

APPENDIX G-3 – PERTINANT CORRESPONDENCE



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
 Secretary of State
 DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Lizbeth Meigs
 Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems
 3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 300
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

February 16, 2005

Re: DHR No. 2005-775/ Received by DHR: January 21, 2005
 Application No. 0158721-004
 Applicant: St. Johns County
 Project: St. Johns County Shore Protection Project
 St. Johns County

Dear Ms. Meigs:

Our office received and reviewed the referenced project in accordance with Chapters 267 and 373, *Florida Statutes*, Florida's Coastal Management Program, and implementing state regulations, for possible impact to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist state and federal agencies when identifying historic properties, assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

Our review of the location for proposed borrow area indicates that portions of the area fall outside of any previously survey location (See Enclosures). A submerged properties survey was performed in 1997 along with subsequent diver investigation in 1998 by Mid-Atlantic Technology (FMSF SV# 5214 & 5376). The survey resulted in the identification of twelve anomalies which were all later confirmed by divers to be the remains of modern fishing vessels or debris associated with modern navigational aids or the fishing industry. The 1997 and 1998 surveys appear to be the only investigations specifically intended to research the area for potential borrow usage. The specific location of the previous borrow area is not known at this time, but should have been within the specific survey boundaries.

The current proposed borrow area also has portions entering into two other previous survey areas. In 1998 a maritime survey of St. Augustine was performed by Southern Oceans Archaeological Research and resulted in the identification of a 19th century steam vessel and an 18th century British sailing vessel (FMSF SV#5095). In addition, multiple other magnetic targets were investigated, for which the source of the anomaly was could not determine. A cultural resource marine remote sensing survey at the St. Augustine Entrance Channel was

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
 (850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
 (850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
 (850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
 (850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
 (954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

Northeast Regional Office
 (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Central Florida Regional Office
 (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Ms. Meigs
February 16, 2005
Page 2

conducted in 2000 by Mid-Atlantic Technology (FMSF SV#6565) identified six magnetic anomalies; however all appears to well outside of the current proposed borrow location. Further consultation with individuals more familiar with the St. Augustine area revealed that during the original borrow action; artifacts dating to the 16th Century were being recovered at the site of the dredge deposition. The origin of these artifacts is unclear, but historical information indicates a strong potential for historic shipwrecks occurring in the vicinity of the proposed borrow area.

Since potentially significant archaeological or historical sites may be present, it is the recommendation of this office that all portion of the proposed project lying outside of these previously survey areas should be subjected to a professional, underwater cultural resource survey. This survey shall include the usage of a magnetometer, sidescan sonar, and sub-bottom profiler of the area. The purpose of this survey will be to locate and assess the significance of historic properties present. The resultant survey report should conform to the specifications set forth in Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, and will need to be forwarded to this agency in order to complete the process of reviewing the impact of this proposed project on historic properties. The results of the investigations will determine if significant historic properties would be disturbed by this project. In addition, if significant remains are located, the data described in the report and the consultant's conclusions will assist this office in determining measures that must be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historic or archaeological significance.

Because this letter and its contents are a matter of public record, consultants who have knowledge of our recommendations may contact the project applicant. This should in no way be interpreted as an endorsement by this agency. The Registry of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) is the national certifying organization for archaeologists. A listing of archaeologists who are RPA Certified Professional Archaeologists is available at www.rpanet.org. It should be noted that not all archaeologists listed on the RPA website are trained to perform the underwater investigations recommended in this letter.

If there are any questions concerning our comments or recommendations, please contact Neal Engel, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at (850)245-6371, or by electronic mail at nengel@dos.state.fl.us. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



for Frederick Gaske, Director and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Kenneth Craig- Taylor Engineering, Inc.

Enclosures

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

SEP 19 2006

Mr. Frederick P. Gaske
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Gaske:

We have enclosed a revised copy of the draft report, *Submerged Cultural Resources Monitoring Report for the 2005 St. Augustine Beach Renourishment Project* by Lighthouse Archeological Maritime Program. Please review the report and provide us your comments, in accordance with the procedures contained in 36 CFR, Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties").

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Tommy Birchett, Archaeologist, at 904-232-3834. A response within 30 days after receipt of this letter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marie G. Burns
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Birchett/CESAJ-PD-EC/3834/als 18 Sep 06
Dugger/CESAJ-PD-EC
NB Burns/CESAJ-PD-E

L:\group\pde\birchett\dStJohnsmonitoringrevisedshpo.doc

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

AUG 24 2006

Mr. Frederick P. Gaske
State Historic Preservation Officer
Division of Historical Resources
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Mr. Gaske:




We have enclosed a single copy of the draft report, *Submerged Cultural Resources Monitoring Report for the 2005 St. Augustine Beach Renourishment Project* by Lighthouse Archeological Maritime Program. Please review the report and provide us your comments, in accordance with the procedures contained in 36 CFR, Part 800 ("Protection of Historic Properties").

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Mr. Tommy Birchett, Archaeologist, at (904)232-3834. A response within 30 days after receipt of this letter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marie G. Burns
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

 Birchett/CESAJ-PD-EC/3834/
 Dugger/CESAJ-PD-EC
 Burns/CESAJ-PD-E

L:\group\pde\birchett\dStJohnsmonitoringshp.doc

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

NOV 13 2006

Mr. Robin E. Moore
St. Johns County Planning Division
4020 Lewis Speedway
St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Dear Mr. Moore:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, has reviewed the draft report, *Submerged Cultural Resources Monitoring Report for the 2005 St. Augustine Beach Renourishment Project*.

Overall, the draft report is very thorough and informative. Please make the appropriate editorial corrections to the final report as referenced in the enclosed draft. Once corrections have been made, request that you submit 3 copies of the final report to this office.

If there are any questions regarding the comments, please contact Mr. Thomas Birchett at 904-232-3834.

Sincerely,

Marie G. Burns
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

B Birchett/CESAJ-PD-EC/3834/10/13/06
Res Dugger/CESAJ-PD-EC
MB Burns/CESAJ-PD-E
3 Oct 06

L:\group\pde\birchett\fmooresmonitoringreport.doc



Dugger
PD-E

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Stuart Appelbaum
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

September 28, 2005

RE: DHR No.: 2005-9151 / Date Received: August 25, 2005
St. Johns County Shore Protection Project (SPP) Study Area
St. Johns County

Dear Appelbaum:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* of 1966, as amended, and 36 *C.F.R.*, Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties (archaeological, architectural, and historical) listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, assessing the project's effects, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize effects.

We reviewed the Florida Master Site File and our records for information to be addressed in either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County. We note that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located within the designated study area. This office recommends that these shipwrecks be avoided by all project activities. Therefore, the Florida Master Site File should be contacted at 850/245-6440, in order to obtain information about shipwrecks recorded within the study area's 42 miles of shoreline.

Our review further indicates that the location of the potential sand borrow areas are not identified, other than being shown on the *Enclosure St. Johns County SPP Study Area* as sources A6, A7 and B8. The other source areas that may be developed are unidentified as well. Because the borrow areas have not been surveyed previously, they should be investigated. Therefore, this office recommends that a standard systematic remote sensing survey be performed for the offshore borrow areas in order to avoid potential adverse effect to unrecorded shipwrecks.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6436

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Historical Museums
(850) 245-6400 • FAX: 245-6433

Southeast Regional Office
(954) 467-4990 • FAX: 467-4991

Northeast Regional Office
(904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044

Central Florida Regional Office
(813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340

Mr. Appelbaum
September 28, 2005
Page 2

Should the borrow areas that may be developed occur on land, we recommend that they be subjected to the standard professional cultural resource survey to avoid possible impact to unrecorded sites. This office looks forward to coordinating with the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers in the management and protection of historic properties associated with this project.

If there are any questions concerning our comments, please contact Janice Maddox, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail at jmaddox@dos.state.fl.us, or by telephone at 850/245-6333. Thank you for your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer



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

AUG 17 2005

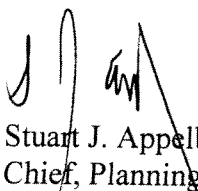
TO THE ADDRESSEES ON THE ENCLOSED LIST:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is gathering information to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. A reconnaissance report has been completed and resulted in the recommendation to continue the study into the feasibility phase. The most immediate and critical needs of the local communities are to address beach and dune erosion and protect State Highway A1A and environmental attributes. This study will determine the Federal interest in participating in a locally supported, cost-shared shore protection project to address St. Johns County's coastal issues.

The study area, enclosed, covers about 42 miles of shoreline, including approximately 14 miles in two parks managed by the State of Florida. The entire coast of St. Johns County is subject to storm damage and shoreline erosion but two of the three most critically eroding areas are located at Vilano Beach (Reach 1) and Summer Haven Beach (Reach 2). The third critical erosion area is St. Augustine Beach, which was addressed under a previously authorized Shore Protection Project and is not included in this study. Potential sand borrow areas to be investigated are also shown on the enclosure as sources A6, A7 and B8 but other sources may be developed.

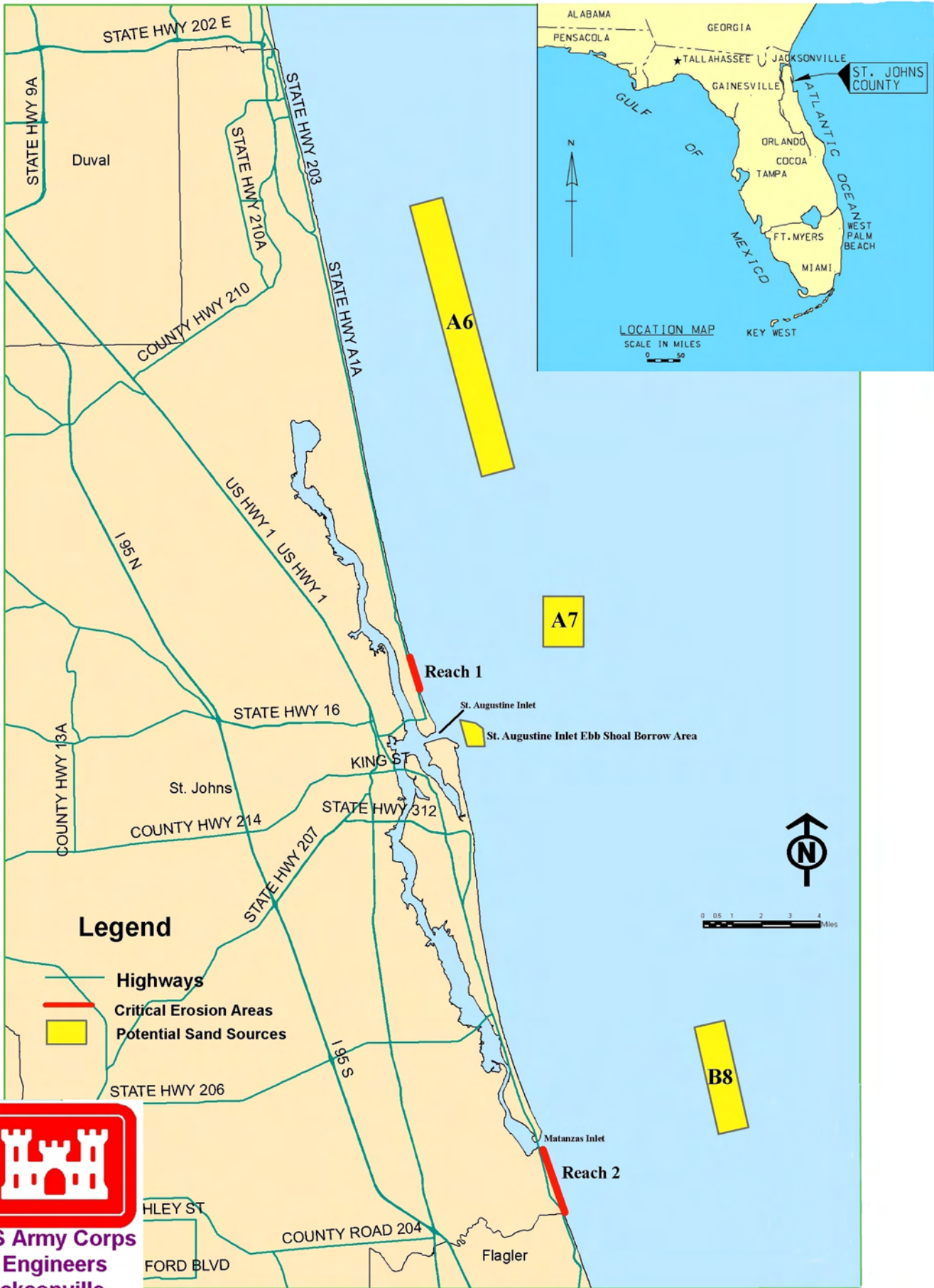
We welcome your views, comments and information about Environmental and Cultural resources, study objectives and important features within the described project area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Paul DeMarco at telephone number 904-232-1897, Planning Division, Environmental Branch and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,


Stuart J. Appelbaum
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure

ENCLOSURE St. Johns County SPP Study Area



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Jacksonville
District**



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

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue S.
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

September 13, 2005

Mr. Stuart J. Appelbaum
Chief, Planning Division
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Appelbaum:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the August 17, 2005, scoping letter regarding plans to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility providing shoreline erosion protection in St. Johns County, Florida. The study area includes 42 linear miles of shoreline, including 14 miles of public parks. The purpose of the proposed study is to determine federal interest in a cost-sharing project designed to address critical erosion of beaches and dunes, State Highway A1A, and environmental attributes.

General comments

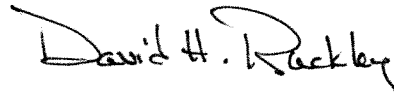
The nearshore waters of St. Johns County supports essential fish habitat (EFH). Sand dredging and placement of sand on beaches would adversely impact these habitats and associated fishery resources. Categories of EFH in the project vicinity include the marine water column, submerged bottom, and marine nearshore and offshore habitats. Federally managed fishery resources associated with these habitats include postlarval and juvenile red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*), white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*), pink shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus duorarum*), and brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*). Detailed information concerning federally managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 1998 comprehensive amendments of the Fishery Management Plans for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). The 1998 amendment was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (P.L. 104-297). The project area also serves as nursery and forage habitat for other species including black drum (*Pogonias cromis*), Atlantic menhaden (*Brevoortia tyrannus*), and blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*) which serve as prey for other species (e.g., mackerels, snappers, and groupers) that are managed by the SAFMC, and for highly migratory species (e.g., billfishes and sharks) that are managed by NMFS.



