



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

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

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

MAINTENANCE DREDGING
12-FOOT CHANNEL, GORDON PASS TO NAPLES, FLA.
NAPLES, COLLIER COUNTY, FLORIDA

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed operations and maintenance dredging of the Federal channel from Gordon Pass to Naples, Florida. Project depths at the channel entrance are maintained at 12-feet mean lower low water (MLLW) with a 2-foot allowable overdepth, and 10-feet MLLW plus a 2-foot allowable overdepth for the remainder of the channel. This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA enclosed hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

a. The proposed action would be conducted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and specifically in compliance with the Gulf Regional Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (SPBO) issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The work would not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species, nor would it adversely modify manatee critical habitat located within the project boundaries. Further, the project footprint does not contain the essential features of smalltooth sawfish critical habitat as stated in the final critical habitat rule (Federal Register Volume 74, No. 169, page 45361).

b. The project was coordinated with the USFWS pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Coastal Barrier Resources Act. The Final FONSI will identify any comments received from the USFWS and their final determination of concurrence with these Acts.

c. This project will be coordinated with the State of Florida, and all applicable water quality standards will be met.

d. The Corps prepared a Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination, which is included as an appendix to the Draft EA. It will be coordinated with

the State of Florida for their comments. The action is consistent with the enforceable policies of the Florida Coastal Management Program.

e. The project will have no adverse effects to historic properties eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Identified potential resources will be protected through buffering.

f. Public benefits will be provided with unobstructed channel navigation and beach recreation.

g. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to environmental and cultural resources include the following:

1. Maintenance dredging would occur within the footprint of the previously maintained Federal channel. All suitable sand will be placed in the beach or nearshore placement areas to supplement the regional sediment budget.
2. All water based activities would follow standard manatee, sea turtle, and smalltooth sawfish protection measures, as well as the conditions of the NMFS GRBO. Dredged material placement would comply with the conditions of the applicable USFWS biological opinions following the completion of consultation.
3. The Jacksonville District's standard project specifications for the protection of migratory birds would be followed when migratory birds are present in the project area.

The Draft FONSI was coordinated with the public and agencies on 21 March 2013 with a 30-day comment period pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.4(e) and 1508.13. Any resulting comments or concerns have been adequately addressed in the EA and/or this FONSI.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed Federal Navigation Project, maintenance dredging of the Federal Channel at Gordon Pass to Naples, Florida, will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an EIS. The point of contact for this finding is Aubree Hershorin at (904) 232-2136 or Aubree.G.Hershorin@usace.army.mil. A copy of this document will be made available to the public at the following website:

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

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Date