

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

National Environmental Policy Act

Public Scoping Meeting

- **Poster Session 1** **1300-1330**
- **Welcome/Introduction** **1330-1340**
- **NEPA Presentation** **1340-1410**
- **Poster Session 2/Public Comment** **1410-1530**
- **Adjourn** **1530**

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



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National Environmental Policy Act

Public Scoping Meeting

- **Poster Session 1** 1730-1800
- **Welcome/Introduction** 1800-1810
- **NEPA Presentation** 1810-1840
- **Poster Session 2/Public Comment** 1840-2000
- **Adjourn** 1530

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MIAMI HARBOR NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Integrated Feasibility Study & NEPA Analysis

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MIAMI HARBOR NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT STUDY

Draft Objectives

DRAFT planning objectives for this Miami Harbor Improvement Study are to:

1. Reduce navigation transportation costs to and from Miami Harbor to the extent possible over the 50-year period of analysis, starting in 2025.
2. Reduce navigation transportation costs attributable to delays from congestion in Miami Harbor over the 50-year period of analysis, starting in 2025.
3. Reduce navigation constraints, such as variable and unpredictable crosscurrents, over the 50-year period of analysis, starting in 2025.
4. Develop an alternative that is environmentally acceptable for the period of analysis over the 50-year period of analysis, starting in 2025.



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NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA)

NEPA requires a federal agency to disclose its actions and decision making process and provides the procedure to evaluate the effects of those actions on the human environment



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NEPA

- Requires federal agencies to consider, document and disclose environmental consequences prior to making final decisions
- Requires federal agencies to cooperate with federal, state and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations and citizens.
- Provide agencies with a mechanism to coordinate overlapping, jurisdictional responsibilities
- Created the Council on Environmental Quality to advise the President on environmental matters and oversee NEPA compliance by Executive Branch agencies.



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Scoping for NEPA

An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

As part of the scoping process the lead agency shall:

- Hold scoping meeting early in the process
- Invite the participation of affected federal, state, and local agencies, any affected Indian tribe, the proponent of the action, and other interested persons
- Eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (§ 1506.3),
- Indicate the relationship between the timing of the preparation of environmental analyses and the agency's tentative planning and decision making schedule.

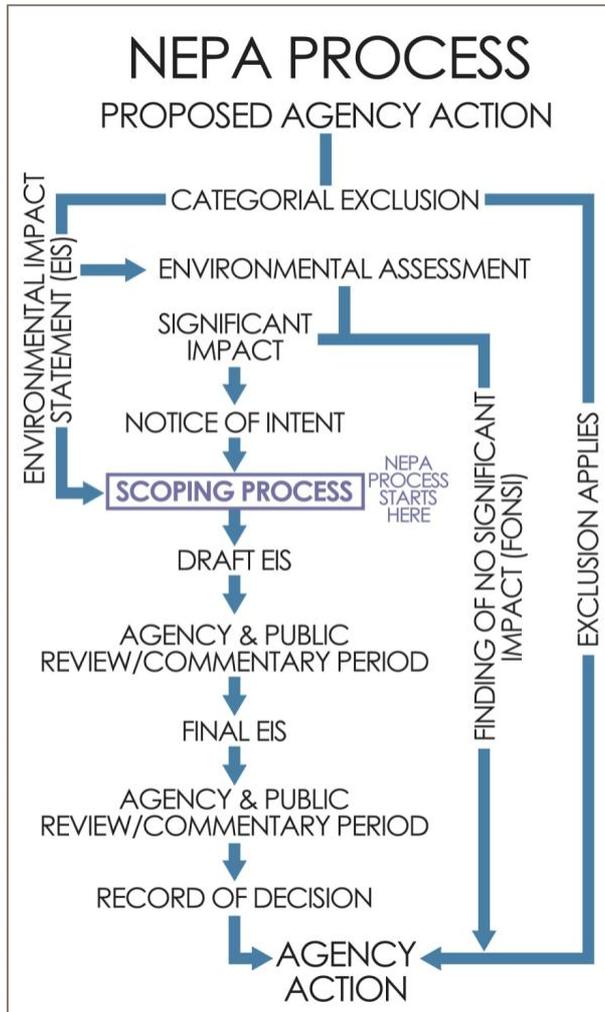


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NEPA Process and Assessments



- Prepare detailed statements addressing the potential environmental impacts related to a major Federal action:
 - Categorical Exclusion (CAT-EX)
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Based on the significance of the identified effects, either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.
- NEPA regulations define significance based on two criteria: Context and Intensity.
- The Context is the affected environment in which an action would occur (e.g., society as a whole, a particular region, or specific affected interests).



