

- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

A petition that does not dispute the material facts on which the Department's action is based shall state that no such facts are in dispute and otherwise shall contain the same information as set forth above, as required by rule 28-106.301, F.A.C. Under sections 120.569(2)(c) and (d), F.S., a petition for administrative hearing must be dismissed by the agency if the petition does not substantially comply with the above requirements or is untimely filed.

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition is filed in accordance with the above. Upon the timely filing of a petition this order will not be effective until further order of the Department.

This intent to issue constitutes an order of the Department. The applicant has the right to seek judicial review of the order under section 120.68, F.S., by the filing of a notice of appeal under rule 9.110 of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the notice of appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate district court of appeal. The notice of appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department. The applicant, or any party within the meaning of section 373.114(1)(a), F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under section 373.114(1), F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when the final order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Executed in Tallahassee, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Alfred B. Devereaux Jr., Director
Office of Beaches and Coastal Systems

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date with the designated Department Clerk, pursuant to 120.52(11), Florida Statutes, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

Deputy Clerk

Date

Copies furnished to:

Charles Stevens, USACE, Jacksonville
Matt Miller, USACOE, Jacksonville
Carlos Espinosa, Miami-Dade County DERM
Brian Flynn, Miami-Dade County DERM
Allen Webb, USFWS, Vero Beach
Mike Johnson, NMFS, Miami
Kevin Bodge, Olsen and Associates, Inc.
Judy Cuenca, Mayor, Town of Golden Beach
Tim Rach, DEP West Palm Beach
Jackie Thompson, DEP-OBCS
Robbin Trindell, FWC-BPSM
Robert Brantly, DEP-OBCS
DEP - Office of General Counsel
OBCS Permit Information Center

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 10/19/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 11/19/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/04/2000

Message:

SAI#: FL200006050402CR

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
X State
Transportation

South Florida WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

OK - previously reviewed and commented. Anomalies should be avoided by a 200' foot buffer.

Dade
SAI-COIPS-EA
2000-08818

RECEIVED
NOV 29 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

U.S. Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Environmental Assessment - Renourishment at Miami Beach (Vicinity of 63rd Street) Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project - Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

Janet Duplex
11/15/2000

From:

Division/Bureau: *Div. Historical Resources / Bureau of Historic Preservation*

Reviewer: *B. Yates*

Date: *11-15-00*

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 10/19/2000
 COMMENTS DUE DATE: 11/19/2000
 CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/04/2000
 SAI#: FL200006050402CR

Message:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS	OPB POLICY UNITS								
Agriculture Community Affairs Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm. State X Transportation	South Florida WMD	Environmental Policy/C & ED								
Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7671 # of pages 1 /										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>To: <u>Charlie Trainor</u></td> <td>From: <u>David Korrer</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Co: <u>DCA Clearinghouse</u></td> <td>OS: <u>FDOT Dist-6 Planning</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dept.</td> <td>Phone #</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fax # <u>(305) 994-0477</u></td> <td>Fax #</td> </tr> </table>			To: <u>Charlie Trainor</u>	From: <u>David Korrer</u>	Co: <u>DCA Clearinghouse</u>	OS: <u>FDOT Dist-6 Planning</u>	Dept.	Phone #	Fax # <u>(305) 994-0477</u>	Fax #
To: <u>Charlie Trainor</u>	From: <u>David Korrer</u>									
Co: <u>DCA Clearinghouse</u>	OS: <u>FDOT Dist-6 Planning</u>									
Dept.	Phone #									
Fax # <u>(305) 994-0477</u>	Fax #									

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart G). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

U.S. Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Environmental Assessment - Renourishment at Miami Beach (Vicinity of 63rd Street) Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project - Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
 Department of Community Affairs
 2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
 (850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5430)
 (850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau: Florida DOT District 6 Planning Office

Reviewer: D. J. Curran

Date: 11/14/00

COUNTY: Miami-Dade

DATE: 10/19/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 11/19/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 12/04/2000
SA# : FL200006050402CR

Message:

STATE AGENCIES	WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS	OPD POLICY UNITS
Agriculture Community Affairs Environmental Protection Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm State Transportation	X South Florida WMD	Environmental Policy/C & ED <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>RECEIVED OCT 23 2000 ERR - 4210</p> </div>

The attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized as one of the following:

- Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.
- X Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.
- Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.
- Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

U.S. Department of the Army - District Corps of Engineers - Draft Environmental Assessment - Renourishment at Miami Beach (Vicinity of 63rd Street) Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project - Miami Beach, Miami-Dade County, Florida.

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- No Comment
- Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

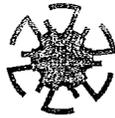
- No Comment/Consistent
- Consistent/Comments Attached
- Inconsistent/Comments Attached
- Not Applicable

UNDER THE OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN DEP AND THE SFWMD, THIS PROJECT WILL BE REVIEWED BY DEP

From:

Division/Bureau: ERR

Reviewer: JIM GOLDEN



RECEIVED
NOV 16 2000

November 13, 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

RE: SFRPC #00-1029, SAI #FL200006050402CR - Response to a request for comments on the draft Environmental Assessment for the Miami-Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, Department of the Army, Miami-Dade County.

