

PORT EVERGLADES INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP MEETING

Reconnaissance Study

October 4, 2016

8:00 AM to 3:30 PM

[Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge](#) Visitor Center

10216 Lee Road, Boynton Beach, Florida 33473



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

DRAFT Meeting Notes

The purpose of the meeting was to continue discussion and resolve issues surrounding the Port Everglades Reconnaissance Study. Three telephone meetings and email exchanges had proceeded this face-to-face meeting since the July IWG meeting in Orlando.

Meeting Objectives included:

- Agreement on the purpose and objectives of the Reconnaissance Study
- Identify where we were in agreement and what needed resolution
- Agree on the Methods for the Reconnaissance Study or in lieu of agreements, prepare an agreed upon list of issues to be raised through the Process for Conflict Resolution

Meeting Attendees included:

Kelly Logan - NMFS Pace Wilber – NMFS (Phone) Jocelyn Karaszia - NMFS Kurtis Gregg – ERT Inc./ NMFS (contractor) Gina Ralph - USACE Lacy Pfaff – USACE Jason Spinning – USACE Terri Jordan-Sellers – USACE Terry Stratton - USACE	Laura DiGruttolo - FWC Marissa Krueger - FWC Jennifer Peterson – DEP Lainie Edwards - DEP Vlad Kosmynin- DEP Brendan Biggs - DEP Ken Banks - Broward	Matt Harold – Port Everglades Martha Robbart – DCA/PE Wade Lehmann – EPA (Phone) Jennifer Derby – EPA(Phone) Calista Mills – EPA(Phone) Mel Parsons – EPA (Phone)
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Meeting Presentations and Hand-Outs: The following attachments should be referenced for the Recon Study portion of this meeting. The agenda was provided to participants prior to the meeting via email. The remaining documents were prepared by DEP including the revised pdfs which contain corrections and also reflect the final decisions on the Recon Plan protocols made by the group at this meeting.



Recon Mtg WPB
Agenda rev2.docx



ReconPE_10.4.2016
(Original).pdf



ReconOutline_Revis
ed10.4.2016.pdf



ReconPE_10.4.2016
(Revised).pdf

Meeting Objectives: The meeting objectives were achieved by the group on Tuesday including discussions on items placed in the bin for future discussions. DEP provided a PowerPoint presentation which outlined the issues, a proposed protocol and alternatives for the group to consider. This included the Goals and Objectives, Spatial extent, assessment areas and survey methods. The outline also includes Quality Control and Quality Assurance measures that should be considered as well as reporting of the data. No items were referred to the management teams for conflict resolution.

Meeting Administration: The group reviewed the agenda. The meeting guidelines from the Orlando IWG meeting were adopted for this meeting. Meeting objectives were reviewed and agreed upon. Hurricane Matthew was expected to impact the east coast of Florida that week. The decision was made to accomplish as much as possible on Tuesday the 4th but not to carry on the meeting past that point.

Review of Purpose/Goals of the Reconnaissance Study: The decision was made to adopt the goal and objectives proposed by DEP with the addition of the following: Consultation with NMFS and NEPA determinations, including Essential Fish Habitat. The Recon Outline revised (attached) contains the full language as reiterated below:

Goal: Obtain information on natural communities for project planning and permitting.

Objectives: Obtain information to determine...

a. Amount of compensatory mitigation required to offset impacts

i. UMAM (62-345, F.A.C.)

ii. Current condition of resources (373.414(1)(a)(7), and 373.414(18), F.S.)

b. Mitigation Plan (373.414, F.S.) i. Establish a reference dataset to set success criteria

ii. Determine appropriate enhancement activities (e.g., nurseries / out-planting).

c. Impact Minimization (ERP Applicant's Handbook, Vol. 1, 10.2.1) i. Distribution / abundance of benthic organisms (not limited to corals)

ii. Plan for relocation of benthic organisms out of the predicted impact area

d. Consultation with NMFS and NEPA determinations, including Essential Fish Habitat

Presentation by FDEP – Power Point presentation – Jenny & Brandon: The group proceeded to work through the various decisions outlined in the PowerPoint presentation. The proposals and solutions agreed upon by the group are contained in the attached pdf – ReconPE_10.4.2016(Revised).pdf.

Additional Points: The following are additional points made during the meeting.

- The Recon Study will focus on habitat types and not acreage.
- The use of ROV may be suitable to look at downslopes where the goal is to identify the larger community structure.
- Side scan sonar may be useful as a supplement for the transect lines.
- Based on the proposed protocol quadrat review is predicted by a DEP representative to take no more than 15 min per quad. It was hoped that a 4-man team could be expected to take 1.5 hours per transect accomplishing 3 transects per day. (Note: DCA who has the contract for the Recon. Study will be taking the agreed upon protocol gained from this meeting to revise the initial costs in the contract with the Port). Timeframe???
- The question was asked why the survey would only cover a 150-meter zone north and south of the channel:
 - DEP: This is the area given to them as the **predicted** impacts. The monitoring plan would cover the **potential** impacts.
 - Corps: The current NEPA document for the project predicts potential indirect impacts 150 meters north and south of the proposed channel. Given the lessons learned from the Miami deepening project operational controls such as means and methods are being looked at and will be coordinated with the IWG for discussion. Generation of an adaptive management plan to deal with unexpected impacts will also be coordinated with the IWG.
 - DEP pointed out that the Corps is expected to provide reasonable assurances in their permit application before that application is considered complete.

