.

Your letter also expressed concern about the potential future Federal construction of a sand bypassing facility located within the Fort Pierce Inlet that would pass sand from either the north side of the inlet, currently an OPA, or from the inlet itself, to the south side of the inlet. If the proposed pilot project map for Unit P10A is enacted, the Fort Pierce Inlet would be included within Unit P10A. Section 6(a)(6)(G) of the CBIA contains an exception for "nonstructural projects for shoreline stabilization that are designed to mimic, enhance, or restore a natural stabilization system" and that are also consistent with the purposes of CBRA (i.e., minimize the

loss of human life, wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues, and the damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with the coastal barrier). The Department of the Interior's Office of the Solicitor reviewed similar cases in the past and advised us that Section 6(a)(6)(G) applies only to projects to stabilize the shoreline of a unit of the CBRS; the exception does not apply to projects to stabilize a shoreline outside of the CBRS, regardless of whether the project might be consistent with the purposes of CBRA. Therefore, in general, a proposed Federal action designed to nourish beaches located outside the CBRS using beach material taken from within the CBRS does not meet the criteria for a Section 6(a)(6)(G) exception and is not consistent with CBRA. However, in order to comment on whether the potential sand bypassing facility you refer to would be consistent with CBRA, we would need specific information regarding the sand bypassing process and the location of the proposed project (e.g., whether infrastructure would be constructed in the inlet to transport sand). Such an information exchange normally happens as part of a CBRA consistency consultation between the Service and the Federal agency proposing to fund or conduct the activity.

Your letter also raised the issue of the impacts that a new CBRS designation may have on public and private upland development of areas near the port, particularly those on the east-facing side of the Indian River Lagoon. The proposed landward boundary of Unit P10A was adjusted to follow the wetland/upland interface along the Indian River and contains a 50 foot buffer along the developed shoreline to avoid the inadvertent inclusion within the CBRS of developed property on the mainland. This buffer, and the application of shoreline buffering, is being reviewed by the Service and will be addressed in the final recommended pilot project maps and the accompanying report to Congress. We note that the construction of shoreline stabilization structures, and any other construction-related activities associated with port development, are subject to CBRA's prohibition on Federal expenditures and financial assistance for activities within the CBRS.

The information provided in this letter is intended to assist you in understanding the proposed pilot project maps and the potential implications for Federal financial assistance if the proposed pilot project maps for Units P10A and FL-14P are enacted into law. Please note that the information contained in this letter in no way replaces CBRA's consultation requirements for Federal agencies that propose spending funds within the CBRS.

If you have any additional questions, please contact Martin Kodis, Chief, Branch of Resource and Mapping Support, at (703) 358-2161.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Stout".

David J. Stout
Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

JAN 21 2016

Ms. Roxanna Hinzman
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960-3559

Dear Ms. Hinzman:

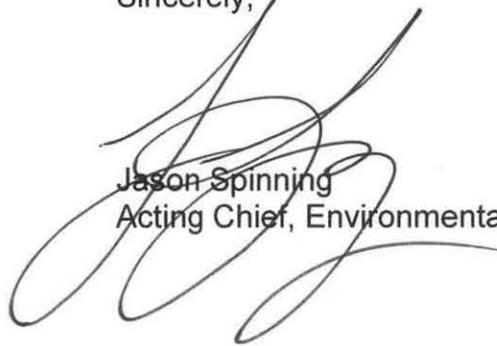
In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency on the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, St. Lucie County, Florida. Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide input on the Environmental Assessment that we are preparing which will evaluate impacts to resources under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We look forward to your cooperation and advice as our agencies coordinate on these issues.

The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EA, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EA without you as a cooperating agency. For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Stodola at 904 232-3271.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

JAN 21 2016

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Dr. Roy Crabtree
National Marine Fisheries Service
263 13th Avenue, South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear Dr. Crabtree:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency on the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, St. Lucie County, Florida. Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide input on the Environmental Assessment that we are preparing which will evaluate impacts to resources under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. We look forward to your cooperation and advice as our agencies coordinate on these issues.