Given the ecological importance of habitats found in the project area, any documents prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act should include an EFH assessment. At a minimum, the EFH assessment should include a detailed analysis of potential direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts of the proposed action on EFH, managed species, and associated species by life history stage; the Corps of Engineers' views regarding the effects of the proposed project on EFH; a description of all practicable and appropriate measures taken to first avoid and then minimize adverse impacts to EFH and managed species; and an evaluation of potential on-site and off-site compensatory mitigation options. If, during project planning and development, you determine that design features may adversely impact EFH, those impacts and any related mitigation should be fully described in the environmental assessment for the project. Specific requirements concerning activities that may affect EFH are found at 50 CFR 600.920, the regulation to implement the EFH provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Descriptions and locations of EFH found along the south Atlantic seaboard can be viewed by going to the website for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council at www.safmc.net/.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to provide comments early in the planning process. Mr. George Getsinger, at our Marineland Office, is available if further assistance is needed. He may be reached at 9741 Ocean Shore Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32080, or by telephone at (904) 461- 8674.

Sincerely,



Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:
EPA, ATL
FWS, JAX
DEP, JAX
FFWCC, TAL
F/SER4
SAFMC

*Thomas M. Schmidt
9179 Old A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080*

September 14, 2005

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division
Environmental Branch
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: St. Johns County Shoreline Protection
Summer Haven Beach (Reach 2)

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

Thank you for inviting comments on this project. My homesteaded residence is 9179 Old A1A South, just to the north of the Reach 2 project area. My house was built in 1895; my great-grandfather bought it in 1899, so my family has witnessed this beach under all sorts of conditions. My comments are as follows:

1. Do not extend the rock revetment.
 - a) This is the best remaining turtle nesting site in the County. This key ancient environmental asset should not be sacrificed to the special interests of a few lot and homeowners.
 - b) Public beach recreation would disappear – the beach in front of the existing revetment disappears entirely at high tide. The accessible beach to the south of the revetment has been popular since the 1950's. Why should private special interests take this away from the public and other local beach users?
2. There is no entitlement to a road.
 - a) by way of background, as you know, after A1A washed away in the 1960's, the state abandoned this location and the county now owns the right of way. The narrow strip of land between the ocean and Summer Haven river was platted early in the 1900's. About 20 houses have been built at the South end of the the Reach 1 area, served by the surviving remnant of old A1A, which joins new A1A near Marineland.
 - b) About half a dozen lot owners in the "gap" area without a road have chosen to build houses there. My opinion is that they all should have been denied building permits from the beginning. This is a classic narrow

- barrier island, and they built in front of the coastal setback line. They took their chances. The public should not have to bail them out (literally!)
- c) Rather than accessing their properties by boat from the river, or by ATVs from the beach at low tide, they selfishly drove heavy vehicles on the dunes, gradually killing the beach grasses, causing erosion that has led directly to the breakthroughs of the Ocean into the Summer Haven River.
 - d) Driving over protected grasses and dunes is illegal by county, state and federal laws, but despite repeated complaints to the county by me and other residents, no law enforcement action was taken.
 - e) Driving to the north end of the Reach 2 area was also a trespass, not only over other private lots but also over four lots owned by the county. These lots were donated to the in the 1980s by my mother with the understanding that they would be held for conservation.
 - f) There is no ancient right of way here. Apparently there was one from the south to the Washington Oaks area. If people wanted to go from there north to Matanzas Inlet, they would have traveled on the beach, which was a half mile wide until the 1920's. My family has known Summer Haven since the 1880's, and have told me that there was no road on the dunes. This makes sense, because there was no road from Anastasia Island to the north until a bridge was built over Matanzas Inlet in 1920.
 - g) There is no way of necessity. As a lawyer, I know that this common law doctrine will not permit a land-locked owner to cross another owner's land unless there is no other possible access. The cases are quite strict about this. Here there are two possible alternative means of access. There is access by boat from the Summer Haven River. Most homeowners we are concerned with here have already built decks. Secondly, access is possible by ATV over the public right-of-way below mean high water on the beach.
3. There are alternate solutions, much cheaper and more environmentally friendly than building a revetment.
- a) Public safety access for ambulance service can be by A.T.V. Each affected homeowner can park at their cottage an A.T.V., which can travel on the beach. Rescue vehicles have gotten stuck. The ATVs can navigate soft sand. Fire trucks also have gotten stuck. Homeowners can plan for self protection with alarms, fire extinguishers and sprinkler systems. They can also buy generators and pumps to move water from the river in hoses to fight fire. (I note that at my property at the southern end of Summer Haven, the nearest hydrant is over 1,000 feet away, so even houses on the paved road face some of the same issues.)
 - b) Beach erosion. The beach renourishments of the last few years have washed away because beach grasses have not been planted immediately in the spring, and irrigated, so that the roots can be established to help hold the sand during the Fall Storms. Nor have "snow fence" drift barriers been set up. The technology and the techniques are known to stabilize beach renourishments. However, the efforts are totally uncoordinated so

that millions in tax dollars are wasted because one agency does its part of the plan and leaves. Unbelievable! The beach can be stabilized to protect the houses.

- c) Buy up the vacant lots. I believe in private property rights. Owners should be able to get out what they paid (not "fair market value!") I understand the majority of the vacant lots affected are owned by Mr. McMillan, and some others are available for about \$1 million. Southern Realty (904-471-5903) has the details. It would be much cheaper to buy up the lots than build a revetment.

5. Government lack of Co-ordination should not cause loss of this very important environmental and public recreational asset to the special interests of a few property owners. The federal government didn't enforce its barrier island and setback legislation. The state government didn't enforce its dune and beach grasses laws. The county government is finally ordering a building moratorium in this area, when it should have done so long ago. However, the county assessor continues to value lots as if they were available and had road access, which is not fair. I understand there is support from elements of the county government which wish to use its equipment and to grant contracts to build revetments, etc.

6. Conclusion. The very important and significant environmental and public recreational benefits of the existing barrier island should not be ruined by extending a rock revetment and road from Summer Haven to Marineland, at a huge cost in tax money for the benefit of a few homeowners, who built with knowledge of existing conditions. We should heed the lessons of Hurricane Katrina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Schmidt".

Thomas M. Schmidt



Department of Environmental Protection

Jeb Bush
Governor

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Colleen M. Castille
Secretary

October 14, 2005

Mr. Paul DeMarco
Planning Division, Jacksonville District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers – Scoping Notice –
Feasibility Study, St. Johns County Shore Protection Project – St. Johns County, Florida.
SAI # FL200508241461C

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the referenced scoping notice.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) notes that construction of the shore protection project will require state water quality certification in the form of a Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) from the DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. The Bureau is very supportive of the feasibility study and is participating in non-federal project cost-sharing. Additionally, initiation of the study is recommended in the 2004 Hurricane Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System.

Based on previous studies, the Bureau has no objection to investigating borrow areas A6, A7 or B8 for compatible sand. Geotechnical investigations should be conducted in accordance with the Bureau's requirements for Quality Assurance and Quality Control and comprehensively document the compatibility of sand in the proposed borrow area(s) relative to the existing (natural) beach. Staff is concerned that use of the St. Augustine Inlet ebb shoal as source material for the project may have adverse impacts on the shoreline or the inlet. Prior to permitting use of the shoal as a potential borrow area, "reasonable assurance" must be provided in the form of extensive numerical modeling supported by accurate data.

The beaches at Reach 1 (Vilano Beach shoreline) are comprised of shelly materials, indicating the possible presence of hardbottom communities in the vicinity. A thorough investigation of the nearshore area will be required, as well as an evaluation of alternatives that will protect (or mitigate for unavoidable impacts) those habitats. In addition, the area is sand starved, indicating that structural alternatives would not be particularly effective. There are also rock outcrops on the emergent portion of the beaches and in the nearshore zone south of Reach 2

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. Paul DeMarco
October 14, 2005
Page 2 of 2

(Summerhaven). An investigation into the importance of the biological communities surrounding these rock outcroppings, and an analysis of longshore spreading of any fill material, should be conducted in order to evaluate alternatives. Bureau data indicates a mean tidal range of 1.4 m, a longshore transport variation from 112,000 m³/yr to 336,000 m³/yr, and the existence of a revetment between R140.5 and R146.

The Bureau would like to participate directly in formulating this feasibility study. They request that Mr. Michael R. Barnett, P.E., be officially placed on the Project Delivery Team. Please continue to coordinate with the Bureau and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to resolve the above concerns and any outstanding issues regarding listed species protection measures and biological monitoring. For further information on JCP permitting requirements, please contact Mr. Martin Seeling at (850) 414-7728.

Based on the information contained in the notice and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed activity is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The applicant must, however, address the concerns identified by our reviewing agencies prior to project implementation. All subsequent environmental documents must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed project. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

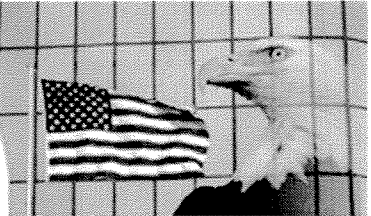
Sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosures

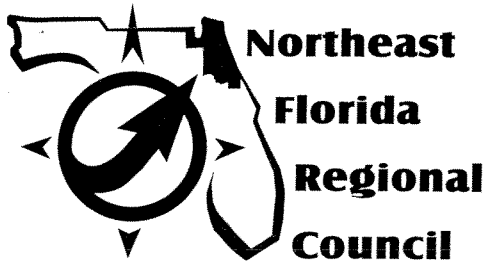
cc: Roxane Dow, DEP, BBCS



Project Information	
Project:	FL200508241461C
Comments Due:	09/23/2005
Letter Due:	10/14/2005
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SCOPING NOTICE - FEASIBILITY STUDY, ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT - ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	ACOE - SCOPING NOTICE - ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT
CFDA #:	12.101
Agency Comments:	
NE FLORIDA RPC - NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
The project is generally consistent with the NEFRC's policies, plans, and programs.	
ST. JOHNS - ST. JOHNS COUNTY	
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No Comments Received	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
No Comment	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
<p>DEP notes that construction of the shore protection project will require Joint Coastal Permit from the DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. The Bureau is very supportive of the feasibility study and is participating in non-federal project cost-sharing. Additionally, initiation of the study is recommended in the 2004 Hurricane Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System. Based on previous studies, the Bureau has no objection to investigating borrow areas A6, A7 or B8 for compatible sand. Geotechnical investigations should be conducted in accordance with the Bureau's requirements for Quality Assurance and Quality Control and comprehensively document the compatibility of sand in the proposed borrow area(s) relative to the existing (natural) beach. Staff is concerned that use of the St. Augustine Inlet ebb shoal as source material for the project may have adverse impacts on the shoreline or the inlet. Prior to permitting use of the shoal as a potential borrow area, "reasonable assurance" must be provided in the form of extensive numerical modeling supported by accurate data. The beaches at Reach 1 (Vilano Beach shoreline) are comprised of shelly materials, indicating the possible presence of hardbottom communities in the vicinity. A thorough investigation of the nearshore area will be required, as well as an evaluation of alternatives that will protect (or mitigate for unavoidable impacts) those habitats. In addition, the area is sand starved, indicating that structural alternatives would not be particularly effective. There are also rock outcrops on the emergent portion of the beaches and in the nearshore zone south of Reach 2 (Summerhaven). An investigation into the importance of the biological communities surrounding these rock outcroppings, and an analysis of longshore spreading of any fill material, should be conducted in order to evaluate alternatives.</p>	
ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD - ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
No comments. The project appears to be located seaward of the Coastal Construction Control Line and would be outside of SJRWMD purview.	

For more information please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD MS-47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161



Bringing Communities Together

September 26, 2005

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

Lauren Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Douglas Building - Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

SAI# FL200508241461C
NEFRC# SJ0001

Program title: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers-
Scoping Notice- Feasibility Study, St. Johns County Shore Protection Project- St. John's
County, Florida.

The Northeast Florida Regional Council has reviewed the above Activity. Response sheets were sent out to notify potentially affected agencies concerning project intentions. There were no endorsements received regarding this application.

This project is generally consistent with the Northeast Florida Regional Council's policies, plans and programs. This letter signifies that the Northeast Florida Regional Council has no objection to the above-cited activity.

Sincerely,

Audrey Smith
Regional Planner

Cc: Stuart J. Appelbaum, Planning Division Chief, Department of the Army, Jacksonville
District Corps of Engineers, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2005

OIP / OLGA



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

Mr. Mike Barnett
Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems
Department of Environmental Protection
5050 West Tennessee Street
Building B, Room 161
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Pursuant to Section III. B. 3. b. of the Interagency Coordination Agreement for Civil Works Projects (February 28, 2006), please designate a representative to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Project Delivery Team for participation in the St. Johns County Shore Protection Project Feasibility Study. Various alternatives are currently being considered for beach construction in the South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summer Haven Beach areas.

Also, the Department of Environmental Protection's participation during NEPA coordination would provide the opportunity for the early identification of potential environmental issues that could be associated with this project. Such participation early in the process would correspondingly allow for a timely resolution of such issues.

If you need additional information, please contact Mr. Mike Hollingsworth at 904-232-1687.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BR Schwichtenberg".

Bradd R. Schwichtenberg
Acting Chief, Planning Division

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Marty Seeling, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, 5050 West Tennessee Street, Building B, Room 161, Tallahassee, Florida 32304



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

SEP 16 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is gathering information to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. A reconnaissance report has been completed and resulted in the recommendation to continue the study into the feasibility phase. The most immediate and critical needs of the local communities are to address beach and dune erosion and protect State Highway A1A and environmental attributes. This study will determine the Federal interest in participating in a locally supported, cost-shared shore protection project to address St. Johns County's coastal issues. This scoping letter amends a previous scoping letter dated August 17, 2005 to include the South Ponte Vedra critically eroding area which was designated by the Department of Environmental Protection subsequent to that date.

The study area, enclosed, covers approximately 42 miles of shoreline, including 14 miles in two parks managed by the State of Florida. The entire coastline of St. Johns County is subject to storm damage and shoreline erosion but three of the four most critically eroding areas are located at South Ponte Vedra, Vilano Beach and Summer Haven Beach. The fourth critical erosion area, St. Augustine Beach, was addressed under a previously authorized Shore Protection Project and is not included in this study. Sand search areas to be investigated for potential borrow sources are also shown on the enclosure, however other sources may be developed.

We welcome your views, comments and information about Environmental and Cultural resources, study objectives and important features within the described project area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Paul DeMarco (telephone number 904-232-1897 or email: Paul.M.DeMarco@usace.army.mil), Planning Division, Environmental Branch and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Summa
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



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 29 2008

Mr. Ric Ruebsamen
National Marine Fisheries Service Panama City
Habitat Conservation Division
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, Florida 32408

Dear Mr. Ruebsamen:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency for either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. Informal coordination with your agency was initiated via public notice dated September 16, 2008 (enclosed) and subsequent conversations between Habitat Conservation Division personnel and our staff.

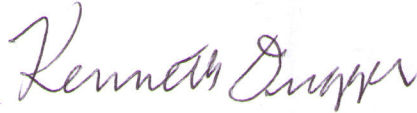
Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide special expertise on natural resources in this area.

The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EIS, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EIS without you as a cooperating agency. For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul DeMarco at 904-232-1897.

