

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT GASPARILLA ISLAND SEGMENT

Final Integrated Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment

APPENDIX H

Pertinent Correspondence

May 2018



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Jacksonville District



**US Army Corps of Engineers
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT**

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT GASPARILLA ISLAND SEGMENT INTEGRATED SECTION 934 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), has conducted an environmental assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Corps assessed the effects of the following actions in the Final Integrated Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment, dated TBD for the Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Shore Protection Project, Florida. The final recommendation is contained in the Director's Report, dated TBD. These reports are incorporated herein by reference. The Recommended Plan consists of the following:

- Extending Federal participation in periodic renourishment along approximately 2.8 miles of shoreline between Florida Department of Environmental Protection monuments R-10.5 (R-11 plus a 1,200 foot long north extending taper) and R-24.5 (R-24 plus a 600 foot long south extending taper);
- The beach fill template is defined as a 20 foot extension of the project baseline, roughly the 1995 MHW line, at +5 ft.-MLW (3.75 ft.-NAVD88); a foreshore slope of 1V:15H transitioning to a nearshore slope of 1V:25H from MLW extending out to the intersection with the existing profile; a 60 foot advance/sacrificial berm accounts for an average periodic nourishment interval of 22 years; only two renourishments are expected throughout the remaining 40 year period of analysis (2016 to 2056);
- The Boca Grande ebb shoal, located approximately 1.85 miles SW of the FDEP monument R-25, will be the borrow area for future periodic renourishments. The sand source encompasses approximately 425 acres with approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of beach-quality sand available. This volume of material is sufficient to cover the estimated project need of 1,200,000 cubic yards for the next two renourishment events, which will cover the extended Federal participation up to 2056.

All practicable means to avoid and minimize adverse environmental effects have been incorporated into the recommended plan. Environmental commitments as detailed in the report will be implemented to minimize impacts.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, any discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan have been found to be compliant with section

404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix G, Attachment 1 of the report.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act will be obtained from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection prior to construction. All conditions of the water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has been completed. The USFWS decision document is dated February 2, 2017 and is included in the Pertinent Correspondence Appendix (H).

Pursuant to section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended, the Corps has determined that the proposed work will have no effect to historic properties. The SHPO concurrence document is dated September 29, 2016 and is included in the Pertinent Correspondence Appendix (H).

Public review of the draft Integrated Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment (report) was from November 22, 2016 to January 6, 2017. The Draft EA for the project has been forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 4, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vero Beach Field Office, the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the State Historic Preservation Officer, as well as all other known interested parties for review and comment. All comments submitted during the public comment period have been addressed and incorporated into the Final report.

Technical, environmental, economic, and cost-effectiveness criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resource Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in the evaluation of the alternatives. Based on these reports, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not significantly affect the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date: _____

Jason A. Kirk
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander



April 21, 2017

John Manning
District One

Cecil L. Pendergrass
District Two

Larry Kiker
District Three

Brian Hamman
District Four

Frank Mann
District Five

Roger Desjarlais
County Manager

Richard Wm. Wesch
County Attorney

Donna Marie Collins
Hearing Examiner

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
Commander and District Engineer
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Dear Colonel Kirk,

We are very pleased to be nearing completion and final approval of the Section 934 Report that provides for an extension of the Federal Renourishment Cost sharing period to 50 years for the Gasparilla Segment of the Lee County Shore Protection Project. Although the study has been 100% federally funded to date pursuant to WRDA 1986, we have been in support of this effort from the beginning, and want to reiterate our support of the final recommended plan.

With our concurrence of the recommended plan, we also provide our financial self-certification for the projected two renourishments to take place in partnership with the Federal government in the years ahead. We greatly appreciate our partnership and continued efforts to complete this important study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Boutelle".

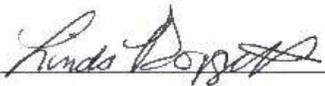
DN: cn=Stephen J. Boutelle, o=Lee
County, ou=Natural Resources,
email=sboutelle@leegov.com, c=US
Date: 2017.04.21 07:29:12 -04'00'

Stephen Boutelle
Marine Operations Manager
sboutelle@leegov.com
(239) 533-8128

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR'S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF FINANCIAL CAPABILITY
FOR DECISION DOCUMENTS**

I, Linda Doggett, do hereby certify that I am the Chief Financial Officer of the Lee County, Florida Board of County Commissioners (the "Non-Federal Sponsor"); that I am aware of the financial obligations of the Non-Federal Sponsor for the Gasparilla Segment of the Lee County, Florida Shore Protection Project; and that the Non-Federal Sponsor will have the financial capability to satisfy the Non-Federal Sponsor's obligations for that project. I understand that the Government's acceptance of this self-certification shall not be construed as obligating either the Government or the Non-Federal Sponsor to implement a project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have made and executed this certification this 19th day of April, 2017.

BY: 

TITLE: Lee County Clerk of the Court & Comptroller

DATE: 4.19.17



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Bob Martinez Center
2600 Blair Stone Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

Rick Scott
Governor

Carlos Lopez-Cantera
Lt. Governor

Ryan E. Matthews
Interim Secretary

February 22, 2017

Ms. Gina Paduano Ralph
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District, Planning Division
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - 934 Report and Draft Environmental Assessment -
Gasparilla Island Segment, Lee County, Shore Protection Project - Gasparilla Island- Lee
County, Florida
SAI # FL201612067810C

Dear Ms. Ralph:

The Florida State Clearinghouse has coordinated the state's review of the 934 Report and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; Section 403.061(42), *Florida Statutes*; the Coastal Zone Management Act (16 U.S.C. §§ 1451 *et seq.*, as amended); and the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended).

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of State - Division of Historical Resources have submitted comments and recommendations regarding the Draft EA in the attached memorandum, letter and Clearinghouse database report, which are incorporated herein by this reference and made an integral part of this letter.

Based on the information contained in the Report and Draft EA and the enclosed state agency comments, the state has determined that, *at this stage*, the proposed federal activities are consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) and should not compromise state water quality standards. To ensure the project's continued consistency with the FCMP, the concerns identified by our reviewing agencies must be addressed prior to project implementation. The state's continued concurrence will be based on the activities' compliance with FCMP authorities, including federal and state monitoring of the activities to ensure their continued conformance, and the adequate resolution of issues

Gina Paduano Ralph
SAI# FL201612067810C
February 22, 2017
Page 2

identified during this and subsequent regulatory reviews. The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP and water quality certification will be determined during the environmental permitting process, in accordance with Section 373.428, *Florida Statutes*.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft document. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me at Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us or (850) 717-9076.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Stahl

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

Enclosures

cc: Roxane Dow, DEP BMESP
Tim Parsons, DOS



Memorandum

TO: Chris Stahl, Coordinator, Florida State Clearinghouse

FROM: Roxane Dow, Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program

SUBJECT: 934 Report and Draft Environmental Assessment
Gasparilla Island Segment, Lee County Shore Protection Project
SAI# FL201612067810C

Staff from the Division of Water Resource Management have reviewed the referenced documents, created to justify the US Army Corps of Engineers extended involvement in the beach project. The proposed design and borrow area is the same as that previously permitted and constructed.

We therefore agree that the proposed extension of federal participation is consistent with our authorities under the Florida Coastal Zone Management Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let me know if you have any questions.

cc. Lanie Edwards
Bob Brantly
Jennifer Steele
Jennifer Peterson
Ivana Kenny Carmola



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960



February 2, 2017

Jason A. Kirk
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Post Office Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Service Consultation Code: 04EF2000-2017-F-0228
Date Received: January 26, 2017
Consultation Initiation Date: January 31, 2017
Project: Gasparilla Island Segment,
Coastal Storm Risk Management
Project
County: Lee

Dear Colonel Kirk:

This document transmits the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) decision document to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for the placement of sand along approximately 2.8 miles (mi) of shoreline along Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida (Project). The Corps determined that the Project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect the endangered green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), the endangered hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), the endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), the endangered leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and the threatened Northwest Atlantic Ocean (NWAO) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); and may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the threatened piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), the threatened red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*; manatee), and terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated critical habitat. For the purposes of this document, the five identified sea turtles will be referred to collectively as sea turtles. This document is provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

The Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) share Federal jurisdiction for sea turtles under the Act. The Service has responsibility for sea turtles on the nesting beach and the NOAA Fisheries has jurisdiction for sea turtles in the marine environment. The NOAA Fisheries will assess and consult with the Corps concerning potential impacts to foraging and swimming sea turtles, critical habitat in the marine environment, and all other marine species under their jurisdiction within the Project area in accordance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Our analysis in this document will only address activities that may impact nesting sea turtles, their nests and eggs, and hatchlings as they emerge from the nest and crawl to the sea. Please note the provisions of this consultation do not apply to sea turtles in the marine environment, such as swimming juvenile and adult sea turtles or loggerhead critical habitat in the marine environment. If applicable, you are required to consult with the NOAA Fisheries on this Project. For further information on Act compliance with the NOAA Fisheries, please contact Rachel Sweeney, Chief of the Interagency Cooperation Branch, by e-mail at rachel.sweeney@noaa.gov or by phone at 727-209-5953.