Dear Ms. Trainor:

We have reviewed the above-referenced project and have the following comments:

- The project methodology and design, as proposed, is generally consistent with the goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida* (SRPP). Council staff supports the implementation of beach renourishment projects for the purposes of providing storm protection for upland property, restoring dunes and maintaining eroding beaches.
- Beaches and dune systems are identified as natural resources of regional significance in the SRPP. Staff supports the use of buffer zones to protect these important resources. Sand movement and downdrift erosion should be monitored on a region wide basis to ensure the livelihood of wildlife habitats and the stability of the project area. All actions should be consistent with the goals and policies of the Miami-Dade County comprehensive plan.
- Staff recommends that, if the proposed actions are implemented, 1) impacts to the natural systems be minimized to the greatest extent feasible and 2) the permit grantor determine the extent of sensitive marine life and vegetative communities in the vicinity of each project and require protection and or mitigation of disturbed habitat. These guidelines will assist in reducing the cumulative impacts to native plants and animals, wetlands and deep-water habitat and fisheries that the goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida* seek to protect.
- The goals and policies of the *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for South Florida*, in particular those indicated below, should be observed when making decisions regarding this project.

Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.1 Eliminate the inappropriate uses of land by improving the land use designations and utilize land acquisition where necessary so that the quality and connectedness of Natural Resources of Regional Significance and suitable high quality natural areas is improved.

Regional Policies

- 3.1.1 Natural Resources of Regional Significance and other suitable natural resources shall be preserved and protected. Mitigation for unavoidable impacts will be provided either on-site or in identified regional habitat mitigation areas with the goal of providing the highest level of resource value and function for the regional system. Endangered faunal species habitat and populations documented on-site shall be preserved on-site. Threatened faunal species and populations and species of special concern documented on-site, as well as critically imperiled, imperiled and rare plants shall be preserved on-site unless it is demonstrated that off-site mitigation will not adversely impact the viability or number of individuals of the species.
- 3.1.9 Degradation or destruction of Natural Resources of Regional Significance, including listed species and their habitats will occur as a result of a proposed project only if:
- a) the activity is necessary to prevent or eliminate a public hazard, and
 - b) the activity is in the public interest and no other alternative exists, and
 - c) the activity does not destroy significant natural habitat, or identified natural resource values, and
 - d) the activity does not destroy habitat for threatened or endangered species, and
 - e) the activity does not negatively impact listed species that have been documented to use or rely upon the site.
- 3.1.10 Proposed projects shall include buffer zones between development and existing Natural Resources of Regional Significance and other suitable natural resources. The buffer zones shall provide natural habitat values and functions that compliment Natural Resources of Regional Significance values so that the natural system values of the site are not negatively impacted by adjacent uses. The buffer zones shall be a minimum of 25 feet in width. Alternative widths may be proposed if it is demonstrated that the alternative furthers the viability of the Natural Resource of Regional Significance, effectively separating the development impacts from the natural resource or contributing to reduced fragmentation of identified Natural Resources of Regional Significance.

Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.4 Improve the protection of upland habitat areas and maximize the interrelationships between the wetland and upland components of the natural system.

Regional Policies

- 3.4.4 Require the use of ecological studies and site and species specific surveys in projects that may impact natural habitat areas to ensure that rare and state and federally listed plants and wildlife are identified with respect to temporal and spatial distribution.
- 3.4.5 Identify and protect the habitats of rare and state and federally listed species. For those rare and threatened species that have been scientifically demonstrated by past or site specific studies to be relocated successfully, without resulting in harm to the relocated or receiving populations, and where *in-situ* preservation is neither possible nor desirable from an ecological perspective, identify suitable receptor sites, guaranteed to be preserved and managed in perpetuity for the protection of the relocated species that will be utilized for the relocation of such rare or listed plants and animals made necessary by

unavoidable project impacts. Consistent use of the site by endangered species, or documented endangered species habitat on-site shall be preserved on-site.

- 3.4.8 Remove invasive exotics from all Natural Resources of Regional Significance and associated buffer areas. Require the continued regular and periodic maintenance of areas that have had invasive exotics removed.
- 3.4.9 Required maintenance shall insure that re-establishment of the invasive exotic does not occur.

Strategic Regional Goal

- 3.8 Enhance and preserve natural system values of South Florida's shorelines, estuaries, benthic communities, fisheries, and associated habitats, including but not limited to, Florida Bay, Biscayne Bay and the coral reef tract.

Regional Policies

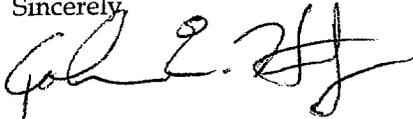
- 3.8.1 Enhance and preserve natural shoreline characteristics through requirements resulting from the review of proposed projects and in the implementation of ICE, including but not limited to, mangroves, beaches and dunes through prohibition of structural shoreline stabilization methods except to protect existing navigation channels, maintain reasonable riparian access, or allow an activity in the public interest as determined by applicable state and federal permitting criteria.
- 3.8.2 Enhance and preserve benthic communities, including but not limited to seagrass and shellfish beds, and coral habitats, by allowing only that dredge and fill activity, artificial shading of habitat areas, or destruction from boats that is the least amount practicable, and by encouraging permanent mooring facilities. Dredge and fill activities may occur on submerged lands in the Florida Keys only as permitted by the Monroe County Land Development Regulations. It must be demonstrated pursuant to the review of the proposed project features that the activities included in the proposed project do not cause permanent, adverse natural system impacts.
- 3.8.3 As a result of proposed project reviews, include conditions that result in a project that enhances and preserves marine and estuarine water quality by:
 - a) improving the timing and quality of freshwater inflows;
 - b) reducing turbidity, nutrient loading and bacterial loading from wastewater facilities and vessels;
 - c) reducing the number of improperly maintained stormwater systems; and
 - d) requiring port facilities and marinas to implement hazardous materials spill plans.
- 3.8.4 Enhance and preserve commercial and sports fisheries through monitoring, research, best management practices for fish harvesting and protection of nursery habitat and include the resulting information in educational programs throughout the region. Identified nursery habitat shall be protected through the inclusion of suitable habitat protective features including, but not limited to:

- a) avoidance of project impacts within habitat area;
- b) replacement of habitat area impacted by proposed project; or
- c) improvement of remaining habitat area within remainder of proposed project area.

3.8.5 Enhance and preserve habitat for endangered and threatened marine species by the preservation of identified endangered species habitat and populations. For threatened species or species of critical concern, on-site preservation will be required unless it is demonstrated that off-site mitigation will not adversely impact the viability or number of individuals of the species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We would appreciate being kept informed on the progress of this project. Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



John E. Hulse
Senior Planner

JEH/cp

cc: Guillermo E. Olmedillo, Miami-Dade County
Jean Evoy, Miami-Dade County DERM
James C. Duck, USACE



United States Department of the Interior



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

December 4, 2000

James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Public Notice Date: October 17, 2000
Project: 63rd Street Renourishment
Local Sponsor: Miami-Dade County
County: Miami-Dade

Dear Mr. Duck:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the *Renourishment at Miami Beach in the vicinity of 63rd Street, Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, Dade County, Florida*. The proposed project has the potential to affect the threatened loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*), the endangered green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the endangered leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), the endangered hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) and the adjacent hardbottom reef communities offshore of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The Service provided a Coordination Act Report and a Biological Opinion to the Army Corps of Engineers, which are included as appendices in the DEA. The Service provided recommendations in the Coordination Act Report and terms and conditions in the Biological Opinion that will reduce project impacts to biological resources.

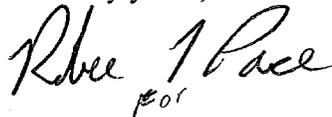
Section 2.3 of the DEA provides a generalized summary of the project impacts and mitigation measures proposed by the Corps to minimize these impacts. Section 4.4 provides a more detailed evaluation of these impacts and a more detailed discussion of the mitigation actions. The protective actions proposed by the Corps incorporate the Service's recommendations in the Coordination Act Report and the terms and conditions in the Biological Opinion.

The following provides the Service's understanding of the protective actions proposed by the Corps to minimize project impacts to biological resources:

1. A 400-foot buffer strip is proposed between the dredging heads and adjacent hard bottom communities. The purpose of the 400-foot buffer is to minimize project impacts from turbidity, sedimentation, and mechanical damage to the hardbottom reefs.
2. A Differential Global Position System (DGPS) will be in use on the dredge. Purpose is to accurately place the equipment in the designated borrow zones.
3. Mitigation for hardbottom impacts from the placement of the discharge pipeline will be performed. Collars will be placed at 100-foot intervals to hold the pipe off the bottom. Mitigation for impacts is proposed by the placement of artificial reef modules. The mitigation ratio is proposed at a 1:1 ratio of creation-to-impact. However, no temporal lag factor is proposed to account for the loss of the resources from the time of impact to the time the artificial reef modules function in the same capacity as the resources lost. The Service recommends a minimum of a three percent per year escalation for each year the artificial modules provide a reduced function to the reef community. The three percent per year is based on National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (1995) resource assessment protocol.
4. A detailed turbidity monitoring plan is proposed to ensure compliance with water quality standards and to protect the reefs from excessive silt settlement.
5. A detailed sea turtle monitoring plan is proposed to protect nesting turtles. The plan will include nest relocation protocol, escarpment controls, lighting controls, and compaction controls.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed 63rd Street Beach Renourishment Project. Thank you for your cooperation in the effort to protect threatened and endangered sea turtles, their nesting habitat, and the off-shore hardbottom reef communities. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Allen Webb at (561) 562-3909 extension 246.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhee J Slack" with a small "for" written below the name.

James J. Slack
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc:

NMFS, Mike Johnson, Miami, FL

EPA, West Palm Beach, FL

Service, Sandy Macpherson, Jacksonville, FL

FWC, Robbin Trindell, Tallahassee, FL

FDEP, Keith J. Mille, Tallahassee, FL

Miami-Dade County DERM, Miami, FL

Literature Cited

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 1995. Habitat equivalency analysis: an overview. Damage assessment and restoration program. Washington D.C.



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

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

November 15, 2000

Mr. James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Environmental Branch
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Duck:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed your letter dated October 17, 2000, requesting comments regarding the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed renourishment of Miami Beach in the vicinity of 63rd Street, Dade County, Florida. The EA also constitutes the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment for this federal project. The proposed project consists of renourishment of approximately 2,800 feet of shoreline using 200,000 cubic yards of sand between Department of Environmental Protection monuments R-44 and R-46A.

Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) has identified EFH in the project area for species they manage including shrimp, the snapper-grouper complex (containing ten families and 73 species), Spanish and king mackerel, coral and coral reef communities, and spiny lobster. The NMFS has identified EFH for highly migratory species that include billfishes and species of sharks that inhabit this area, such as nurse, blacktip, sandbar, lemon, and bull sharks. Likewise, the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council has identified EFH for bluefish that includes pelagic waters in the project area from the coastline to well beyond the construction limits for this project. Various life stages of some managed species found in the project area include larvae, postlarvae, juvenile and adult stages of red, gray, lane, schoolmaster, mutton and yellowtail snappers; scamp; speckled hind, red, yellowedge and gag groupers; Spanish and king mackerel; bluefish; white grunt; and spiny lobster.

In addition to EFH for Federally managed species, hard bottom, coral, and shallow nearshore habitats provide nursery, foraging, and refuge habitat for other commercially and recreationally important fish and shellfish. Species such as blue crab, flounder, pompano, snook, striped mullet, tarpon, and a variety reef fish and tropical fish are among the many species that utilize this habitat. Several of the species listed above are identified as being of "national economic importance" as identified pursuant to Section 906(e)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL 99-602), and therefore, are aquatic resources of national importance (ARNI). These include blue crab, shrimp, snappers, red drum, bluefish, Spanish and king mackerel, pompano, tarpon, and flounder.



Categories of affected EFH include marine water column (including pelagic waters), live/hard bottoms, coral and coral reefs. The SAFMC has identified Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPC) which occur within the project area. HAPCs are subsets of EFH that are rare, particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation, especially ecologically important, or located in an environmentally stressed area. Offshore areas of high habitat value or vertical relief, and habitats used for migration, spawning, and rearing of fish and shellfish have been included within HAPC. Specifically, categories of HAPC in the vicinity of the proposed project include hermatypic coral habitat and reefs, and hard bottom habitats.

Potential impacts from this project may occur within at least three spatial categories: offshore borrow areas, pipeline corridors, and nearshore fill areas.

Borrow Areas

Benthic communities are impacted by dredging operations in at least three ways: 1) mechanical, 2) siltation/sedimentation, and 3) turbidity. Mechanical impacts occur when dredge equipment such as dredge heads, cables, or barge anchors crush, break, dislodge, or remove benthic resources. Siltation and sedimentation impacts occur when sand and silt, re-suspended into the water column from the dredge and fill operation, settle-out over reefs and hard bottom habitats. Turbidity, or resuspension of sedimentation in the water column, causes a decrease in water clarity and light penetration and can have a long residence time (from weeks to months) after the termination of dredging (Goldberg 1989).

The mosaic nature of hard bottom habitat in southeast Florida increases the probability that impacts may occur during dredging operations. Mechanical damage to coral heads within and adjacent to borrow areas has been documented at Sunny Isles in 1988 (Blair *et al.* 1990a) and Bal Harbor in 1990 (Blair *et al.* 1990b). In the 1988 Sunny Isles project, post-construction investigations revealed that the dredge cutter head had inadvertently impacted 2.2 acres outside the borrow area; including an estimated 1.5 acres of benthic hard bottom habitat. Over 25,000 hard coral colonies, 24,000 soft coral colonies and over 2,000 barrel sponges were destroyed by the dredging equipment. Acute angles, or "dog-legs," in the borrow site boundaries and inadequate buffer zones contributed to the adjacent hard bottom impacts (Blair *et al.* 1990a).

The impacts to the sand borrow areas and their associated macro-invertebrate communities from the dredging operation may be more extensive and long-term than has been suggested in assessments for previous beach nourishment projects (USACE 1996). These studies have concluded that perturbations within borrow areas are negligible due to rapid re-establishment of the infaunal communities. However, re-examination of data from borrow areas and reference areas of four beach renourishment projects on the southeast Florida coast, found that changes to the infaunal community structure may persist for 2 to 3 years or more (Wilber and Stern 1992). Other studies have shown a decrease in diversity and abundance of the infaunal community in borrow areas several years following the dredging (Goldberg 1989). The impact that such projects have on macro-invertebrate communities should be considered as significant because they are either directly, or indirectly, a major portion of the diet of many fish and macrocrustaceans (Baird and Ulanowicz 1989). The NMFS believes that further studies should be conducted to determine the impacts that dredging may have on these marine environments.

Siltation can be detrimental to the growth and survival of reefs and the majority of associated species, especially filter-feeding organisms such as hard corals, sponges, and soft corals. Other organisms such as algae, crustaceans, and fishes also can be adversely affected (Bak 1978; Marszalek 1981; Nelson 1989). Suspension of sediment has been shown to cause mortality of eggs and larvae of marine and estuarine fish (Newcombe and Jensen 1996) and a reduction in feeding in juvenile and adult fish also can be expected. Reduced feeding success may influence survival, year-class strength, and recruitment of juvenile fish that inhabit nearshore hard bottom and coral reef habitats (Wilber and Clarke, draft manuscript). Post-construction surveys conducted for the Bal Harbor project revealed that a total of 24.8 acres of hard bottom reef habitat was impacted by sedimentation, with sediment depths of 1 to 5 inches. The report estimated that over 53 percent of the hard coral colonies were killed by sedimentation, equivalent to the loss of 18,279 colonies. Inadequate buffer zones surrounding the borrow areas contributed to the impacts in this project (Blair *et al.* 1990b).