Sincerely,



for Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Copies Furnished:

Mr. Miles Croom, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511

Mr. Pace Wilbur, Atlantic Branch Supervisor, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, 215 Fort Johnson Road, Post Office Box 12559, Charleston, South Carolina 29422

Dr. Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511

Mr. George Getsinger, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, Northeast Florida Field Office, 9741 Ocean Shore Boulevard, St. Augustine, Florida 32080-8618



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 29 2008

Mr. Ric Ruebsamen
National Marine Fisheries Service Panama City
Habitat Conservation Division
3500 Delwood Beach Road
Panama City, Florida 32408

Dear Mr. Ruebsamen:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency for either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. Informal coordination with your agency was initiated via public notice dated September 16, 2008 (enclosed) and subsequent conversations between Habitat Conservation Division personnel and our staff.

Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide special expertise on natural resources in this area.

The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EIS, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EIS without you as a cooperating agency. For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul DeMarco at 904-232-1897.

Sincerely,



for Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Copies Furnished:

Mr. Miles Croom, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511

Mr. Pace Wilbur, Atlantic Branch Supervisor, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, 215 Fort Johnson Road, Post Office Box 12559, Charleston, South Carolina 29422

Dr. Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511

Mr. George Getsinger, NOAA Fisheries Service, Habitat Conservation Division, Northeast Florida Field Office, 9741 Ocean Shore Boulevard, St. Augustine, Florida 32080-8618



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

SEP 16 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, is gathering information to prepare either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. A reconnaissance report has been completed and resulted in the recommendation to continue the study into the feasibility phase. The most immediate and critical needs of the local communities are to address beach and dune erosion and protect State Highway A1A and environmental attributes. This study will determine the Federal interest in participating in a locally supported, cost-shared shore protection project to address St. Johns County's coastal issues. This scoping letter amends a previous scoping letter dated August 17, 2005 to include the South Ponte Vedra critically eroding area which was designated by the Department of Environmental Protection subsequent to that date.

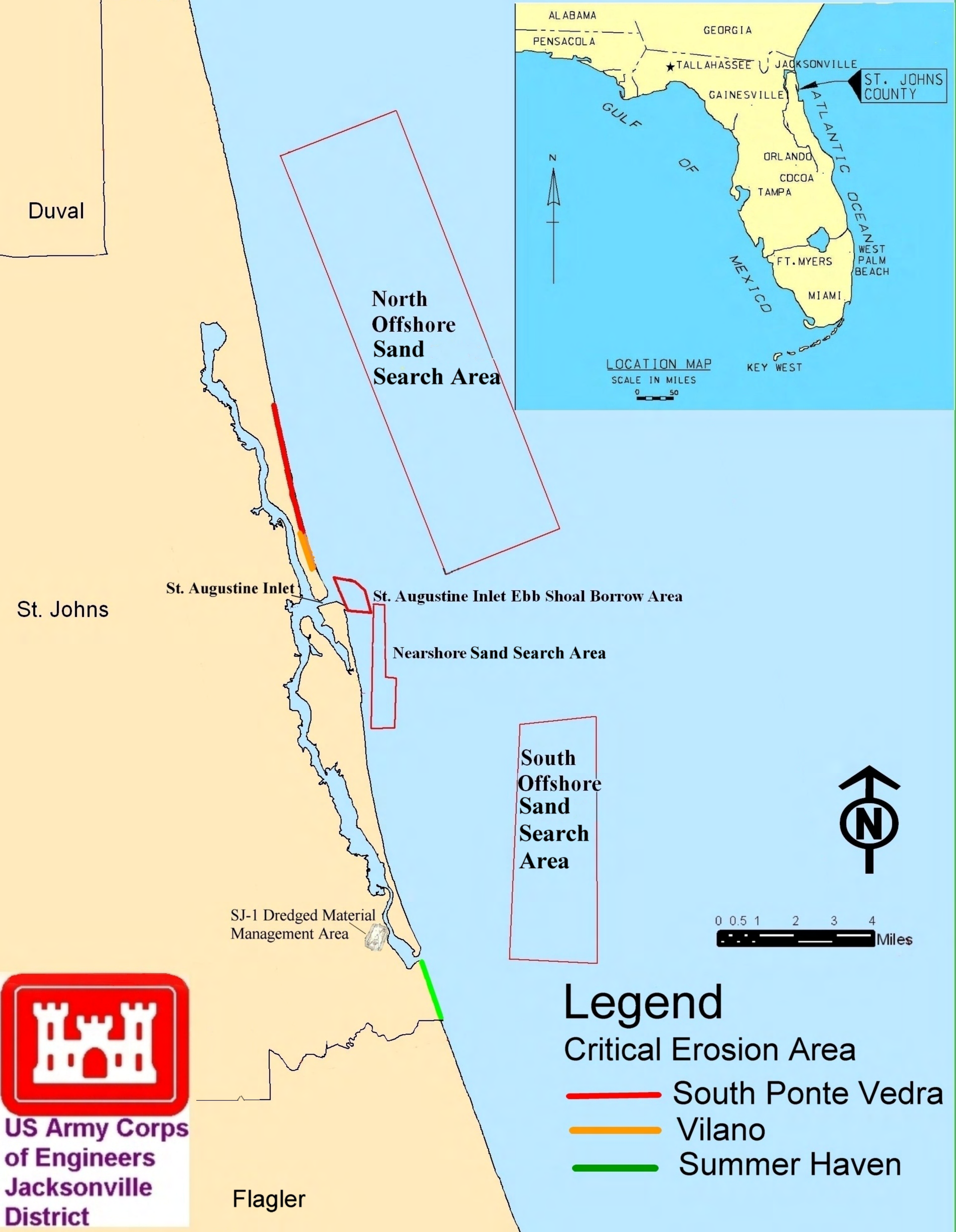
The study area, enclosed, covers approximately 42 miles of shoreline, including 14 miles in two parks managed by the State of Florida. The entire coastline of St. Johns County is subject to storm damage and shoreline erosion but three of the four most critically eroding areas are located at South Ponte Vedra, Vilano Beach and Summer Haven Beach. The fourth critical erosion area, St. Augustine Beach, was addressed under a previously authorized Shore Protection Project and is not included in this study. Sand search areas to be investigated for potential borrow sources are also shown on the enclosure, however other sources may be developed.

We welcome your views, comments and information about Environmental and Cultural resources, study objectives and important features within the described project area, as well as any suggested improvements. Letters of comment or inquiry should be addressed to the letterhead address to the attention of Paul DeMarco (telephone number 904-232-1897 or email: Paul.M.DeMarco@usace.army.mil), Planning Division, Environmental Branch and received by this office within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Summa
Acting Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



Duval

St. Johns

Flagler

North Offshore Sand Search Area

St. Augustine Inlet

St. Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area

Nearshore Sand Search Area

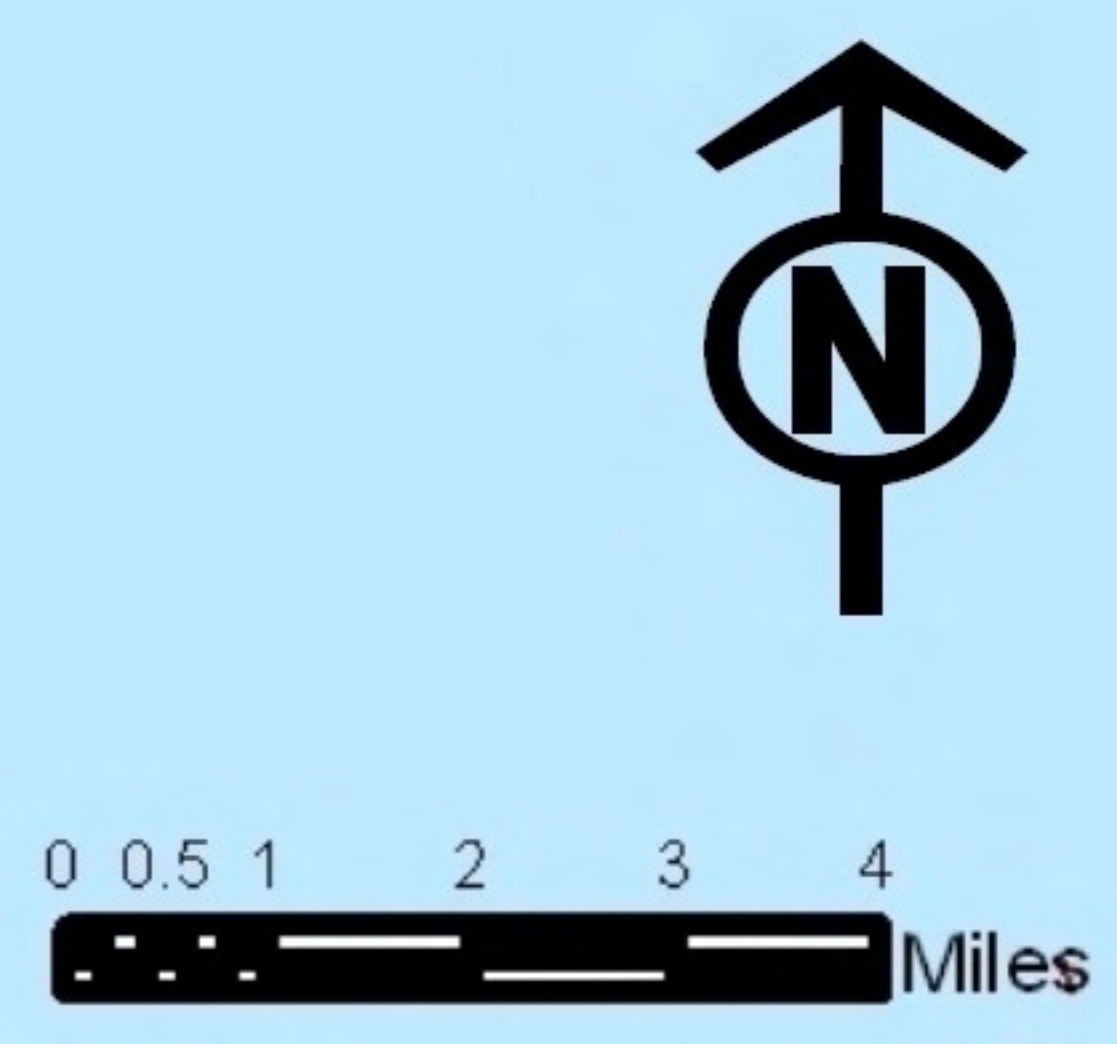
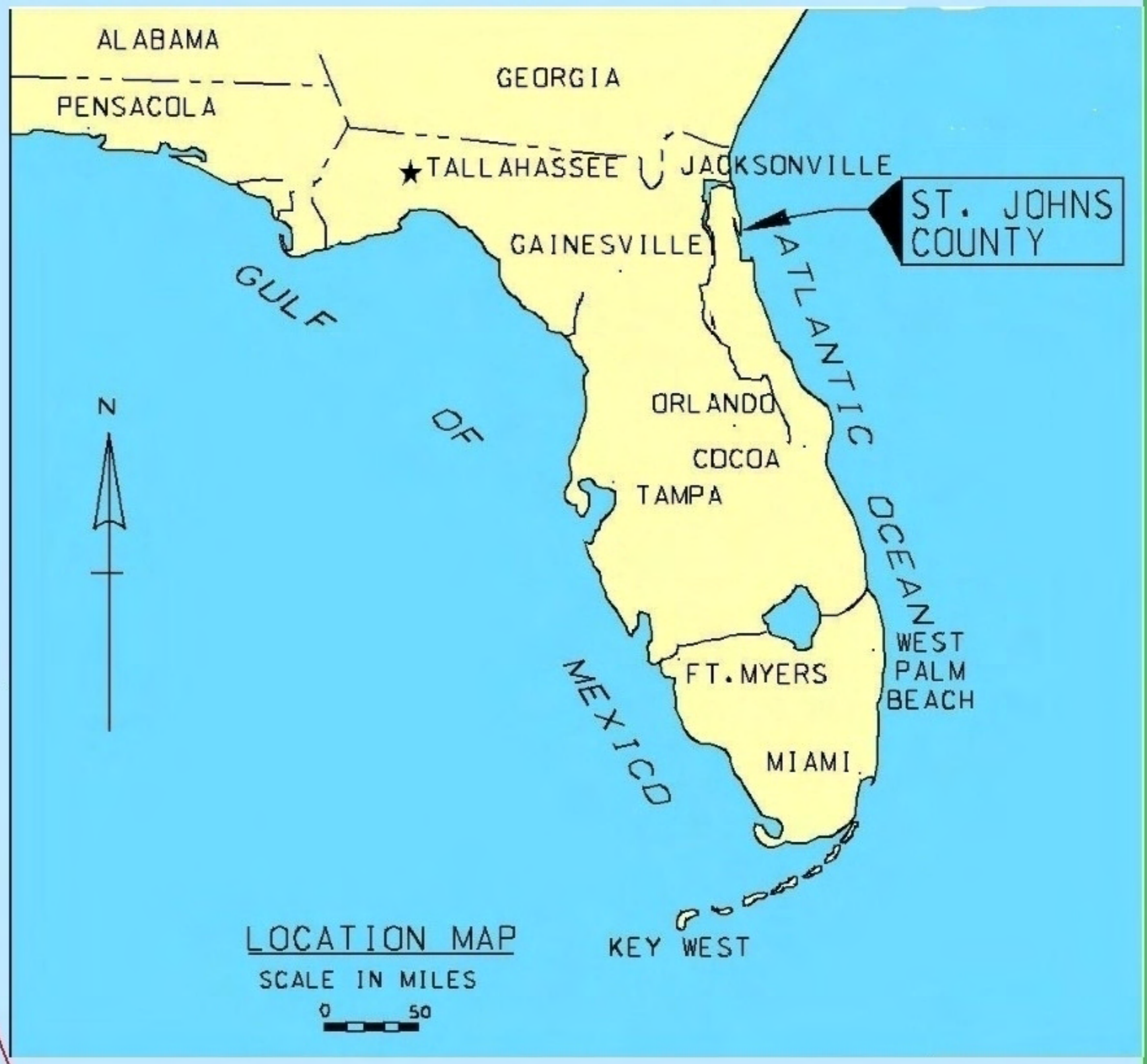
South Offshore Sand Search Area

SJ-1 Dredged Material Management Area

Legend

Critical Erosion Area

- South Ponte Vedra
- Vilano
- Summer Haven





Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

November 14, 2008

Mr. Paul M. DeMarco
Jacksonville District, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Scoping Notice - Feasibility Study, St. Johns County Shore Protection
Project - St. Johns County, Florida.
SAI # FL200809194439C (Reference SAI # FL200508241461C)

Dear Mr. DeMarco:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the subject scoping notice.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems is very supportive of the study and is participating in cost-sharing associated with the project. The South Ponte Vedra area was designated critically eroded in 2007, and several structures are threatened. Based on previous studies, DEP has no objection to investigating the offshore borrow areas for compatible sand. Geotechnical investigations should be conducted in accordance with the DEP Bureau's requirements for Quality Assurance and Quality Control, and comprehensive enough to document the compatibility of sand in the proposed borrow area(s) to the existing (natural) beach. The beaches in St. Johns County have high variability, and multiple borrow sites may be required. Use of nearshore borrow areas would require adequate numerical modeling supported by accurate data to provide "reasonable assurance" that the potential borrow area would not cause additional or relocated erosion to the shoreline. The Bureau has also requested to participate directly in formulating the Feasibility Study by including staff on the Project Delivery Team, as outlined in the Interagency Cooperative Agreement.

