

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1002 WEST 23RD STREET, SUITE 350 PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32405

June 17, 2015

Regulatory Division North Permits Branch Panama City Permits Section SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)

City of Mexico Beach C/o Mr. Mell Smigielski Post Office Box 13425 Mexico Beach, Florida 32410

Dear Mr. Smigielski:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is pleased to enclose the Department of the Army permit, which should be available at the construction site. Work may begin immediately but the Corps must be notified of:

- a. The date of commencement of the work,
- b. The dates of work suspensions and resumptions of work, if suspended over a week, and
 - c. The date of final completion.

This information should be mailed to the Special Projects and Enforcement Branch of the Regulatory Division of the Jacksonville District at 41 North Jefferson St., Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502 or by email at CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil. The Special Projects and Enforcement Branch is also responsible for inspections to determine whether Permittees have strictly adhered to permit conditions.

IT IS NOT LAWFUL TO DEVIATE FROM THE APPROVED PLANS ENCLOSED.

Sincerely,

For Donald W. Kinard Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Electronic Copies Furnished:

Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc. C/o Mr. Clayton Studstill

Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association, Inc. 501(c)(3) C/o Mr. Bob Cox

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Chart Division Office of Coast Survey, N/CS26, Sta. 7317

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) U.S. Coast Guard, Seventh District Brickell Plaza Federal Building 909 SE 1st Avenue Miami, Florida 33131-3050

Florida Department of Environmental Protection C/o Elizabeth Orr

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Artificial Reef Program

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee:

City of Mexico Beach C/o Mr. Mell Smigielski Post Office Box 13425 Mexico Beach, Florida 32410

Permit No: SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)

Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Jacksonville

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, means the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer.

You are authorized to perform work in accordance with the terms and conditions specified below.

<u>Project Description</u>: The Permittee is authorized to create two new artificial reef areas in the Gulf of Mexico known as the Sherman Site and Crooked Island Site. The Sherman Artificial Reef will have an overall area of 2,075 acres. The Crooked Island Artificial Reef will have an overall area of 2,305 acres. A trawl passage 1 nautical mile in width will separate the two reef sites.

The existing Car Body Reef site is 2,208 acres. This permit action reauthorizes the use of the Car Body Reef Site to allow the Permittee to continue deploying reef structures until the area reaches full capacity. All previous conditions will be superseded by the following conditions within this permit.

The proposed project will include deploying prefabricated materials (fabricated concrete, steel greater than ¼" thickness, and other authorized materials), vessels of opportunity or other common and clean reef materials lasting 50 years or more. The material shall be placed so that the top of the reef does not exceed ½ the distance from the bottom to the surface of the water unless a greater distance is required for safe navigation. Materials will be transported by barge. Materials will be deployed in 'patch reefs', placed at 0.25 square nautical mile intervals throughout the permitted area. The Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association (MBARA) will conduct pre- and post-deployment surveys to ensure proper deployment and to ensure that there is no live bottom or resources present.

PERMITTEE: City of Mexico Beach – Car Body, Sherman, and Crooked Island Reefs

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The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the following drawings and attachments affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

<u>Depth, Profile, & Clearance</u>: The approximate depth of water within the site varies from a depth of -45 feet to -80 feet relative to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) depending on the location. The minimum previously authorized clearance, as depicted on current navigational charts, is 20 feet from the top of the reef profile relative to MLLW. All new deployments within the Sherman site will have no less than 50-foot clearance from the top of the reef to the MLLW, while the Crooked Island Site will have no less than 40-foot clearance from the top of the reef to the MLLW.

<u>Project Location</u>: The proposed project site is located in the Gulf of Mexico, northwest of the Cap San Blas peninsula in Gulf County approximately 11.7 nautical miles (nm) and due south of Tyndall Air Force Base in Bay County approximately 6.6 nm.

Approximate Coordinates:

Sherman Site	Latitude	Longitude
Proposed Reef	(DD)	(DD)
Corner Coordinates	(North)	(West)
Northwest Corner:	29.925333°	85.683333°
Southwest Corner:	29.911667°	85.683333°
Northeast Corner:	29.925333°	85.626000°
Southeast Corner:	29.911667°	85.626000°

Crooked Island Site Proposed Reef Corner Coordinates	Latitude (DD) (North)	Longitude (DD) (West)
Northwest Corner:	29.925333°	85.607667°
Southwest Corner:	29.911667°	85.607667°
Northeast Corner:	29.925333°	85.542917°
Southeast Corner:	29.911667°	85.545017°

Carbody Site Existing Reef Corner Coordinates	Latitude (DD) (North)	Longitude (DD) (West)
Northwest Corner:	29.925333°	85.542917°
Northeast Corner:	29.898750°	85.510417°
Southeast Corner:	29.888767°	85.524317°

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Southwest Corner: 29.885417° 85.549233°

Permit Conditions

General Conditions:

- 1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on 17 June 2020 . If you find that you need more time to complete the authorized activity, submit your request for a time extension to this office for consideration at least one month before the above date is reached.
- 2. You must maintain the activity authorized by this permit in good condition and in conformance with the terms and conditions of this permit. You are not relieved of this requirement if you abandon the permitted activity, although you may make a good faith transfer to a third party in compliance with General Condition 4 below. Should you wish to cease to maintain the authorized activity or should you desire to abandon it without a good faith transfer, you must obtain a modification of this permit from this office, which may require restoration of the area.
- 3. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
- 4. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature and the mailing address of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
- 5. If a conditioned water quality certification has been issued for your project, you must comply with the conditions specified in the certification as special conditions to this permit. For your convenience, a copy of the certification is attached if it contains such conditions.
- 6. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

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Special Conditions:

1.Reporting Addresses: The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML), on all correspondence. Unless specifically notified to the contrary, the Permittee shall use the following addresses for transmitting correspondence to the referenced agencies:

- a. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: 41 North Jefferson St., Suite 301, Pensacola, FL 32502 or by email at CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil
 - b. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Chart Division
 Office of Coast Survey, N/CS26, Sta. 7317
 1315 East-West Highway
 Silver Springs, MD 20910-3282
 or email at ocs.ndb@noaa.gov
 - c. Commander, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
 U.S. Coast Guard, Seventh District
 C/o Rear Admiral John H Korn, Commander
 Brickell Plaza Federal Building
 909 SE 1st Avenue
 Miami, Florida 33131-3050
 - d. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Artificial Reef Program
 620 S. Meridian Street, Box 4B2
 Tallahassee, Florida 32399
 Or email at artificialreefdeployments@MyFWC.com
- **2.Initial Agency Notification:** The Permittee shall provide to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) written notification of the planned deployment start date at least 2 weeks prior to the initial deployment on the authorized artificial reef site.
- **3. Authorized Reef Materials:** No reef materials or module will weigh less than 500 pounds. Reef materials shall be clean and free from asphalt, petroleum, other hydrocarbons and toxic residues, loose free floating material or other deleterious substances. All artificial reef materials and/or structures will be selected, designed, constructed, and deployed to create stable and durable marine habitat. The Permittee shall deploy only the following authorized reef materials:

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a. Prefabricated artificial reef modules composed of ferrous and/or aluminum-alloy metals, ¼ inch or more in thickness, concrete, rock, or a combination of these materials.