The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EA, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EA without you as a cooperating agency. For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Stodola at 904 232-3271

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Spinning', written over the typed name.

Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

JAN 21 2016

Mr. Geoffrey Wikel, Chief
Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, VAM OEP
Sterling, VA 20166

Dear Mr. Wikel:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency on the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, St. Lucie County, Florida. Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide input on the Environmental Assessment (EA) that we are preparing as part of this study. We look forward to your cooperation and advice as our agencies coordinate on the preparation of this document.

The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EA, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EA without you as a cooperating agency. For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul Stodola at 904 232-3271.

Sincerely,



Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

FEB 09 2016

Mr. Jason Spinning
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Spinning:

Thank you for your January 21, 2016, letter requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) become a cooperating agency during preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study in St. Lucie County, Florida. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District (Corps) has evaluated several alternatives, consisting of an array of various structural and non-structural measures, to accomplish the identified project planning goals and objectives. Beach nourishment and dune construction were included among the structural measures carried forward within the final array of alternative plans being evaluated. The structural measures may require use of federal sand resources located approximately 3.5 miles offshore within the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) at St. Lucie Shoals. Section 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) grants BOEM the authority to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for shore protection, beach or wetlands restoration, or for use in construction projects funded in whole or part or authorized by the federal government.

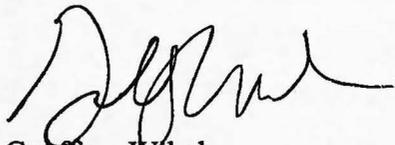
BOEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency since BOEM has sole jurisdiction over mineral leasing on the OCS. As a cooperating agency, BOEM expects to: participate and provide input in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of the Corps, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which BOEM has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the Corps; provide comment on draft versions of the EA when requested; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities. Several NEPA documents have been previously prepared by the Corps and/or BOEM considering the potential environmental effects of dredging offshore sand resources within the vicinity of the project area. BOEM expects to collaborate with the Corps to identify the existing NEPA analyses that can be used to ensure the most efficient and effective treatment of potential effects, while also considering and incorporating new information and science when appropriate.

BOEM recognizes the importance of initiating and agrees to participate in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act Section (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. The lead agency in ESA Section 7 consultation for potential impacts on protected species will be designated by jurisdiction and in

accordance with 50 CFR §402.07. BOEM is a joint consulting agency with the Corps in the ongoing re-initiated consultation for the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion, for which this project would be included as a component of the proposed action. BOEM anticipates that this consultation will be concluded prior to any planned construction date for this project and will serve as the consultation mechanism for the in-water dredging and placement activities of both agencies. The Corps would be the lead agency and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning use of the Florida Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion as the appropriate consultation mechanism for addressing effects from placement activities to listed species under FWS purview. Additionally, the Corps will notify FWS of BOEM's interconnected action and cooperating role. BOEM and the Corps will consult jointly with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division on essential fish habitat. BOEM anticipates that the Corps will be the lead federal agency for ensuring NHPA Section 106 compliance. BOEM expects to act in a consulting role, especially when coordinating with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the use of OCS sand resources and all related cultural resource survey activities. BOEM requests that the Corps involve BOEM in all deliberations with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers so that BOEM's involvement in the undertaking is understood. The Corps will be following Subpart C procedures to obtain a consistency concurrence from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection through the Joint Coastal Permit process in compliance with Section 307 of the CZMA.

BOEM looks forward to working with the Corps during this process. We would greatly appreciate it if the Corps would include us on all public notices and correspondence to other federal and state agencies concerning this project. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Doug Piatkowski at (703) 787-1833 or by e-mail at douglas.piatkowski@boem.gov.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Wikel
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment

cc: Jeffrey Reidenauer, Leasing Division
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

bc: Official File
Chief, DEA
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Piatkowski, DEA



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

MAR 25 2016

Mr. Fred Dayhoff, Tribal Representative
NAGPRA, Section 106
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Post Office Box 440021
Tamiami Station
Miami, Florida 33144

Re: St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Dayhoff,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within St. Lucie County, Florida. The St. Lucie County, Florida shoreline consists of a 25-mile-long narrow barrier island named Hutchinson Island. Hutchinson Island is split by Fort Pierce Inlet into North Hutchinson Island and South Hutchinson Island. The current study area includes only the South Hutchinson Island reach, measuring approximately 3.4 miles. The study area includes the shoreline from Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monument R98 to R115+1000 feet.