The Florida Department of State (DOS) has reviewed the Florida Master Site File and its records for information to be addressed in the proposed NEPA document and notes that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located directly within or in close proximity to the St.

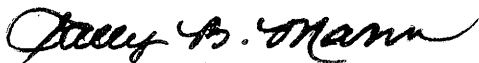
Mr. Paul M. DeMarco
November 14, 2008
Page 2 of 2

Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area and Nearshore Sand Search Area. DOS staff strongly recommends that these areas be eliminated from consideration unless absolutely necessary. If it is necessary to use these areas, steps must be taken to relocate all sites within the area to provide the proper buffer. Once potential borrow areas have been determined, the DOS will comment on whether an underwater assessment survey must be conducted. Staff looks forward to reviewing the results of the study prior to the submission of an EIS/EA for the project and coordinating in the protection and preservation of significant cultural resources. Please refer to the enclosed DOS letter.

Based on the information contained in the notice and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed federal action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The concerns identified by our reviewing agencies must, however, be addressed prior to project implementation. All subsequent environmental documents must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's continued concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

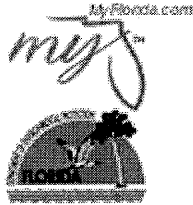
Yours sincerely,



Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm
Enclosures

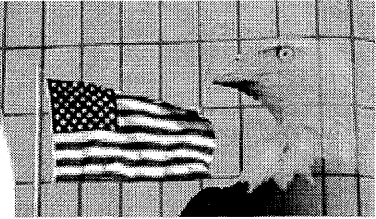
cc: Roxane Dow, DEP, BBCS
Laura Kammerer, DOS



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

[DEP Home](#) | [OIP Home](#) | [Contact DEP](#) | [Search](#) | [DEP Site Map](#)

Project Information	
Project:	FL200809194439C
Comments Due:	10/24/2008
Letter Due:	11/03/2008
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS - SCOPING NOTICE - FEASIBILITY STUDY, ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT - ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	ACOE - SCOPING NOTICE - ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT
CFDA #:	12.101
Agency Comments:	
NE FLORIDA RPC - NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
No Comments	
ST. JOHNS - ST. JOHNS COUNTY	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
No Comments Received	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
<p>The DOS has reviewed the Florida Master Site File and its records for information to be addressed in the proposed NEPA document and notes that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located directly within or in close proximity to the St. Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area and Nearshore Sand Search Area. DOS staff strongly recommends that these areas be eliminated from consideration unless absolutely necessary. If it is necessary to use these areas, steps must be taken to relocate all sites within the area to provide the proper buffer. Once potential borrow areas have been determined, the DOS will comment on whether an underwater assessment survey must be conducted. Staff looks forward to reviewing the results of the study prior to the submission of an EIS/EA for the project and coordinating in the protection and preservation of significant cultural resources.</p>	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
<p>The DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems is very supportive of the study and is participating in cost-sharing associated with the project. The South Ponte Vedra area was designated critically eroded in 2007, and several structures are threatened. Based on previous studies, DEP has no objection to investigating the offshore borrow areas for compatible sand. Geotechnical investigations should be conducted in accordance with the DEP Bureau's requirements for Quality Assurance and Quality Control, and comprehensive enough to document the compatibility of sand in the proposed borrow area(s) to the existing (natural) beach. The beaches in St. Johns County have high variability, and multiple borrow sites may be required. Use of nearshore borrow areas would require adequate numerical modeling supported by accurate data to provide "reasonable assurance" that the potential borrow area would not cause additional or relocated erosion to the shoreline. The Bureau has also requested to participate directly in formulating the Feasibility Study by including staff on the Project Delivery Team, as outlined in the Interagency Cooperative Agreement.</p>	
ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD - ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
SJRWMD has no comments.	

For more information or to submit comments, please contact the Clearinghouse Office at:

3900 COMMONWEALTH BOULEVARD, M.S. 47
 TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-3000
 TELEPHONE: (850) 245-2161
 FAX: (850) 245-2190

Memorandum

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

DATE: October 31, 2008

TO: Lauren P. Milligan, Office of Intergovernmental Programs

FROM: Roxane R. Dow, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Scoping Notice – Feasibility Study, St. Johns County Shore Protection Project – St. Johns County, Florida.
SAI #: FL08-4439C

The Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems is very supportive of this study and is cost-sharing the non-federal costs associated with it. The South Ponte Vedra area was designated critically eroded in 2007, and several structures are threatened.

Based on previous studies, we have no objection to investigating the off shore borrow areas for compatible sand. Geotechnical investigations should be conducted in accordance with the Bureau's requirements for Quality Assurance and Quality Control, and comprehensive enough to document the compatibility of sand in the proposed borrow area(s) to the existing (natural) beach. The beaches in St. Johns County have high variability, and multiple borrow sites may be required.

Use of nearshore borrow areas would require adequate numerical modeling supported by accurate data to provide "reasonable assurance" that the potential borrow area would not cause additional or relocated erosion to the shoreline.

The Bureau would like to participate directly in formulating this Feasibility Study. We requested inclusion of members on the Project Delivery Team, as outlined in the Interagency Cooperative Agreement, but have not received an official request to appoint anyone.

cc: Robert Brantly
Michael Barnett
Guy Weeks
Paden Woodruff



RECEIVED

OCT 27 2008

DEP Office of
Intergov't Programs

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Laura Milligan
Florida State Clearing House
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS-47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

October 23, 2008

RE: DHR No.: 2008-06146 / Date Received: September 25, 2008
St. Johns County Shore Protection Project (SPP) Study Area
St. Johns County

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Our office is reviewing the referenced application in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, as well as with Chapters 267, *Florida Statutes*, and Florida's Coastal Zone Consistency Program. The purpose of our review is to identify possible impact to historic resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist state and federal agencies and applicants to identify historic resources, assess effects on them, and considerations of alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We reviewed the Florida Master Site File and our records for information to be addressed in either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County. We note that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located directly within or in close proximity to the St. Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area, and the Nearshore Sand Search Area. This office strongly recommends that these areas be eliminated from consideration unless absolutely necessary. Furthermore, if it is a necessity to use these areas, steps will have to be undertaken to relocate all sites within the area in order to provide the proper buffer.

Once potential borrow areas have been determined, this office will comment on whether or not an underwater assessment survey must be conducted. We look forward to reviewing the results of the study prior to the submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Assessment* for the St. Johns County Shoreline Protection Project and coordinating in the protection and preservation of significant cultural resources.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

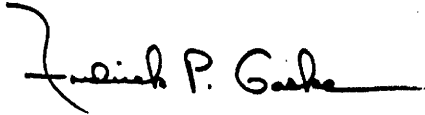
Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Ms. Milligan
October 20, 2008
Page 2

If there are any questions concerning our comments, please contact Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist, by electronic mail at mrhart@dos.state.fl.us, or by telephone at 850/245-6333. Thank you for your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frederick P. Gaske". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frederick P. Gaske, Director, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

Xc: Eric Summa/ Jacksonville District Army Corps of Engineers



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

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
(727) 824-5317; FAX (727) 824-5300
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

June 24, 2009

F/SER4:GG/pw

(Sent via Electronic Mail)

Mr. Eric Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch, Planning Division
Jacksonville District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Paul DeMarco

Dear Mr. Summa:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed your invitation, dated October 29, 2008, to become a cooperating agency for the development of either an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment that will evaluate the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection and hurricane and storm damage reduction to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. The invitation was extended in accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6). We understand that acceptance of the cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond those normally associated with a commenting agency and that NMFS is being asked to provide special expertise on the habitats used by estuarine and marine species in the area.

NMFS accepts the invitation to serve as a cooperating agency. Due to staffing constraints, our participation may be limited to technical reviews, development of short sections of environmental documents, and occasional project related travel. Mr. George Getsinger, at our Jacksonville Office, will be available for further consultation as needed. He may be reached at 9741 Ocean Shore Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32080, by telephone at (904) 461-8674, or by email at George.Getsinger@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

/ for

Miles M. Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:

COE Eric.P.Summa@usace.army.mil, Paul.M.DeMarco@usace.army.mil
F/SER47 George.Getsinger@noaa.gov





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Lainie Edwards
Department of Environmental Protection – MB 3700
Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS-300
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

September 18, 2009

Re: DHR Project No.: 2009-5085 / Date Received: August 18, 2009
Applicant: USACE – Eric Summa
Application No.: 0295429-001-JC
St. Johns County Shore Protection Project – Beach Nourishment
St. Johns County

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Our office is reviewing the referenced application in accordance with Chapters 373 and 267, *Florida Statutes*, and Florida's Coastal Zone Consistency Program. The purpose of our review is to identify possible impact to historic resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist state and federal agencies and applicants to identify historic resources, assess effects on them, and considerations of alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We reviewed the Florida Master Site File and our records for information. We note that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located directly within or in close proximity to the St. Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area, and that previous remote-sensing surveys were conducted in the borrow area. However, our files indicate that during the 2005 St. Johns County beach nourishment e project monitoring, the dredge pumped artifacts from a specific area of the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area

It is the opinion of this office that this strongly suggests that previous remote-sensing surveys of the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area were not able to adequately identify all resources in the area. We concur with the recommendation of archaeologists that conducted the 2005 monitoring of the nourishment project for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) that this may be "due to several factors including the depth of the sediment covering older resources, and to out-dated methodologies for locating deeply buried wrecks.

Therefore, prior to any additional dredging from the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area the blocks which have a high potential of containing the shipwrecks that were encountered during the 2005

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Lainie Edwards
Department of Environmental Protection – MB 3700
Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS-300
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

September 18, 2009

Re: DHR Project No.: 2009-5085 / Date Received: August 18, 2009
Applicant: USACE – Eric Summa
Application No.: 0295429-001-JC
St. Johns County Shore Protection Project – Beach Nourishment
St. Johns County

Dear Ms. Edwards:

Our office is reviewing the referenced application in accordance with Chapters 373 and 267, *Florida Statutes*, and Florida's Coastal Zone Consistency Program. The purpose of our review is to identify possible impact to historic resources listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist state and federal agencies and applicants to identify historic resources, assess effects on them, and considerations of alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

We reviewed the Florida Master Site File and our records for information. We note that a number of recorded shipwrecks are located directly within or in close proximity to the St. Augustine Inlet Ebb Shoal Borrow Area, and that previous remote-sensing surveys were conducted in the borrow area. However, our files indicate that during the 2005 St. Johns County beach nourishment e project monitoring, the dredge pumped artifacts from a specific area of the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area

It is the opinion of this office that this strongly suggests that previous remote-sensing surveys of the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area were not able to adequately identify all resources in the area. We concur with the recommendation of archaeologists that conducted the 2005 monitoring of the nourishment project for the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) that this may be "due to several factors including the depth of the sediment covering older resources, and to out-dated methodologies for locating deeply buried wrecks.

Therefore, prior to any additional dredging from the Ebb Shoal Borrow Area the blocks which have a high potential of containing the shipwrecks that were encountered during the 2005

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

Ms. Lainie Edwards
DHR Project No. 2009-5085
September 18, 2009
Page 2

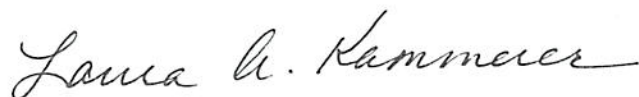
monitoring project should be subjected to an underwater remote-sensing survey and diver identification efforts in order to locate the source of the artifacts. The location data of the areas of the borrow area that need to be investigated is available in our files and the files Corps Environmental Branch. Methodologies for the survey investigations should include smaller line spacing for the remote sensing, diver identification of larger number of medium-to-lower probability targets, and the use of a sub-bottom profiler.

Until these investigations are conducted this agency cannot provide final comment on this application.

Because this letter and its contents are a matter of public record, archaeological consultants who have knowledge of our recommendations may contact the applicant or their agent. This should in no way be interpreted as an endorsement by this agency. The Division of Historical Resources does not maintain a list of professional archaeologists who are qualified to work in the State of Florida and/or who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for federally involved archeological projects as specified in 36 CFR 61, Appendix A. However, the Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA) maintains a membership directory that may be useful in locating professional archaeological consultants (<http://www.rpanet.org/about.htm>) in your area. Many qualified archaeologists are not members of RPA, and omission from the list does not imply that an archaeologist does not meet the Secretary's Standards or that the resultant work would not be acceptable. Conversely, inclusion on the list is no guarantee that an archaeologist's work will automatically be acceptable. As with any contractor you should request and check references and recent work history. The American Cultural Resources Association also maintains a listing of professional consultants at (<http://www.acra-crm.org/southeast.html>). The same conditions above apply.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Laura Kammerer, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Review and Compliance, at 850-245-6333 or lkammerer@dos.state.fl.us. Thank you for your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Eric Summa, Chief - Jacksonville District Army Corps of Engineers, Environmental Branch
Robin Moore, RPA - St. Johns County Planning Department
Florida Coastal Zone Management - FDEP



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Ms. Laurie Milligan
Florida State Clearing House
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS-47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

December 11, 2009

Re: DHR Project File No. 2009-06862/ Received by DHR: October 29, 2009
Applicant Name: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Application No.: FL200910284998C
Project Description: St. Augustine Inlet and Vicinity Maintenance Dredge
County: St. Johns

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project application in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation and the National Environmental Policy Acts as amended, to assess possible adverse impacts to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our office concurs with the USACE's recommendation for a cultural resource survey. The resultant survey report must conform to the specification set forth in Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, and be forwarded to this agency in order to complete the reviewing process for this proposed project and its impacts.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at (850) 245-6333, or by electronic mail at mrhart@dos.state.fl.us. Your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Jim Jeffords, Jr. P.E./ Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437



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 19 2009

Barbara Mattick, Ph.D.
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Dr. Mattick:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, is studying the effects of maintenance dredging in the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) in St. Johns County, Florida. Located near St. Augustine, Florida, the project consists of maintenance dredging along Cuts S-28 thru S-30 along the IWW. Shoaling within the IWW is causing hazards to navigation and requires maintenance dredging to bring the channel back to its authorized depths.

The Corps has determined that this project had a potential to affect historic properties and that a Phase I Archaeological Survey was needed. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any resources exist within the project area and evaluate their significance. The Jacksonville District contracted Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) to conduct this survey, and enclosed is their draft report, "*Historic Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey of Intracoastal Waterway Near St. Augustine, Fl.*" SEARCH identified a total of 73 potential significant anomalies within 17 clustered areas within the project area. One cluster is represented by the previously recorded site 8SJ4889, the Dixie Crystal. Please note that upon preliminary review of the document by staff, it was determined that in addition to the recommended potential significant targets identified by the consultant, the Corps is recommending that Target SS-1 be re-evaluated as a potentially significant target as this side-scan target may represent a potential cultural resource.