- b. Natural rock boulders and other pre-cast concrete material such as culverts, stormwater junction boxes, power poles, railroad ties, jersey barriers, or other similar concrete material.
- c. Clean steel and concrete bridge or large building demolition materials such as slabs or pilings with all steel reinforcement rods severed as close to the concrete surface as possible but not to extend more than 6 inches to ensure the rod will not create a fishing tackle or diver ensnaring hazard.
- d. Heavy gauge ferrous & aluminum alloy metal material components or structures, ¼ inch or more in thickness, such as utility poles and antenna towers.
- e. Heavy gauge ferrous and aluminum alloy metal hulled vessels which equal or exceed 60 feet hull length prepared and deployed in accordance with all applicable U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, or other applicable state or federal agency regulations or policies. The vessel shall not be deployed until all necessary inspections and clearances have been obtained or waived and a stability analysis has been completed demonstrating the vessel will be stable during a 50-year storm event based on vessel and deployment site characteristics. The Permittee shall follow the National guidance regarding preparation of vessels for deployment as artificial reefs which are available at

http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/habitat/artificialreefs/index.html.

The Permittee shall provide a record of all inspections, clearances or waivers to the Corps along with the pre-deployment notification.

- **4.Reef Parameters:** The Permittee shall deploy all reef materials within the site boundaries as defined on the attached permit drawings. A minimum clearance of 40 feet from the top of the deployed material relative to MLLW shall be maintained for the Crooked Island Site. A minimum clearance of 50 feet from the top of the deployed material relative to MLLW shall be maintained for the Sherman Site.
- **5. Violation of Reef Parameters Notification:** In the event reef material is deployed in a location or manner contrary to the Reef Parameters Special Condition, the Permittee shall immediately notify the USCG Station and provide information as

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requested by the station. The Permittee shall notify NOAA, USCG and Corps in writing within 24 hours of the occurrence. At a minimum the written notification shall explain how the deployed material exceeds the authorized reef parameters, a description of the material, a description of the vessel traffic in the area, the deployment location in nautical miles at compass bearing from obvious landmarks, the location of the unauthorized material in latitude and longitude coordinates (degree, minute, decimal minute format to the third decimal place), and the water depth above the material from MLW. The document will list the information provided by telephone to the USCG as noted above and include the time of the call and the name of the USCG personnel receiving the information.

6.Protection of Existing Resources: The Permittee shall not deploy artificial reef materials until an assessment of the bottom conditions have been accomplished by diver, submersible video camera, fathometer, depth/bottom sounder (e.g. "fish finder"), or side-scan sonar. The inspection of the deployment area may occur at the time of deployment, but no more than 1 year prior to deployment. The Permittee shall maintain a deployment buffer of at least 200 feet from any submerged beds of sea grasses, coral reefs, live bottom, areas supporting growth of sponges, sea fans, soft corals, and other sessile macroinvertebrates generally associated with rock outcrops, oyster reefs, scallop beds, clam beds, or areas where there are unique or unusual concentrations of bottom-dwelling marine organisms. Should the assessment find any evidence of cultural/archaeological resources such as sunken vessels, ballast, historic refuse piles, or careenage areas, the Permittee shall also maintain a deployment buffer of at least 200 feet from these resources.

The Permittee shall provide the information obtained from the assessment to the Corps no less than 14 days prior to deployment of material on an artificial reef in conjunction with the pre-deployment notification.

7.Pre-Deployment Notification: No less than 14 days prior to deployment of material on an artificial reef, the Permittee shall transmit by electronic mail ("email") a complete and signed "Florida Artificial Reef Materials Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Notification" form (attached) to the Corps and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to allow inspection of the proposed reef materials as deemed necessary by the agencies. Inspection is allowable at the staging area. By signing the Pre-Deployment Notification the Permittee certifies all materials are free from asphalt, petroleum, other hydrocarbons and toxic residues. The Permittee shall not deploy material if notified by the Corps or FWC that the material is questionable. The material needs to be evaluated before it is released for deployment. Any material deemed unacceptable for reef material will be disposed in an approved upland disposal site.

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Deployment of the material shall not occur until after the end of the 14-day inspection period. The Permittee shall ensure both a copy of this permit and the signed "Florida Artificial Reef Materials Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Notification" form are maintained aboard the deployment vessel at all times during loading, transit, and deployment.

- **8.Post-Deployment Placement Report/As-Built Drawing:** No less than 30 days after deployment at the reef site, the Permittee shall transmit by email to the Corps, FWC, and NOAA a complete and signed "Florida Artificial Reef Materials Placement Report and Post-Deployment Notification" form (attached). Please note, the Corps requires the latitude and longitude to be accurate within 5 meters horizontal distance on the post-deployment report. Attach to the report an as-built drawing containing the approximate deployment configurations and the height of the material after placement. Depth shall be verified utilizing fathometer, depth sounder, or similar device accurate to within 1 meter. Also, include information on the condition of the material at the time of deployment. The report and drawing shall be limited to a few pages per deployment. Representative photographs and/or video, if available, should be submitted.
- **9.Ownership/Maintenance/Liability**: By signing this permit, the Permittee certifies and acknowledges ownership of all artificial reef materials deployed on the reef, accepts responsibility for maintenance of the artificial reef, and possesses the ability to assume liability for all damages that may arise with respect to the artificial reef.
- **10. Assurance of Navigation and Maintenance:** The Permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structures or work herein authorized, or if in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the Permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.
- 11. Sea Turtle/Sawfish/Sturgeon Guidelines: The Permittee shall comply with the National Marine Fisheries Service's "Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions", which also applies to sturgeon (attached).
- 12. Manatee Protection: The Permittee shall ensure wharf fenders are installed to reduce the risk of a vessel crushing a manatee. The wharf fenders shall be installed with appropriate materials to provide sufficient standoff space of at least 3 feet under

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compression. Fenders or buoys providing a minimum standoff space of at least 3 feet under compression shall be utilized between two vessels moored together.