The purpose of this project is to develop an implementable and acceptable plan to address specific problems and opportunities for coastal storm damage reduction in the study area. The primary problem within the study area consists of storm-induced erosion which endangers natural beach habitat, limits recreational and tourism opportunities, and threatens coastal infrastructure. By implementing a federal beach renourishment and dune creation/remediation project, the Corps believes there is an opportunity to reduce storm damage, restore natural dune function, conserve natural habitat, protect the current hurricane evacuation route along Hutchinson Island, and maintain existing recreation and tourism levels.

As a result of the feasibility study, a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project was chosen which includes placing sand in the nearshore to maintain and extend the existing beach berm. The TSP will provide a protective berm that extends the project shoreline profile (R98 to R115+1000 feet) 20 feet seaward from the existing dune. A hydraulic dredge will be utilized to fill the template with compatible sand from the North and South St. Lucie Shoals.

All portions of the proposed project area, including the offshore borrow area and the sand placement template have been subject to cultural resource surveys (see Attachment). New South Associates conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the sand placement area in October 2007 (DHR Manuscript #17559). No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey; however, the study recommended that the project avoid areas near previously recorded underwater sites and undisturbed areas of back dune where previously recorded sites are located. As a result of this report, the Corps determined that beach nourishment would have no effect on cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination in a letter to the Corps dated July 27, 2010 (DHR File No. 2008-02141-B).

A remote sensing survey of the proposed offshore borrow location was conducted by SEARCH between October 2007 and June 2008 (DHR Manuscript #17990). Based on this survey, one cluster of magnetic anomalies was identified in the southern borrow area and two historic shipwreck sites (8SL28 and 8SL30) are located adjacent to the northern borrow area. No diver evaluations were performed on the magnetic targets, and a buffer of 200 feet was recommended to avoid effects on the potentially significant resource. In a letter dated July 31, 2008 the Corps determined that a 500-foot buffer of the anomalies would be utilized during dredging to avoid impacts. This letter also noted that the two previously recorded historic shipwrecks are located outside of the project area and determined that, contingent upon the preservation of the anomaly cluster with a 500-foot buffer zone, no historic properties would be affected by dredging. The SHPO concurred with the determination of effects in letters dated September 4, 2008 and January 20, 2011 (DHR File Nos. 2008-05091 and 2011-00231).

During implementation of the St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study TSP, the Corps will continue to protect these cultural resources by maintaining the 500-foot buffer previously utilized during dredging (see Attachment). Contingent upon maintaining the buffer, the Corps has determined that the TSP will have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. I request your comments on the determination of no effect. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Meredith Moreno at 904-232-1577 or e-mail at Meredith.a.moreno@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

3/25/16

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

MAR 25 2016

Dr. Paul Backhouse, THPO
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribe Historic Preservation Office
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMP 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Re: St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within St. Lucie County, Florida. The St. Lucie County, Florida shoreline consists of a 25-mile-long narrow barrier island named Hutchinson Island. Hutchinson Island is split by Fort Pierce Inlet into North Hutchinson Island and South Hutchinson Island. The current study area includes only the South Hutchinson Island reach, measuring approximately 3.4 miles. The study area includes the shoreline from Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monument R98 to R115+1000 feet.

The purpose of this project is to develop an implementable and acceptable plan to address specific problems and opportunities for coastal storm damage reduction in the study area. The primary problem within the study area consists of storm-induced erosion which endangers natural beach habitat, limits recreational and tourism opportunities, and threatens coastal infrastructure. By implementing a federal beach renourishment and dune creation/remediation project, the Corps believes there is an opportunity to reduce storm damage, restore natural dune function, conserve natural habitat, protect the current hurricane evacuation route along Hutchinson Island, and maintain existing recreation and tourism levels.

