

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS EVALUATING POTENTIAL IMPACTS



THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

NEPA is a Federal law enacted in 1969. As required by NEPA, the Corps is evaluating potential environmental impacts that may be caused by the proposed navigation improvements at Manatee Harbor.

The findings will be explained in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will be available for public review and comment before any decisions are made or actions are taken. Your input at this meeting helps the Corps in identifying key environmental issues that may need to be evaluated.

EXAMINING POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO RESOURCES

The objective of this project is to contribute to National Economic Development consistent with environmental statutes.

The Environmental Impact Statement will evaluate potential effects on resources such as:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Archaeological/Cultural Resources
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Contaminants
- Navigation
- Noise
- Recreation
- Benthic Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Turbidity
- Blasting
- Wildlife Resources

AESTHETICS



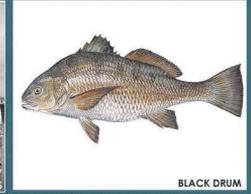
VIEW FROM SUNSHINE SKYWAY BRIDGE
Adverse impacts to the scenic value of Tampa Bay are evaluated during the design process.

CULTURAL RESOURCES



STEAM VESSELS ON TAMPA BAY CA. EARLY 1900S
The project area is surveyed for cultural resources such as shipwrecks and possible underwater archaeological sites. If found, the resources are protected or mitigated prior to construction. (Image: Florida Photographic Collection)

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT



BLACK DRUM
Impacts to the water column, mangroves, seagrasses, and hardground habitats are evaluated and appropriate protective measures are established; mitigation is developed for unavoidable impacts.

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES



SEA TURTLES
Approved methods to protect threatened and endangered species such as manatees and sea turtles will be implemented throughout the life of the project; blasting protocols with safety zones and observers would be required.



MANATEE

HARDGROUNDS



SPONGES AND TUNICATES
Projects are designed to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to hardbottom habitat. Mitigation is required when impacts are unavoidable.

TURBIDITY



Suspended sediments in the water column are monitored during dredging and blasting activities.

OCEAN DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE (ODMDS)



ODMDS "BRIAR PATCH" HABITAT
Located in the ODMDS is a berm that has been covered by benthic (bottom dwelling) organisms and has become habitat for a variety of fish and invertebrates. This area will be avoided if material is placed in the ODMDS.

WILDLIFE RESOURCES



BLACK SKIMMERS AND BLEDGES
Measures will be taken during project design to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to migratory birds and other wildlife resources.