- 13. Marine Life Entrapment: Neither reef structure nor material or the method of design or deployment should pose more than minimal risk of entrapping fish, marine turtles, or marine mammals. The Permittee shall take all necessary action to minimize this risk. Any observation of entrapped marine turtles or marine mammals on this artificial reef site should be reported immediately to the Enforcement Section by telephone at 352-372-9625 and the National Marine Fisheries Service by telephone at 727-824-5301.
- **14. Protected Species Guidance:** The Permittee shall comply with the "Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Injured or Dead Protected Species Reporting" (attached), for marine turtles and marine mammals.
- **15. Explosives:** The use of explosive devices to sink any proposed artificial reef material which includes vessels, is prohibited from use by this permit. In order to use explosives, this permit must be modified and recoordinated with the appropriate agencies.

16. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:

- a. No structure or work shall adversely affect impact or disturb properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or those eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.
- b. If during the ground disturbing activities and construction work within the permit area, there are archaeological/cultural materials encountered which were not the subject of a previous cultural resources assessment survey (and which shall include, but not be limited to: pottery, modified shell, flora, fauna, human remains, ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, evidence of structures or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement), the Permittee shall immediately stop all work and ground-disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the discovery and notify the Corps within the same business day (8 hours). The Corps shall then notify the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the appropriate Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO(s)) to assess the significance of the discovery and devise appropriate actions.
- c. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance

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with the above Special Condition; and if deemed necessary by the SHPO, THPO(s), or Corps, in accordance with 36 CFR 800 or 33 CFR 325, Appendix C (5). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume on non-federal lands without written authorization from the SHPO for finds under his or her jurisdiction, and from the Corps.

d. In the unlikely event that unmarked human remains are identified on non-federal lands, they will be treated in accordance with Section 872.05 Florida Statutes. All work and ground disturbing activities within a 100-meter diameter of the unmarked human remains shall immediately cease and the Permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Corps, and State Archeologist within the same business day (8-hours). The Corps shall then notify the appropriate SHPO and THPO(s). Based, on the circumstances of the discovery, equity to all parties, and considerations of the public interest, the Corps may modify, suspend or revoke the permit in accordance with 33 CFR Part 325.7. Such activity shall not resume without written authorization from the State Archeologist and from the Corps.

Further Information:

- 1. Congressional Authorities: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described above pursuant to:
 - (X) Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403)
 - (X) Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)
- () Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1413)
 - 2. Limits of this authorization.
- a. This permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State, or local authorizations required by law.
 - b. This permit does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
 - c. This permit does not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

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d. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal projects.

- 3. Limits of Federal Liability. In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:
- a. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.
- b. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.
- c. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.
 - d. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.
- e. Damage claims associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.
- 4. Reliance on Applicant's Data: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.
- 5. Reevaluation of Permit Decision: This office may reevaluate its decision on this permit at any time the circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a reevaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.
- b. The information provided by you in support of your permit application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate (see 4 above).
- c. Significant new information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a reevaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in 33 CFR 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in 33 CFR 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of

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legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may in certain situations (such as those specified in 33 CFR 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

6. Extensions: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a reevaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit.

Your signature below, as permittee, indicates that you accept and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

Mel Imgielski (PERMITTEE)	6-17-15 (DATE)
Mell Smigielski (PERMITTEE NAME-PRINTED)	

This permit becomes effective when the Federal official, designated to act for the Secretary of the Army, has signed below.

(DISTRICT ENGINEER) (DATE)

For Alan M. Dodd,
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

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When the structures or work authorized by this permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

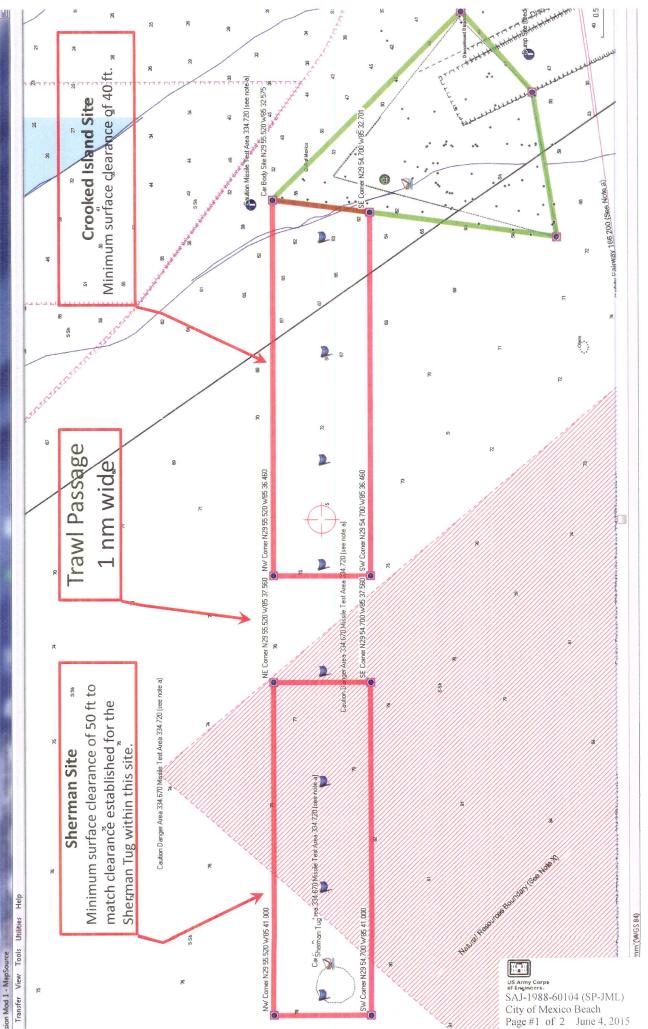
(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)	(DATE)
,	•
41115 DDIVITED	
(NAME-PRINTED)	
(ADDRESS)	
(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)	

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Attachments to Department of the Army Permit Number SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)

- 1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: 2 pages, dated June 4, 2015.
- 2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 2 of this DA permit. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) permit file number 03-0322337-001-EI (9 Pages, double sided) and 03-0294635-002-DG (8 Pages, double sided).
- 3. FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS CARGO MANIFEST AND PRE-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FORM: 2 Pages
- 4. FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS PLACEMENT REPORT AND POST DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION FORM: 2 Pages
- 5. MANATEE CONDITIONS: 2 pages, Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work 2011
- 6. SEA TURTLE SAWFISH CONDITIONS: 1 page, Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions, revised March 23, 2006
- 7. VESSEL STRIKE AVOIDANCE MEASURES AND REPORTING FOR MARINERS: 2 pages, NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Region revised February 2008.