As a result of the feasibility study, a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project was chosen which includes placing sand in the nearshore to maintain and extend the existing beach berm. The TSP will provide a protective berm that extends the project shoreline profile (R98 to R115+1000 feet) 20 feet seaward from the existing dune. A hydraulic dredge will be utilized to fill the template with compatible sand from the North and South St. Lucie Shoals.

All portions of the proposed project area, including the offshore borrow area and the sand placement template have been subject to cultural resource surveys (see Attachment). New South Associates conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the sand placement area in October 2007 (DHR Manuscript #17559). No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey; however, the study recommended that the project avoid areas near previously recorded underwater sites and undisturbed areas of back dune where previously recorded sites are located. As a result of this report, the Corps determined that beach nourishment would have no effect on cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination in a letter to the Corps dated July 27, 2010 (DHR File No. 2008-02141-B).

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During implementation of the St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study TSP, the Corps will continue to protect these cultural resources by maintaining the 500-foot buffer previously utilized during dredging (see Attachment). Contingent upon maintaining the buffer, the Corps has determined that the TSP will have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. I request your comments on the determination of no effect. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Meredith Moreno at 904-232-1577 or e-mail at Meredith.a.moreno@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

3/25/16

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

MAR 25 2016

Tim Parsons, Ph.D., SHPO
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Re: St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study

Dear Dr. Parsons,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within St. Lucie County, Florida. The St. Lucie County, Florida shoreline consists of a 25-mile-long narrow barrier island named Hutchinson Island. Hutchinson Island is split by Fort Pierce Inlet into North Hutchinson Island and South Hutchinson Island. The current study area includes only the South Hutchinson Island reach, measuring approximately 3.4 miles. The study area includes the shoreline from Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monument R98 to R115+1000 feet.

The purpose of this project is to develop an implementable and acceptable plan to address specific problems and opportunities for coastal storm damage reduction in the study area. The primary problem within the study area consists of storm-induced erosion which endangers natural beach habitat, limits recreational and tourism opportunities, and threatens coastal infrastructure. By implementing a federal beach renourishment and dune creation/remediation project, the Corps believes there is an opportunity to reduce storm damage, restore natural dune function, conserve natural habitat, protect the current hurricane evacuation route along Hutchinson Island, and maintain existing recreation and tourism levels.

As a result of the feasibility study, a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) for the project was chosen which includes placing sand in the nearshore to maintain and extend the existing beach berm. The TSP will provide a protective berm that extends the project shoreline profile (R98 to R115+1000 feet) 20 feet seaward from the existing dune. A hydraulic dredge will be utilized to fill the template with compatible sand from the North and South St. Lucie Shoals.

All portions of the proposed project area, including the offshore borrow area and the sand placement template have been subject to cultural resource surveys (see Attachment). New South Associates conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the sand placement area in October 2007 (DHR Manuscript #17559). No cultural resources were identified as a result of the survey; however, the study recommended that the project avoid areas near previously recorded underwater sites and undisturbed areas of back dune where previously recorded sites are located. As a result of this report, the Corps determined that beach nourishment would have no effect on cultural resources listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the determination in a letter to the Corps dated July 27, 2010 (DHR File No. 2008-02141-B).

A remote sensing survey of the proposed offshore borrow location was conducted by SEARCH between October 2007 and June 2008 (DHR Manuscript #17990). Based on this survey, one cluster of magnetic anomalies was identified in the southern borrow area and two historic shipwreck sites (8SL28 and 8SL30) are located adjacent to the northern borrow area. No diver evaluations were performed on the magnetic targets, and a buffer of 200 feet was recommended to avoid effects on the potentially significant resource. In a letter dated July 31, 2008 the Corps determined that a 500-foot buffer of the anomalies would be utilized during dredging to avoid impacts. This letter also noted that the two previously recorded historic shipwrecks are located outside of the project area and determined that, contingent upon the preservation of the anomaly cluster with a 500-foot buffer zone, no historic properties would be affected by dredging. The SHPO concurred with the determination of effects in letters dated September 4, 2008 and January 20, 2011 (DHR File Nos. 2008-05091 and 2011-00231).