I request your comments on the enclosed, "*Historic Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey of Intracoastal Waterway near St. Augustine, Florida*". If there are any questions, please contact Mr. Dan Hughes at 904-232-3028 or e-mail at daniel.b.hughes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM
HC-61, BOX 21A
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117



TRIBAL OFFICERS
CHAIRMAN
MITCHELL CYPRESS
VICE CHAIRMAN
RICHARD BOWERS JR.
SECRETARY
PRISCILLA D. SAYEN
TREASURER
MICHAEL D. TIGER

Dan Hughes
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

THPO: 005568

April 7, 2010

Subject: Assessment of Effects for the Proposed St. Johns County Shore Protection Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hughes,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) has received the Corps of Engineers correspondence concerning the aforementioned project. The STOF-THPO has no objection to your findings at this time. However, the STOF-THPO would like to be informed if cultural resources that are potentially ancestral or historically relevant to the Seminole Tribe of Florida are inadvertently discovered during the construction process. We thank you for the opportunity to review the information that has been sent to date regarding this project. Please reference **THPO-005568** for any related issues.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Direct routine inquiries to:

Willard Steele,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Anne Mullins,
Compliance Review Supervisor
annemullins@semtribe.com



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Dawn K. Roberts
Interim Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Eric Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

September 24, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2010-04036
Received by DHR: September 3, 2010
1A-32 Permit No.: 0910.035
Addendum Report: Archaeological Diver Identification and Evaluation of Twenty-Eight Potentially Significant Submerged Targets, St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In March 2010, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an archaeological diver assessment of twenty-eight potentially significant targets identified during a previous remote sensing survey. The targets are within the proposed Ebb Shoal Borrow Area that will be used in association with the St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project. The survey was conducted on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers. SEARCH determined that most of the targets were either modern debris or too deeply buried to be identified or impacted by the proposed undertaking.

SEARCH determined that cluster 8 is the remains of the North Shoals Vessel (8SJ4784), which they consider potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. SEARCH recommends that the site be avoided with a 100 meter protective buffer zone.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

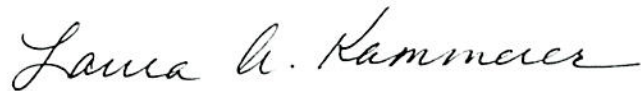
Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437

Mr. Summa
September 24, 2010
Page 2

Based on the information provided, our office finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. However, there is insufficient information about the historic shipwreck to assess its eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Contingent upon its avoidance, our office concurs with the US Army Corps of Engineers determination of no adverse effect on historic properties for the proposed undertaking.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Kammerer".

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Jason Burns, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Dawn K. Roberts

Interim Secretary of State

DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Eric Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

September 24, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2010-04036
Received by DHR: September 3, 2010
1A-32 Permit No.: 0910.035
Addendum Report: Archaeological Diver Identification and Evaluation of Twenty-Eight Potentially Significant Submerged Targets, St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In March 2010, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an archaeological diver assessment of twenty-eight potentially significant targets identified during a previous remote sensing survey. The targets are within the proposed Ebb Shoal Borrow Area that will be used in association with the St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project. The survey was conducted on behalf of the US Army Corps of Engineers. SEARCH determined that most of the targets were either modern debris or too deeply buried to be identified or impacted by the proposed undertaking.

SEARCH determined that cluster 8 is the remains of the North Shoals Vessel (8SJ4784), which they consider potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. SEARCH recommends that the site be avoided with a 100 meter protective buffer zone.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

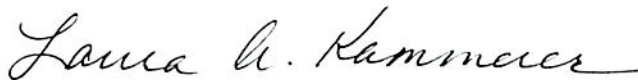
Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437

Mr. Summa
September 24, 2010
Page 2

Based on the information provided, our office finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. However, there is insufficient information about the historic shipwreck to assess its eligibility for listing in the NRHP. Contingent upon its avoidance, our office concurs with the US Army Corps of Engineers determination of no adverse effect on historic properties for the proposed undertaking.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Jason Burns, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Robert Riddell
Operations Division
Jacksonville USACE
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

January 19, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No. 2009-06415/ Received by DHR: October 28, 2009
Public Notice No.: PN-OD-IWW-287
Project: St. Augustine Inlet Maintenance Dredge
County: St. Johns

Dear Mr. Riddell:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced project application in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation and the National Environmental Policy Acts as amended, to assess possible adverse impacts to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places.

Our office concurs with the recommendations of your agency for the necessity for cultural resource surveys of the area of potential effect for the proposed project. We look forward to reviewing the resultant survey report(s). The resultant survey report must conform to the specification set forth in Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, and be forwarded to this agency in order to complete the review and consultation processes for this undertaking and its impacts to historic properties. The results of the analysis will determine if significant cultural resources would be disturbed by this development. In addition, if significant remains are located, the data described in the report and the consultant's conclusions will assist this office in determining measures that must be taken to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to archaeological sites and historical properties identified that are eligible for listing in the NRHP.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Michael Hart, Historic Sites Specialist, by phone at 850.245.6333, or by electronic mail at mrhart@dos.state.fl.us. Your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Eric Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

March 29, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2010-00839 / Received by DHR: February 11, 2010
1A-32 Permit No.: 0809.094
Historic Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey of the St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In June 2009, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted an archaeological and historical underwater remote sensing survey of the proposed Ebb Shoal borrow area near the St. Augustine entrance channel. The survey was conducted on behalf of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. SEARCH identified one hundred nineteen (119) magnetic anomalies and twenty-eight (28) side-scan sonar targets within the project area during the investigation. SEARCH relocated the previously recorded North Shoals Vessel historic shipwreck (8SJ4784).

SEARCH recommends that sixty-seven (67) magnetic anomalies and three side-scan sonar anomalies contained in twenty-five (25) clusters and two isolated anomalies be avoided during project activities. The majority of these anomalies and clusters should be avoided with thirty (30) meter diameter buffer areas. Previously recorded archaeological site 8SJ4784, represented by anomalies M39, M41, M45, M48, M53, M56, and M59, needs to be avoided with a fifty (50) meter diameter buffer zone.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437

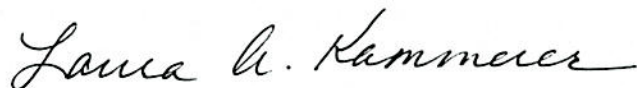
Mr. Summa
March 29, 2010
Page 2

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with these determinations and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

Please note that for future underwater survey projects, the Unanticipated Discoveries section should include language applicable to project for which the survey was conducted – in this case the sand borrow area and the erosion control project. This section should address the expected types of resources/artifacts/features associated with submerged sites, i.e., shipwrecks, like the North Shoal Vessel, 8SJ4784. In most cases, human remains discoveries would not be relevant to this type of project either. The purpose of this section of the report is to inform the project managers and other involved parties about the nature of the resources that could be encountered and the steps that must be taken in that situation. The point of contact regarding human remains discoveries, and new discoveries on state sovereign submerged lands is Dr. Wheeler, whose address is not correct in this document. For all discoveries in a federal or state project a second point of contact should be the State Historic Preservation Officer, Division Director and the Compliance and Review Section. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Louis Tesar, Interoffice Mail Station 8B
Jason Burns, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. – Pensacola, FL



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Kurt S. Browning
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Eric P. Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
Planning Division, Environmental Branch
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

December 1, 2009

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2009-06256 / 1A-32 Permit No.: 0809.109
Received by DHR: October 22, 2009
Draft Report: *Historic Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey of the Intracoastal Water Way near St. Augustine, St. Johns County, Florida*

Dear Dr. Hoffman:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced draft survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In June 2009, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted a remote sensing archaeological and historical survey of the proposed dredging areas within the Intracoastal Water Way. SEARCH identified seventy-five (75) magnetic anomalies within the North Reach, eighty-one (81) magnetic anomalies and five (5) sonar targets in the Mid Reach, and one hundred seventeen (117) magnetic anomalies within the South Reach. SEARCH recommends avoidance of seventy-three (73) anomalies.

Based on the information provided, it appears that the final report will be complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46 of the *Florida Administrative Code*. However, we recommend the following revisions for the final report:

- **Figures 55 and 56:** Both figures 55 and 56 are labeled as representing the location of anomalies MR-55 and MR-63. It appears that one figure may be for anomalies MR-62 and MR-67 instead.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
(850) 245-6300 • FAX: 245-6436

Archaeological Research
(850) 245-6444 • FAX: 245-6452

Historic Preservation
(850) 245-6333 • FAX: 245-6437

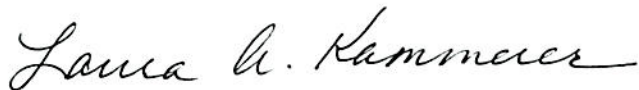
Mr. Summa
December 1, 2009
Page 2

- **Larger Figures:** The figures showing magnetic contours of the survey areas are too small to represent the data. For example, Figures 18, 19, 20, 41, 42, 70, and 71 would be more useful if they were included at a larger scale.

Our agency looks forward to the receipt and review of the final report for the above-referenced survey.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at (850) 245-6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,



Laura A. Kammerer
Historic Preservationist Supervisor
Compliance Review Section
Bureau of Historic Preservation

Pc: Louis Tesar, Interoffice Mail Station 8B
Michael Krivor, Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. – Jonesville office



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Dawn K. Roberts
Interim Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr. Eric P. Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

May 27, 2010

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2010-02392
Received by DHR: March 31, 2010
Cultural Resources Survey for the St. Johns County Shore Protection Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced survey report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, for assessment of possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In August and September 2009, New South Associates (NSA) conducted an archaeological and historical Phase I and remote sensing survey of the proposed project area for shoreline protection and dredge material disposal. NSA identified a deeply buried anomaly that may represent previously recorded archaeological site 8SJ3318. NSA did not relocate previously recorded site 8SJ4873 and determined it is unlikely to be present within the area of potential effect.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the proposed undertaking will have no adverse effect on cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP. No further investigation is recommended in association with the proposed project.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the determinations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and finds the submitted report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*.

500 S. Bronough Street • Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250 • <http://www.flheritage.com>

Director's Office
850.245.6300 • FAX: 245.6436

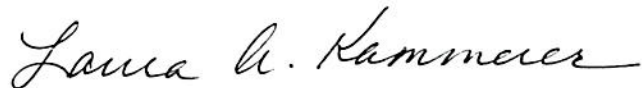
Archaeological Research
850.245.6444 • FAX: 245.6452

Historic Preservation
850.245.6333 • FAX: 245.6437

Mr. Summa
May 27, 2010
Page 2

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by electronic mail at rjwesterman@dos.state.fl.us, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura A. Kammerer".

Laura A. Kammerer
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
For Review and Compliance

Pc: Greg Smith, New South Associates

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM
HC-61, BOX 21A
CLEWISTON, FL 33440
PHONE: (863) 983-6549
FAX: (863) 902-1117



TRIBAL OFFICERS
CHAIRMAN
MITCHELL CYPRESS
VICE CHAIRMAN
RICHARD BOWERS JR.
SECRETARY
PRISCILLA D. SAYEN
TREASURER
MICHAEL D. TIGER

Dan Hughes
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

THPO: 005222

February 25, 2010

Subject: Historic Assessment and Remote Sensing Survey of the St. Johns County Beach Erosion Control Project, St. Johns County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hughes,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) has received the Corps of Engineers correspondence concerning the aforementioned project. The STOF-THPO has no objection to your findings at this time, given that the conditions provided by SEARCH archaeologists will be met. The STOF-THPO would like to be informed if cultural resources that are potentially ancestral or historically relevant to the Seminole Tribe of Florida are discovered during the construction process. We thank you for the opportunity to review the information that has been sent to date regarding this project. Please reference **THPO-005222** for any related issues.

We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Willard Steele,
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida

Direct routine inquiries to:

Anne Mullins,
Compliance Review Supervisor
annemullins@semtribe.com



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CESAJ-PD-EC

MAR 26 2010

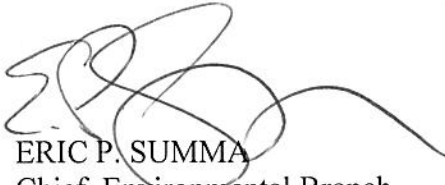
MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Records Management and Declassification Agency, ATTN: AHRC-PDD-RP Casey Bldg., Rm. 102, 7701 Telegraph Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22315-3860

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Enclosed for publication in the Federal Register are three signed original copies of the Notice of Intent to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction for South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summer Haven Beach Reaches, St. Johns County, FL. The billing code is 3710-AJ.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Encl

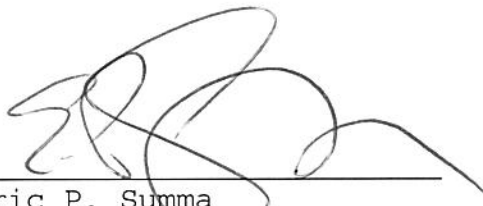

ERIC P. SUMMA
Chief, Environmental Branch

CF (w/encl):
CESAD-CM-P

e. *Agency Role:* As the cooperating agency, NMFS HCD and FDEP BBCS will provide information and assistance on the resources to be impacted, mitigation measures and alternatives. Other agencies having either regulatory authority or special expertise may also be invited to become a cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS. Specifically, as a Federal agency with jurisdiction to manage resources available on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the U.S. Minerals Management Service would be invited should potential borrow areas be identified within Federal waters (outside the 3-mile State statutory limit).

f. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability.* The study schedule is dependent upon Congressional funding and the current estimate is for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be available on or after 2012.

25 MAR 2010
DATE


Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

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

MAR 26 2010

Mr. David Hankla, Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
7915 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200
Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7517


Dear Mr. Hankla:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Minerals Management Service (MMS) would like to initiate formal Endangered Species Act consultation for the Duval County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction project. The MMS is a cooperating agency during the National Environmental Policy Act process for this project and is also serving as a joint agency under this ESA consultation. The Corps will remain the lead agency. Approximately 1,500,000 cubic yards of shoal material would be dredged from the Duval borrow area and used to construct a protective beach berm between monuments V-501 to R-80. Consultation was previously completed for this project in 1993 and 2005.

Enclosed is our biological assessment. The Corps and MMS have determined that the proposed beach nourishment project may affect nesting sea turtles and would be not likely to adversely affect manatees with inclusion of the Service's standard manatee protection measures.

We request your concurrence in this matter pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Mr. Paul DeMarco at 904-232-1897.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosures

by the IPHC between the commercial and charter vessel fisheries. If approved by the Secretary of Commerce, this new allocation program would not be effective before 2012.

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 773 *et seq.*

Dated: March 30, 2010.

Emily H. Menashes,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2010-7626 Filed 4-2-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-S

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Economic Development Administration

Notice of Petitions by Firms for Determination of Eligibility To Apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance

AGENCY: Economic Development Administration, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice and opportunity for public comment.