- NOAA – Concern that the Adaptive Management Plan in Miami did not work well and that there is a risk to staying with the 150 meter predicted impact zones.
- Survey of the 3rd Reef:
 - No transects currently in the channel due to safety reasons.
 - Group agreed to survey both sides of the channel and to extrapolate the characteristics of the north side to the channel. Clarification for the reason to extrapolate was provided in a subsequent email from DEP dated 10/14/2016 at 11:29 from Jenny Peterson: “...there aren't necessarily "more resources" on the northern side of the third reef, but a portion of the third reef south of the channel was previously impacted (DCA 2009 report, Final EIS Appendix D1_D2). The exact spatial extent of those impacts is not known. Therefore, it was decided during the meeting that the data collected north of the channel would be extrapolated in order to characterize the condition of resources in the portion of the third reef that falls within the proposed channel expansion area, which will not be surveyed due to concerns regarding diver safety.”
 - What is the impact to coral relocation for corals inhabiting the channel alignment in the 3rd reef? The Port and the Corps stated that working with the Port they could open up that area for removal before construction occurred.

Other Issues:

1. The importance of minimizing impacts through various dredge means and methods was discussed.

Task 1 (Done): Schedule a meeting to look at Means and Methods within the next 2 weeks. Meeting date set for October 14th. A meeting would have 2 goals –a. Hearing what the Corps is doing to investigate alternative dredging Means and Methods and b. to brainstorm Means and Methods the IWG may want to suggest (Lacy).

(Note: meeting held on October 14th at 10:30 am. Exhibits for the meeting are below:



2. Task 2: What is the budget for the 2d & 3d Mosaics?

3. Monitoring Plan and Adaptive Management Plan: Is it possible to have a meeting to lay out a Monitoring Plan without having other information such as the results of the Sediment Transport Model to help inform a decision on the spatial extent of the monitoring? What are the triggers, thresholds, risks and uncertainties in an Adaptive Management Plan? Are there monitoring protocols that the group can agree to up front even if the answers to spatial extent are not available? DEP stated that they have techniques and methodology already written for consideration but what is the most efficient and best use of time?

Task 3: A list of what’s needed to go into the monitoring plan and the Adaptive Monitoring Plan. (??)

Task 4: When is the best time to meet to set up monitoring plan? (Jason)

4. Other scenarios that contribute to quantity of indirect impacts: Potential anchorage of equipment outside of the channel during construction; downslope areas – how to monitor for impacts greater than predicted 10% - mitigation up front. Look at potential direct discharge to the ODMS and the potential impacts from the pipes running to the discharge point.

5. **Sediment Transport Model:** Corps stated that there are 25 scenarios being investigated. Group asked if these could be shared with them. Answer was yes. (Note: this was discussed at the meeting referenced above on October 14th at 10:30 am. Scenarios listed in attachment below.)

Task 5 (done): Share the 25 scenarios being looked at with the Sediment Transport Model with the Group. Lacy.



Dredging Scenarios
(8-16)agency.docx

6. Communication:

- Group would like to come together a few days after DCA gets in the water to get a status report on how the data collection is going.
- Would also like to schedule periodic reviews after that including in-water reviews. Goal is no surprises.