During implementation of the St. Lucie County Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study TSP, the Corps will continue to protect these cultural resources by maintaining the 500-foot buffer previously utilized during dredging (see Attachment). Contingent upon maintaining the buffer, the Corps has determined that the TSP will have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. I request your comments on the determination of no effect. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Meredith Moreno at 904-232-1577 or e-mail at Meredith.a.moreno@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

 3/25/16
Jason Spinning
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Ivan Acosta
 Department of the Army
 Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
 P.O. Box 4970
 Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

January 20, 2011

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2011-00231 (2008-05091, 2007-4714) / 1A-32 Permit No.: 0708.16
 Received by DHR: January 14, 2011
 Final Report: *Historic Assessment and Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing Survey of Four Borrow Areas for Martin and St. Lucie Counties Shore Protection Projects, Florida*

Dear Mr. Acosta:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced draft survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and 36 *C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Between September 2007 and June 2008, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an underwater remote sensing survey of four proposed sand borrow areas associated with shore protection projects. The survey was conducted on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. SEARCH identified twenty-one magnetic anomalies within the surveyed areas during the investigation.

SEARCH determined that a cluster of four magnetic anomalies in Borrow Area C (M3 – M6) may represent a significant cultural resource and should be avoided by dredging. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommends that the cluster be avoided with a 500-foot buffer zone.

SEARCH also located two previously recorded historic shipwrecks (8SL29 and 8SL30) outside of the project area. SEARCH did not locate the previously recorded America Wreck (8SL28) but determined that it does not exist in project area.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that, contingent upon the preservation of the anomaly cluster with the 500-foot buffer zone, no historic properties will be affected by the proposed dredging project.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the determinations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
 (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

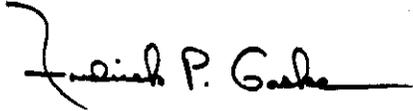
Archaeological Research
 (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
 (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Mr. Acosta
January 20, 2011
Page 2

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at (850) 245-6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Louis Tesar, Interoffice Mail Station 8B



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Michael Krivor
 Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.
 315 NW 138th Terrace
 Newberry, Florida 32669

January 20, 2011

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2011-00114 / 1A-32 Permit No.: 1011.026
 Received by DHR: January 4, 2011
*Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing Survey of Proposed Offshore Sand
 Source Area 5, St. Lucie County, Florida*

Dear Mr. Krivor:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In December 2010, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an underwater remote sensing survey of the portion of Offshore Sand Source Area 5 that was not previously investigated. The survey was conducted on behalf of Coastal Technology Corporation. SEARCH identified one side-scan sonar target but no magnetic anomalies or subbottom profiler features within the project area during the investigation.

SEARCH determined that the side-scan sonar target appears to represent isolated modern debris and is also outside of the proposed project area.

SEARCH determined that the proposed activities within the portion of Area 5 surveyed in this investigation will have no effect on cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP. SEARCH recommends no further investigation of the area.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with these determinations and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
 850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

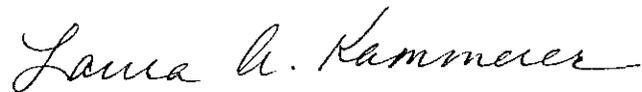
Archaeological Research
 850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

Historic Preservation
 850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437

Mr. Krivor
January 20, 2011
Page 2

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Kammerer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Louis Tesar, Interoffice Mail Station 8B

#17559



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dawn K. Roberts

Interim Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Daniel Hughes
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

July 27, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2008-02141-B / Received by DHR: April 14, 2008
Additional Information Received: July 26, 2010
Final Report: *Cultural Resource Survey St. Lucie County Shoreline Protection Project, St. Lucie County, Florida*

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced draft survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In October 2007, New South Associates (NSA) conducted an archaeological and historical Phase I survey of the St. Lucie County Shoreline Restoration project area on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NSA identified no cultural resources within the project area during the investigation.

NSA determined that the proposed beach nourishment project will have no effect on cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP, or otherwise of historical, archaeological, or architectural value. NSA recommends no further investigation of the subject parcel.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with these determinations and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Kammerer".