This analysis is based on information provided in the Corps' January 24, 2017, letter. A complete record of this consultation is on file at the South Florida Ecological Services Office, Vero Beach, Florida.

Consultation History

On January 26, 2017, the Service received a copy of the Corps' letter dated January 24, 2017.

On January 31, 2017, the Service received an email from the Corps in response to our request for additional information submitted the same day. Following review of the Corps' response, the Service had sufficient information to initiate formal consultation with the Corps concerning the potential effects of the Project on sea turtles, manatees, piping plovers, red knots, and designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Corps proposes to place beach compatible sand on approximately 2.8 mi of shoreline along Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida (Figure 1). The proposed Project involves the placement of sand within a fill template which extends between the Florida Department of Environmental Protection reference monuments R-10.5 (R-11 plus a 1,200 foot [ft] long north extending taper) and R-24.5 (R-24 plus a 600 ft long south extending taper). Using a pipeline cutter-suction dredge, approximately 520,000 cubic yards of sand will be dredged from the Gasparilla Borrow Area #2 (Figure 1) and placed within the fill template. Once the dredge material has been deposited within the fill template, bulldozers will move and grade the material to produce the authorized beach design which is characterized by a 20-ft berm extension. Re-nourishment events are scheduled for 2028 and 2042.

All beach corridors, staging areas, and pipeline corridors will be selected to avoid effects to upland habitat. Construction vehicles and equipment must traverse or be stored within these designated areas, corridors, and/or within the pipeline corridor. In addition, all construction pipes will be placed parallel to the shoreline and positioned as far landward as possible up to the vegetated dune line. Existing vegetated habitat at these sites and corridors shall be protected to the maximum extent possible to minimize disturbance; therefore, impacts associated with the beach access corridors, pipeline corridors, staging areas, and beach fill template are not anticipated. If impacts occur, all impacted areas and vegetation will be restored to preconstruction condition and elevation. In addition, all impacts to nearshore hardbottom habitat

and seagrasses will be avoided. All loose debris will be removed and properly disposed of prior to sand placement.

The proposed Project will be conducted during the day and nighttime hours working 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. The intent of the Project is to provide shoreline stabilization along the shoreline.

Minimization measures

The Corps will follow and implement the Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPMs) and the Terms and Conditions identified in the revised Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (2015-SPBO; Service 2015), and the Conservation Measures of the Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P³BO; Service 2013) that apply to the Project. The P³BO conservation measures will also minimize effects to red knots.

To minimize impacts to manatees from the proposed Project, the Corps has agreed to follow and implement the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work (FWC 2011), and the minimization measures outlined for manatees in the 2015-SPBO and the Corps' SBPO biological assessment (Corps 2011).

The southern portion of the proposed Project area lies within Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) Unit FL-70P, Gasparilla Island, which is designated as an "otherwise protected area" (OPA). This unit is part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System (System) which supports suitable habitat for species listed under the Act. The purposes of CBRA are to minimize the loss of human life; wasteful expenditure of Federal revenues; and damage to fish, wildlife, and other natural resources associated with units of the System. The only Federal spending restriction with OPAs is the prohibition of receiving Federal Flood Insurance on public and private lands.

Action Area

The action area is defined as all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action. The Service identifies the action area to include the sand fill template, staging areas, beach access and pipeline corridors, and Gasparilla Island Borrow Area #2. The Project is located along the Gulf of Mexico, Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida, at latitude 26.7334 and longitude -82.2637.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping plover

The Service has determined the Project's impact to non-optimal piping plover habitat is consistent with the analysis in the P³BO. As previously stated, the Corps has agreed to follow and implement the Conservation Measures outlined in the P³BO that apply to the Project. As it relates to survey guidelines defined in P³BO Conservation Measure #2, the Service approves a

reduction in the survey effort, and the following revised survey guidelines can be implemented by the Corps:

1. One preconstruction winter shorebird survey will be conducted within a 10-day timeframe beginning the first Friday in February, as outlined in the Florida Shorebird Alliance's Winter Shorebird Survey (<http://flshorebirdalliance.org>). If the February preconstruction survey is not possible, two preconstruction winter shorebird surveys will be conducted as close as possible to the February dates and at least 15 days apart, and reported to the FWC (<https://public.myfwc.com/crossdoi/shorebirds/loginform.aspx>). Preconstruction surveys will not be conducted between May 16 and July 14. If piping plovers are documented during the preconstruction survey, the Service will be contacted for potential implementation of additional conservation measures prior to construction commencement. In addition, a February winter shorebird survey will be conducted as outlined above, for 2 years post-construction. All shorebird survey data will be forwarded to the Service annually upon completion.
2. The person(s) conducting the surveys must demonstrate the qualifications and ability to identify shorebird species and be able to provide the information outlined in the Winter Shorebird Survey.

Because the Project, as proposed, is consistent with the analysis for non-optimal piping plover habitat in the P³BO, the Corps has concurrence for the piping plover for this Project through the concurrence contained within the P³BO. A report must be submitted by July 31 of each year in which monitoring is completed, as described in Term and Condition 9 of the P³BO.

Red knot

Red knots may use the Project area during winter and migration periods. In Florida, red knots are commonly found along sandy, gravel, or cobble beaches, tidal mudflats, salt marshes, shallow coastal impoundments, mangrove and brackish lagoons. Red knots forage along sandy beaches during spring and fall migration throughout Florida. To date, critical habitat has not been proposed or designated for the red knot. According to our Geographic Information System database and eBird (eBird 2016), 2 and 1 red knots were documented in the action area in 2011 and 2015, respectively. Because suitable habitat for the red knot and piping plover is similar, minimization measures for potential effects to red knots in non-optimal habitat will be incorporated into the Project through the Corps' implementation of the Conservation Measures to reduce impacts on piping plovers for projects located in non-optimal piping plover habitat as outlined in the P³BO.

Based on the implementation of P³BO's Conservation Measures, the fact that only 3 red knots have been documented in the action area since 2011, and the Project area is located in non-optimal red knot habitat, the Service concurs that the Project, as proposed, may affect but is not likely to adversely affect this species.

Sea turtles

The Project is located adjacent to sea turtle nesting habitat, and therefore could adversely affect nesting sea turtles, their nests, and hatchlings. The purpose of the proposed Project is to protect the shoreline from ongoing erosion. Without the restorative activities, erosion is expected to continue, potentially impacting sea turtle nesting. Consequently, the proposed Project could have beneficial effects to nesting sea turtles.

The Service has determined the Project's effects concerning sand placement activities are consistent with those analyzed in the 2015-SPBO. Therefore, it is appropriate to apply the 2015-SPBO to the Project. Based on the Corps' commitment to implement the minimization measures, RPMs, and the Terms and Conditions identified in the 2015-SPBO that apply to the Project, the Project's take coverage for listed sea turtles is henceforth covered under the 2015-SPBO.

Terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated critical habitat

As previously stated, the Project will occur along a stretch of beach that is designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat. The Project may directly or indirectly impact biological and physical features of critical habitat for the NWAO DPS of the loggerhead sea turtle along approximately 2.8 mi of beach along Gasparilla Island. The 2.8 mi of beach along Gasparilla Island represents 40.5 percent of Critical Habitat Unit LOGG-T-FL-21, and 0.40 percent of all designated critical habitat in the NWAO DPS. The Service has determined the Project effects on designated terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle critical habitat are consistent with those analyzed in the 2015-SPBO. Consequently the Service concurs that the Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect terrestrial loggerhead sea turtle designated Critical Habitat Unit LOGG-T-FL-21.

West Indian manatee

The Project occurs within the geographic range of the manatee and is located in designated critical habitat for the species. The Corps has agreed to implement the FWC *Standard Manatee Construction Conditions for In-water Work* (FWC 2011), the minimization measures outlined in the 2015-SPBO, and the minimization measures outlined in the Corps' SPBO biological assessment (Corps 2011), to avoid potential impacts on manatees. Based on the proposed protection measures, the Service concurs that the Project, as proposed, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species and its critical habitat.

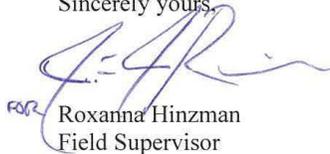
REINITIATION NOTICE

This concludes consultation on the action outlined in the request. As provided in 50 CFR §402.16, reinitiation of formal consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if:

1. The amount or extent of incidental take outlined in the 2015-SPBO is exceeded. In instances where the amount or extent of incidental take is exceeded, any operations causing such take must cease pending reinitiation;
2. New information reveals effects of the agency action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not considered in this analysis;
3. The agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not considered in this analysis; or
4. A new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

Thank you for your cooperation in the effort to conserve fish and wildlife resources. Should you have additional questions or require clarification regarding this letter, please contact Jeff Howe at 772-469-4283.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roxanna Hinzman". To the left of the signature, there is a small, faint stamp that reads "FWS".