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Test for Significance (40 CFR 1508.27)

1. Beneficial and Adverse effects
2. Public Health and Safety
3. Uniqueness of Area
4. Controversy
5. Uncertain, Unique, or Unknown Risks
6. Precedent for Future Actions
7. Cumulative Impact
8. Scientific, Cultural, or Historic Resources
9. Endangered or Threatened Species
10. Threaten Violation of Federal Environmental Law



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Environmental Considerations Already Identified

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Archaeological/Cultural Resources
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Contaminants
- Navigation
- Noise
- Recreation
- Benthic Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Turbidity
- Sedimentation
- Blasting
- Wetlands
- Wildlife Resources

THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES



HARDGROUNDS

Blasting



OCEAN DREDGED
MATERIAL DISPOSAL SITE



WILDLIFE RESOURCES



Are there more?



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New Planning Process

- 3x3x3 Planning Process – No more than 3 years, 3 million dollars, and efficient/effective coordination among 3 levels U.S. Army Corps of Engineers governance
- Process and outputs are decision focused, and within the 6 step planning process
- Risk and uncertainty for each decision is acknowledged and appropriate level of details is managed
- Report developed from the beginning of the study, documenting the decisions



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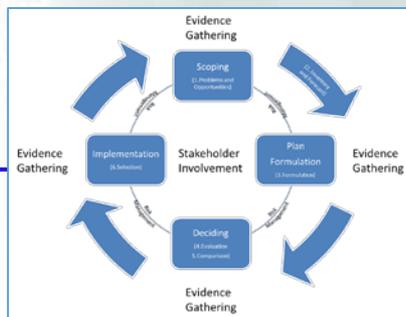


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Integrated NEPA and Planning Document and Process

Six-Step Planning

- Step 1 - Problems and Opportunities; Objectives and constraints
- Step 2 – Forecast Existing and Future Conditions
- Step 3 – Develop Alternatives
- Step 4 – Evaluate Plans
- Step 5 – Compare Plans
- Step 6 – Select Plan



