



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175**

PROPOSED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**ST. JOHNS COUNTY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT
SOUTH PONTE VEDRA BEACH, VILANO BEACH, AND SUMMER HAVEN
REACHES**

ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA

I have reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the alternatives for providing coastal storm damage reduction to the South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summer Haven reaches of the St. Johns County Coastal Storm Risk Management project in St. Johns County, Florida. The proposed activity includes sand placement from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reference monuments 102.5 to 117.5. The sand source is the St. Augustine Inlet system; however, the EA also evaluates offshore sand sources. The Draft EA for the project has been forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vero Beach Field Office, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the State Historic Preservation Officer, as well as all other known interested parties for review and comment.

This Finding incorporates by reference all discussions and conclusions contained in the EA enclosed hereto. Based on information analyzed in the EA, reflecting pertinent information obtained from agencies having jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise, I conclude that the proposed action will not significantly impact the quality of the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. Reasons for this conclusion are in summary:

a. The work will be conducted in accordance with Biological Opinions issued by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for impacts to nesting sea turtles and endangered Piping Plovers and the Regional Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service for impacts to sea turtles in the water. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), will take measures to minimize the effects to threatened and endangered species, including sea turtles. The project will not jeopardize the continued existence of any federally listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat, and the Preferred Alternative will have beneficial effects to protected species habitat within the project area. Reasonable and prudent measures will be taken to substantially minimize the impact of incidental take to listed species.

b. I have determined that the Recommended Plan, as proposed, will have no adverse effect on significant historic properties. Coordination with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and appropriate federally recognized tribes has been initiated. As stated in the EA, identified targets will be buffered where possible; otherwise, additional investigations will be conducted prior to construction.

c. This project is being coordinated with the State of Florida, and all applicable water quality standards will be met. Water Quality Certification in the form of a Joint Coastal Permit will be obtained by the FDEP prior to construction.

d. The Corps has determined that the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program. The final concurrence from the State will be issued with the FDEP permit.

e. The proposed project has been evaluated pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Jacksonville District's Migratory Bird Protection procedures will be implemented for this project. These procedures have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the State of Florida.

f. Benefits to the public will include the restoration of habitat for protected species, fish, and wildlife; protection of upland structures from storm damage; and enhanced opportunity for recreation.

g. Measures in place during construction to eliminate, reduce, or avoid adverse impacts to below the threshold of significance to fish and wildlife resources include the following:

1. Dredging and placement activities will occur within the template of authorized and permitted areas;
2. Water-based activities will follow standard sea turtle and smalltooth sawfish protection measures and the conditions of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO);
3. Dredged material placement will comply with the shoreline protection measure conditions of any biological opinion issued by the USFWS; and
4. Any water based activity would follow standard manatee protection measures.

In consideration of the information summarized, I find that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment and does not require an Environmental Impact Statement. This document will be available to the public at the following website:

http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx#St_Johns.

JASON A. KIRK
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding

Date