Sherman and Crooked Island Sites

Provides Net Trawl Passage between the Sherman and Crooked Island Sites

CONCRETE MATERIALS 45, PYRAMID REEF ,04 FAX (850) 653-9656 garlick@garlickenv.com 000 ÿ ASSOCIATES, 2013 23, <u>,</u> DATE: October JOB: 10-081 SHEET: 1/1 OTHER: COE: DEP: ENVIRONMENTAL (850) 653-8899 BAY COUNTY/CITY OF MEXICO BEACH 56, WATER SURFACE , 0 P. O. BOX 385, APALACHICOLA FLORIDA 32329-0385 GARLICK CITY OF MEXICO BEACH RNG: . 20 1 WATERBODY/CLASS: GULF OF MEXICO PROJECT LOCATION / USGS: .. ص PURPOSE: ARTIFICIAL REEF TWNSHP: APPLICANT/CLIENT: CROSS SECTION 00, REEF AREA NOT TO SCALE OF PROPOSED LB No. 7415 LONGITUDE: LATITUDE: 67, SECTION:

600

BALL REEF CONCRETE MATERIALS

to the surface of the water, unless a greater distance is required for safe navigation. At no time shall the distance between the top of the reef and the surface of the water be less The material shall be placed so that the top of the reef does not exceed 1/2 the distance from the bottom

US Army Corps of Engineers, SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)
City of Mexico Beach Page #2 of 2 June 4, 2015 Permit Drawings Attachment #1



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

470 HARRISON AVENUE PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32401 RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR

CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA LT. GOVERNOR

> HERSCHELT, VINYARD JR. SECRETARY

March 27, 2014

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL:

c.hubbard@mexicobeachgov.com

City of Mexico Beach Mr. Chris Hubbard, City Manager 118 North 14th Street Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Project Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

Bay County

Dear Mr. Hubbard:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your notice on March 21, 2014 of intent to use a General Permit (GP), pursuant to Rule 62-330.600, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) to construct an artificial reef within the Gulf of Mexico, a Class III Florida waterbody. The center location of the artificial reef is located at Latitude 29° 53.918' N, Longitude 85° 31.963' W, Bay County.

In addition to regulatory authorization under Rule 62-330.600, F.A.C., this type of activity may also require both proprietary and federal authorizations. Proprietary authorization is required pursuant to Chapters 253 and 258, Florida Statute (F.S.), to use state-owned submerged lands for private purposes. Federal authorization is needed for works in waters of the United States through the State Programmatic General Permit (SPGP) program.

Your intent to use a general permit has been reviewed by Department staff for all three types of authorizations: (1) regulatory authorization, (2) proprietary authorization (related to state-owned submerged lands), and (3) federal authorization. The authority for review and the outcomes of the reviews are listed below. Please read each section carefully.

Your project may not have qualified for all three forms of authorization. If your project did not qualify for one or more of the authorizations, the specific section dealing with that authorization will advise you on how to obtain it. You may NOT commence your project without all three authorizations. If you change the project from what you submitted, the authorization(s) granted may no longer be valid at the time of commencement of the project. Please contact us prior to beginning your project if you wish to make any changes.

www.dep.state.fl.us-

Us Army Corps
of Engineers
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City of Mexico Beach
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Water Quality Certification (03-0294635-002-DG)
Attachment #2

If you change the project from what you submitted, the authorization(s) granted may no longer be valid at the time of commencement of the project. Please contact us prior to beginning your project if you wish to make any changes.

Please note: This letter confirms that your proposed project qualifies for the General Permit identified herein, but does not constitute the Department's determination of the wetland boundary depicted in the attached drawings of the property.

1. Regulatory Review - Approved

Based on the forms, drawings, and documents submitted with your notice, it appears that the project meets the requirements for the General Permit under Rule 62-330.600, F.A.C. Any activities performed under a general permit are subject to general conditions required in Rule 62-330.405, F.A.C. (attached), and the specific conditions of Rule 62-330.600, F.A.C. (attached). Any deviations from these conditions may subject the permittee to enforcement action and possible penalties.

Please be advised that the construction phase of the GP must be complete within five years commencing from the date notice is received by the Agency, or the date the Agency verifies compliance with the terms and conditions of the general permit in accordance with Rule 62-330.402, F.A.C., whichever is later. If you wish to continue this GP beyond the expiration date, you must notify the Department at least 30 days before its expiration.

Authority for review- Part IV of Chapter 373, F.S., Title 62, F.A.C. and in accordance with the operating agreements executed between the Department and the water management districts, as referenced in Chapter 62-113, F.A.C.

2. Proprietary Review - Granted

The Department acts as staff to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) and issues certain authorizations for the use of sovereign submerged lands. The Department has the authority to review activities on sovereign submerged lands under Chapter 253 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.) and 258, F.S. if located within an aquatic preserve, and Chapters 18-20 and 18-21 of the Florida Administrative Code.

The activity appears to be located on sovereign submerged lands owned by the Board of Trustees. The activity is not exempt from the need to obtain the applicable proprietary authorization. As staff to the Board of Trustees, the Department has reviewed the activity described above, and has determined that the activity qualifies for a Letter of Consent under rule 18-21.005(1)(c) and section 253.77 of the Florida Statutes to construct and use the activity on the specified sovereign submerged lands, as long as the work performed is located within the boundaries as described herein and is consistent with the terms and conditions herein. No further application is required for this.

During the term of this Letter of Consent you shall maintain satisfactory evidence of sufficient upland interest as required by paragraph 18-21.004(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code. If such

File Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

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interest is terminated or the Board of Trustees determines that such interest did not exist on the date of issuance of this Letter of Consent, this Letter of Consent may be terminated by the Board of Trustees at its sole option. If the Board of Trustees terminates this Letter of Consent, you agree not to assert a claim or defense against the Board of Trustees arising out of this Letter of Consent.

Please be advised that any use of sovereign submerged lands without specific prior authorization from the Board of Trustees will be considered a violation of Chapter 253, Florida Statutes and may subject the affected upland riparian property owners to legal action as well as potential fines for the prior unauthorized use of sovereign land.

Authority for review - Chapter 253 F.S., Chapter 18-21, F.A.C., and Section 62-330.075, F.A.C. as required.

3. Federal Review

A copy of your notice also has been sent to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) for review. The USACOE may require a separate permit. Failure to obtain this authorization prior to construction could subject you to enforcement action by that agency.

Additional Information

Please retain this general permit. The activities may be inspected by authorized state personnel in the future to ensure compliance with appropriate statutes and administrative codes. If the activities are not in compliance, you may be subject to penalties under Chapter 373, F.S., and Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

Petition for Administrative Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's

File Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

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US ALTRY CORPS
Of Engineers;
SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)
City of Mexico Beach
Page #2 of 8 June 4, 2015
Water Quality Certification (03-0294635-002-DG)
Attachment #2

representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;

- (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate:
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 14 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Extension of Time

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time. Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

File Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

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FLAWAC Review

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Judicial Review

Once this decision becomes final, any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date this action is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Thank you for applying to the Submerged Lands and Environmental Resource Permit Program. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mike Mathews at the letterhead address, at 850-767-0042, or at michael.mathews@dep.state.fl.us...