NEPA Assessment

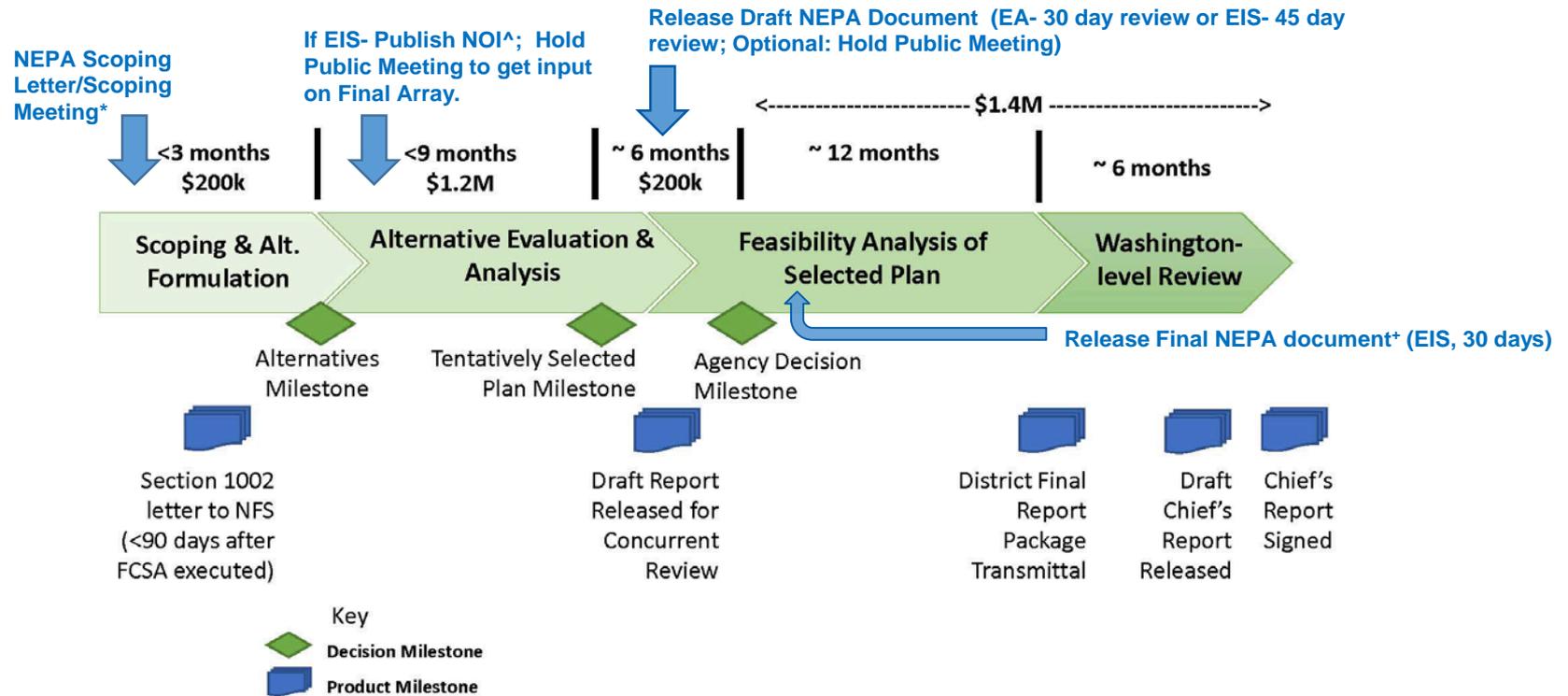
- Purpose and Need
- Affected Environment, No Action Alternative
- Range of Alternatives
- Environmental Effects
- Conclusions – Consultation and Coordination



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THE FEASIBILITY STUDY PROCESS: KEY DECISION & PRODUCT MILESTONES IN A 3-YEAR, \$3M STUDY (3X3)



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Public Engagement/NEPA Timeline

- Timeline < 3 Months from Study Initiation
 - NEPA Scoping Letter Response & Scoping Meeting
- Timeline 3-12 Months from Study Initiation
 - If EIS – Publish Notice of Intent – Starts 2 year clock (EO 13807)
 - Hold Public Meeting to get input on Final Alternatives Array
- Timeline ~ 18 Months from Study Initiation
 - Release Draft NEPA Document for Public Review
 - EA - 30 days
 - EIS – 45 days.
 - Potential Public Meeting
- Timeline 24-30 Months from Study Initiation
 - Release Final NEPA Document (EIS, 30 days)



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Public Engagement

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Provide knowledge and expertise on any aspect of the new Miami Harbor improvements study. Your contribution will be considered.
- Provide scientific data on resources, maps, charts, location of resources potentially not currently known. We need to evaluate the best available information in our decision making process.
- Provide verbal or written comments during today's scoping meeting or during the public scoping period.
- Review the Draft Integrated document at the USACE, Jacksonville District website when released for public review.
- Provide comments and concerns for items addressed and not addressed in the report



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Environmental Contacts

For Additional Information, Contact:

MAIL: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019
ATTN: Laurel Reichold, Project Manager
EMAIL: Laurel.P.Reichold@usace.army.mil

For Current Comment Period, Contact:

MAIL: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019
ATTN: Terri Jordan-Sellers., Biologist
EMAIL: cesaj-MiamiHarbor@usace.army.mil