Pursuant to Section 251 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2341 *et seq.*), the

Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received petitions for certification of eligibility to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance from the firms listed below. EDA has initiated separate investigations to determine whether increased imports into the United States of articles like or directly competitive with those produced by each firm contributed importantly to the total or partial separation of the firm's workers, or threat thereof, and to a decrease in sales or production of each petitioning firm.

LIST OF PETITIONS RECEIVED BY EDA FOR CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY TO APPLY FOR TRADE ADJUSTMENT
[3/23/2010 through 3/30/2010]

Firm	Address	Date accepted for filing	Products
Mansfield Plumbing Products, LLC	150 E. 1st St., Perrysville, OH 44864.	3/23/2010	Sinks and lavatories made of porcelain or china.
Hurst Manufacturing	1551 East Broadway, Princeton, NJ 47670.	3/24/2010	Electric Motors, Brushless DC, AC Induction, Step- per and Synchronous.
Adams USA, Inc	610 S Jefferson Avenue, Cookeville, TN 38501.	3/25/2010	The firm produces sporting goods equipment; primary materials include plastic and fabric.
Bailey Knit Corporation	1606 Sanders Ave, NE., Fort Payne, AL 35967.	3/25/2010	The firm produces socks; primary materials include cotton and synthetic fibers.
Development Associates, Inc	300 Old Baptist Road, North Kingston, RI 02852.	3/25/2010	Development Associates manufactures polyurethane Resin, clear polyurethane resin—auto grade, non-yellowing, uv stable, mercury free, urethane Adhesive, epoxy primer, wire and cable coating.
Hawaiian Sun Products, Inc	259 Sand Island Access, Honolulu, HI 96819.	3/25/2010	Hawaiian Sun produces tropical fruit juices, preserves, chocolate covered food products, macadamia nuts, and a variety of other food products.
Pierce Aluminum Company, Inc	34 Forge Park, Franklin, MA 02038.	3/25/2010	Pierce Aluminum specializes in aluminum products for use in the marine, transportation, defense, Architectural, and general manufacturing. They also provide finished aluminum products for first line production capabilities for the same industries.
Alpha Machining & Manufacturing, Inc.	1604 N. 161st East Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74116.	3/29/2010	Machined parts for the aircraft industry.

Any party having a substantial interest in these proceedings may request a public hearing on the matter.

A written request for a hearing must be submitted to the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Division, Room 7106, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20230, no later than ten (10) calendar days following publication of this notice.

Please follow the procedures set forth in section 315.9 of EDA's final rule (71 FR 56704) for procedures for requesting a public hearing. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance official program number and title of the program under which these petitions are submitted is 11.313, Trade Adjustment Assistance.

Dated: March 30, 2010.

Bryan Borlik,

Program Director.

[FR Doc. 2010-7587 Filed 4-2-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-24-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army; Corps of Engineers

Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction for South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summer Haven Beach Reaches, St. Johns County, FL

AGENCY: Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for evaluation of the feasibility of providing hurricane and storm damage reduction (HSDR), and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. In cooperation with St. Johns County, the study will evaluate alternatives that will maximize HSDR while minimizing environmental impacts within three reaches designated critically eroded by Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP): (1) South Ponte Vedra Beach (R84-R110/5 miles), (2) Vilano Beach (R110-R122/2.5 miles) and (3) Summer Haven Beach (R197-R209/2.3 miles).

ADDRESSES: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division, Environmental Branch, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Paul M. DeMarco, by e-mail Paul.M.DeMarco@usace.army.mil or by telephone at 904-232-1897.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

a. *Proposed Action.* The Rivers and Harbors Act of 1962 gave the Secretary of the Army broad authorization to survey coastal areas of the United States and its possessions in the interest of beach erosion control, hurricane protection and related purposes, provided that surveys of particular areas would be authorized by appropriate resolutions (Pub. L. 87-874, Section 110). As a result, portions of the St. Johns County shoreline experiencing severe erosion were studied extensively. The St. Johns County, Florida General Reevaluation Report (GRR) (USACE 1998), recommended beach nourishment along St. Augustine Beach. Initial fill was completed in January 2003.

Authority for the proposed study is House Resolution 2646 adopted June 21, 2000. A Reconnaissance Report completed in March 2004, by the Corps, concluded based on preliminary findings, there was a federal interest in pursuing HSDR for the Vilano Beach and Summer Haven Beach reaches. Subsequent to the completion of that report, South Ponte Vedra Beach experienced severe erosion, was designated as a critically eroded beach by FDEP, and therefore added to the scope of the Federal study.

b. *Alternatives.* Project's alternatives include no action and various levels of protection along approximately 9.8 miles of coastal shoreline along three reaches designated as critically eroded areas. In addition to various levels of beach nourishment and periodic renourishment, the Corps will consider other management measures such as nearshore placement of sand, breakwaters, submerged artificial reef, groins, revetments, seawalls, dunes/vegetation, change to the Coastal Construction Control Line, relocation of structures, moratorium on construction, establish a no-growth program, relocation of structures, flood proofing of structures, and condemnation of structures with land acquisition.

c. *Scoping Process.* The scoping process as outlined by the Council on Environmental Quality has been and will continue to be utilized to involve Federal, State, and local agencies, affected Indian tribes, and other interested persons and organizations. Scoping letters were sent to the appropriate parties requesting their comments and concerns on August 17, 2005, for the Summer Haven and Vilano

Beach reaches of the study area. After that time, FDEP designated the South Ponte Vedra Reach as critically eroding. A second scoping letter was sent out on September 16, 2008, to include the South Ponte Vedra Reach in the study area. Initial comments and concerns have been received. Any additional persons and organizations wishing to participate in the scoping process should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the above address.

Significant issues to be analyzed in the DEIS would include effects on Federally listed threatened and endangered species, and Essential Fish Habitat. Other issues would be health and safety, water quality, aesthetics and recreation, fish and wildlife resources, cultural resources, and socio-economic resources. Issues identified through scoping and public involvement thus far include loss of land and property due to erosion, lack of protection from hurricanes, loss of recreational beach, concern over impacts to sea turtles and shore birds from renourishment, concern over impacts to benthic organisms from mining and fill, concern over protecting surfing spots and the revenue they generate, concern over wasting Federal tax dollars, too much time since the first studies without positive results, and concern that revetments and seawalls harm sea turtle nesting.

Any proposed action would be coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and with the State Historic Preservation Officer. The NMFS Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) has accepted cooperating agency status on the study.

Any proposed action would also involve evaluation for compliance with guidelines pursuant to section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act; application (to the State of Florida) for Water Quality Certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act; certification of state lands, easements, and rights of way; and determination of Coastal Zone Management Act consistency. The FDEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (BBCS) has also accepted cooperating agency status on the study.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the non-Federal sponsor, St. Johns County, would provide extensive information and assistance on the resources to be impacted and alternatives.

d. *Scoping Meetings.* Public scoping meetings could be held. Exact dates, times, and locations would be published in local papers.

e. *Agency Role.* As the cooperating agency, NMFS HCD and FDEP BBCS will provide information and assistance on the resources to be impacted, mitigation measures and alternatives. Other agencies having either regulatory authority or special expertise may also be invited to become a cooperating agency in preparation of the EIS. Specifically, as a Federal agency with jurisdiction to manage resources available on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), the U.S. Minerals Management Service would be invited should potential borrow areas be identified within Federal waters (outside the 3-mile State statutory limit).

f. *Draft Environmental Impact Statement Availability.* The study schedule is dependent upon Congressional funding and the current estimate is for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be available on or after 2012.

Dated: March 25, 2010.

Eric P. Summa,

Chief, Environmental Branch.

[FR Doc. 2010-7598 Filed 4-2-10; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3720-58-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Army

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Training Range and Garrison Support Facilities Construction and Operation at Fort Stewart, GA

AGENCY: Department of the Army, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of Availability (NOA).

SUMMARY: The Department of the Army has prepared a DEIS to analyze the environmental and socioeconomic impacts resulting from the proposed construction of 12 range projects and 2 garrison support facilities at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Completion of these projects will better allow the Army to support Soldier training requirements and will support Fort Stewart's existing and future units. Construction of these projects will help to ensure Fort Stewart can meet unit training requirements if and when the pace of operational deployments slows.

DATES: The public comment period will end 45 days after the publication of an NOA in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADDRESSES: For further information regarding the EIS, please contact Mr. Charles Walden, Project Manager, Directorate of Public Works, Prevention and Compliance Branch, Environmental Division, 1550 Frank Cochran Drive, Building 1137-A, Fort Stewart, Georgia



**US Army Corps
of Engineers ®
Jacksonville District**

You are invited to attend a Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) for the *St. Johns County Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Study (HSDR)*. This meeting will take place:

Where: Jacksonville District Office, located at 701 San Marco Blvd,
Jacksonville, FL, 32207 in the Executive Conference Room

When: March 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Additionally, a Teleconference and Web Meeting will be established for remote attendance; the link for this conference site is below.

The purpose of the FSM is to collect input from affected resource agencies by discussion of:

- The “Future Without Project” anticipated conditions in the study area,
- Related issues on the affect to resources for moving the study forward, with specific reference to the alternatives identified in the Draft Feasibility Study Report
- Focus on the feasibility study tailored to the key alternatives
- Further definition of the required depth of analysis, as well as defined study constraints.

Please contact Paul DeMarco at (904)232-1897, or Matt Schrader at (904)232-2043, or by e-mail at Paul.M.DeMarco@usace.army.mil; Matthew.H.Schrader@usace.army.mil. We look forward to your participation; more details regarding this meeting will be provided soon.

AUDIO CONFERENCE ACCESS INFORMATION:

-
- * USA Toll-Free: (888)830-6260
 - * PARTICIPANT CODE: 383416

WEB MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION:

-
- * Web Meeting Address: <https://www.webmeeting.att.com>
 - * Meeting Number(s): (888)830-6260
 - * PARTICIPANT CODE: 383416



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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

MAY 20 2015

Geoffrey Wikel, Chief
Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment
Office of Environmental Programs
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
45600 Woodland Road, VAM OEP
Sterling VA 20166

Dear Mr. Wikel:

In accordance with regulations pertaining to the National Environmental Policy Act (Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, part 1501.6), I am formally inviting your agency to become a cooperating agency for an Environmental Assessment for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and related purposes to the shores of St. Johns County, Florida.

Please note that cooperating agency status involves actions and responsibilities beyond that normally associated with a commenting or permitting agency. Your agency is being specifically requested to provide special expertise on natural resources in this area.

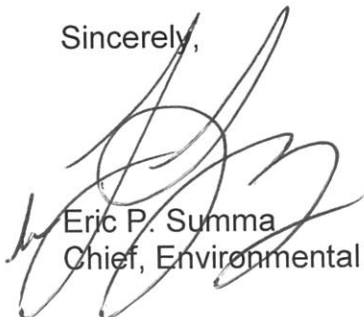
The formulation of the project, alternatives, and mitigation will be in accordance with Engineer Regulation ER 1105-2-100 and will fully consider a range of environmental, economic, and social factors. As a cooperating agency, you must fully consider the views, needs, and benefits of competing interests.

No cooperating agency will have "veto" over the selection of the project plan, alternatives, or mitigation measures. Under your status as a commenting agency, you may recommend actions not ultimately adopted or implemented by the lead agency. You may also impose requirements to the extent allowed under your legal authority as a permitting agency. Conflict with the lead agency may be resolved through mediation, placing a dissenting opinion in the EA, withdrawing your cooperating agency status, or the Lead agency pursuing an EA without you as a cooperating agency.

For additional information see the enclosed "Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies" (Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Council on Environmental Quality, 1981).

Please indicate whether you accept this invitation to become a cooperating agency (as described above) within 30 days of the date of this letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Paul DeMarco at 904-232-1897.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Summa
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Dinkens/CESAJ-PD/1867
DeMarco/CESAJ-PD-EC/1897
d Spinning/CESAJ-PD-EC
Burch/CESAJ-DP-C
d Summa/CESAJ-PD-E

L: group/pdec/DeMarco/St. Johns Co/BOEM St. Johns GI CoopAgency ltr.docx

**Excerpt: Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's
National Environmental Policy Act Regulations
(Council on Environmental Quality, 1981)**

14a. Rights and Responsibilities of Lead and Cooperating Agencies. What are the respective rights and responsibilities of lead and cooperating agencies? What letters and memoranda must be prepared?

A. After a lead agency has been designated (Sec. 1501.5), that agency has the responsibility to solicit cooperation from other federal agencies that have jurisdiction by law or special expertise on any environmental issue that should be addressed in the EIS being prepared. Where appropriate, the lead agency should seek the cooperation of state or local agencies of similar qualifications. When the proposal may affect an Indian reservation, the agency should consult with the Indian tribe. Section 1508.5. The request for cooperation should come at the earliest possible time in the NEPA process.

After discussions with the candidate cooperating agencies, the lead agency and the cooperating agencies are to determine by letter or by memorandum which agencies will undertake cooperating responsibilities. To the extent possible at this stage, responsibilities for specific issues should be assigned. The allocation of responsibilities will be completed during scoping. Section 1501.7(a)(4).

Cooperating agencies must assume responsibility for the development of information and the preparation of environmental analyses at the request of the lead agency. Section 1501.6(b)(3). Cooperating agencies are now required by Section 1501.6 to devote staff resources that were normally primarily used to critique or comment on the Draft EIS after its preparation, much earlier in the NEPA process -- primarily at the scoping and Draft EIS preparation stages. If a cooperating agency determines that its resource limitations preclude any involvement, or the degree of involvement (amount of work) requested by the lead agency, it must so inform the lead agency in writing and submit a copy of this correspondence to the Council. Section 1501.6(c).

In other words, the potential cooperating agency must decide early if it is able to devote any of its resources to a particular proposal. For this reason the regulation states that an agency may reply to a request for cooperation that "other program commitments preclude any involvement or the degree of involvement requested in the action that is the subject of the environmental impact statement." (Emphasis added). The regulation refers to the "action," rather than to the EIS, to clarify that the agency is taking itself out of all phases of the federal action, not just draft EIS preparation. This means that the agency has determined that it cannot be involved in the later stages of EIS review and comment, as well as decision making on the proposed action. For this reason, cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law (those which have permitting or other approval authority) cannot opt out entirely of the duty to cooperate on the EIS. See also Question 15, relating specifically to the responsibility of EPA.

14b. How are **disputes resolved between lead and cooperating agencies** concerning the scope and level of detail of analysis and the quality of data in impact statements?

A. Such disputes are resolved by the agencies themselves. A lead agency, of course, has the ultimate responsibility for the content of an EIS. But it is supposed to use the environmental analysis and recommendations of cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise to the maximum extent possible, consistent with its own responsibilities as lead agency. Section 1501.6(a)(2).

If the lead agency leaves out a significant issue or ignores the advice and expertise of the cooperating agency, the EIS may be found later to be inadequate. Similarly, where cooperating agencies have their own decisions to make and they intend to adopt the environmental impact statement and base their decisions on it, one document should include all of the information necessary for the decisions by the cooperating agencies. Otherwise they may be forced to duplicate the EIS process by issuing a new, more complete EIS or Supplemental EIS, even though the original EIS could have sufficed if it had been properly done at the outset. Thus, both lead and cooperating agencies have a stake in producing a document of good quality. Cooperating agencies also have a duty to participate fully in the scoping process to ensure that the appropriate range of issues is determined early in the EIS process.