Roxanna Hinzman
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc: electronic only

Corps, Jacksonville, Florida (Wendy Dauberman-Zerby)

DEP, Tallahassee, Florida (Greg Garis)

EPA, West Palm Beach, Florida (Ron Miedema)

FWC, Tallahassee, Florida (FWC-CPS, Robbin Trindell)

NOAA Fisheries, St. Petersburg, Florida (Mark Sramek, Dennis Klemm)

Service, St. Petersburg, Florida (Anne Marie Lauritsen, Peter Plage)

USGS, Gainesville, Florida (Susan Walls)

LITERATURE CITED

- eBird.org. 2016. An online database of bird distribution and abundance [Internet]. Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Ithaca, New York [cited December 30, 2016]. Available from: <http://www.ebird.org>.
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). 2011. Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work 2011. Tallahassee, Florida [Internet]. [cited December 30, 2016]. Available from: http://myfwc.com/media/415448/Manatee_StdCondIn_waterWork.pdf
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). 2011. Statewide Programmatic Biological Assessment. Beach Placement and Shore Protection, Coast of Florida. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Jacksonville, Florida.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2013. Programmatic piping plover biological opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Service Log No. 04EF1000-2013-F-0124) for shore protection activities in the geographical region of the north and south Florida Ecological Services Field Offices (May 22, 2013). Jacksonville and Vero Beach Field Offices, Florida.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). 2015. Statewide programmatic biological opinion to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Service Log No. 41910-2011-F-0170) for shore protection activities along the coast of Florida (March 13, 2015). Jacksonville, Panama City, and Vero Beach Field Offices, Florida.

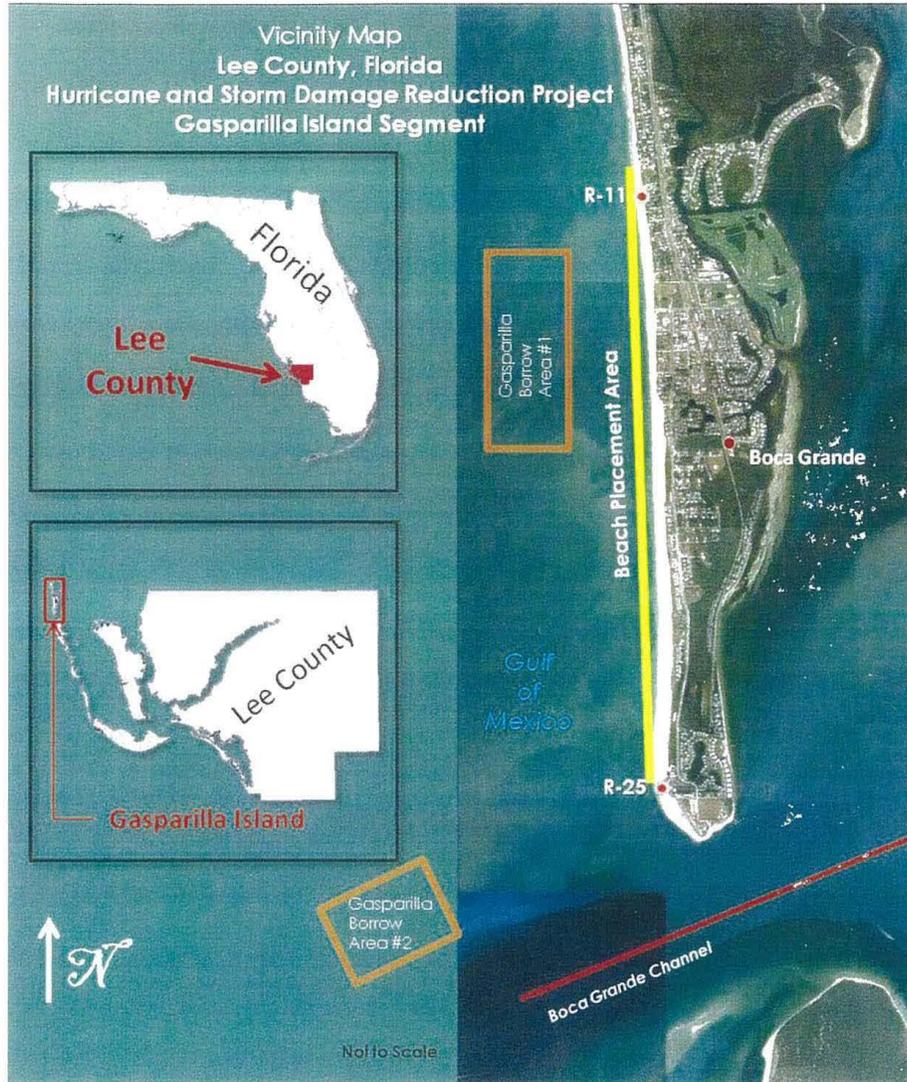


Figure 1. Location of the Gasparilla Island Coastal Storm Risk Management project, Gasparilla Island, Lee County, Florida.



REPLY TO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

JAN 27 2017

Planning Division
Environmental Branch

Ms. Virginia Fay
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Dear Ms. Fay:

We have received your Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Recommendations provided by email dated December 9, 2016, regarding the Gasparilla Island Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment for Lee County Florida Coastal Storm Risk Management. In accordance with Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 600.920(k), we are providing the attached responses to your recommendations.

We believe that submission of this letter fulfills the EFH consultation requirements pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and 50 CFR 600.920. Please direct comments and questions concerning this letter to Ms. Wendy Dauberman at 904-232-3206 or wendy.s.dauberman-zerby@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosures (2)

Copy Furnished:

Mr. Pace Wilber, National Marine Fisheries Service, 219 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC
29412

Mr. Mark Sramek, United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional
Office, 263 13th Avenue South, Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

Gasparilla Island Section 934 and Environmental Assessment for Lee County, Florida CSRSM Study

Responses to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Conservation Recommendations

1. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recommendation: Page 1-3: Figure 1-1 depicts the project map with key boundaries and reference points, as well as the Gasparilla Borrow Area (GBA); is the GBA the only source of sediment to be used to renourish Gasparilla Island Segment from FDEP Markers R-11 through R-24, or are there additional sediment borrow areas proposed? Further, have benthic surveys been conducted to assess presence/absence of habitats within proposed pipeline routes from the GBA to sediment discharge points on Gasparilla Island?

USACE RESPONSE:

The GBA is the only source of sediment to be used for the project. No pipeline route has been determined at this time. However, the Corps requires that the construction contractor provide a Hardbottom Protection Plan (HPP) prior to project construction. This plan will be reviewed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to ensure that existing hardbottom communities are avoided during construction to ensure that there are no adverse effects. The HPP shall indicate how bounce dives and side scan sonar will be conducted of any of the pipeline routes and associated work areas proposed to be used and prior to fill operations. Anchoring areas at the borrow site and offloading areas will also be subject to the same protocols in the HPP. The HPP shall also indicate the contingency procedures if a leak is visually detected and remediation steps if impacts to hardbottoms occur. Acceptance by the USACE Contracting Officer of the HPP will not relieve the construction contractor of responsibility of protection of the marine hardbottom. The contractor may be required to revise and resubmit the plan after USACE technical review. Lastly, the HPP shall list all the names, qualifications, and responsibilities of personnel involved with enforcing and conducting the HPP. The HPP will be provided to Florida Department of Environmental Protection and NMFS.

Additionally, nearshore submerged bottom protection measures will be implemented. The contractor shall not intentionally drag equipment along the nearshore sandy bottom during pumpout equipment relocation procedures. Certified scientific divers shall assist in the identification of any hardbottom community prior to excavation. Scientific divers shall also assist in the placement of any submerged pipelines to ensure that submerged pipelines are not placed over any significant hardbottom/reef areas. If pipeline leaks, mis-dumps, or spillage occurs, then scientific divers shall be used to verify the condition of nearby hardground areas.

2. NMFS Recommendation: Pages 2-43 and 2-44: Information indicates previous similar renourishment activities conducted in the project area during the 2006 - 2007 event resulted in unavoidable impacts to approximately 0.9-acre of nearshore hardbottom habitat. Compensatory mitigation for these unavoidable impacts included the construction of 1.4 acres of limestone boulders comprised of six, 100-foot by 100-foot squares located approximately 500 feet offshore of Gasparilla Island in water depths of approximately 10 to 12 feet. Do the currently proposed activities include baseline and post-project monitoring of these mitigation sites to determine whether proposed renourishment activities would result in adverse impacts to these habitats following completion of the project?

USACE RESPONSE:

The non-Federal sponsor has provided mitigation for impacts to hardbottom habitat resulting from the initial beach placement. Subsequent placement activities have occurred within the permitted beach template resulting in no additional impacts. The project's fill template has not changed providing further assurance that no additional hardbottom impacts are expected.

Section 2.4.5.2 Reef/Hardbottom Mitigation states that Lee County staff conducted a biological survey of the mitigation reef on May 12, 2015. The mitigation reef structure is providing similar habitat as the impacted hardbottom buried in the nearshore region.

3. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Recommendation: Page 2-45: Figure 2-21 depicts the plan view of the six individual previously constructed hardbottom mitigation reefs; there are two existing hardbottom areas located immediately north and northwest of the six mitigation reefs. Are these "existing hardbottom" areas those areas which were originally impacted during the 2006-2007 renourishment activities? If not, what is the location of the hardbottom areas which were impacted in 2006-2007 renourishment activities which required mitigation? Further, will proposed pipeline routes from the GBA to sediment discharge points on Gasparilla Island avoid these existing hardbottom and mitigation reefs, and if so, what is the minimum distance setback proposed between these hardbottoms and pipeline alignment?

