



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT
NASSAU COUNTY, FLORIDA**

UPDATED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The proposed project is the restoration and continued nourishment of a total of 4.3 miles of beach from the south jetty of the Kings Bay/Fernandina Entrance Channel south to Sadler Road. Initial construction will be the 3.6 miles from Sadler road north to 0.7 miles south of the south jetty in Nassau County, Florida. Re-nourishment of this stretch of the project is expected to occur every five years. The northern 0.7 miles of the project are used annually as a placement site for sand dredged from the entrance channel during operations and maintenance activities for the Kings Bay Entrance Channel at the St. Mary's River. This FONSI is an update of a FONSI signed on March 17, 1999 by Colonel Joe Miller of the Jacksonville District. District staff have reviewed the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and the 1999 FONSI and updated consultations with Federal and State Resource agencies and added those consultations to this report. I have reviewed the Final EA of the proposed action. This Finding incorporates, by reference, all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA enclosed hereto. Based in the information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from other agencies and special interest groups having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Reasons for this conclusion are, in summary:

- a. The work will be conducted in accordance with the August 18, 2003 Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for impacts to nesting sea turtles (which updated the 1997 Biological opinion included in the original EA), and the 1997 Regional Biological Opinion (RBO) issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for impacts to sea turtles in the water. An August 10, 2004 letter from NMFS grants concurrence for the use of the 1997 RBO. The proposed action does not jeopardize the continued existence of any threatened or endangered species or adversely impact any designated critical habitat.
- b. In accordance with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer's letter of November 4, 2004, it was determined that the proposed dredging and beach placement will not impact any sites of cultural or historical significance due to mitigation measures incorporated into the project design.
- c. The proposed work has been determined to be consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program.

d. Measures to eliminate, reduce, or avoid potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources will be implemented during project construction.

e. Benefits to the public will be the storm protection measures afforded by the wider beach, continued economic stimulus, increased recreational benefits and erosion protection from replacing lost beach area, and increased nesting habitat for sea turtles.

f. State water quality standards will be met during construction.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed Shore Protection Project for Nassau County will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. A notice of availability of the signed FONSI will be sent to Federal, State and Local agencies and the interested public.

27 DEC 2005
Date

RM Carpenter
Robert M. Carpenter
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Engineer