

# APPENDIX B

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## Public and Agency Project Comments

### Final Environmental Assessment Broward County Shore Protection Project Segment II Beach Renourishment Broward County, Florida



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT

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**Table 1 Summary of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District (Corps) responses to comments received during the agency and public review and comment period of the proposed Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Dredging and Dredged Material Placement for Port Everglades Federal Navigation Project at Broward County, Florida.**

#	Commenter	Comment	Response
1	National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)	The Jacksonville District should provide the status of the mitigation reefs that were required as a component of the last nourishment.	Thank you for your comments. The last nourishment of Broward Segment 2 was conducted by Broward County. Based on correspondence with the Corps' Regulatory Division (RD) on August 7, 2020, a modification was issued in July 2020 authorizing a time extension to perform the required compensatory mitigation, which has not yet been completed. Since the previous nourishment and mitigation are separate from the Corps' civil works project, additional questions regarding the details of the relocation and/or mitigation actions should be directed to RD.
2	NMFS	The Jacksonville District should clearly specify locations (using R Monuments) where no previous nourishment has been conducted.	Section 1.1 of the Final EA has been updated with this information.
3	NMFS	The Jacksonville District should describe and depict the locations of the predicted estimated toe of fill (ETOF) and distance between the ETOF and hardbottom habitats.	This information is included in Section 4.3 of the Final EA, specifically under the heading of "Equilibrium Toe of Fill (ETOF) Analysis".
4	NMFS	The Jacksonville District should incorporate results from a benthic characterization, including coral surveys where surveys have not been previously conducted, or where existing information is more than two years old.	Section 4.4 of the Final EA has been updated to include more information on the existing and planned surveys.
5	NMFS	The Jacksonville District should update the cumulative impact section to include the impacts resulting from Port Everglades Deepening Project	The Port Everglades Deepening Project is mentioned in the EA's cumulative effects section 4.18. Because considerations of the potential effects of the deepening project are still being determined, section 4.18 of the EA reflects the best available information currently known.

#	Commenter	Comment	Response
6	NMFS	<p>The Environmental Commitments and Compliance section of the Draft EA references Executive Order 13089, regarding Coral Reef Protection. The Draft EA states "...implementation of protective measures during construction will avoid and/or minimize effects to these ecosystems." The Jacksonville District should describe the specific protective measures and locations they will be implemented to comply with the Executive Order, including measures to minimize impacts to corals, including ESA-listed corals.</p>	<p>The project compliance status for Executive Order 13089 of the Final EA has been updated to clarify that the project plans and specifications will include applicable project design criteria (PDCs) from the 2020 South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion for Dredging and Material Placement Activities in the Southeast United States (SARBO) as well as standard protection conditions and best management practices that will be described in the Contractor's Environmental Protection Plan.</p>
7	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	<p>Incidental take of marine turtles including the relocation of nests due to the proposed project must be authorized via U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinions (BO) and Incidental Take Authorization as appropriate.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. The Corps completed consultation with both USFWS and NMFS for potential effects to marine turtles and their nests. Details on the consultations may be found in Section 6 of the Final EA.</p>

#	Commenter	Comment	Response
8	FWC	<p>We concur with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers intentions to follow the terms of all federal biological opinions that apply to the proposed modifications. The FWC will coordinate with NMFS and the USFWS as those BOs are implemented and developed. The FWC will also provide recommended conditions for listed species and habitat protection to the State permitting agency during the State permitting process related to the proposed dredging.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments.</p>