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Cindy Thomas, New South Associates, Inc. – St. Augustine

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. James J. McAdams
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

April 15, 2008

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2008-02141 / Received by DHR: March 14, 2008
Draft Report: *Cultural Resource Survey St. Lucie County Shoreline Protection Project, St. Lucie County, Florida*

Dear Mr. McAdams:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced draft survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In October 2007, New South Associates (NSA) conducted an archaeological and historical Phase I survey of the St. Lucie County Shoreline Restoration project area on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. NSA identified no cultural resources within the project area during the investigation.

NSA determined that the proposed beach nourishment project will have no effect on cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the NRHP, or otherwise of historical, archaeological, or architectural value. NSA recommends no further investigation of the subject parcel.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with these determinations.

However, we recommend that the final report include the following revision for completeness and sufficiency in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*:

- **Curation:** Provide the location where project records will be curated.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

☐ Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

☐ Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

☐ Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

☐ Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

☐ South Florida Regional Office
(561) 416-2115 • FAX: 416-2149

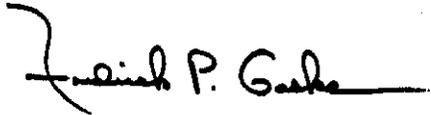
☐ North Florida Regional Office
(850) 245-6445 • FAX: 245-6435

☐ Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Mr. McAdams
April 15, 2008
Page 2

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact April Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at amwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at (850) 245-6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

OCT 12 2006

South Atlantic Division
Regional Integration Team

Mr. Doug Coward
Chairman
St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982-5652

Dear Mr. Coward:

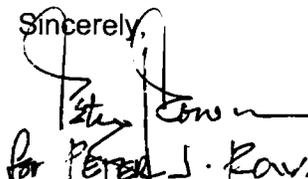
Thank you for your letter of September 7, 2006, regarding the joint efforts of St. Lucie County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to restore and protect the beach system of St. Lucie County, Florida. I hope that our meeting on September 28, 2006 at Corps Headquarters was valuable to you.

As you know, the Jacksonville District is in the process of preparing a Feasibility Study to address the critical storm damage prevention needs of the southern 5.0 miles of St. Lucie County. The realistic schedule for completion of the Final Feasibility Report is January 2010 with initial construction after 2012. However, St. Lucie County and the State of Florida have agreed to move forward with emergency renourishment of this area due to the impacts of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons. To insure that this emergency effort will not jeopardize the viability of the Federal project, this emergency renourishment should be clearly identified as a one-time emergency action. The sponsor could also elect to pay 100% of the initial construction (i.e. the emergency renourishment project) and then ask the Federal government to cost share with St. Lucie County in future renourishments of this project.

A survey of the study area shoreline was taken in the summer of 2006; this will define the "without project" condition for the Feasibility study and establish the long-term erosion rate at the pre-hurricane condition. Should the "without project" condition change as a result of the emergency renourishment by St. Lucie County, there are other options that can be explored with the Jacksonville District during and after completion of the Feasibility Report.

The Corps is committed to serving the storm damage reduction and environmental needs of Florida. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Michael J. Klosterman, Civil Works Deputy, South Atlantic Division Regional Integration Team, Washington, DC at (202) 761-4106.

Sincerely,


for Peter J. Rowan, COL, EN
Steven L. Stockton, P.E.
Deputy Director of Civil Works



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

OCT 12 2006

South Atlantic Division
Regional Integration Team

Ms. Frannie Hutchinson
Chair
St. Lucie County Erosion District
2300 Virginia Avenue
Fort Pierce, Florida 34982-5652

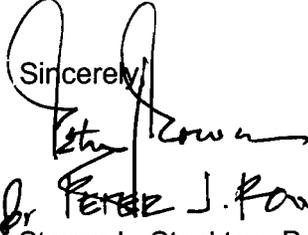
Dear Ms. Hutchinson:

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The Corps is committed to serving the storm damage reduction and environmental needs of Florida. If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Michael J. Klosterman, Civil Works Deputy, South Atlantic Division Regional Integration Team, Washington, DC at (202) 761-4106.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven L. Stockton COL, EN
Steven L. Stockton, P.E.
Deputy Director of Civil Works