USACE RESPONSE:

Attached is a map (Figure 1) showing the hard bottom impact, beach fill limits, and mitigation for the project area. The location of the hardbottom areas which were impacted in 2006-2007 are the solid green areas located close to the monuments R10.5, R11 and R 11.5.

Please refer to our response for comment #1.

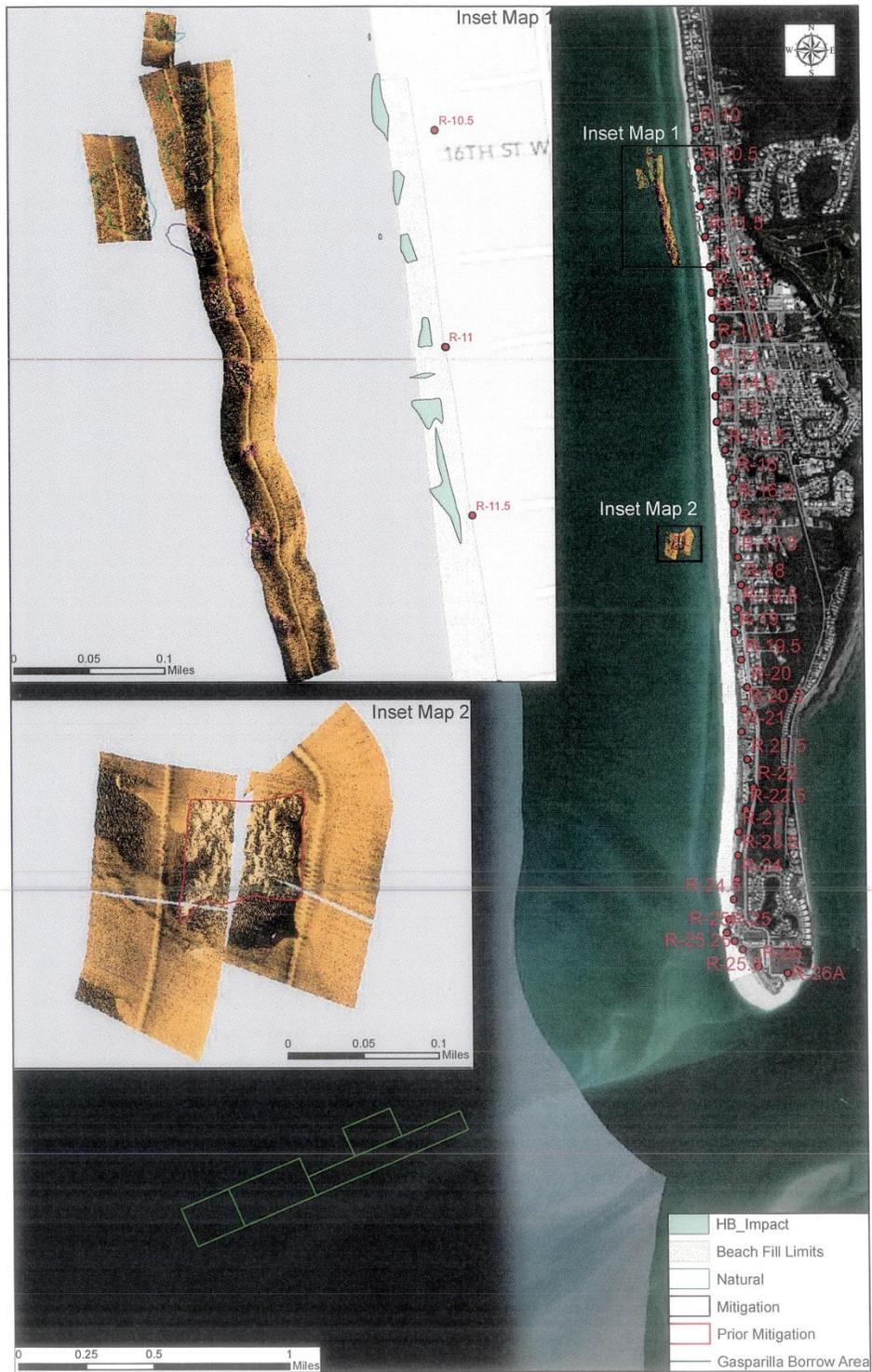


Figure 1: Depicts Hardbottom Impacts, Beach Fill Limits and Mitigation Areas.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

JAN 24 2017

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

CESAJ-PD-EC (ER 200-2-2)

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD (MFR)

SUBJECT: Coordination Act Report for the Gasparilla Island Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment for Lee County Florida Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRMS).

PURPOSE: To document an informal understanding between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Jacksonville District, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), South Florida Ecological Services Field Office.

Background. The Lee County, Florida, Beach Erosion Control Project was authorized under the provisions of Section 201 of the 1965 River and Harbor and Flood Control Act by Senate Resolution dated December 17, 1970, and House Resolution dated December 15, 1970. This authority was later amended by Section 131 of the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) of 1976 and further modified by section 309 of WRDA 2000. WRDA 2000 specifically authorized the Secretary to carry out the authorized project in accordance with Section 206 of WRDA 1992, allowing for non-federal interests to design and construct the authorized project and for reimbursement of the Federal share of the cost. The 2000 Lee County, Florida, Shore Protection Project (SPP), Gasparilla and Estero Islands General Reevaluation Report with Environmental Impact Statement (GRR/EIS) approved some modifications to the project in the interest of reducing total project costs. In 2008, an addendum to the 2000 Lee County, Florida Shore Protection Project, GRR/EIS was completed to update the cost apportionment for construction of the Gasparilla segment. In 2013, the renourishment of the full construction template was approved, in combination with Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) renourishment, in order to maximize cost efficiency by combining dredge mobilization costs and to restore the protective capability and benefits of the project.

Federal cost share participation expired in December 2016, ten calendar years after the date of initiation of construction in 2006. The Corps is currently conducting a study to consider Federal cost share participation for an additional 50 years in fulfillment of Section 934 of the 1986 WRDA (Public Law 99-662) (40 years remaining). The Corps developed an integrated report including an Environmental Assessment evaluating potential environmental effects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

CESAJ-PD-EC (ER 200-2-2)

SUBJECT: Coordination Act Report for the Gasparilla Island Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment for Lee County Florida Coastal Storm Risk Management Study (CSRSM).

In addition, the Corps has initiated programmatic Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation pursuant to the 2013 Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P³BO) and the 2015 Statewide Programmatic Biological Opinion (SPBO) for the Gasparilla Island Segment, Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRSM) study, Lee County, Florida. The ESA consultation will also include a species effect determination for the threatened Rufa red knot, which was listed subsequent to the issuance of the P³BO and the SPBO.

Coordination. The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq., March 10, 1934, as amended 1946, 1958, 1978, and 1995) requires Federal agencies to consult with the Service regarding the impacts to fish and wildlife resources and the proposed measures to mitigate these impacts. Additional coordination authorities exist through the review process of NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347, January 1, 1970, as amended 1975 and 1982) and the consultations required under the ESA of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 136, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq. December 28, 1973). The Corps continues to coordinate and consult with the Service through NEPA and the ESA. Impacts to fish and wildlife resources are addressed thoroughly via these two authorities. The Service will include comments relevant to FWCA in the Services' response to the Corps' ESA coordination letter as well as through the NEPA review process.

Agreement. The undersigned, Corps and the Service, agree to utilize the Gasparilla Island Lee County CSRSM Study NEPA review and ESA consultation processes to complete coordination responsibilities under the FWCA. This agreement will avoid duplicate analysis and documentation as authorized under 40 CFR section 1500.4 (k), 1502.25, 1506.4, and is consistent with Presidential Executive Order for Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, released January 18, 2011.


COR Ashleigh Blackford
Supervisor, Planning and Resource
Conservations
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

Date: 1/31/2017


Jason Spinning
Supervisor, Environmental Branch
Coastal Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: 1/24/17

-----Original Message-----

From: Stahl, Chris [mailto:Chris.Stahl@dep.state.fl.us]

Sent: Friday, January 13, 2017 3:24 PM

To: Ralph, Gina P CIV USARMY CESAJ (US) <Gina.P.Ralph@usace.army.mil>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] State Clearance Letter for FL201612067810C- GASPARILLA ISLAND SEGMENT, LEE COUNTY, SHORE PROTECTION PROJECT

January 13, 2017

GINA PADUANO RALPH
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT, PLANNING DIVISION
P. O. BOX 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

RE: Us Army Corps of Engineers - 934 Report and Draft Environmental Assessment - Gasparilla Island Segment, Lee County, Shore Protection Project - Gasparilla Island- Lee County, Florida

SAI # FL201612067810C

Dear Jason:

Florida State Clearinghouse staff has reviewed the proposal under the following authorities: Presidential Executive Order 12372; § 403.061(42), Florida Statutes; the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended; and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321-4347, as amended.

If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes. If you have any questions, please contact Florence McCullough, M.A., RPA, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Florence.McCullough@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Based on the information submitted project impacts, the state has no objections to the subject project and, therefore, the funding award is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during any environmental permitting processes, in accordance with Section 373.428, Florida Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed plan. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me at (850) 717-9076.