Executed in Bay County, Florida

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Brad Richardson

Environmental Consultant

Submerged Lands and Environmental

Resources Program

Attachments:

Exhibit I Project Drawings, 3 pages

Ch. 62-330.600, F.A.C.

General Conditions for All General Permits, Ch. 62-330.405, F.A.C. General Consent Conditions for Use of Sovereignty Submerged Lands

c:

Mr. Jason Lockwood, USACE, jason.m.lockwood@usace.army.mil.

Mr. Clayton Studstill, Garlick Env., clay@garlickenv.com

File Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

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USAINY Corps
of Engineers.
SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)
City of Mexico Beach
Page #3 of 8 June 4, 2015
Water Quality Certification (03-0294635-002-DG)
Attachment #2

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this permit and authorization to use sovereignty submerged lands, including all copies, were mailed/emailed before the close of business on March 27, 2014, to the above listed persons.

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

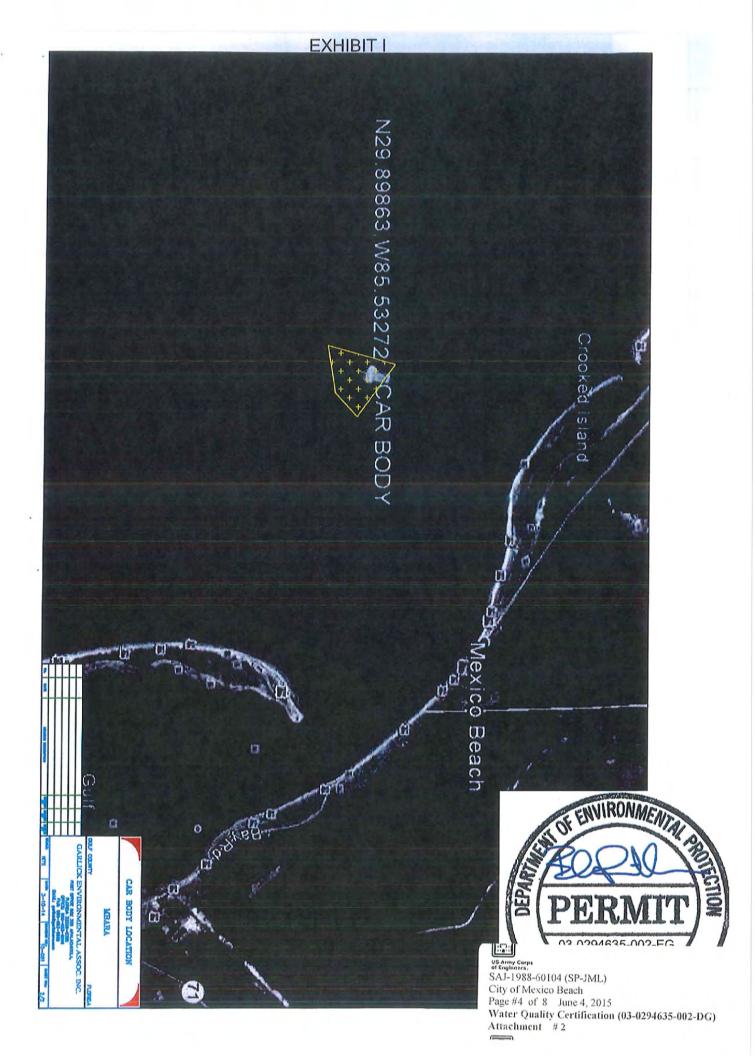
FILED, on this date, under 120.52(7), F.S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

March 27, 2014.

Clerk Date

File Name: Car Body Reef File No.: 03-0294635-002-EG

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Sign In | New Guest

CART 0 ITEMS

NOAA NAUTICAL CHARTS (U.S. Waters) INTERNATIONAL CHARTS

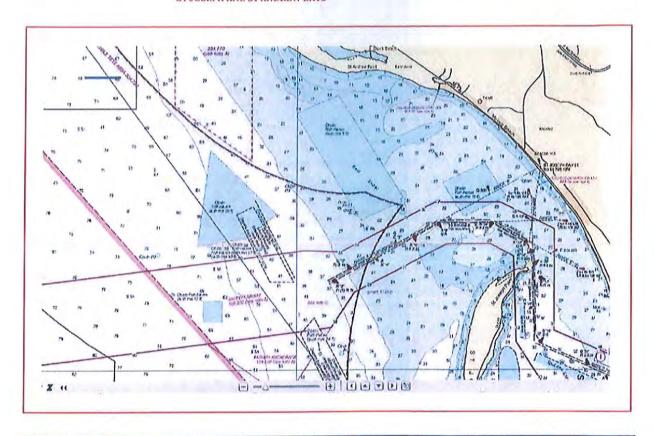
SPECIALTY

OTHER NAVIGATIONAL PRODUCTS

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NOAA NAUTICAL CHARTS

Alaska Coast Pacific Coast Atlantic Coast Great Lakes Gulf of Mexico INTERNATIONAL CHARTS

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Sign In | New Guest

0 ITEMS CART

NOAA NAUTICAL CHARTS (U.S. Waters)

INTERNATIONAL CHARTS

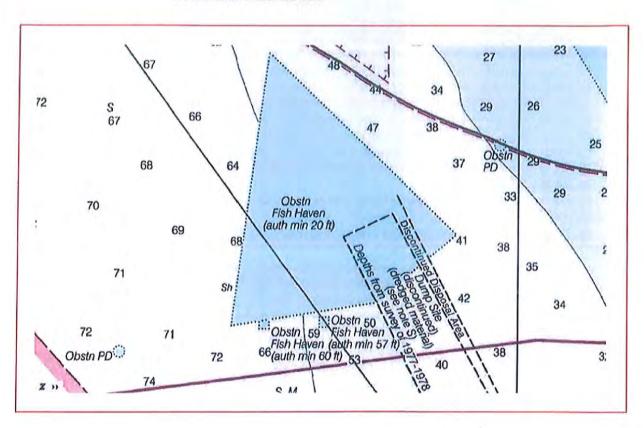
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NOAA NAUTICAL CHARTS

Alaska Coast Pacific Coast Atlantic Coast Great Lakes Gulf of Mexico INTERNATIONAL CHARTS

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03-0294635-002-EG

US Army Corps of Engineers, SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML) City of Mexico Beach

Page #5 of 8 June 4, 2015

Water Quality Certification (03-0294635-002-DG) Attachment #2

62-330.600 General Permit for the Construction of Artificial Reefs.

