

MANATEE BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The Corps has determined that the project may affect the endangered West Indian manatee. Therefore, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Corps is required to seek formal consultation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the proposed project. Pursuant to 50 CFR Part 402.14(c), we are required to provide the following information to the Service. We need your assistance in providing information for items 4-6 below:

1. Description of the action considered: The proposed project consists of _____.
2. Description of the specific areas that may be affected by the action (scope of analysis):
 - a. The proposed "action area" is determined to be all or a portion of reach(es) _____, based on the overall project purpose which is _____.
 - b. The project site is located within which sub-population range of the West Indian manatee? (circle response)
 - (1) Atlantic (Georgia to Key West, including the lower St. Johns River)
 - (2) Upper St. Johns River (Rice Creek, Putnam County south to State Road 528, Orange and Brevard Counties)
 - (3) Southwest Florida (Pasco County south through Cape Sable, Monroe County)
 - (4) Northwest Florida (Hernando County north and west to the Perdido River, Escambia County)
3. Description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action: The action may affect the endangered West Indian manatee but not adversely modify its critical habitat.
4. Description of the manner in which the action may affect any listed species or critical habitat and an analysis of any cumulative impacts:
 - a. Habitat. Check those that would apply to within 1-mile of the project site and a brief description.
 - (1) Source of warm water input to the area?
 - (2) Source of fresh water input to the area?
 - (3) Do sea grasses or algae occur in the area (within 1-mile radius)? (If yes, where and how extensive? _____)

(4) Are existing depths suitable (greater than -3 feet msl) for manatee use?

b. Proposed Facility (If existing, show proposed change)

- (1) Number of slips for power boats < 26 feet _____
- (2) Number of slips for power boats > 26 feet _____
- (3) Number of slips for sailboats _____
- (4) Launching facilities: ramp _____, travelift _____, other _____

- (5) Number of parking spaces for launching facility _____

- (6) Number of dry storage spaces _____

- (7) Number of estimated launches per day _____

c. Project Influence on Vessel Use Patterns. The project's facilities may affect vessel use patterns in the area by attracting transient traffic or causing modification of existing vessel navigation patterns.

(1) Will this facility substitute for the use of another facility? If yes, please describe.

(2) Are vessels that are expected to use this facility, presently docking at a nearby facility within this area of action area? If yes provide estimate and explain.

(3) The proposed facility will provide the following services:

(a) Permanent moorings/slips (leased on an annual or monthly basis) for:

_____ commercial use (including fishing vessels, charter boats, rental boats, etc.).

Number _____

_____ non-commercial use (including privately-owned recreational boats).

Number _____

(b) Transient moorings/slips (leased or used on a daily basis) for:

_____ Temporary berths. Number _____

_____ Fuel. Number _____

_____ Pump-out. Number _____

_____ Supplies. Number _____

_____ Entertainment. Number _____

_____ Mechanical. Number _____

_____ Other: _____. Number _____

(4) What is the estimated number of slips used for the following?

- (a) Used primarily for day trips _____.
- (b) Used primarily for longer trips _____.
- (c) Used primarily for dockside entertainment _____.
- (d) Used by charter vessels _____.

(5) For (4)(a) and (4)(b), define vessel traffic and patterns within the defined action area.

d. Enforcement Activities. It is important to consider the presence and effectiveness of on-going enforcement activities within the action area.

(1) Describe existing enforcement activities regulating speed zones within the action area.

(2) Is the project in a State-established manatee speed zone? (If not, how close is the nearest speed zone? _____ miles)

(3) If possible, provide an estimate of patrol days/week performed and by whom.

5. Relevant reports, including any environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or biological assessment prepared. Provide any relevant report prepared for this project.

6. Any other relevant available information on the action, the affected listed species, or critical habitat. Provide any other information available that would assist in our review of the effects your proposal would have on the species or its habitat.