Sincerely,

Chris Stahl, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2600 Blair Stone Road, M.S. 47
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
ph. (850) 717-9076 State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us <mailto:State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

NOV 22 2016

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulation (33 CFR 230.11), this letter constitutes the Notice of Availability of the Gasparilla Island Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment for Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ). The purpose of this study is to investigate the feasibility of providing coastal storm risk management within the study area of the Lee County, Florida coastline for an additional 40 years under the congressionally authorized project in which federal funding has expired.

The Tentatively Selected Plan consists of beach nourishment along approximately 2.8 miles of beach between Lee County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection reference monument R-10.5 (R-11 plus a 1,200 foot long north extending taper) and R-24.5 (R-24 plus a 600 foot long south extending taper) (**Figure A-1**). The project includes a 20 foot extension of the 1995 mean high water baseline as established by the 2000 General Reevaluation Report (USACE, 2000). The authorized fill allows for the 20-foot extension and provides additional material (~540,000 cubic yards) to offset erosive losses for seven years between nourishments. This project proposes to use sand from Gasparilla Borrow Area #2 (refer to Figure A-1), which contains material compatible with the native sand within the study area, and has a sufficient quantity for a 40-year planning horizon.

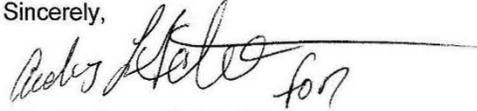
A hard copy of the Section 934 Report and Environmental Assessment is located at the Johann Fust Community Library, 1040 10th Street, West, Boca Grande, Florida 33921. Additionally, an electronic copy is available for your review at the following website. Click on Multiple Counties or Lee County, then scroll down and click on the draft Gasparilla Island 934 Report and Environmental Assessment, or Proposed Finding of No Significant Impact [FONSI]):

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsOffices/Planning/EnvironmentalBranch/EnvironmentalDocuments.aspx>

- 2 -

Please submit questions or comments on the Environmental Assessment in writing to the letterhead address above or by email (wendy.s.dauberman-zerby@usace.army.mil) within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gina Paduano Ralph", followed by a horizontal line.

Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

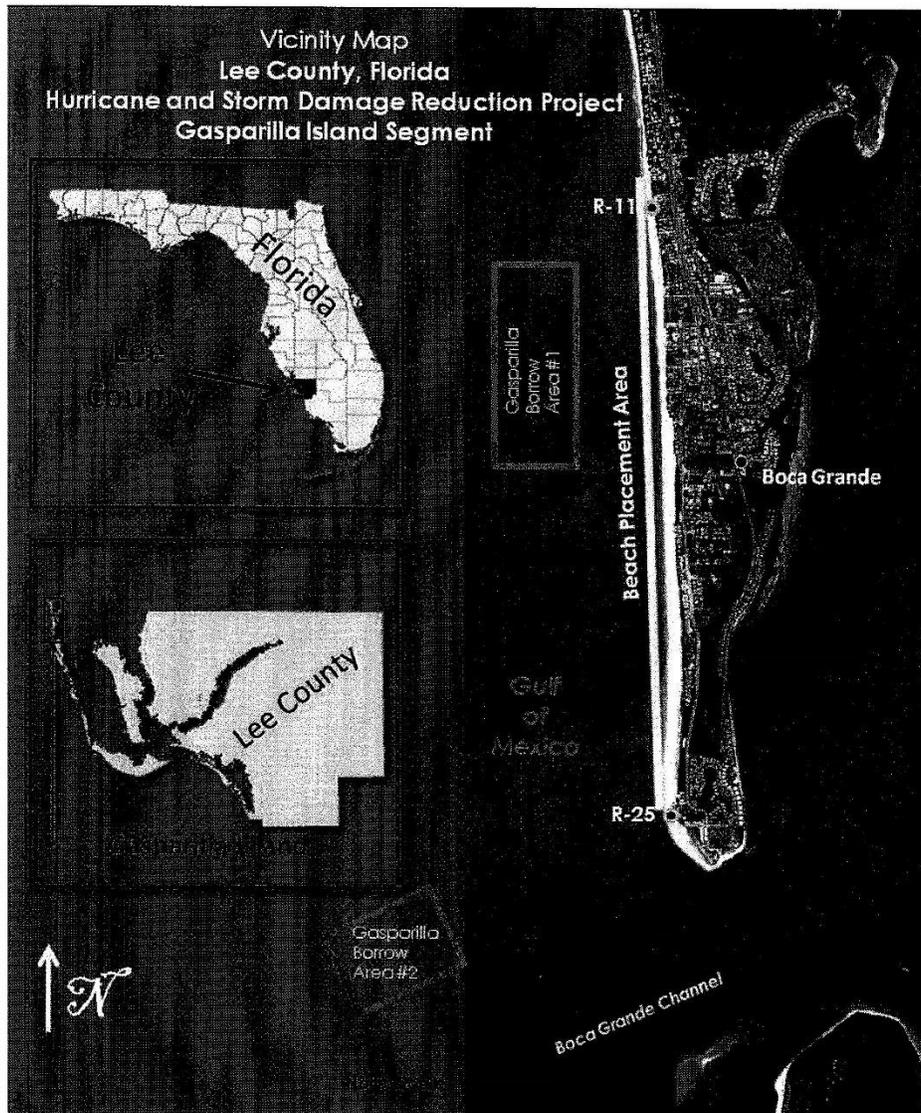


FIGURE A-1: Gasparilla Island Project Location Map



Sat 12/3/2016 10:49 AM

Jim Rose <jrose@windemuller.us>

[EXTERNAL] Florida Shore Protection Project - Gasparilla segment of the Lee County

To: Dauberman-Zerby, Wendy S CIV USARMY CESAJ (US)

 You replied to this message on 12/5/2016 7:25 AM.
We converted this message into plain text format.

Wendy,

My name is Jim Rose and I am an owner of beachfront residential property located at 570 Gulf Blvd. along the shoreline on Gasparilla Island in Lee County that benefitted from the past nourishments of the shore, and will hopefully benefit from the future nourishments.

I am writing to let you know that I have reviewed the Lee County, Florida Shore Protection project - Gasparilla Island Segment, 934 Report and Environmental Assessment.

Based on my own experience with the past nourishments of the shore, and the information contain within this comprehensive report. I am wholeheartedly in favor of an extension of Federal participation in cost sharing future nourishments of the Gasparilla segment of the Lee County, Florida Shore Protection Project.

If there is anything further that I can do to communicate my support of the extension of Federal participation in cost sharing future nourishments please provide me with your recommendations.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

September 9, 2016 F/SER46:MS/RS

Colonel Jason A. Kirk
District Commander, Jacksonville District
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
701 San Marco Boulevard
Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Dear Colonel Kirk:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division has reviewed your staff's scoping letter dated August 29, 2016, indicating your agency is beginning preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assessment for the Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) Federal Project. The Project would include the renourishment of approximately 2.8 linear miles of beach between Florida Department of Environmental Protection reference monuments 10.5 through 24.5 along the western side of Gasparilla Island in the Gulf of Mexico, Lee County, Florida.

Marine habitats in the Gulf of Mexico adjacent to the Project area include water column, vegetated and non-vegetated bottoms, and live bottoms, and are identified by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) as essential fish habitat (EFH) for postlarval, juvenile, and subadult shrimp; postlarval, juvenile, and adult red drum; postlarval, juvenile, and adult gray snapper; juvenile red and gag groupers; and juvenile and adult yellowtail and lane snappers. The area has also been designated as EFH by the NMFS for highly migratory species including bull, lemon, and bonnethead sharks. Detailed information on federally managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 2005 Generic Amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Mexico prepared by the GMFMC and in the 2009 Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan prepared by the NMFS as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Federal agencies that permit, authorize, or fund activities potentially impacting EFH are required to consult with NMFS and, as a part of the consultation process, prepare an EFH assessment. Based upon requirements in NMFS implementing regulations, an EFH assessment for the project should include:

1. an analysis of the effects (including secondary and cumulative effects) of proposed CSRМ activities on EFH, associated federally managed fisheries, and their prey within the Gulf of Mexico;
2. management actions taken to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to EFH;
3. the USACE's views regarding the effects of these activities on EFH and managed species; and,



4. proposed compensatory mitigation and adaptive management strategies, if unavoidable adverse impacts would result to EFH from the proposed activities.

The EFH consultation can be initiated independent of other project review tasks or can be incorporated in the NEPA analysis. Upon review of the EFH assessment, NMFS will determine if it is necessary to provide EFH conservation recommendations on the project.

Finally, the project area is within the known distribution limits of federally listed threatened and endangered species under the purview of NMFS. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended, it is your responsibility to review this proposal and identify actions potentially affecting endangered or threatened species, and/or their designated critical habitat. Determinations involving listed species should be reported to our Protected Resources Division at the letterhead address. If it is determined the activities may adversely affect any ESA listed species and/or their critical habitats, formal consultation must be initiated.

If you have questions regarding NMFS' review of this project, please contact Mr. Mark Sramek at the letterhead address, by telephone at (727) 824-5311, or e-mail at Mark.Sramek@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

Cc: F/SER – Silverman
F/SER3 – Brame



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AUG 29 2016

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This scoping letter is being promulgated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in compliance with public coordination requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The purpose of this correspondence is to inform the public on the status of the Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) Federal project, and to provide additional opportunity for comment.