- (1) A general permit is provided for the construction of an artificial reef by any person, provided:
- (a) The material to be used shall be clean concrete or rock, clean steel boat hulls, other clean, heavy gauge steel products with a thickness of 1/4 inch or greater, and prefabricated structures that are a mixture of clean concrete and heavy gauge steel;
 - (b) The material shall be free of soils, oils and greases, debris, litter, putrescible substances or other pollutants;
 - (c) The material shall be firmly anchored to the bottom and shall not be indiscriminately dumped; and
- (d) The material shall be placed so that the top of the reef does not exceed 1/2 the distance from the bottom to the surface of the water unless a greater distance from the surface is required for safe navigation. At no time shall the distance between the top of the reef and the surface of the water be less than 6 feet.
 - (2) This general permit shall be subject to the following specific conditions:
- (a) The permittee shall conduct a survey of the bottom of the waterbody on which the reef is to be built and shall submit the survey to the Agency with the notice required in Rule 62-330.402, F.A.C., demonstrating that the bottom does not have submerged grassbed communities, shellfish or other hardbottom communities, or corals;
 - (b) There shall be no reefs constructed in bays, lagoons, or estuaries that are less than 12 feet deep;
- (c) There shall be no "white goods" (inoperative and discarded refrigerators, freezers, ranges, water heaters, washers, and other similar domestic and commercial appliances), asphalt material, tires, other polluting materials used in construction of the reef;
- (d) The site shall be marked with perimeter buoys during construction to ensure that no material is deposited outside of the site:
- (e) The size of the boundaries within which the artificial reef is to be deposited shall not exceed 1/4 nautical mile on any side;
 - (f) The artificial reef site shall not be established within any shipping lanes; and
- (g) The permittee shall notify the National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, Rockville, Maryland, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Division of Marine Fisheries Management, via e-mail at artificial reefdeployments@myfwc.com of the precise location of the reef within 30 days of placement of the reef material.

Rulemaking Authority 373.026(7), 373.043, 373.118(1), 373.406(5), 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.418, 403.805(1) FS. Law Implemented 373.118(1), 373.406(5), 373.413, 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.416, 373.418, 403.814(1) FS. History–New 10-3-95, Formerly 62-341.600, Amended 10-1-13.

62-330.405 General Conditions for All General Permits

The following general permit conditions are binding upon the permittee and are enforceable under Chapter 373, F.S. These conditions do not apply to the general permit in Section 403.814(12), F.S.

- (1) The general permit is valid only for the specific activity indicated. Any deviation from the specified activity and the conditions for undertaking that activity shall constitute a violation of the permit and may subject the permittee to enforcement action and revocation of the permit under Chapter 373, F.S.
- (2) This general permit does not eliminate the necessity to obtain any required federal, state, local and special district authorizations prior to the start of any construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal or abandonment authorized by this permit.
- (3) This general permit does not convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any property right, or any interest in real property, nor does it authorize any entrance upon or activities on property which is not owned or controlled by the permittee, or convey any rights or privileges other than those specified in the general permit.
- (4) The general permit does not relieve the permittee from liability and penalties when the permitted activity causes harm or injury to: human health or welfare; animal, plant or aquatic life; or property. It does not allow the permittee to cause pollution that violates state water quality standards.
- (5) Section 253.77, F.S., provides that a person may not commence any excavation, construction, or other activity involving the use of state-owned or other lands of the state, the title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund without obtaining the required consent, lease, easement, or other form of authorization authorizing the proposed use. Therefore, the permittee is responsible for obtaining any necessary authorizations from the Board of Trustees prior to commencing activity on state-owned lands.
- (6) The authorization to conduct activities under a general permit may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with Chapter 120, F.S., and Section 373.429, F.S.
- (7) This permit shall not be transferred to a third party except pursuant to Rule 62-330.340, F.A.C. The permittee transferring the general permit shall remain liable for any corrective actions that may be required as a result of any permit violations prior to sale, conveyance, or other transfer of ownership or control of the permitted project, activity, or the real property at which the permitted project or activity is located.
- (8) Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, Agency staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the permitted system to ensure conformity with the plans and specifications approved by the permit.
- (9) The permittee shall maintain any permitted project or activity in accordance with the plans submitted to the Agency and authorized in this general permit.
- (10) A permitee's right to conduct a specific activity under this general permit is authorized for a duration of five years.
- (11) Activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards. Performance-based erosion and sediment control best management practices shall be implemented and maintained immediately prior to, during, and after construction as needed to stabilize all disturbed areas, including other measures specified in the permit to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources and adjacent lands. Erosion and sediment control measures shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the *State of*

Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Transportation June 2007), available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/docs/erp/FLErosionSedimentManual_6_07.pdf, and the Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Nonpoint Source Management Section, Tallahassee, Florida, July 2008), available at www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/erosion/erosion-inspectors-manual.pdf.

- (12) Unless otherwise specified in the general permit, temporary vehicular access within wetlands during construction shall be performed using vehicles generating minimum ground pressure to minimize rutting and other environmental impacts. Within forested wetlands, the permittee shall choose alignments that minimize the destruction of mature wetland trees to the greatest extent practicable. When needed to prevent rutting or soil compaction, access vehicles shall be operated on wooden, composite, metal, or other non-earthen construction mats. In all cases, access in wetlands shall comply with the following:
- (a) Access within forested wetlands shall not include the cutting or clearing of any native wetland tree having a diameter 4 inches or greater at breast height;
 - (b) The maximum width of the construction access area shall be limited to 15 feet;
 - (c) All mats shall be removed within 72 hours after the work commences; and
- (d) Areas disturbed for access shall be restored to natural grades immediately after the maintenance or repair is completed.
- (13) Barges or other work vessels used to conduct in-water activities shall be operated in a manner that prevents unauthorized dredging, water quality violations, and damage to submerged aquatic communities.
- (14) The construction, alteration, or use of the authorized project shall not adversely impede navigation or create a navigational hazard in the water body.
 - (15) Except where specifically authorized in a general permit, activities must not:
- (a) Impound or obstruct existing water flow, cause adverse impacts to existing surface water storage and conveyance capabilities, or otherwise cause adverse water quantity or flooding impacts to receiving water and adjacent lands;
- (b) Cause an adverse impact to the maintenance of surface or ground water levels or surface water flows established pursuant to Section 373.042, F.S., or a Works of the District established pursuant to Section 373.086, F.S.; or
- (16) If any prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures, or early colonial or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, work involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries shall cease. The permittee or other designee shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section, at (850) 245-6333 or (800) 847-7278, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Such subsurface work shall not resume without verbal or written authorization from the Division of Historical Resources. If unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and notification shall be provided in accordance with Section 872.05, F.S.
- (17) The activity must be capable, based on generally accepted engineering and scientific principles, of being performed and of functioning as proposed, and must comply with any applicable District special basin and geographic area criteria.

