DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division

JAN 18 2001

PUBLIC NOTICE

Manatee Key

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), is circulating this notice to advise the public of recent changes in District procedures. These changes when fully implemented, are designed to increase the protection afforded to the endangered West Indian manatee (manatee), and to better serve the public by decreasing the time required for review of Department of the Army permit applications proposed in waters accessible to the manatee.

BACKGROUND:
Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, a Department of the Army (DA) permit is required for all work proposed in navigable waters of the United States. Before Federal authorization can be given for any activity proposed in a water of the United States, the proposal must be reviewed in light of several Federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and in most coastal locales, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA.)

In order to make the initial determination of the potential effect of each DA permit application to the manatee, the Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has utilized the Manatee Key developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). The Manatee Key was last revised in February 1997.

During the past year, we have again revised the Manatee Key and intend to immediately implement the revisions. We are soliciting comments for the purpose of making improvements to this revision.

In order to show how the Manatee Key and other documents relate to the coordination process with the FWS concerning the review of DA permit applications proposing new vessel access, we have prepared a flowchart.

Furthermore, because of the large number and complexity of the maps included in the Manatee Key, it will not be possible for us to provide hard copies of the Manatee Key. The notice as published on our District Regulatory web page will have copies of all pertinent materials and the materials can be downloaded from that site. The URL address for the manatee information on the Jacksonville District Regulatory home page is: www.saj.usace.army.mil/permit/MANATEE/contents.htm

If you have comments on the Manatee Key, please transmit them within 90 days of the date of this public notice. Send your comments to Stuart L. Santos at the letterhead address or by e-mail to stuart.l.santos@saj02.usace.army.mil.

John R Hall

John R. Hall
Chief, Regulatory Division