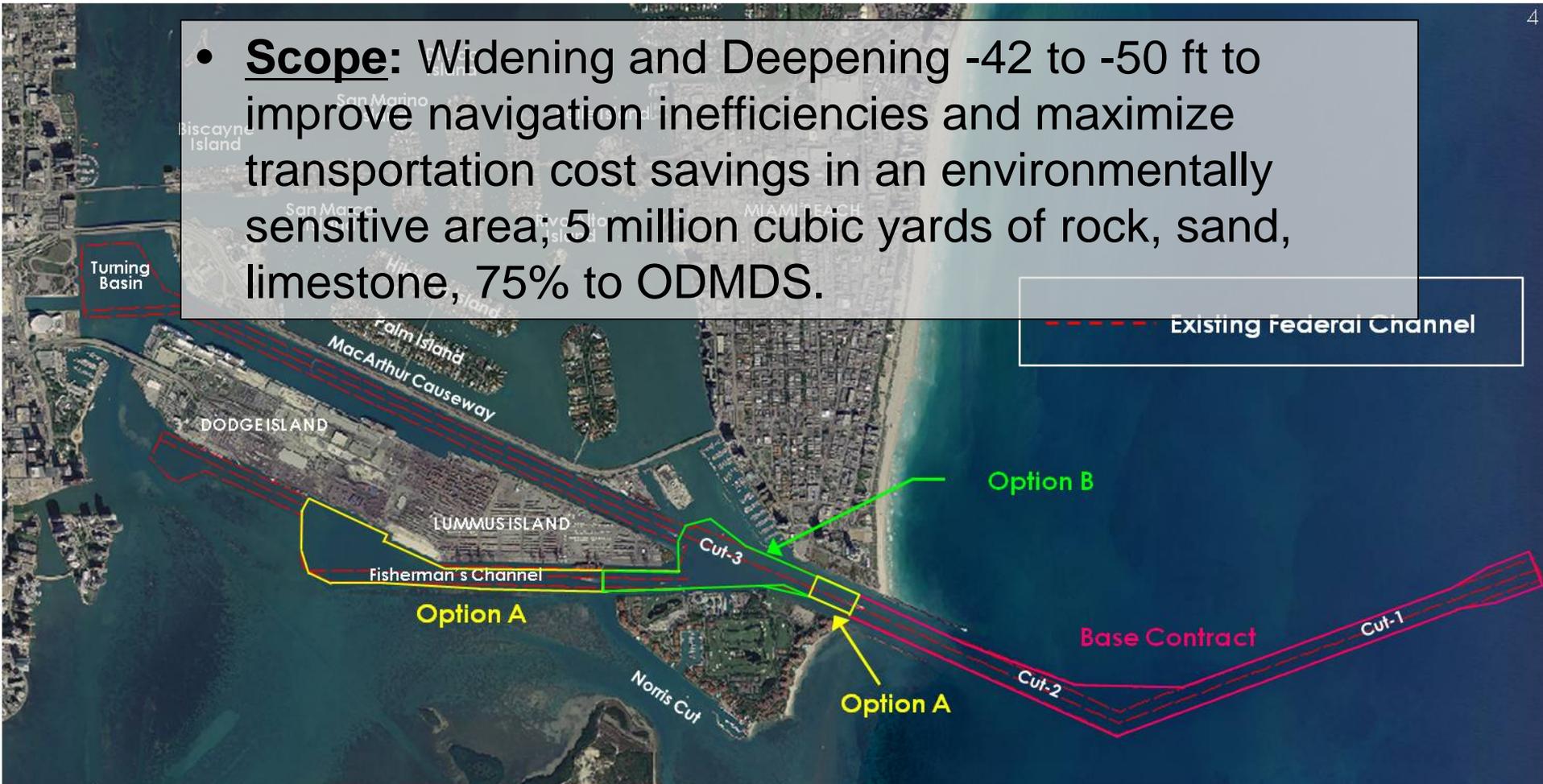
**END OF SCOPING COMMENT PERIOD:
November 26, 2018**



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- **Scope:** Widening and Deepening -42 to -50 ft to improve navigation inefficiencies and maximize transportation cost savings in an environmentally sensitive area; 5 million cubic yards of rock, sand, limestone, 75% to ODMDS.



Base Contract

Widen seaward portion of Cut-1 from 500 to 800 feet; deepen Cut-1 and Cut-2 from 44 to 52 feet; reef and seagrass mitigation area construction.