The Gasparilla Island Project has been Congressionally authorized, however Federal participation in funding the beach nourishment has expired. A report is currently being prepared to extend this Federal participation an additional 40 years. The Gasparilla Project consists of maintaining approximately 2.8 miles of beach between Lee County, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) reference monument R-10.5 (R-11 plus a 1,200 foot long north extending taper) and R-24.5 (R-24 plus a 600 foot long south extending taper)(**Figure A-1**). The project includes a 20 foot extension of the 1995 mean high water (MHW) baseline as established by the 2000 General Reevaluation Report (GRR) (Corps, 2000). The authorized fill allows for the 20 foot extension and provides additional material (540,000 cubic yards) to offset erosive losses for seven years between renourishments.

The Corps welcomes your views and comments on the proposed Gasparilla Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Federal project. Your concerns will be appropriately considered and discussed in a draft Environmental Assessment which will update the original Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement prepared for this project. Please send your comments or inquiries to Ms. Wendy Dauberman at the letterhead address within thirty (30) days of the date of this letter. You can also send your comments to us via email at wendy.s.dauberman-zerby@usace.army.mil. Please let us also know if you would like to receive future notifications on this project. If you do not wish to receive future notices, then simply do not respond and we will remove your name from our mailing list.

Sincerely,



Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

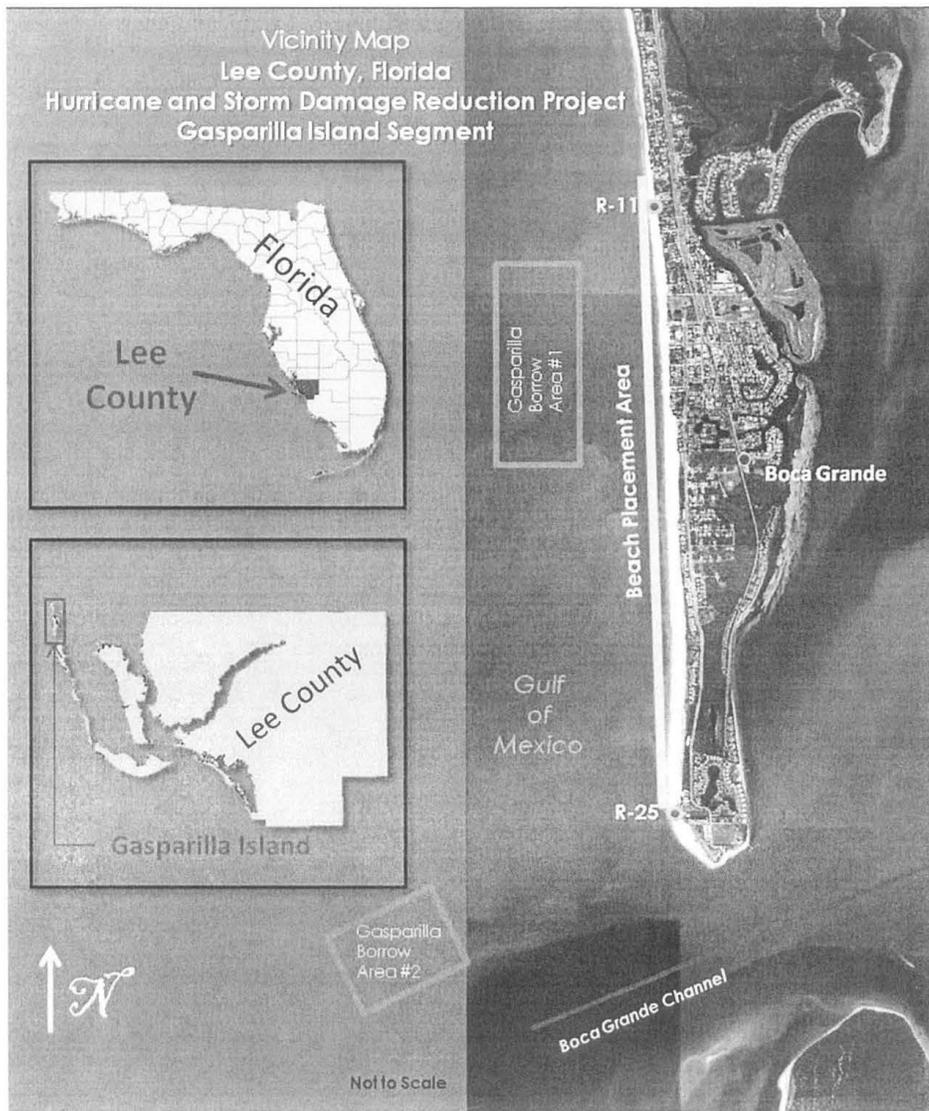


Figure A- 1. Project Site



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

AUG 25 2016

Mr. Fred Dayhoff, Tribal Representative
NAGPRA, Section 106
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
HC 61 SR 68
Ochopee, Florida 34141

Re: Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment

Dear Mr. Dayhoff:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the environmental effects associated with the previously-authorized Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management project. Gasparilla Islands is a barrier island that measures approximately 6.5 miles and is bounded on the north by Gasparilla Pass and on the south by the Boca Grande Channel. The project provides restoration and periodic nourishment of 2.8-miles of gulf shoreline extending south from 15th Street on Gasparilla Island. The project will utilize sand from the Gasparilla shoal borrow area and place the material between Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monuments R-10.5 to and R-24.5 at an average renourishment interval of 7 years (Figure 1).

As part of the previously-authorized federal project, the Corps has undertaken three cultural resources investigations of the Gasparilla shoal borrow area. The first study was conducted by Mid-Atlantic Technology and Environmental Research in 1998. The study produced a report entitled; *Cultural Resource Remote Sensing Survey of Two Borrow Areas, Lee County Shore Protection Project, Lee County Florida*. This survey identified fourteen potential targets for future consideration (DHR No. 991351). In 2000, Mid-Atlantic Technology and Environmental Research conducted diver identification and evaluation of the fourteen potentially significant targets identified in the 1998 survey. The results of this investigation are detailed in the report, *Archaeological Diver Identification for Lee County the Shore Protection project, Lee County Florida* (DHR No. 997901). Based on this report, three targets (G-1, G-2/3 and G-5) were identified as shipwrecks and target G-2/3 was recommended for avoidance. Targets G1- and G-5 were determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, upon review of this report, it was determined that an error existed between the reported location of target G-5 in the original 1998 report and the 2000 study.

An additional survey of the borrow area was performed by Dr. Coz Cozzi in 2005 under a grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources (Grant #SO553). Dr. Cozzi's study resulted in a reversal of the determination of eligibility for targets G-1 and G-5 as he recorded the sites as 8LL1602 and 8LL2033, respectively. Finally, due to the discrepancies between previous survey and the shift of eligibility status, the Corps determined that a new survey was warranted to bring the study up to date, to clarify issues on location and eligibility, and to conduct a sub-bottom analysis to determine if any relic geologic features may be present. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI), detailed this survey in the 2013 report entitled; *Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing and Diver Identification Survey of the Gasparilla Borrow Area, Lee County, Florida* (DHR No. 2013-03124). As a result of this survey, PCI identified 24 magnetic anomalies, 15 sonar contacts, and 3 sub-bottom features. An underwater diver evaluation of two potentially significant magnetic anomalies (M09 and M10), targets G-1 (8LL1602), G-2/3 (8LL1603), and the reported locations of G-5 (8LL2033) was also conducted. PCI determined that sites 8LL1602 and 8LL2033 were destroyed, site 8LL1603 was found not to be associated with a historic vessel, and the two magnetic anomalies (M09 and M10) did not consist of cultural material; therefore, these resources have been determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP. As a result of the sub-bottom analysis, PCI identified a cluster of three sub-bottom features that may represent a back-bay channel with estuarine sediments. As such, this area contains a high potential for significant cultural resources and avoidance of the feature with a 600-foot buffer was recommended. Based on this analysis of the Gasparilla Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project and contingent on maintaining a 600-foot buffer on the sub-bottom feature cluster, the Corps determined that the project posed no effect to historic properties prior to the last dredging event in 2013. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the determination in a letter to the Corps dated August 14, 2013 (DHR File No. 2013-03124).

During implementation of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment, the Corps will continue to avoid the sub-bottom feature cluster by maintaining the 600-foot buffer previously utilized during dredging. Contingent upon maintaining the buffer, the Corps maintains that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) and it's implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps kindly requests your comments on the determination of no effect. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Meredith Moreno at 904-232-1577 or e-mail at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

AUG 25 2016

Dr. Paul Backhouse, THPO
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMP 1004
Clewiston, Florida 33440

Re: Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the environmental effects associated with the previously-authorized Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management project. Gasparilla Islands is a barrier island that measures approximately 6.5 miles and is bounded on the north by Gasparilla Pass and on the south by the Boca Grande Channel. The project provides restoration and periodic nourishment of 2.8-miles of gulf shoreline extending south from 15th Street on Gasparilla Island. The project will utilize sand from the Gasparilla shoal borrow area and place the material between Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monuments R-10.5 to and R-24.5 at an average renourishment interval of 7 years (Figure 1).