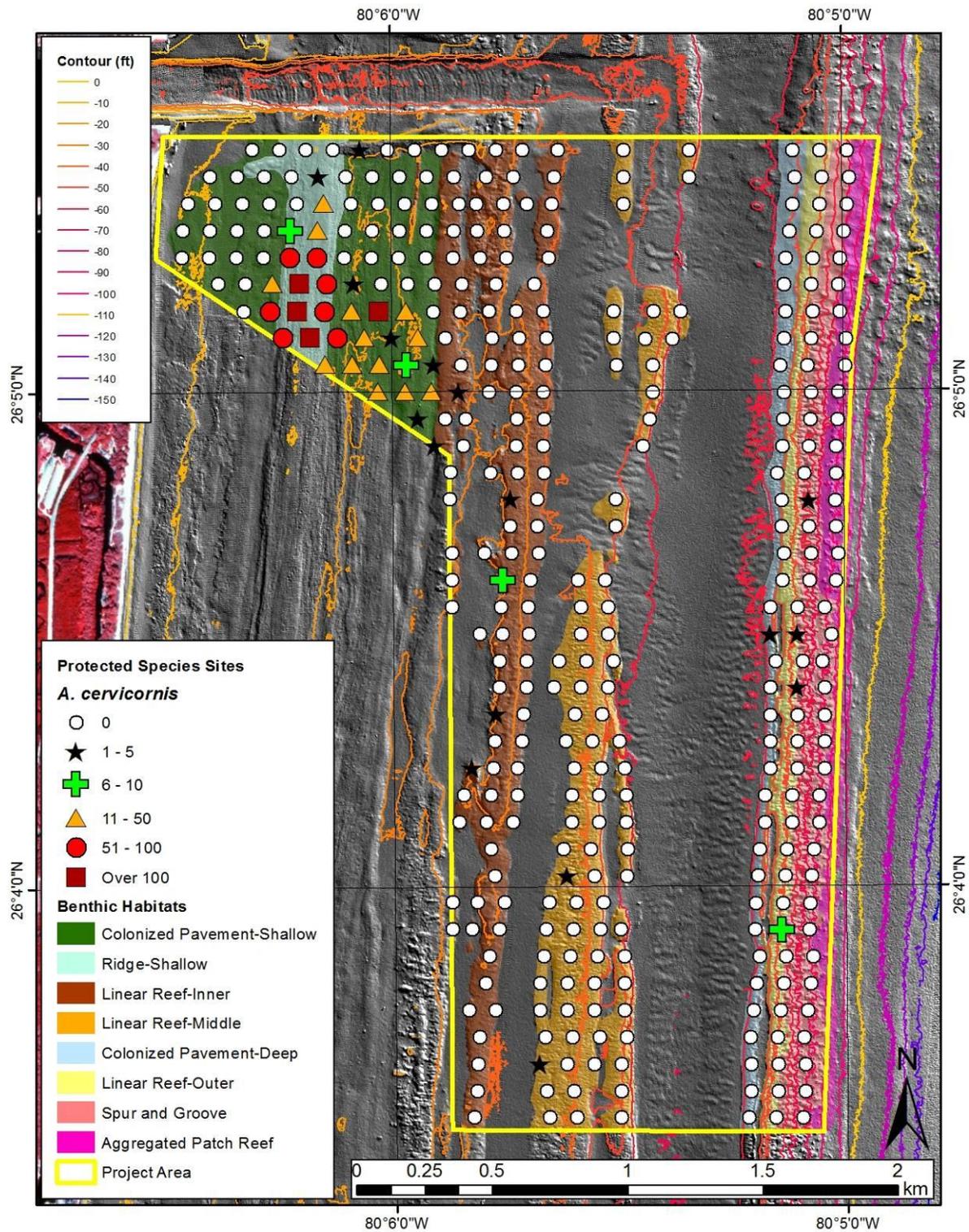
7. Endangered Species: Decision made to do concurrent review of endangered species within the Recon Study area. ESA survey would include:

- Use the Navy-NOVA data to the south to include the missing rectangular area. (See illustration (PE Sed Plume-1.pdf) from NMFS-Mark Lamb)



PE Sed Plume-1.pdf

Note: Graphic below depicts the Navy-NOVA data to the south.



8. **Contracting:** Group asked how long to get an amendment to the DCA contract for the Recon. if needed. Response was approximately 2 weeks.

9. **Next Tuesday – contracting Lacy???** Not sure what this was....

10. **QA/QC:** Group reviewed the QA/QC comments on the DEP outline.

- An in-water review (Dive Day) could be made part of the QA/QC – Martha

11. Data Reporting: Group would like to see the Excel spreadsheets with the raw data with a simple summary. QA/QC should be against the data sheets. No report needed for regulatory purposes.

12. Essential Fish Habitat outside the 150 meter Recon area:

- Add on top of ESA data gathering

Task 6: Corps can draft a protocol to add the gathering of the EFH data Caveat: May not take into account the model results on the extent . – Terri within 2 weeks.

15. Miscellaneous:

For Port of Miami: How many times did the contractor reach back to the KO to notify them of environmental triggers? Asked by W. Pace - NMFS

Task 7: Terri to investigate and provide a response. End of week?

16. NEPA. Transects outside the Recon area should be included in the EA to provide the minimum and maximum spatial extent. (EPA)

17. Budget: Group would like to see a breakdown of project costs through a webinar.

Task 8: Lacy to set up a webinar to explain project costs.

18. Port NOAA Ports - is it being implemented? Answer from Matt H. is yes.

Task 9: Terri and Matt to provide information NLT October 21st on status of implementation.

19. Mitigation: Group would like an overview of the impact of using HEA vs UMAM on the mitigation requirements.

Task 10: I believe someone(s) said they could explain the HEA vs UMAM do this but it didn't make it to my sheets. I believe it may have been Jenny or Brendan.

20. Submittal of the Permit Application: Currently the schedule still shows Feb 2017 as the goal.