

DRAFT  
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## Manatees

### Dredging Offshore

The Service has reviewed the Programmatic Biological Assessment (PBA) and concurs that, for dredging activities offshore, if the Standard Manatee Construction Conditions are made a condition of the permit and implemented, then these activities “will not adversely affect” the Florida manatee.

### Dredging Adjacent to the shore, inlet, and channels

**For dredging activities adjacent to the shore, inlets and/or inshore areas, if the following additional conditions are incorporated into the project and made a condition of the issued permit and implemented, the Service would concur that these activities “will not adversely affect” the Florida manatee:**

- a. Barges shall install fenders alongside that provide a minimum 4-foot standoff distance under maximum compression between other moored barges and large vessels, when in the vicinity of inlets, river mouths, and large estuaries where manatees are known to congregate.
- b. Pipelines shall be positioned such that they do not restrict manatee movement to the maximum extent possible.
- c. Pipelines transporting dredged material shall be secured to the bottom substrate to the maximum extent possible, to prevent manatee entrapment or crushing within the vicinity of inlets, river mouths, and large estuaries where manatees are known to congregate.

## **IMPORTANT MANATEE AREAS**

Important Manatee Areas (IMAs) are areas where increased densities of manatees occur due to the proximity of warm water discharges, freshwater discharges, natural springs, and other habitat features that are attractive to manatees. These areas are heavily utilized for wintering, resting, feeding, drinking, transiting, nursing, etc., as indicated by aerial survey data, mortality data, and telemetry data. A current list of warm water IMAs includes:

## **IMA - Warm Water Aggregation Sites**

### **East Coast:**

#### **Upper St. Johns River Region**

- (1) Blue Spring (Volusia County, FL)
- (2) Silver Glen Springs (Marion County, FL)
- (3) DeLeon Springs (Volusia County, FL)
- (4) Salt Springs (Marion County, FL)
- (5) The 20 Oklawaha River springs, including Silver Spring (Marion County, FL)

#### **Atlantic Region**

- (6) Reliant Energy Power Plant (Brevard County, FL)
- (7) FPL Canaveral Power Plant (Brevard County, FL)
- (8) FPL Riviera Beach Power Plant (Palm Beach County, FL)
- (9) FPL Port Everglades Power Plant (Broward County, FL)
- (10) FPL Fort Lauderdale Power Plant (Broward County, FL)
- (11) Coral Gables Waterway (Dade County, FL)
- (12) Sebastian River (C-54 canal) (Brevard County, FL)
- (13) Vero Beach Power Plant (Indian River County, FL)
- (14) Henry D. King Electric Station – Ft. Pierce Utilities (St. Lucie County, FL)
- (15) Big Mud Creek ( St. Lucie County, FL)
- (16) Berkeley Canal (Brevard County, FL)
- (17) Black Point Park/Black Creek (Dade County, FL)
- (18) Palmer Lake (Dade County, FL)
- (19) Little River (Dade County, FL)
- (20) Turkey Point Canal (Dade County, FL)
- (21) C-111 canal and canal just west of Card Sound Bridge (Dade County, FL)
- (22) Biscayne Canal (Dade County, FL)
- (23) Banana River Marine Service Marina (Brevard County, FL)
- (24) Canals/Coves, Upper Keys (Bayside of Key Largo) (Monroe County, FL)
- (25) Harbor Branch canal (St. Lucie County, FL)

### **West Coast:**

#### **Northwest Region**

- (26) Crystal River Springs Complex (Citrus County, FL)
- (27) Homosassa River Springs Complex (Citrus County, FL)
- (28) Weeki Wachee/Mud/Jenkins Creek Springs (Hernando County, FL)
- (29) Progress Energy Crystal River Power Plant (Citrus County, FL)
- (30) Manatee/Fanning Springs (Dixie County, FL)
- (31) Wakulla/St. Mark's Complex (Wakulla County, FL)

(32) The 5 Santa Fe River springs, including Ichetucknee Springs (Various counties – FL)

# Warm-Water Sites



Figure #. Warm-water IMA sites in Florida.

**For dredging activities within warm water IMA sites, no dredging should take place during the winter season. In extraordinary circumstances, dredging activities may take place in these IMAs when the following additional conditions are included as conditions of the permit and implemented. The Service would concur that incorporation of these conditions in the issued permit and adherence to these conditions during project implementation would result in a determination that these activities would “not adversely affect” the Florida manatee:**

- a. A Manatee Watch Program is in place.
- b. No mechanical dredging or movement of barges shall occur from 1/2 hour before sunset to 1/2 hour after sunrise within the vicinity of inlets, river mouths, and large estuaries where manatees are known to congregate.
- c. Barges shall install fenders alongside that provide a minimum 4-foot standoff distance under maximum compression between other moored barges and large vessels, when in the vicinity of inlets, river mouths, and large estuaries where manatees are known to congregate.
- d. Pipelines shall be positioned such that they do not restrict manatee movement to the maximum extent possible.
- e. Pipelines transporting dredged material shall be secured to the bottom substrate to the maximum extent possible, to prevent manatee entrapment or crushing within the vicinity of inlets, river mouths, and large estuaries where manatees are known to congregate.

**For dredging projects within an IMA that is NOT a warm water aggregation site, the Corps must contact the Service’s Field Office (Table #) for project specific conditions.**

**Table #. Service’s Field Offices.**

| <b>County project occurs</b>  | <b>Service Field Office</b>             | <b>Address</b>  |                |
|---|---|---|----------------|
| Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia, Brevard, Manatee, Pinellas and Hillsborough | North Florida Ecological Service Office | 6620 Southpoint Dr. South # 310, Jacksonville, FL 32216 | (904) 232-2580 |
| Indian River, Broward, Charlotte, Collier, Lee, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Palm Beach, | South Florida Ecological Service Office | 1339 20 <sup>th</sup> Street Vero Beach, FL 32960       | (772) 562-3909 |

|  |                                       |  |                |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|----------------|
| St. Lucie and Sarasota   |                                       |  |                |
| Bay, Escambia, Franklin, Gulf, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and Walton | Panama City Ecological Service Office | 1601 Balboa Avenue<br>Panama City, FL<br>32405 | (850) 769-0552 |

Although this does not represent a biological opinion for the manatee as described in section 7 of the Act, it does fulfill the requirements of the Act and no further action is required regarding manatees. It also fulfills the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. If modifications are made in the project or additional information becomes available on listed species, reinitiation of consultation may be required.