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Sincerely,


Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION:CF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
701 San Marco Boulevard
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207-8175

Planning and Policy Division
Environmental Branch

Tim Parsons, Ph.D., SHPO
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

AUG 25 2016

Re: Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment

Dear Dr. Parsons:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps), is studying the environmental effects associated with the previously-authorized Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management project. Gasparilla Islands is a barrier island that measures approximately 6.5 miles and is bounded on the north by Gasparilla Pass and on the south by the Boca Grande Channel. The project provides restoration and periodic nourishment of 2.8-miles of gulf shoreline extending south from 15th Street on Gasparilla Island. The project will utilize sand from the Gasparilla shoal borrow area and place the material between Florida Department of Environmental Protection range monuments R-10.5 to and R-24.5 at an average renourishment interval of 7 years (Figure 1).

As part of the previously-authorized federal project, the Corps has undertaken three cultural resources investigations of the Gasparilla shoal borrow area. The first study was conducted by Mid-Atlantic Technology and Environmental Research in 1998. The study produced a report entitled; *Cultural Resource Remote Sensing Survey of Two Borrow Areas, Lee County Shore Protection Project, Lee County Florida*. This survey identified fourteen potential targets for future consideration (DHR No. 991351). In 2000, Mid-Atlantic Technology and Environmental Research conducted diver identification and evaluation of the fourteen potentially significant targets identified in the 1998 survey. The results of this investigation are detailed in the report, *Archaeological Diver Identification for Lee County the Shore Protection project, Lee County Florida* (DHR No. 997901). Based on this report, three targets (G-1, G-2/3 and G-5) were identified as shipwrecks and target G-2/3 was recommended for avoidance. Targets G1- and G-5 were determined to be ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP); however, upon review of this report, it was determined that an error existed between the reported location of target G-5 in the original 1998 report and the 2000 study.

An additional survey of the borrow area was performed by Dr. Coz Cozzi in 2005 under a grant from the Florida Division of Historical Resources (Grant #SO553). Dr. Cozzi's study resulted in a reversal of the determination of eligibility for targets G-1 and G-5 as he recorded the sites as 8LL1602 and 8LL2033, respectively. Finally, due to the discrepancies between previous survey and the shift of eligibility status, the Corps determined that a new survey was warranted to bring the study up to date, to clarify issues on location and eligibility, and to conduct a sub-bottom analysis to determine if any relic geologic features may be present. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI), detailed this survey in the 2013 report entitled; *Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing and Diver Identification Survey of the Gasparilla Borrow Area, Lee County, Florida* (DHR No. 2013-03124). As a result of this survey, PCI identified 24 magnetic anomalies, 15 sonar contacts, and 3 sub-bottom features. An underwater diver evaluation of two potentially significant magnetic anomalies (M09 and M10), targets G-1 (8LL1602), G-2/3 (8LL1603), and the reported locations of G-5 (8LL2033) was also conducted. PCI determined that sites 8LL1602 and 8LL2033 were destroyed, site 8LL1603 was found not to be associated with a historic vessel, and the two magnetic anomalies (M09 and M10) did not consist of cultural material; therefore, these resources have been determined ineligible for listing in the NRHP. As a result of the sub-bottom analysis, PCI identified a cluster of three sub-bottom features that may represent a back-bay channel with estuarine sediments. As such, this area contains a high potential for significant cultural resources and avoidance of the feature with a 600-foot buffer was recommended. Based on this analysis of the Gasparilla Island Coastal Storm Risk Management Project and contingent on maintaining a 600-foot buffer on the sub-bottom feature cluster, the Corps determined that the project posed no effect to historic properties prior to the last dredging event in 2013. The State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the determination in a letter to the Corps dated August 14, 2013 (DHR File No. 2013-03124).

During implementation of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment, the Corps will continue to avoid the sub-bottom feature cluster by maintaining the 600-foot buffer previously utilized during dredging. Contingent upon maintaining the buffer, the Corps maintains that the proposed undertaking will have no effect on historic properties listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC 470) and it's implementing regulations (36 CFR 800), the Corps kindly requests your comments on the determination of no effect. If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Meredith Moreno at 904-232-1577 or e-mail at Meredith.A.Moreno@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph.D.
Chief, Environmental Branch

Enclosure

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: John Gravanda <jgravanda_98@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 2:09 PM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Island Segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management

Dear Ms. Dauberman,

Thank you for your letter notifying me that federal participation in funding the Gasparilla Island Beach Nourishment Project has expired. I was very happy to learn that a report is being prepared to extend this participation. As a landowner within this replenishment area I am of course very concerned with my beach erosion for both property value and safety reasons. As you probably know hundreds of home owners, as well as several of our beautiful public beaches, will be severely effected if the replenishment program does not continue.

I strongly voice my support that federal funding of the Program is extended and would like to receive future notifications concerning this project.

Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to help assure the success of your report.

Also, if possible I would appreciate a confirmation by email of your receipt of this letter.

Sincerely,

John N. Gravanda
394 Gulf Blvd.
PO Box 464
Boca Grande, FL 33921

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: Mary Beth Kilian <kilianinsure@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2016 2:54 PM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Beach Restoration

Hello Wendy,

I am writing on behalf of our family, my parents John & Patricia Kilian located in Boca Grande, FL. Per the recent mailing we received from the Army Corps of Engineers, we would like to continue to receive updates on the project and the status of funding. We are grateful for the project to curb the erosion. It's a very special place. Thank you for your efforts.

Mary Beth Kilian

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: rcarlos976@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 9:58 PM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Island Project

Ms Gina Paduano Ralph, Ph. D

We received a letter regarding the Gasparilla Island Project and want to confirm we strongly support the project and would like to continue to receive notifications on this project.

Best regards,

Carlos Rodriguez
200 Banyan Street
Boca Grande FL

Mailing address:
29 Colts Glen Lane
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: bocadoc1017@aol.com
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 10:08 PM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Island Project

Thank you for your information and update regarding the status of the Gasparilla Island Project. My wife and I support the project. We appreciate your efforts to keep us informed. We would like to be kept informed.

Please include us in any future notices. Thank you,

George and Vicki Elmes
bocadoc1017@aol.com

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: Dod Fraser <dodfraser@mac.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 10:22 AM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Cc: Misty Nabors
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Island Project

Ms. Dauberman-Zerby,

Reference yours of August 29, 2016, re: Gasparilla Island Project.

We are owners of property on Gasparilla Island at 138 Gulf Blvd. and am writing to express strong support of the extension of Federal participation in the Gasparilla Island Project for an additional 40 years.

Thank you for your interest in the Project.

Dod and Susan Fraser
138 Gulf Blvd
PO Box 1831
Boca Grande, FL 33921

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: Mark Spurgeon <mark.spurgeon@bgre1.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 28, 2016 10:40 AM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Gasparilla Island segment of the Lee County CSRM

Dear Ms. Dauberman,

I am particularly interested in the continuation of your Department's involvement with the Gasparilla Island segment of the Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management

Federal project. The mitigation to the loss of sand into Boca Grande Pass each year being estimated at 90,000 cubic yards, (in the inlet study performed by Humiston and Moore in 1994),

is essential to provide a stable habitat for nesting sea turtles, nesting shore birds and the public's use.

Best regards,

Mark Spurgeon

Stodola, Paul E SAJ

From: State_Clearinghouse (Shared Mailbox) <State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 8:42 AM
To: Dauberman-zerby, Wendy S SAJ
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SAI# FL201609197759C

To: Wendy Dauberman

Re: Florida State Clearinghouse Project Review

Project SAI#: FL201609197759C

Date Received: 09/07/16

Project Description: USACOE - DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AS SUPPLEMENTAL TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LEE COUNTY COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT - GASPARILLA ISLAND- LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

The Florida State Clearinghouse has received the above-referenced project and has forwarded it to the appropriate state agencies for review. Please refer to the State Application Identifier (SAI) number in all correspondence with the Florida State Clearinghouse regarding this project. Applicants should expect to receive their State Clearance Letter 30-60 days from the received date. Additional information can be found at
[Blockedhttp://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/oip/state_clearinghouse/manual2.htm](http://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/oip/state_clearinghouse/manual2.htm)
<Blockedhttp://dep.state.fl.us/secretary/oip/state_clearinghouse/manual2.htm> .

Future project applications may be submitted by email to state.clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us <<mailto:state.clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>> or one copy (CD or paper) may be mailed to the Florida State Clearinghouse. For assistance or additional information, contact Chris Stahl at (850) 717-9076.

Florida State Clearinghouse

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

2600 Blair Stone Rd., MS 47

Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400

<Blocked<http://survey.dep.state.fl.us/?refemail=State.Clearinghouse@dep.state.fl.us>>

9/7/16

To: Ms WENDY DAUBERMAN

RE: GASPARILLA ISLAND PROJECT - BEACH

THANKS FOR THE UPDATE. YES, I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE PROJECT NOTIFICATIONS.