- (18) The permittee shall comply with the following when performing work within waters accessible to federally- or state-listed aquatic species, such as manatees, marine turtles, smalltooth sawfish, and Gulf sturgeon:
- (a) All vessels associated with the project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the work area and where the draft of the vessels provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- (b) All deployed siltation or turbidity barriers shall be properly secured, monitored, and maintained to prevent entanglement or entrapment of listed species.
- (c) All in-water activities, including vessel operation, must be shutdown if a listed species comes within 50 feet of the work area. Activities shall not resume until the animal(s) has moved beyond a 50-foot radius of the in-water work, or until 30 minutes elapses since the last sighting within 50 feet. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of listed species.
- (d) Any listed species that is killed or injured by work associated with activities performed shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1(888)404-3922 and ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com.
- (e) Whenever there is a spill or frac-out of drilling fluid into waters accessible to the above species during a directional drilling operation, the FWC shall be notified at imperiledspecies@myfwc.com with details of the event within 24 hours following detection of the spill or frac-out.
- (19) The permittee shall hold and save the Agency harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities which may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any activity authorized by the general permit.
- (20) The permittee shall immediately notify the Agency in writing of any submitted information that is discovered to be inaccurate.

Rulemaking Authority 373.026(7), 373.043, 373.118(1), 373.406(5), 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.418, 403.805(1) FS. Law Implemented 373.044, 373.118(1), 373.129, 373.136, 373.406(5), 373.413, 373.4131, 373.414(9), 373.4145, 373.416, 373.422, 373.423, 373.429, 403.814(1) FS. History—New 10-3-95, Amended 10-1-07, Formerly 62-341.215, Amended 10-1-13.

GENERAL CONSENT CONDITIONS FOR USE OF SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS

Any use of sovereignty submerged lands is subject to the following general conditions are binding upon the applicant and are enforceable under Chapter 253, F.S. X and Chapter 258, F.S.

- 1. Sovereignty submerged lands may be used only for the specified activity or use. Any unauthorized deviation from the specified activity or use and the conditions for undertaking that activity or use will constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization will result in suspension or revocation of the applicant's use of the sovereignty submerged lands unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees.
- 2. Authorization under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., conveys no title to sovereignty submerged lands or water column, nor does it constitute recognition or acknowledgment of any other person's title to such land or water.
- 3. Authorizations under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with its terms or the remedies provided in Sections 253.04, F.S. and Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.
- 4. Structures or activities will be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to resources.
- 5. Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity will not adversely affect any species which is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27.004, and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.
- 6. Structures or activities will not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity will be modified in accordance with the court's decision.
- 7. Structures or activities will not create a navigational hazard.
- 8. Structures will be maintained in a functional condition and will be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional.
- 9. Structures or activities will be constructed, operated, and maintained solely for water dependent purposes.
- 10. The applicant agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Board of Trustees and the State of Florida from all claims, actions, lawsuits and demands in any form arising out of the authorization to use sovereignty submerged lands or the applicant's use and construction of structures on sovereignty submerged lands. This duty to indemnify and hold harmless will include any and all liabilities that are associated with the structure or activity including special assessments or taxes that are now or in the future assessed against the structure or activity during the period of the authorization.

- 11. Failure by the Board of Trustees to enforce any violation of a provision of the authorization or waiver by the Board of Trustees of any provision of the authorization will not invalidate the provision not enforced or waived, nor will the failure to enforce or a waiver prevent the Board of Trustees from enforcing the unenforced or waived provision in the event of a violation of that provision.
- 12. Applicant binds itself and its successors and assigns to abide by the provisions and conditions set forth in the authorization. If the applicant or its successors or assigns fails or refuses to comply with the provisions and conditions of the authorization, the authorization may be terminated by the Board of Trustees after written notice to the applicant or its successors or assigns. Upon receipt of such notice, the applicant or its successors or assigns will have thirty (30) days in which to correct the violations. Failure to correct the violations within this period will result in the automatic revocation of this authorization.
- 13. All costs incurred by the Board of Trustees in enforcing the terms and conditions of the authorization will be paid by the applicant. Any notice required by law will be made by certified mail at the address shown on page one of the authorization. The applicant will notify the Board of Trustees in writing of any change of address at least ten days before the change becomes effective.
- 14. This authorization does not allow any activity prohibited in a conservation easement or restrictive covenant that prohibits the activity.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

470 HARRISON AVENUE PANAMA CITY, FLORIDA 32401 RICK SCOTT GOVERNOR CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA LT. GOVERNOR

HERSCHEL T. VINYARD JR. SECRETARY

Permittee/Authorized Entity:

City of Mexico Beach Mr. Chris Hubbard, City Administrator 118 North 14th Street Mexico Beach, FL 32410

Cary Body Reef Expansion

Authorized Agent:

Garlick Environmental Associates, Inc.
Mr. Clayton Studstill
Post Office Box 385
Apalachicola, FL 32329
clay@garlickenv.com.

Environmental Resource Permit State-owned Submerged Lands Authorization – Granted

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Authorization – Separate Corps Authorization Required

Gulf County
Permit No.: 03-0322337-001-EI

Permit Issuance Date: March 26, 2014
Permit Construction Phase Expiration Date: March 26, 2024

www.dep.state.fl.us

Consolidated Environmental Resource Permit and Sovereignty Submerged Lands Authorization

Permittee/Grantee: City of Mexico Beach Permit No: 03-0322337-001-EI

PROJECT LOCATION

The activities authorized by this permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization are located approximately 6.99 nautical miles WSW of the Mexico Beach Canal, 11.8 nautical miles SSE of the pass to St. Andrews Bay, and 8.53 nautical miles WNW of Cape San Blas Peninsula within the Gulf of Mexico, within the corner marks in the table below:

Corner	Latitude	Longitude
NW	29° 55.520' N (29.916667)	85° 41' W (-85.683333)
SW	29° 54.700' N (29.55)	85° 41' W (-85.683333)
SE	29° 54.700' N (29.55)	85° 32.701' W (-85.55)
NE	29° 55.520' N (29.916667)	85° 32.575' W (-85.533333)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This permit is an expansion of a previously permitted artificial reef site (FDEP #03-0294635-001-DG). The permittee is authorized to place a total of approximately 0.66 acres of new artificial reef material within a 5,075.9 acre area as shown on the attached drawings and described in the Specific Conditions of this permit within the Gulf of Mexico, a Class III waterbody. Authorized activities are depicted on the attached exhibits.

AUTHORIZATIONS Car Body Reef Expansion

Environmental Resource Permit

The Department has determined that the activity qualifies for an Environmental Resource Permit. Therefore, the Environmental Resource Permit is hereby granted, pursuant to Part IV of Chapter 373, Florida Statutes (F.S.), and Chapter 62-330, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.).