Option A

Cut 3 station 0 to Cut 3 station 12 and Fisherman's Channel Station 17 to Lummus Island Turning Basin end; deepen from 42 to 50 feet

Option B

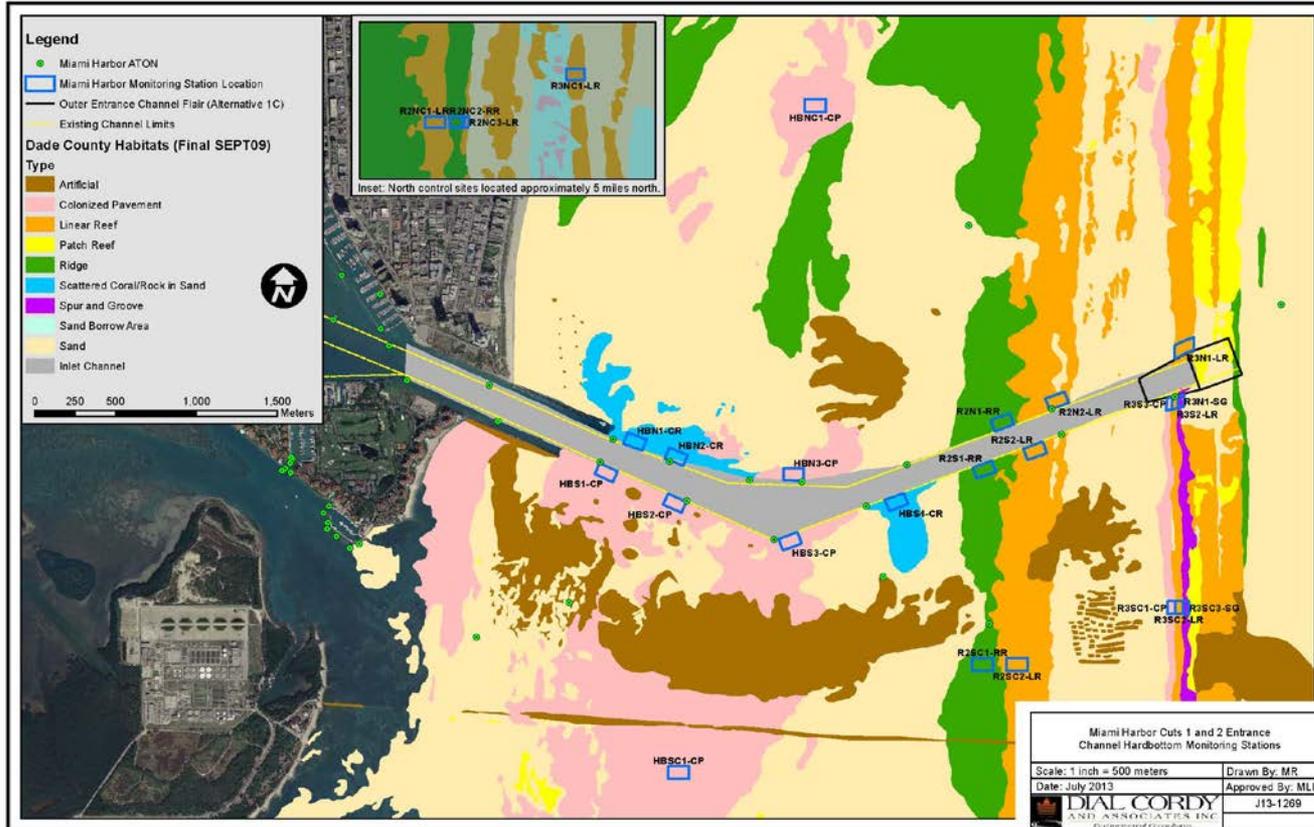
Cut 3 station 12 to Fisherman's Channel station 17; Local sponsor berthing areas F.C. station 8 to 17; deepen from 42 to 50 feet



Project Footprint



BUILDING STRONG



- Relic Reef Tracts Offshore of Florida Beaches
- Port originally dredged in 1902, with improvements in 1925, 1940s and 1990s.
- 2013-2015 Deepening and Widening Project