Because the EIS is not the Record of Decision, but instead constitutes the information and analysis on which to base a decision, disagreements about conclusions to be drawn from the EIS need not inhibit agencies from issuing a joint document, or adopting another agency's EIS, if the analysis is adequate. Thus, if each agency has its own "preferred alternative," both can be identified in the EIS. Similarly, a cooperating agency with jurisdiction by law may determine in its own ROD that alternative A is the environmentally preferable action, even though the lead agency has decided in its separate ROD that Alternative B is environmentally preferable.

14c. What are the specific responsibilities of federal and state **cooperating agencies to review draft EISs**?

A. Cooperating agencies (i.e., agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise) and agencies that are authorized to develop or enforce environmental standards, must comment on environmental impact statements within their jurisdiction, expertise or authority. Sections 1503.2, 1508.5. If a cooperating agency is satisfied that its views are adequately reflected in the environmental impact statement, it should simply comment accordingly. Conversely, if the cooperating agency determines that a draft EIS is incomplete, inadequate or inaccurate, or it has other comments, it should promptly make such comments, conforming to the requirements of specificity in section 1503.3.

14d. How is the lead agency to treat the comments of another agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise which has **failed or refused to cooperate or participate in scoping or EIS preparation**?

A. A lead agency has the responsibility to respond to all substantive comments raising significant issues regarding a draft EIS. Section 1503.4. However, cooperating agencies are generally under an obligation to raise issues or otherwise participate in the EIS process during scoping and EIS preparation if they reasonably can do so. In practical terms, if a cooperating agency fails to cooperate at the outset, such as during scoping, it will find that its comments at a later stage will not be as persuasive to the lead agency.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20240-0001

JUN 04 2015

Mr. Eric Summa, Chief
Environmental Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Summa:

Thank you for your May 20, 2015, letter requesting that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) become a cooperating agency during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for evaluation of the feasibility of providing shoreline erosion protection and hurricane and storm damage reduction along the shores of St. Johns County, Florida. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Jacksonville District (Corps) is currently evaluating alternatives, consisting of an array of various structural and non-structural measures, to accomplish the identified project planning goals and objectives. Beach nourishment and dune construction were included among the structural measures carried forward within the final array of alternative plans being evaluated. These measures may require use of federal sand resources located within the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Section 8(k) of the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (OCSLA) grants BOEM the authority to convey, on a noncompetitive basis, the rights to OCS sand, gravel, or shell resources for shore protection, beach or wetlands restoration, or for use in construction projects funded in whole or part or authorized by the federal government.

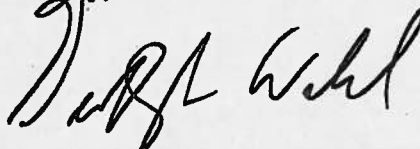
BOEM welcomes the opportunity to participate in this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) effort and agrees to serve as a cooperating agency since BOEM has sole jurisdiction over mineral leasing on the OCS. As a cooperating agency, BOEM expects to: participate and provide input in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time; assume, on the request of the Corps, responsibility for developing information and preparing environmental analyses for which BOEM has special expertise; make available staff support, at the lead agency's request, to enhance the interdisciplinary capability of the Corps; provide comment on draft versions of the EA when requested; and use our own funds to accomplish these responsibilities. Several NEPA documents have been previously prepared by the Corps and/or BOEM considering the potential environmental effects of dredging offshore sand resources within the vicinity of the project area. BOEM expects to collaborate with the Corps to identify the existing NEPA analyses that can be used to ensure the most efficient and effective treatment of potential effects, while also considering and incorporating new information and science when appropriate.

BOEM recognizes the importance of initiating and agrees to participate in the required Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation; the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery and Conservation Management Act Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation (Section 305); the National Historic Preservation Act Section (NHPA) Section 106 process; and the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) Section 307 consistency process. The lead agency in ESA Section 7

consultation for potential impacts on protected species will be designated by jurisdiction and in accordance with 50 CFR §402.07. BOEM is a joint consulting agency with the Corps in the ongoing re-initiated consultation for the South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO), for which this project would be included as a component of the proposed action. BOEM anticipates that this consultation will be concluded prior to any planned construction date for this project and will serve as the consultation mechanism for the in-water dredging and placement activities of both agencies. The Corps would be the lead agency and consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning effects from placement activities for species under their purview (i.e., nesting sea turtles) and will notify FWS of BOEM's interconnected action and cooperating role. BOEM and the Corps will consult jointly with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division on essential fish habitat. BOEM anticipates that the Corps will be the lead federal agency for ensuring NHPA Section 106 compliance. BOEM expects to act in a consulting role, especially when coordinating with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concerning the use of OCS sand resources and all related cultural resource survey activities. BOEM requests that the Corps involve BOEM in all deliberations with the SHPO or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers so that BOEM's involvement in the undertaking is understood. The Corps will be following Subpart C procedures to obtain a consistency concurrence from the Florida Department of Environmental protection through the Joint Coastal Permit process in compliance with Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA).

BOEM looks forward to working with the Corps during this process. We would greatly appreciate it if the Corps would include us on all public notices and correspondence to other federal and state agencies concerning this project. If you would like to discuss any of these items further, please contact Doug Piatkowski at (703) 787-1833 or by e-mail at douglas.piatkowski@boem.gov.

Sincerely,



Geoffrey Wikel
Chief, Branch of Environmental Coordination
Division of Environmental Assessment

cc: Jeffrey Reidenauer, Leasing Division
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Jonathan P. Steverson
Interim Secretary

June 24, 2015

Mr. Eric P. Summa, Chief
Environmental Branch, Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

RE: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers –
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment, North Beach and
Nearshore Placement, Maintenance Dredging St. Augustine Inlet and
Adjacent Intracoastal Waterway – St. Johns County, Florida.
SAI # FL201505017280C

Dear Mr. Summa:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated a review of the subject Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), *Florida Statutes*; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

The following agencies submitted comments, concerns and recommendations regarding the Draft SEA, all of which (memorandum and letters) are attached hereto, incorporated herein by this reference, and made an integral part of this letter:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources

Based on the information contained in the Draft SEA and enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed federal action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). To ensure the project's continued consistency with the FCMP, the concerns identified by our reviewing agencies must be addressed prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues

Mr. Eric P. Summa
Page 2 of 2
June 24, 2015

identified during this and any subsequent reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, *Florida Statutes*.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft document. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me at Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us or (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,



Lauren P. Milligan, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Enclosures

ec: Roxane Dow, DEP, DWRM
Rebecca Prado, DEP, FCO
Cheri Albin, DEP, FPS
Scott Sanders, FWC
Timothy Parsons, DOS



Florida

Department of Environmental Protection

"More Protection, Less Process"



Categories

[DEP Home](#) | [OIP Home](#) | [Contact DEP](#) | [Search](#) | [DEP Site Map](#)

Project Information	
Project:	FL201505017280C
Comments Due:	06/12/2015
Letter Due:	06/30/2015
Description:	DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS - DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, NORTH BEACH AND NEARSHORE PLACEMENT, MAINTENANCE DREDGING ST. AUGUSTINE INLET AND ADJACENT INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY - ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
Keywords:	ACOE - MAINTENANCE DREDGING ST. AUGUSTINE INLET AND IWW - ST. JOHNS CO.
CFDA #:	12.107
Agency Comments:	
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION	
<p>The DEP's Division of Water Resource Management finds the Draft SEA to be consistent with its authorities under the FCMP. The document addresses recommendations in the St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan, and one nearshore placement event has already been permitted under Joint Coastal Permit Modification No. 0251706-006-JN. The DEP's Florida Coastal Office also offers the following specific comments: The proposed South Ponte Vedra placement areas (between R-84 and R-98) are within the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas NERR. This area is a State Sea Turtle Index beach with a monitoring dataset beginning in 1987; any artificial manipulation during sea turtle nesting season could compromise the integrity of this long-standing data. The waters of the aquatic preserve are also classified as an OFW. The Draft SEA uses data collected between 2001 and 2008. Since that time, the area has seen a significant increase in nesting. Staff suggests that more recent data be used, including this year's nests: a Leatherback nest documented near R-105 on May 17, 2015, and a Kemp's Ridley nest documented near R-102 on May 23, 2015. It is likely that the "nest per kilometer" ranking has changed as well. Although alterations to the beach could compromise the beach as an index beach, staff will defer to the FWC's recommendations, as they are the lead agency for protected species. The beaches within the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve have not been previously nourished. Therefore, it is recommended that that sand placed on these beaches be carefully selected and monitored to ensure that the original grain size is preserved. Sediment samples used to determine the native beach grain size should be obtained from beaches within the aquatic preserve that have not been previously nourished....</p>	
FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION - FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION	
<p>The FWC notes that Section 4 of the draft SEA addresses environmental effects, proposed minimization measures, and environmental commitments. The USACE has determined that the nearshore placement "may affect but is not likely to adversely affect" sea turtles in the water, manatees, right whales, or the smalltooth sawfish, and that the north beach placement is "not likely to adversely affect" these species. FWC staff offers the following additional recommendations for consideration in the final SEA. Placement of sand in the nearshore along a marine turtle nesting beach from May 1 through October 31 can interfere with nesting or hatchling marine turtles. Vessels operating along the nesting beach at night can block access to or from the beach. Lights on the dredge and other vessels operating in proximity to the nesting beach could be visible for miles along the shoreline, causing disorientation of nesting and/or hatchling sea turtles. Minimization measures need to be proposed to ensure that nesting and hatchling marine turtles are protected if nearshore placement occurs at night during the nesting season. FWC staff may provide more specific recommendations once project specifications have been finalized, such as during the permit review process. The draft SEA states that the USACE would implement its migratory bird protection policy should dredged sand be placed on the beach during the April 1 through August 31 seabird and shorebird nesting season. It is stated that the policy requires monitoring and a buffer of at least 200 feet around nests. FWC's standard shorebird conditions recommend a buffer distance of 300 feet. Buffer zones and other avoidance measures can be used to reduce the potential for "take" of state-listed species, as defined in Chapter 68A-27, F.A.C., which would eliminate the need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit from the FWC. Staff is available to assist with determining avoidance and minimization measures or discuss permitting alternatives.</p>	
STATE - FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE	
<p>The DOS notes that a new cultural resource assessment survey will be conducted by the USACE of the South Ponte Vedra (SPV) Near Shore Placement Area. Staff looks forward to receiving a copy of this survey for review. Regarding the proposed maintenance dredging activities, the DOS' May 8, 2015 comments concerning the maintenance of buffers around known targets and magnetic anomalies are still applicable. DOS notes that these concerns are addressed in the Draft SEA (April 2015). If the above conditions are met, the DOS concurs with the USACE's determination that the proposed undertakings will have no adverse effect on historic properties.</p>	
ST. JOHNS RIVER WMD - ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT	
SJRWMD has no comments.	
NE FLORIDA RPC - NORTHEAST FLORIDA REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL	
The NEFRC and St. Johns County have no comments on the proposal.	



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Jonathan P. Steverson
Interim Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lauren Milligan, Office of Intergovernmental Programs

FROM: Roxane Dow, Division of Water Resource Management
Rebecca Prado, Florida Coastal Office
Cheri Albin, Florida Park Service

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers –
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA), North Beach and
Nearshore Placement, Maintenance Dredging St. Augustine Inlet and
Adjacent Intracoastal Waterway – St. Johns County, Florida.
SAI # FL201505017280C

DATE: June 15, 2015

Staff of the Department's Division of Water Resource Management finds the Draft SEA to be consistent with its authorities under the Florida Coastal Management Program. The document addresses recommendations in the St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan (IMP), and one nearshore placement event has already been permitted under Joint Coastal Permit Modification No. 0251706-006-JN.

The Department's Florida Coastal Office also offers the following specific comments:

The proposed South Ponte Vedra placement areas (between range monuments R-84 and R-98) are within the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve and the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve. This area is a State Sea Turtle Index beach with a monitoring dataset beginning in 1987; any artificial manipulation during sea turtle nesting season could compromise the integrity of this long-standing data. The waters of the aquatic preserve are also classified as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW).

The Draft SEA uses data collected between 2001 and 2008. Since that time, the area has seen a significant increase in nesting. Staff suggests that more recent data be used, including this year's nests: a Leatherback sea turtle nest documented near monument R-105 on May 17, 2015, and a Kemp's Ridley sea turtle nest documented near R-102 on May 23, 2015. It is

Memorandum
SAI # FL201505017280C
Page 2 of 2
June 15, 2015

likely that the “nest per kilometer” ranking has changed as well. Although alterations to the beach could compromise the beach as an index beach, staff will defer to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s recommendations, as they are the lead agency for protected species.

The beaches within the Guana River Marsh Aquatic Preserve have not been previously nourished. Therefore, it is recommended that that sand placed on these beaches be carefully selected and monitored to ensure that the original grain size is preserved. Sediment samples used to determine the native beach grain size should be obtained from beaches within the aquatic preserve that have not been previously nourished. This should not only help reduce turbidity to the OFW classified waters, but also lead to quicker stabilization of the beach profile, reduce erosion and serve to maximize the interval between future nourishments.

For further information and assistance, please contact Mr. Mike Shirley or Ms. Andrea Noel in the Florida Coastal Office’s East Coast Region at (904) 823-4500.

The following comments are provided by the Department’s Florida Park Service (FPS):

The FPS recognizes the St. Augustine IMP and will work with the Division of Water Resource Management to provide support and further the objectives of the plan, particularly optimizing the protection of beach habitat and beach front recreation at Anastasia State Park.

In recent years, FPS staff has observed increased erosion on the north end of Anastasia State Park following dredging projects north of and offshore the park. These alterations have led to the loss of significant beach front, and endangered beach mouse and shorebird nesting habitat in the northernmost strand of the park. The FPS, therefore, requests that sand transfer material be placed south of the inlet between R-125 and R-127 in an effort to replace loss of this significant habitat and recreational area on the park’s north end. Placement of sand as noted above would further the objective to replicate the natural drift of sand that has been interrupted or altered, and to place sand on adjacent eroding beaches put forward in the IMP.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cheri Albin in the FPS Bureau of Natural and Cultural Resources at (850) 245-3105.



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners

Richard A. Corbett
Chairman
Tampa

Brian Yablonski
Vice Chairman
Tallahassee

Ronald M. Bergeron
Fort Lauderdale

Richard Hanas
Oviedo

Aliese P. "Liesa" Priddy
Immokalee

Bo Rivard
Panama City

Charles W. Roberts III
Tallahassee

Executive Staff

Nick Wiley
Executive Director

Eric Sutton
Assistant Executive Director

Jennifer Fitzwater
Chief of Staff

**Office of the
Executive Director
Nick Wiley
Executive Director**

(850) 487-3796
(850) 921-5786 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-term
well-being and the benefit
of people.*

620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 488-4676

Hearing/speech-impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

June 16, 2015

Lauren P. Milligan, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000
Lauren.Milligan@dep.state.fl.us

Re: SAI #FL201505017280C, Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers, Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA), Maintenance Dredging of St. Augustine Inlet with Beach and Nearshore Placement, St. Johns County

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff has reviewed the above-referenced project, and provides the following comments and recommendations for your consideration in accordance with Chapter 379, Florida Statutes, and the Coastal Zone Management Act, Florida's Coastal Management Program.