MY ONE COMMENT AS A BOCA GRANDE RESIDENT FOR ABOUT HALF OF THE YEAR, IS THAT THE NEXT TIME WE DO A BEACH RENOVATION (SP?) LEAVE THE STRUCTURES IN THE GULF ALONE. LAST TIME AT GREAT EXPENSE (I TALKED TO THE WORKERS) MOST OF THE STRUCTURES WERE PULLED OUT. THESE AREAS WERE HOME TO MANY BAIT FISH AND FAVORITE FEEDING AREAS FOR GAME FISH. THE BEACH FISHING HAS NEVER RECOVERED FROM THIS LOSS OF HABITAT.

THANKS FOR YOUR INTEREST,

Frank Koller
2179 SUNBUISE DR.
Appleton, WI 54914

1
TURTLEBACK #3 PO BOX #1904
BOCA GRANDE, FL 33921



PRESIDENT EMERITUS

September 7, 2016

Ms. Wendy Dauberman
US Army Corps of Engineers
CESAJ-PD
701 San Marco Boulevard
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

Dear Ms. Dauberman,

I am writing to support funding for beach re-nourishment. The beach restoration on Gasparilla Island has been critical to maintaining the island infrastructure as well as its use as a recreational area for residents and tourists. In 2006, the Gulf waters came to within feet of several of the houses on the west facing beaches of Gasparilla, including ours. Eventually the erosion would have destroyed those houses. At that time, if erosion didn't destroy the houses, any surge from a hurricane or even strong on-shore winds would have flooded the properties.

In addition, there was no useable public beach on much of the gulf side of the island and thus one of the main attractions for the town of Boca Grande – its white sand beaches -- had largely ceased to exist.

The re-nourishments in 2007 and again in 2014 changed all that. Suddenly the beach was extended by as much as about 100 yards in places, keeping erosion at bay and wind driven waves far enough away from residences to keep them from harm. At the same time, the beach returned as a recreational resource and with that the residents and tourists flocked to it.

As sea level rises, people have talked about all sorts of beach erosion concepts over the years, including berms, groins, jetties, seawalls and breakwaters, but the re-nourishment is the only one that has worked. Without continuing re-nourishment, the attractive island of Gasparilla and the town of Boca Grande will eventually be so seriously compromised that they will cease to be viable places to live or vacation. The very significant real-estate tax revenue from the island will diminish as land values diminish or disappear altogether.

The State of Florida and Lee County as well as the Federal government would be penny wise and pound foolish to stop this effective program. Dollars saved by not continuing the program will eventually be dollars lost in sales tax and real-estate tax revenue. And with that will go a piece of the legendary "old Florida" that so many tourists seek.

We urge you to continue this program and to renew the funding for it. Please keep us informed as you proceed.

Sincerely yours,

William and Sarah Kling
134 Gulf Blvd (P.O Box 2335)
Boca Grande, Florida
bkling@mpr.org

Donald H Christakos
174 Gulf Blvd
Boca Grande FL, 33921
315-663-4092

Wendy Dauberrman
c/o Department of Navy – Corps of Engineers
Planning and Policy Div. Environmental Branch
701 San Marco Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207-8175

Dear Ms. Dauberrman,

I am in receipt of your 8/29 letter regarding beach re-nourishment on Gasparilla Island Grande FL.

We strongly are in favor of the renewal of Federal Participation of this Beach Re-nourishment project over the next 40 years.

That beach, and the State Parks that line that beach, service thousands of Florida Residents every day and every year. Without re-nourishment, that opportunity goes away. It is critical to the human experience to get to the beach on this portion of the gulf coast.

Please keep me informed as the projects evolve.

My e-mail is sparky@gladdingbraid.com

Thank You,



Donald H. Christakos



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT of STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

August 14, 2013

Mr. Eric Summa
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 322232-0019

Re: DHR Project File No.: 2013-03124 / Received by DHR: July 22, 2013
1A-32 Permit No.: 1213.048
*Submerged Cultural Resources Remote Sensing and Diver Identification Survey of the
Gasparilla Borrow Area, Lee County, Florida*

Dear Mr. Summa:

Our office received and reviewed the above referenced report in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and *36 C.F.R., Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*, and Chapter 267 of the *Florida Statutes*, for possible adverse impact to cultural resources (any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object) listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In June 2013, Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (PCI) conducted an underwater remote sensing survey of the proposed Gasparilla borrow area on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). PCI identified twenty-four (24) magnetic anomalies, fifteen (15) side-scan sonar targets, and three subbottom features within the surveyed area during the investigation. PCI determined that two of the magnetic anomalies and one of the subbottom features have the potential to represent significant cultural resources.

PCI conducted diver investigation of the two magnetic anomalies (M09 and M10), as well as of three previously recorded archaeological sites that were identified in earlier surveys (8LL1602, 8LL1603, and 8LL2033).

PCI identified historic metal at 8LL1603, but determined that based on its thickness it does not appear to have been part of a ship hull. PCI determined that 8LL1603 is not eligible for listing in the NRHP and recommends no further investigation.

PCI found a scatter of bricks and a chainplate deadeye at the location of 8LL1602. While it appears to be the remains of an historic vessel, no articulated remains were located. PCI confirmed that site 8LL1602 has been destroyed and is not eligible for listing in the NRHP. PCI recommends no further investigation of 8LL1602.



DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES
R. A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
Telephone: 850.245.6300 • www.flheritage.com
Commemorating 500 years of Florida history www.VivaFlorida.org



Mr. Summa
August 14, 2013
Page 2

Aside from a concrete beam with rebar, PCI did not locate cultural material at site 8LL2033. PCI determined that it has been destroyed and is ineligible for listing in the NRHP. No further investigation is recommended.

PCI investigated the sources of magnetic anomalies M09 and M10 and did not find cultural resources.

PCI identified a subbottom feature that could represent a back bay channel with estuarine sediments. There is potential for deeply buried prehistoric remains to be present at the feature, but divers would not be able to positively determine if a site is present. Therefore, PCI recommends avoidance of the feature with a 600 meter radius buffer for bottom disturbance deeper than three meters.

Contingent upon avoidance of one deeply buried subbottom feature, the Corps determined that the proposed borrow area will have no effect on cultural resources listed, or eligible for listing in the NRHP, or otherwise of archaeological, historical, or architectural value. If avoidance is not possible, additional investigation will be necessary in order to test for prehistoric archaeological sites.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with these determinations. However, in order for the submitted report to be complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*, please forward Florida Master Site File archaeological site forms to update sites 8LL1602 and 8LL1603.

For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Rudy Westerman, Historic Preservationist, by email at Rudy.Westerman@DOS.MyFlorida.com, or by phone at 850.245.6333. We appreciate your continued interest in protecting Florida's historic properties.

Sincerely



Robert F. Bendus, Director
Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer

Pc: Julie Byrd, Interoffice Mail Station 8B

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

TRIBAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE
SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM
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August 25, 2013

David Hughes
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232

THPO#: 012310

Subject: Gasparilla Island Shoreline Restoration, Lee County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hughes,

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) received the Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers correspondence on July 25, 2013. The STOF-THPO has no objection to the proposed project at this time. However, the STOF-THPO would like to be informed if cultural resources that are potentially ancestral or historically relevant to the Seminole Tribe of Florida are inadvertently discovered at any time.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the information that has been sent to date regarding this project. Please reference **THPO-0012310** for any related issues.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Wasson
Compliance Review Analyst
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, Florida 33440
(863)983-6549 Ext. 12216



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICK SCOTT
Governor

KEN DETZNER
Secretary of State

Ms. Meredith A. Moreno
Jacksonville USACE
Environmental Branch
701 San Marco Blvd
Jacksonville, Florida 32207-8175

September 29, 2016

RE: DHR Project No.: 2016-03499, Received by DHR: August 29, 2016 / County: Lee
Application No.: None Provided / Applicant: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Project: Lee County Coastal Storm Risk Management Project, Gasparilla Island Segment / Re-authorization
Address: Gasparilla Island Beach Nourishment between FDEP Reference Monument R-10.5 and R-24.5

Dear Ms. Moreno:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP). The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

This undertaking was reviewed by our office in 2013 (DHR Project File No. 2013-03124 and 2013-04526). At that time we concurred with the Corps that, an identified sub-bottom feature cluster would be avoided by maintaining a 600-foot radius buffer around the cluster during ground disturbing activities. The Corps stated that, this buffer will be maintained during future activities and, therefore, the undertaking will have no effect on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing on the NRHP, or otherwise of archaeological, historical, or architectural value. Based on the continuation of the 600-foot radius buffer, we concur with the Corps determination of no effect. If avoidance is not possible, additional investigation will be necessary in order to test for cultural resources.

In regards to the remaining project area, it is the opinion of our office that the project is unlikely to affect historic properties. However, we recommend that the permit, if issued, includes the following special condition:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, *Florida Statutes*.

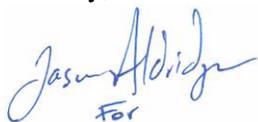
Division of Historical Resources
R.A. Gray Building • 500 South Bronough Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32399
850.245.6300 • 850.245.6436 (Fax) FLHeritage.com



Jacksonville USACE
September 29, 2016
Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact Florence McCullough, M.A., RPA, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Florence.McCullough@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6333 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,



Jason Aldridge
For

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D., RPA
Director, Division of Historical Resources
and State Historic Preservation Officer