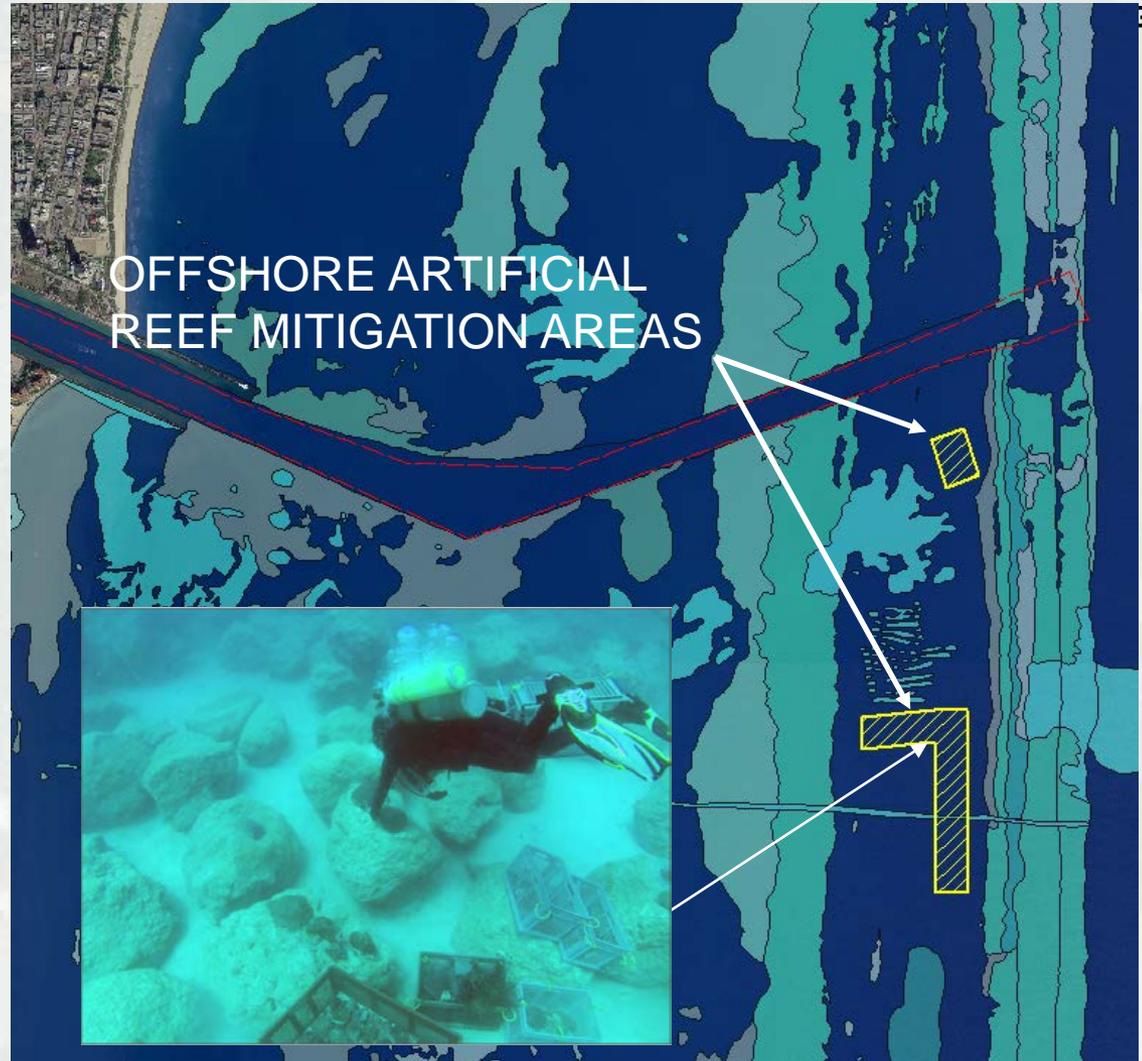


U.S. ARMY

Constructed Mitigation (Artificial Reef Mitigation Areas)



- 5.98 Acres of Low Relief (<3 feet) Constructed
- 5.62 Acres of High Relief (>3 feet) Constructed
- Constructed using min 3'x3' limerock boulders to prevent lift or movement once placed
- 900+ corals relocated





Constructed Mitigation

(Julia Tuttle Seagrass Mitigation Area)



BUILDING STRONG

- Location is a previous dredge material borrow site for causeway construction (pre 1925)
- Combination of dredge material with select fill cap
- Turbidity curtains used during all placement operations
- 16.99 Acres constructed
- 7.15 Acres planted (10,000 planting Units)





Equipment Utilized



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Trusted Partners Delivering Value, Today and Tomorrow



What Happened?