Turbidity impacts are chronic perturbations that cause long-term reductions in primary and secondary productivity of reef and hard bottom communities by reducing water clarity and light penetration. Seven years after the completion of the 1971 Hallandale project, persistent turbidity resulted in visibility of less than 2 meters in the nearshore areas (Courtenay *et al.* 1980). Elevated turbidity levels near hard bottom and coral reef habitat is particularly detrimental to photosynthetic organisms such as corals and algae (Dodge and Vaisnys 1977; Bak 1978) and filter feeding organisms, such as sponges and tube worms (Hay and Sutherland 1988). Experimental studies have demonstrated that hard corals are adversely affected at levels below the current Florida administrative threshold of 29 NTUs (Teleniski and Goldberg 1995a; 1995b). In the Bal Harbor project, for example, the turbidity levels were seldom over 3 NTU's, yet 1 to 5 inches of sediment were deposited over 24.8 acres of hard bottom (Blair *et al.* 1990b).

The distance that sediment plumes may extend from the dredge depends upon the type of dredge, the operator, currents, and sediment type. Sediment plumes have been documented to travel along the bottom for some distance away from the dredge. For example, elevated sediment levels were recorded 1,100 feet from the borrow area in the 1990 Bal Harbor project, and were estimated to continue up to 1,200 feet (Blair *et al.* 1990b). Blair *et al.* (1990a), in their report of the Sunny Isles project, recommended a 1,500 foot buffer when the silt content of the borrow site is 5-9%. Goldberg (1989) suggested that the minimum distance between the hard bottom area and the borrow site should be the mixing zone dimensions around the dredge head. Since the mixing zone around the dredge is typically 450 feet or more, a buffer zone around the borrow area less than this will likely cause impacts to hard bottom reefs.

According to information provided in the EA, two proposed borrow areas have been identified by the Corps of Engineers (COE) for this project. The two sites are located south of Government Cut, approximately 2.5 miles east of Key Biscayne and in 30 to 40 feet of water. Hopper dredges are proposed for sand removal, with the dredge material transferred to a pumping station offshore of the beach fill location. Although hard bottom/coral reef communities are located to the east and west of the proposed borrow areas, the COE is proposing a 400-foot buffer from any hard bottom or coral reef community in this area. Biological monitoring stations are being proposed that are adjacent to, and at a distance from, the borrow areas. The monitoring plan calls for pre- and post-construction assessment of benthic community, water quality parameters, and assessment of sediment deposition. The monitoring protocols, if properly adhered to, should provide real-time data that will signal

impending or imminent sediment impacts to the reefs. Approximately 5 percent of the material sampled within the two borrow areas comprise rock fragments from 1 inch to 3 feet in diameter, which is unsuitable for placement on the beach. The proposed disposal of this material is over sand substrate in an offshore area southeast of the beach fill location. Hard bottom/coral reef communities are not expected to be impacted by the proposed disposal of rock in these areas.

Pipeline Corridors

Pipeline damage to hard bottom reefs can be expected from mechanical damage (crushing and/or scraping) from the pipeline itself, as well as from anchors holding the pipeline in place and cables attached to buoys marking the pipeline. Some impacts to macroalgae and soft and hard corals can be expected from shading, as well. Impacts can, however, be reduced by elevating the pipe a few inches off the bottom using collars or connector rings on the pipeline. Although relatively rare, breaches in pipelines have been documented in past south Florida beach renourishment projects. A 1999 project in North Miami Beach resulted in over 1,000 cubic yards of sand being deposited over a reef that was crossed by the pipeline. All benthic organisms within an area of approximately 4,000 square feet were reported to have died due to the placement of at least one inch of sand on the reef (R. Mulcahy, personal communication). According to the EA, Miami-Dade County has conducted an extensive survey of the nearshore reef and has established a pipeline corridor that will result in the least damaging alignment. Nonetheless, the proposed pipeline corridor for the project would impact an area of approximately 2,799 square feet (311 square meters), potentially impacting 532 hard corals, 2,637 soft corals, and 2,329 sponges. Hard bottom protection measures include marking the corridor with subsurface buoys and relocation/visual marking of large coral heads that may be impacted by the pipeline. In addition, the contractor will be required to place large tires over the pipeline at 100-foot intervals that elevate the pipeline and reduce impacts to hard bottom habitat. Pre- and post-construction monitoring of the pipeline corridor is proposed to assess and document impacted area, and allow repair of some fractured/broken coral colonies.

Nearshore Fill Areas

Nearshore hard bottoms are extremely diverse habitats and the high abundance of organisms found there is important to nearshore fishes. In a relatively modest sampling effort, Nelson (1989) found a total of 325 plant and animal species on subtidal rock outcrops at Sebastian Inlet Harbor. Algal species (62), represented the most speciose group in his study. A study conducted in Indian River County, reported 109 species of benthic algae growing on nearshore reefs off Vero Beach, Florida (Juett *et al.* 1976). Other studies have documented the high diversity associated with nearshore hard bottom habitats (Nelson and Demetriades 1992). Because many organisms associated with nearshore hard bottom habitats are sessile and have no ability to burrow up through the sediment, the survivability of these communities after renourishment is minimal (Dodge and Vaisnys 1977; Marzalek 1981). The loss of primary production within the area of the fill placement eliminates an essential foraging resource for juvenile fish, turtles, and invertebrates.

