

approximately ten feet based on natural light penetration. Seagrass is abundant in Lake Worth Lagoon and does exist adjacent to Peanut Island. Dredged material disposal in this area has the potential to impact approximately 0.25 acre of Johnson seagrass and 0.58 acre of sparse to moderate seagrass impacted at the LWMGC. The proposed impacts would not be directly attributable to the proposed disposal, but seagrass impact in this area were coordinated under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with NMFS (National Marine Fisheries) with conservation recommendations for survival of the species.

3.4 FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported in their November 18, 1997 Coordination Act Report the presence of several Federally listed threatened and endangered species that are known to occur in the project vicinity (see Appendix C – Pertinent Correspondence). Additional species noted within the project area by the USFWS are included in Table 2A. In addition to the Federally protected species that could inhabit the project area, below is a list of State Species of Special Concern that have been observed in the Munyon Island Restoration Project area by State Biologists and County Environmental staff:

Table 2

STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN		
Wood Stork,	Peregrine Falcon	Least Tern
Little Blue Heron	Great Blue Heron	Reddish Egret
Snowy Egret	Brown Pelican	White Ibis,
Osprey	Gopher Tortoise	

3.4.1 BIRD SPECIES IN LAKE WORTH LAGOON.

Table 4 provides a list of birds observed in nearby John D. MacArthur Beach State Park. Munyon Island, within the Park, once supported such a large bird rookery that the Seminoles called the Island "Nuksachoo", meaning "pelican" and early white settlers referred to it as Pelican Island (Duever et. al.,1981). The rookery was reportedly decimated by collecting activities and the name, literally, disappeared with the birds. More that 50 percent of the commonly observed bird species are linked to the aquatic environs and are expected to utilize the habitat provided by the restoration of Peanut Island. The proposed change in maintenance operations project will not adversely affect the proposed habitat creation on Peanut Island or the potential for additional rookery habitat.

3.5 FISH SPECIES IN LAKE WORTH LAGOON.

The *Lake Worth Lagoon Natural Resources Inventory and Resource Enhancement Study*, completed in 1999 by Dames and Moore for Palm Beach County, contains a list of 195 fish species that have been collected and identified in the Lake Worth Lagoon. The list was compiled from six studies conducted from 1962 to 1985, Table 3. A total 261 species of fish have been recorded from northern Lake Worth Lagoon to just south of the Lake Worth Inlet. These species are associated with a marine plant community composed of the seagrass *Halodule wrightii*, *Halophila spp.*, and *Thalassia testudinum*, and marine algae species such as *Caulerpa sertularioides*, *Acanthophora spicifera*, and *Dictyota bartayresii* (Herrema, et al.,1973).

3.6 COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES.

The proposed Peanut Island change in maintenance operations project is not within a Coastal Barrier Resources (CBR) Unit or adjacent to any designated Coastal Barrier Resource Unit. The closest CBR Unit is FL-18P (John D. MacArthur Beach State Park), just over two miles to the north and east.