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- During construction of the project, construction resulted in sedimentation being observed in areas adjacent of the channel.
- FDEP and NMFS are still evaluating benthic data collected pre, during, and post construction to evaluate project-related impacts.
- Reporting of monitoring data (to agencies & public) was too slow – more efficiency is needed
- Contractual limitations led to slow response times

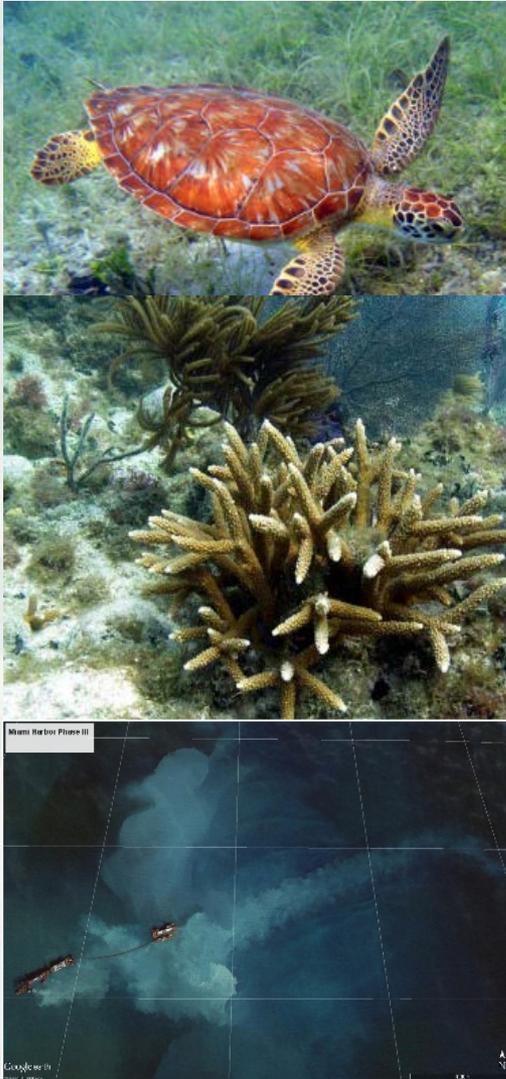




What did we Learn?



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- Dredging may result in sedimentation, but the effects can be minimized.
- Upfront mitigation for indirect impacts out-competes post project impact assessments.
- Transparency with Agencies/Public builds confidence and limits misinformation.
- Communication Strategy and Adaptive Management Plans are vital to project success.
- Dictating construction means and methods may be appropriate in certain environments.
- Ensuring construction contract specifications enable quick response.

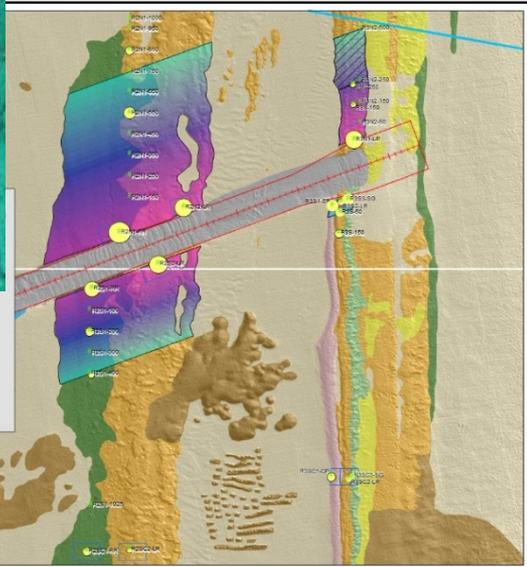


Application to Future Projects

Sedimentation



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- Assessment of Geotechnical Conditions
- Construction means/methods evaluated (overflow, disposal, etc.)
- Sediment Transport pathways
- Up front mitigation for indirect impacts



Lessons Learned In Summary



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- Develop a clear strategy and contractual constraints (as needed) for minimizing sedimentation in sensitive environments.
- Up front collaboration on monitoring and assessment methods in addition to upfront mitigation of anticipated indirect impacts will vastly aid in managing expectations.
- Transparency in operation and an improved communication strategy will help information and messaging interface (media, public, and agencies).
- We can formulate steps to assure tighter control and management of the construction contract.



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Please provide comments to:
cesaj-miamiharbor@usace.army.mil

End

Two Minute Timer