The nearshore hard bottom reefs serve as settlement habitats for immigrating larvae of fish and invertebrates or as intermediate nursery habitats for juveniles emigrating out of nearby inlets (Vare 1991; Lindeman and Snyder 1999). At least eighty-six taxa of fish have been quantified among nearshore hard bottom habitats along southeast mainland Florida; including at least 34 species of juvenile reef fish which may utilize these habitats as nursery areas (Lindeman and Snyder 1999).

Green, hawksbill, leatherback, and loggerhead sea turtles are all known to utilize Dade County beaches and nearshore habitats for nesting, foraging, and resting, and are protected by the NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Environmental assessments completed for past beach renourishment projects have limited most of their discussion of sea turtles to the impacts on nesting habitat (USACE 1996). However, several studies have determined that nearshore hard bottom habitats along the southeast Florida coast are important as nursery habitat for juvenile green turtles and loggerheads (Guseman and Ehrhart 1990; Wershoven 1992). These studies have concluded that juvenile and adult turtles feed upon the large biomass of macroalgae available on these nearshore hard bottom habitats.

According to the EA, Coast of Florida Study maps (Continental Shelf Associates 1993) indicate the nearest hard bottom reefs are approximately 800 feet east of the shoreline. Miami-Dade County has conducted visual surveys of the nearshore areas in 1999 and confirmed that hard bottom reefs are not present within the projected equilibrium toe of fill. The latter survey indicated nearshore reefs no closer than 1,200 feet east of the equilibrium toe of fill.

Mitigation Reefs

As mitigation for the impacts to hard bottom habitats within the pipeline corridor, the Corps is proposing the placement of either pre-cast concrete modules or limestone boulders on a 1:1 ratio of surface area impacted. The projected impacts to the hard bottom habitat from the pipeline corridor is approximately 2,799 square feet (311 square meters), which would require 31 concrete modules be placed (i.e. one module per 10 square meters of impact). Although the NMFS does not object to the proposed mitigation plan, we believe that the temporal loss of hard bottom habitat should be accounted for, and included in the mitigation ratio. This temporal “lag factor” accounts for the time required for biological and ecological functions, that will be lost in the natural hard bottom community, to be replaced on the mitigation reefs. A 3 percent per year factor has been used effectively by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their habitat equivalency analysis (HEA) for damage assessment and restoration projects (NOAA 1995).

To ensure the conservation of EFH and NMFS trust resources, we recommend that the following measures be incorporated into the project:

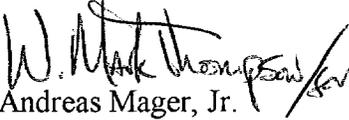
EFH Conservation Recommendations

1. Turbidity and sediment monitoring plans should be developed for all phases of the construction plan, including sediment transfer, sieving operations at the pumping station, slurry transfer through the pipeline, and sediment placement on the beach. Operations should be halted should the monitoring protocols indicate hard bottom communities are being adversely impacted by sedimentation, siltation, or turbidity.
2. In addition to the proposed mitigation ratio of 1:1, temporal losses of hard bottom communities should be offset by incorporating NOAA’s HEA (i.e. 3 percent per year factor) in order to account for the time required for biological and ecological functions of the mitigation reefs to replace those lost on natural hard bottom habitats.

Please be advised that the MSFCMA and the regulation to implement the EFH provisions (50 CFR Section 600.920) require your office to provide a written response to this letter. That response must be provided within 30 days and at least 10 days prior to final agency action. A preliminary response is acceptable if final action cannot be completed within 30 days. Your final response must include a description of measures to be required to avoid, mitigate, or offset the adverse impacts of the activity. If your response is inconsistent with our EFH Conservation Recommendations, you must provide an explanation of the reasons for not implementing those recommendations.

If we can be of further assistance, please advise. Related comments, questions or correspondence should be directed to Michael R. Johnson in Miami. He may be contacted at 305-595-8352.

Sincerely,


Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:

EPA, WPB
DEP, WPB
FFWCC, Tallahassee
FWS, Vero Beach
F/SER4
F/SER3
F/SER43-Johnson

