

Message-ID: <132.153cbb6e.2ad5fa70@aol.com>
From: CarolDiver@aol.com
To: Dale.E.Beter@saj02.usace.army.mil
Subject: Palm Beach Reef
Date: Wed, 9 Oct 2002 16:32:32 -0500
MIME-Version: 1.0
X-Mailer: Internet Mail Service (5.5.2653.19)
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-----_=_NextPart_003_01C27AAF.372BD480
Content-Type: text/plain;
 charset="iso-8859-1"

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE

Please don't cause ruin to the reefs!

I'm an avid diver, and I mainly dive off West Palm Beach! Please reconsider taking sand from the area mentioned in the note below, please take it from somewhere else!

Thank you from the bottom of my fins!

Carol M. Byrnes
Jensen Beach, FL

Hello Hello Divers of Palm Beach

It turns our that the Army corps of Engineers is taking public input for a beach renourishment project that could severely damage one of Palm Beach most spectacular reefs. The reefs of concern are Horseshoe and Casino reef truly some of the best sixty foot reefs Palm Beach has to offer. The so called barrow area(the area that they take the sand from and don't give back)is only 400 feet from the inside ledge or west side of the reef.....

As you know the sand on the southeast coast of Florida travels from north to south and the build up of sand on the north side of the inlets is a common problem. The real problem stated when the pump from the sand transfer station at the end of the north jetty of the Palm Beach inlet needed maintenance and the Port of Palm Beach and the city of Palm Beach could not come to and agreement of who was going to foot the bill, so it sat for six years and the sand was moved off shore with expensive dredging. Now the sand did not move down the beach as normal for six years and because of poor planning on the city of Palm Beach part now they want an emergency dredging

that will cause harm to some of the areas best diving.....

There are other ways and better sand in different borrow areas.....Palm Beach County has suggested to the city of Palm Beach that they take sand from a area near the inlet or from Peanut Island, yes this will cost more but the trade off is a much better grade as the samples taken from the Horseshoe borrow site have a lot of rock that is not suitable for beach use.

I was present for the mid-town dredging project in 1995 that is off of Breakers Reef and was very disappointed, I was told by the county that the plume of silt would only be 500 yards long as you remember the plume of silt was four miles long. I confronted the county and they said they had been given a misleading sand sample from the borrow area that lead them to that conclusion, and of course the sample came from the dredging company. Silt does not disappear, it takes many years for it move on, when you think the water has cleared up, there comes a small blow and a swell and the silt goes back in solution and continues to stress the hard and soft corals..

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