Project Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to conduct periodic maintenance dredging of the St. Augustine Inlet, including Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) Cuts SJ-28 to SJ-30, a portion of the inlet flood shoal, and a portion of the inlet entrance channel along Porpoise Point. The proposed project includes placement of beach-compatible dredge spoil along the shorelines of: 1) Anastasia State Park and St. Augustine Beach from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) monuments R-132 to R-152 located south of the inlet, 2) South Ponte Vedra from R-84 to R-98 located north of the inlet, and 3) Vilano Beach from R-109 to R-117 north of the inlet. Dredge spoil that is not beach-compatible is proposed to be placed in near-shore placement areas from FDEP monuments R-141 to R-146 south of the inlet or from R-84 to R-98 and R-109 to R-117 north of the inlet.

An Environmental Assessment was completed in 2011 for the proposed maintenance dredging with spoil disposal on the beach and nearshore areas south of the inlet with a Finding of No Significant Impact. In 2014 the FDEP issued the "Critically Eroded Beaches in Florida" report, which identified 11.5 miles of critically eroded shoreline in St. Johns County and a revision to the St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan. The plan recommended placement of dredged beach-compatible dredge spoil on designated critically eroded shorelines to the north or south of the inlet. The subject draft SEA is intended to only evaluate placement of dredge spoil north of the inlet. It is noted that the FDEP issued Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) Modification No. 0251706-006-JN on April 21, 2015, for nearshore placement of dredge spoil at Vilano Beach.

Potentially Affected Resources

As discussed in Section 3.3 of the draft SEA, the project areas may provide habitat for the following federally listed species:

- Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*, Federally Endangered [FE])
- Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*, Federally Threatened [FT])
- Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*, FE)
- Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*, FE)
- Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*, FE)
- Smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinate*, FE)
- Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*, FT)
- Anastasia Island beach mouse (*Peromyscus polionotus phasma*, FE)
- North Atlantic right whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*, FE)

The draft SEA notes that the project area is located within critical habitat for the loggerhead sea turtle, designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in July 2014. It is also noted that the project site is located within NMFS-designated critical habitat for the North Atlantic right whale. Section 3.6 of the draft SEA notes that species common to northeast Florida may be found within the dredge spoil placement areas, including wading birds, shorebirds and other colonial nesting birds, gopher tortoises, and benthic organisms.

Comments and Recommendations

Section 4 of the draft SEA addresses environmental effects, proposed minimization measures, and environmental commitments. The USACE has determined that the nearshore placement “may affect but is not likely to adversely affect” sea turtles in the water, manatees, right whales, or the smalltooth sawfish, and that the north beach placement is “not likely to adversely affect” these species.

Marine Turtles

The draft SEA notes that the terms and conditions of the NMFS South Atlantic Division Regional Biological Opinions (SARBO) that are intended to minimize incidental take of marine turtles will be followed. The draft SEA also includes measures to minimize potential adverse impacts to marine turtles. FWC staff offers the following additional recommendations for consideration in preparing the final SEA. Placement of sand in the nearshore along a marine turtle nesting beach from May 1 through October 31 can interfere with nesting or hatchling marine turtles. Vessels operating along the nesting beach at night can block access to or from the beach. Lights on the dredge and other vessels operating in proximity to the nesting beach could be visible for miles along the shoreline, causing disorientation of nesting and/or hatchling sea turtles. Minimization measures need to be proposed to ensure that nesting and hatchling marine turtles are protected if nearshore placement occurs at night during the nesting season. FWC staff

may provide more specific recommendations once project specifications have been finalized, such as during the permit review process.

Seabirds and Shorebirds

The draft SEA states that the USACE would implement its migratory bird protection policy should dredged sand be placed on the beach during the April 1 through August 31 seabird and shorebird nesting season. It is stated that the policy requires monitoring and a buffer of at least 200 feet around nests. The FWC standard shorebird conditions recommends a buffer distance of 300 feet. Buffer zones and other avoidance measures can be used to reduce the potential for "take" of state-listed species, as defined in Chapter 68A-27, Florida Administrative Code (Rules Relating to Endangered or Threatened Species), which would eliminate the need to obtain an Incidental Take Permit from the FWC. FWC staff is available to assist with determining avoidance and minimization measures or to discuss permitting alternatives.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft SEA and FWC staff is available to provide technical assistance as needed in preparation of the final SEA to ensure that potential impacts to fish and wildlife resources are minimized. We find the information submitted in the draft SEA consistent with FWC's authorities under Chapter 379, F.S. If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Chabre either by phone at (850) 410-5367 or by email at FWCConservationPlanningServices@MyFWC.com. If you have specific technical questions regarding the content of this letter, please contact Laura DiGruttolo by phone at (352) 732-1225 or by email at Laura.DiGruttolo@MyFWC.com.

Sincerely,



Jennifer D. Goff
Land Use Planning Administrator
Office of Conservation Planning Services

jdg/ld

ENV 1-3-2

St Augustine Inlet and IWW North Placement Draft EA_21077_061615

cc: Paul Demarco, USACE, paul.m.demarco@usace.army.mil



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Mr. Eric P. Summa
Jacksonville USACE, Planning & Policy Division
Environmental Branch
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

June 2, 2015

Re: DHR Project: 2015-2095/ Received by DHR: May 4, 2015
Sponsor: Florida Inland Navigation District, St. Augustine Port, Waterway and Beach District
Project: U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Maintenance Dredging for Proposed Cuts 27A to 30A of the IWW and the St. Augustine Inlet Channel and Settling Basins
Disposal Alternatives for Beach Placement above Mean High Water: St. Augustine Beach or Anastasia State Park (Between DEP Monuments R-131-A to R-148)
Nearshore Placement Alternatives below Mean Lower Low Water between DEP Monument R-141 to R-146
Additional Placement Areas for Critically Eroding Areas in South Ponte Vedra (SPV) and Vilano Beach (VB) St. Johns County

Dear Mr. Summa:

This office reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places*. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

We note that a new cultural resource assessment survey will be conducted by the Corps of the South Ponte Vedra (SPV) Near Shore Placement Area. We look forward to receiving a copy of this survey for review. Regarding the above referenced maintenance dredging activities: our comment of May 8, 2015 (DHR Project File # 2015-1661 copy attached) still stand. We note that these concerns are addressed in the Draft Environmental Assessment (April 2015).

If the above conditions are met, we concur with the Corps' determination that the proposed undertakings will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Preservationist, Compliance and Review, by electronic mail at robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com, or at 850.245.6333, or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely

Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
& State Historic Preservation Officer

Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com
Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org





FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Mr. Eric P. Summa
Jacksonville USACE, Permits Section
701 San Marco Boulevard. RM 372
Jacksonville, Florida 32207

May 08, 2015

Re: DHR No.: 2015-1661/ Received by DHR: April 09, 2015
Applicant: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project: St. Augustine Maintenance Dredge – Cuts SJ 28, 29, 29A, 30 and 30A

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*. The State Historic Preservation Officer is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties (archaeological, architectural, and historical resources) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, assessing the project's effects, and considering alternatives to avoid or minimize adverse effects.

- Maintain a 200 foot buffer from these four known targets (SA-T-5, SA-OS-2, SA-OS-3 & SA-OS-4)
- We would like to remind the applicant of our previous recommendation regarding dredging of the St. Augustine Inlet Channel. There are 20 magnetic anomalies (Cluster SR 1-6) within the South Reach Cuts SJ-29, 29A and 30. Our recommendation for a 100 foot buffer to be maintained still stands.
- Maintain a 150 foot buffer around site 8SJ4889, Target 1 (Dixie Crystal Wreck)
- We recommend that the applicant make contingency plans in the case of fortuitous finds or unexpected discoveries during ground disturbing activities within the project area:

If prehistoric or historic artifacts are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.



Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) flheritage.com
Promoting Florida's History and Culture VivaFlorida.org



Mr. Summa
DHR No.: 2015-1661
May 08, 2015
Page 2

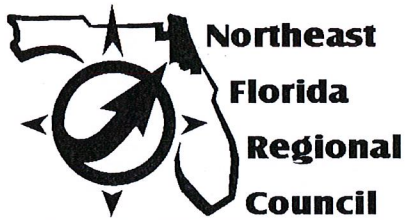
- Any anomalies that cannot be avoided by project activities will need to be subjected to diver investigation to determine if they represent significant cultural resources that may be impacted by the proposed undertaking.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Mary Berman, Historic Preservationist, Compliance and Review at 850.245.6333, or by electronic mail at Mary.Berman@dos.myflorida.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert F. Bendus" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer



RECEIVED

JUN 09 2015

DEP Office of
Intergov'tl Programs

Bringing Communities Together

Baker • Clay • Duval • Flagler • Nassau • Putnam • St. Johns

June 5, 2015

Lauren P. Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, MS 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

SAI # FL201505017280C

NEFRC # FSC-15-R004

Project Description: Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers – Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment, North Beach and Nearshore Placement, Maintenance Dredging St. Augustine Inlet and Adjacent Intracoastal Waterway – St. Johns County, Florida .

Attn: Florida State Clearinghouse

Pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Executive Order 12372, Governor's Executive Order 95-359 and Chapter 29E-6 Florida Administrative Code, the staff of the Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) has reviewed the above referenced project for dredging and nearshore replacement in St. Johns County. After review, staff at the Northeast Florida Regional Council has no comments.

All the best,

Eric B. Anderson, AICP
Senior Regional Planner
Intergovernmental Coordination & Review
Northeast Florida Regional Council
(904) 279-0885 x178
eanderson@nefrc.org



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

June 29, 2015

F/SER47:BH/pw

(Sent via Electronic Mail)

Colonel Alan M. Dodd, Commander
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
PO Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Attention: Paul Demarco

Dear Colonel Dodd:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the Jacksonville District's public notice dated May 1, 2015, and Draft *Supplemental Environmental Assessment, Maintenance Dredging St. Augustine Inlet and Adjacent Intracoastal Waterway, St. Johns County, Florida* (SEA), dated April 2015. The Jacksonville District proposes to maintenance dredge approximately 200,000 cubic yards of material from Cuts 27A to 30A of the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) and the St. Augustine Inlet entrance channel and settling basins. The IWW would be dredged to -12 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) plus 2 feet of allowable over dredge, and the inlet entrance channel and settling basins would be dredged to -16 feet MLLW plus 2 feet of allowable over dredge. Dredge material disposal alternatives include:

- Beach placement above mean high water on St. Augustine Beach or Anastasia State Park between Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) monuments R-131A to R148.
- Nearshore (subtidal) placement between FDEP monuments R-141 to R-146.
- Placement in FDEP-designated critically eroding areas in South Ponte Vedra and Vilano Beach between FDEP Monuments R-84 to R-98 and between R109 to R-117, respectively. Adding this disposal area is the primary reason for the SEA.

The initial determination by the Jacksonville District is the proposed maintenance dredging of sand from St. Augustine Inlet, which the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council designates a Habitat Area of particular Concern (HAPC) and the IWW and disposal onto the beach and into nearshore waters SAFMC designates essential fish habitat (EFH), would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fishery species. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources, NMFS provides the following comments and recommendations pursuant to authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Consultation History

The Jacksonville District initiated EFH consultation by letter dated November 18, 2009, and provided a the Draft *Environmental Assessment, St. Augustine Inlet and Atlantic Intracoastal*



Waterway, Maintenance Dredging with Beach Placement, St. Johns County, Florida (EA), dated October 2009. By letter dated March 2, 2010, the NMFS provided three EFH conservation recommendations for the work, and the Jacksonville District responded to the EFH conservations recommendations by letter on May 10, 2010:

- The NMFS recommended Best Management Practices, such as restricting the time of year the dredging is done, be followed to reduce impacts to EFH and vulnerable life stages of federally managed fishery species. The Jacksonville District responded indicating it would follow to the extent practicable a schedule of seasonal sediment placement (August to March) to reduce these impacts.
- The NMFS requested the Final EA provide additional information supporting the District's contention that impacts to benthic communities at the nearshore disposal area would be minimal or, better, include a monitoring program to evaluate the impacts from nearshore disposal. The Jacksonville District provided additional citations of scientific reports concluding impacts to nearshore benthic communities may be minimal.
- The NMFS requested the Final EA provide additional information supporting the District's contention that benthic communities in the beach disposal areas would recover between dredging events, or better, include a monitoring program to evaluate the impacts from frequent disposal on the beach communities. The Jacksonville District provided additional citations of scientific reports concluding impacts to the beach communities may be minimal despite the frequent disposal events.

Due to staffing limitations, the NMFS did not further pursue the recommended monitoring programs, and the Jacksonville District released the Final EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on January 19, 2011.

Essential Fish Habitat in the Project Area

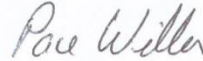
As is normal for an SEA, the discussion of impacts to EFH rely heavily on the discussion in the Final EA and focus on the areas not covered previously, i.e., the new disposal areas South Ponte Vedra Beach and Vilano Beach (Draft SEA Sections 3.5 and 4.3). Hardbottom habitat is not present near the new disposal area and the predominant EFH present is sandy bottom. Draft SEA Section 3.5 lists hard clams and menhaden as federally managed fishery species. While these species are important components of marine food webs in the project area, they are not federally managed. Additionally, this section identifies flounder (*Paralichthys* sp.) as a federally managed fishery species. Summer flounder (*Paralichthys dentatus*) is a federally managed species; however, it is not abundant in the area and could be removed from the EFH section of the Final SEA. Draft SEA Sections 4.3.2 and 4.3.3 affirm the Jacksonville District's commitment made in the Final EA to minimize impacts to vulnerable life stages of federally managed fishery species by restricting dredging to the fall and winter as funding and scheduling allow.

Recommendations

The NMFS affirms its earlier recommendations for monitoring programs to guide appropriate balancing of the timing and frequency of dredging needed for safe navigation with the time periods needed for recovery of foraging areas used by fishery species. In the absence of such monitoring to guide development of best management practices for this inlet, the proposed environmental window is acceptable.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please direct related questions or comments to the attention of Brandon Howard at 400 N Congress Avenue, Suite 110, West Palm Beach, Florida 33401. He may be reached by telephone at 561-249-1652 or by e-mail at Brandon.Howard@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Poe Willen".

/ for

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc: COE, Paul.M.Demarco@usace.army.mil
FWS, Ashleigh_Blackford@fws.gov
EPA, Eric.H.Hughes@usace.army.mil
SAFMC, Roger.Pugliese@safmc.net
F/SER4, David.Dale@noaa.gov, Brandon.Howard@noaa.gov