Literature Cited

- Bak, R.P. 1978. Lethal and sublethal effects of dredging on reef corals. *Mar. Poll. Bull.* 9(1):14-16.
- Baird, D. and R.E. Ulanowicz. 1989. The seasonal dynamics of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. *Ecol. Monogr.* 59:329-364.
- Blair, S.M., B.S. Flynn, and S. Markley. 1990a. Characteristics and assessment of dredge related mechanical impact to hard bottom reef areas off northern Dade County, Florida. *In Proc. Of the 10th American Academy of Underwater Sciences Diving for Science Symp.* St. Petersburg, FL. p. 5-14.
- Blair, S.M., B.S. Flynn, T. McIntosh, and L. Hefty. 1990b. Environmental impacts of the 1990 Bal Harbor beach renourishment project: mechanical and sedimentation impact on hard-bottom areas adjacent to the borrow area. *Metro Dade DERM Tech. Rep.* 90-15. 52 pp.
- Continental Shelf Associates, Inc. 1993. Coast of Florida Erosion and Storm Effects Study, Region III: Mapping and Classification of Hard Bottom Areas in Coastal Waters Off Palm Beach, Broward, and Dade (Miami-Dade) Counties. Final Report for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, Florida.
- Courtenay, W.R., B.C. Hartig and G.R. Loisel. 1980. Ecological evaluation of a beach renourishment project at Hallandale (Broward County) Florida. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Engineering Research Center, Misc. Rept. 80-1, Vol. 1, 1-25.
- Dodge, R.E. and J.R. Vaisnys. 1977. Coral populations and growth patterns: responses to sedimentation and turbidity associated with dredging. *J. Mar. Res.* 35(4):715-730.
- Gilmore, R.G. and D.J. Herrema. 1981. Fishes of the Indian River Lagoon and adjacent waters, Florida. Harbor Branch Foundation, Inc. Tech. Rep. 41. 64 pp.
- Goldberg, W.M. 1989. Biological effects of beach restoration in south Florida: the good, the bad and the ugly. *In Proc. 1988 National Conf. Beach Preserv. Technol.* FL. Shore and Beach Preserv. Assoc., Tallahassee, FL. p. 19-27.
- Guseman, J.L. and L.M. Ehrhart. 1990. Green turtles on sabellariid worm reefs: initial results from studies on the Florida Atlantic coast. *In Proc. 10th Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation.* NOAA Tech. Mem. NMFS-SEFC-278. p. 125-127.
- Hay, M.E. and J.P. Sutherland. 1988. The ecology of rubble structures of the south Atlantic Bight: a community profile. U.S. Fish Wildlife Serv. Biol. Rep. 85(7.20).
- Juett, L., C. J. Miller, S. J. Moore and E. S. Ford. 1976. Summer marine algae at Vero Beach, Florida. *Florida Scientist.* 39:77-80.

- Lindeman, K.C. and D.B. Snyder. 1999. Nearshore hard bottom fishes of southeast Florida and effects of habitat burial caused by dredging. *Fish. Bull.* 97:508-525.
- Marszalek, D.S. 1981. Impacts of dredging on a subtropical reef community, southeast Florida, U.S.A. *Proc. 4th Intl. Coral Reef Symposium, Manila, Vol. 1:*147-153.
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 1995. Habitat equivalency analysis review. Damage assessment and restoration program. Washington D.C.
- Nelson, W.G. 1989. Beach renourishment and hard bottom habitats: the case for caution. *In* S. Tait (ed.), *Proc. 1989 National Conf. Beach Preserv. Technol. FL. Shore and Beach Preserv. Assoc., Tallahassee, FL.* p. 109-116.
- Nelson, W.G. and L. Demetriades. 1992. Peracarid associated with sabellariid worm rock (*Phragmatopoma lapidosa* Kinberg) at Sabastian Inlet, Florida, U.S.A. *J. Crust. Biol.* 12(4):647-654.
- Newcombe, C.P. and J.O. Jensen. 1996. Channel suspended sediment and fisheries: a synthesis for quantitative assessment of risk and impact. *N. Amer. J. Fish. Manag.* 16:693-727.
- Teleniski, G.J. and W.M. Goldberg. 1995a. Effects of turbidity on the photosynthesis and respiration of two South Florida reef coral species. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 57(2):527-539.
- Teleniski, G.J. and W.M. Goldberg. 1995b. Comparison of turbidity measurements by transmissometry and its relevance to water quality standards. *Bull. Mar. Sci.* 57(2):540-547.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1996. Coast of Florida Erosion and storm effects study: region III with final environmental impact statement. ACOE Tech. Rep., Jacksonville District. 62 pp. plus appendices A-I.
- Vare, C.N. 1991. A survey, analysis, and evaluation of the nearshore reefs situated off Palm Beach County, Florida. M.S. thesis, Florida Atlantic Univ., Boca Raton, FL. 165 pp.
- Wershoven, J.L. 1992. Juvenile green turtles in their nearshore habitat of Broward County, Florida: a five-year review. *In* *Proc. 11th Annual Workshop on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation.* NOAA Tech. Memo., NMFS-SEFC-302. p. 185-187.
- Wilber, D.H. and D.G. Clarke. Draft Manuscript. A review of suspended sediment impacts on salmonids, estuarine fish, and shellfish with relation to dredging activities. 56 pp.
- Wilber, P. and M. Stern. 1992. A re-examination of infaunal studies that accompany beach renourishment projects. *In* S. Tait (ed.), *Proc. 1992 National Conf. Beach Preserv. Technol., FL. Shore and Beach Preserv. Assoc. Tallahassee, FL.* p. 242-257.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

November 9, 2000

4EAD-OEA

District Engineer, Jacksonville
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232

ATTN: Chief, Planning Division
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment (EA) for Renourishment at Miami Beach in the Vicinity of 63rd Street, Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project, Dade County, Florida

Dear Sir,

Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, EPA, Region 4 has reviewed the subject document, an evaluation of the environmental consequences of placing approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material along the beachfront in the vicinity of 63rd, Miami Beach, Florida. The beach fill will cover approximately 2,800 feet of shoreline. The proposed borrow areas are located south of Government Cut approximately 2.5 miles east of Key Biscayne, Florida.

EPA has some environmental concerns regarding the long term consequences of beach nourishment projects in the area, specifically related to impacts on hardground and benthic habitats in the areas adjacent to the proposed borrow areas. While acknowledging the importance of hurricane storm protection, such protection should not come at the sacrifice of valuable offshore hardground and benthic habitats. Additional measures need to be taken to ensure that hardground and coral reef habitats are not adversely impacted.

