

From: <rnw69@earthlink.net>
To: <Dale.E.Beter@saj02.usace.army.mil>
Subject: Reef destruction
Date: Friday, October 11, 2002 3:40 PM

Good afternoon,

I received a very disturbing email regarding the ACE plans to screw up the marine environment once again.... I was just wondering why you so called ENGINEERS can't seem to do anything right.....Quick looking at the cheapest ways and start looking at the long run and what will have the least impact on the environment involved... Please rethink your plans and chose a route that will promote the good of the marine environment and not the CARELESS DESTRUCTION of it.....Thank you for your time....

Concerned Diver

Hello Divers of Palm Beach

It turns out 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, truly some of the best sixty foot reefs Palm Beach has to offer. The so called borrow 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 started 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 an 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.. This is very important please take a moment and e-mail Dale Beter at the e-mail address below before Oct 13. Please convey to him the importance of protecting this reef area of Horseshoe as it has been a source of joy to divers a home to many floral and fauna and a boost to the local