On the basis of our review the following information is provided for your use in finalizing this action:

- 1) The proposed borrow sites are located in the vicinity of valuable offshore reef communities. EPA is not convinced that a 400 foot buffer area is a sufficient mitigation measure to avoid dredging damage and impacts to the biologically sensitive, surrounding

offshore hardground communities. The use of technology (e.g. Geographic Positioning System & Precision Electronic Dredge Location Equipment) should not be the sole damage protection mechanism. The use and implementation of contractor performance bonding and third party monitoring should be implemented to ensure that no damage to adjacent hardground communities occurs. If damage does occur, monetary fines and full hardground restoration should be required.

2) EPA is not convinced that all borrow site alternatives were fully considered. The use of deep water and upland sand sources should not be ruled out simply due to monetary considerations. If these alternatives are least damaging to the environment, they should receive full consideration, irrespective of the cost. EPA would like to see cost comparisons to justify why these alternatives were not considered.

3) It is stated in the EA **Project Need or Opportunity** statement that beach nourishment is also being proposed to prevent loss of nesting habitat for threatened or endangered sea turtles. In the EA **Affected Environment** section it states that the density of nesting north of Government Cut (e.g. where the proposed beach nourishment will occur) is relatively low. What is the density of endangered sea turtle nesting north of Government Cut in the proposed beach nourishment project area compared to the rest of the Dade County beaches? Is this stated nesting area considered critical by the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) for sea turtle nesting? From the attached Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act Report, it does not appear that the FWS considers this section of beach critical habitat. If not, then EPA questions whether beach nourishment at the expense of damage to sensitive hardground reefs is justified.

4) EPA is concerned about the impacts to hardground reefs from proposed placement of the discharge pipe. What level of mitigation will be implemented for hardground impacts. Are there any alternatives to the placement of a discharge pipeline placement in hardground reefs?

5) Many of the biological impacts associated with beach nourishment are considered temporary in the EA. However, these temporary impacts are more damaging than indicated. From a biological perspective, dredging effects are effectively instantaneous and catastrophic. Most of the non-mobile organisms within the borrow and renourishment sites die. We acknowledge that nearshore biota are evolutionarily attuned to similar natural perturbations; however the attentions of a dredge cutterhead or inundation by several meters of sand prove to be extreme for them to manage.

An important subset of the mobile species is also affected. While it may be difficult to demonstrate quantitatively, those organisms which move to unaffected adjacent locations compete for resources with original inhabitants of their particular niche. Since unused resources are not the norm, competition places stress on less competitive individuals. This

winning of individuals is in addition to existing natural processes. Eventually the population equilibrates, but at lesser overall numbers from the original base for a period of time. Viewed from this perspective, present values are a more realistic metric of the situation. Hence, only those perturbations which can be bridged by an individual's intrinsic resources should be characterized as temporary impacts. On an individual level many of the so called temporary effects are of sufficient duration that death is the outcome. The fact that conditions and/or resources necessary to reconstitute a population complex will reappear at some time overlooks the fact that a large percentage of the original community members died.

We acknowledge that these losses are an unavoidable consequence of beach nourishment; conversely the EA should recognize there are expected "overhead" costs of doing business. If this means that upland borrow material be used in lieu of borrow material from critical marine habitat, then that is the cost of doing business. The NEPA evaluation process for beach renourishment projects should generally express this anticipated consequence and suggest and select the best environmental alternative which protects all marine habitats, including hard bottom/reef areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If we can be of further assistance in this matter, Neel Vanikar (404-562-9703) or Dr. Gerald Miller (404-562-9616) will serve as initial points of contact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Mueller", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief
Office of Environmental Assessment
Environmental Accountability Division



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

NOV - 7 2000

F/SER3:EH

Mr. James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Duck:

This responds to your letter dated October 17, 2000, and draft October 2000 Environmental Assessment regarding the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Project (beach renourishment at Miami Beach in the vicinity of 63rd Street). A Biological Assessment (BA) was submitted pursuant to the requirements for interagency consultation as outlined in Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

We have reviewed the BA and conclude that populations of endangered/threatened species under our purview would not be adversely affected by the proposed action. We had previously commented on this project on July 10, 2000 and reached an identical determination.

This concludes consultation responsibilities under Section 7 of the ESA. However, consultation should be reinitiated if new information reveals impacts of the identified activity that may affect listed species or their critical habitat, a new species is listed, the identified activity is subsequently modified or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the proposed activity.

If you have any questions, please contact Eric Hawk, Fishery Biologist, at 727/570-5312.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Oravetz
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

cc: F/SER4
F/PR3

o:\section7\informal\miabch63.jax
File: 1514-22 f.1. COE JAX, FL





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

OCT 17 2000

Mr. Andreas Mager, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division
National Marine Fisheries Service
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Mr. Mager:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed renourishment of Miami Beach in the Vicinity of 63rd Street, Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. The EA also constitutes our Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Assessment as required by the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFMCA). With this letter we are initiating EFH consultation with your agency.

We request your comments pursuant to NEPA and MSFMCA within 30 days. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Mr. Mike Dupes at 904-232-1689.

Sincerely,


James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Mark Thompson, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3500 Delwood Beach Road,
Panama City, Florida 32408-7403

Mr. Michael Johnson, National Marine Fisheries Service, 11420 North Kendall Drive,
Miami, Florida 33176