Sovereignty Submerged Lands Authorization

The activity is located on sovereignty submerged lands owned by the State of Florida. It therefore also requires authorization from the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees), pursuant to Article X, Section 11 of the Florida Constitution, and Section 253.77, F.S.

As staff to the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund (Board of Trustees) under Sections 253.002, F.S., the Department has determined that the activity qualifies for and requires a Letter of Consent, as long as the work performed is located within the boundaries as described and is consistent with the terms and conditions herein. During the term of this Letter of Consent you shall maintain satisfactory evidence of sufficient upland interest as required by paragraph 18-21.004(3)(b), Florida Administrative Code. If such interest is terminated or the Board of Trustees determines that such interest did not exist on the date of issuance of this Letter of Consent, this Letter of Consent may be terminated

Permittee: City of Mexico Beach Permit No: 03-0322337-001-EI

Page 2 of 12

Expiration Date: March 26, 2024

by the Board of Trustees at its sole option. If the Board of Trustees terminates this Letter of Consent, you agree not to assert a claim or defense against the Board of Trustees arising out of this Letter of Consent.

Federal Authorization

Your proposed activity as outlined on your application and attached drawings does not qualify for Federal authorization pursuant to the State Programmatic General Permit and a SEPARATE permit or authorization may be required from the Corps. A copy of your permit application has been forwarded to the Corps for their review. The Corps will issue their authorization directly to you or contact you if additional information is needed. If you have not heard from the Corps within 30 days from the date your application was received at the local FDEP Office, contact the Corps at 850-763-0717, for status and further information. Failure to obtain Corps authorization prior to construction could subject you to federal enforcement action by that agency.

Authority for review - an agreement with the USACOE entitled "Coordination Agreement Between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or Duly Authorized Designee, State Programmatic General Permit", Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Coastal Zone Management

Issuance of this authorization also constitutes a finding of consistency with Florida's Coastal Zone Management Program, as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Water Quality Certification

This permit also constitutes a water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341.

Other Authorizations

You are advised that authorizations or permits for this activity may be required by other federal, state, regional, or local entities including but not limited to local governments or municipalities. This permit does not relieve you from the requirements to obtain all other required permits or authorizations.

The activity described may be conducted only in accordance with the terms, conditions and attachments contained in this document. Issuance and granting of the permit and authorizations herein do not infer, nor guarantee, nor imply that future permits, authorizations, or modifications will be granted by the Department.

PERMIT/SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS CONDITIONS

The activities described must be conducted in accordance with:

- The Specific Conditions
- The General Conditions
- The General Conditions for Sovereignty Submerged Lands Authorization
- The limits, conditions and locations of work shown in the attached drawings
- The term limits of this authorization

Permittee: City of Mexico Beach Permit No: 03-0322337-001-EI

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Attachment #2

You are advised to read and understand these conditions and drawings prior to beginning the authorized activities, and to ensure the work is conducted in conformance with all the terms, conditions, and drawings herein. If you are using a contractor, the contractor also should read and understand these conditions and drawings prior to beginning any activity. Failure to comply with these conditions, including any mitigation requirements, shall be grounds for the Department to revoke the permit and authorization and to take appropriate enforcement action.

Operation of the facility is not authorized except when determined to be in conformance with all applicable rules and this permit and sovereignty submerged lands authorization, as described.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - PRIOR TO ANY CONSTRUCTION

- 1. Pursuant to Section 379.249, Florida Statutes, the transport and deployment of all artificial reef materials off Florida require a cargo manifest. The attached "Florida Artificial Reef Materials Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Notification" form must be filled out and maintained on the vessel, with the materials onboard, during transport and deployment of artificial reef materials. The completed form must be submitted to the FWC Artificial Reef Program at least 7 days prior to the anticipated deployment via email artificialreefdeployments@myfwc.com, or via fax (850) 487-4847. The form is also available online at:

 http://myfwc.com/media/131594/FWCArtificialReefCargoManifest.pdf.
- 2. Prior to deployment of site specific reef materials, each site shall be visually surveyed (by divers, if necessary), to ensure that the area is appropriate for reef placement, and to ensure that any existing living bottom areas are avoided and not damaged.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

- The construction phase expires at 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated on the cover page of this permit.
- 4. For emergencies involving a serious threat to the public health, safety, welfare, or environment, the emergency telephone contact number is **800-320-0519** (State Warning Point). The Department telephone number for reporting nonthreatening problems or system malfunctions is (850) 872-4375, day or night.
- 5. The mailing address for submittal of forms for the "Construction Commencement Notice", "As-Built Certification ...", "Request for Conversion of Stormwater Management Permit Construction Phase to Operation and Maintenance Phase", or other correspondence is FDEP, SLERP, 470 Harrison Avenue, Panama City, Florida, 32401. Electronic submittals may be submitted to epost_nwdpcbo@dep.state.fl.us.
- All contractors involved in this permitted activity shall be provided copies of this permit in its entirety. A copy shall remain onsite at all times during the activities.
- If the approved permit drawings conflict with the specific conditions, then the specific conditions shall prevail.

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- This permit does not authorize any activities or the construction of any additional structures not illustrated on the permit drawings.
- If during the progress of this project prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or 9. ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, vessel remains, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures or early colonial or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project should cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries. The permittee, or other designee, shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Review and Compliance Section at (850) 245-6333 or (800) 847-7278, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Project activities should not resume without verbal and/or written authorization from the Division of Historical Resources. 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.
- 10. The material to be used shall be clean concrete or rock, clean, heavy gauge steel products with a thickness of ¼ inch or greater and prefabricated structures that are a mixture of clean concrete and heavy gauge steel. Any steel rebar or other protrusions in the materials shall be trimmed or otherwise removed to be as flush with the surface of the materials as possible.
- The material shall be free of soils, oils and greases, debris, litter, putrescible substances or 11. other pollutants.
- 12. The material shall be firmly anchored to the bottom or shall be sufficiently massive to "selfanchor" when placed in sandy bottom.
- 13. The material shall be purposefully and accurately placed by crane, mechanized lifts, or manual deployment, and shall not be indiscriminately dumped.
- The material shall be placed so that the top of the reef does not exceed ½ distance from the 14. bottom to the surface of the water unless a greater distance from the surface is required for safe navigation. At no time shall the distance between the top of the reef and the surface of the water be less than 40 feet.
- There shall be no "white goods", such as inoperative and discarded refrigerators, freezers, ranges, water heaters, washers, and other similar domestic and commercial appliances, asphalt materials, tires, or other polluting materials used in the construction of the reef.
- Prior to deployment of any vessel, the permittee shall contact the Department and FWC to 16. describe the vessel being placed, the proposed deployment location, depth of water at the proposed deployment location, expected navigation clearances from the top of the structure, and approximate distance to other reef materials/vessels within the immediate area.
- The site shall be marked with perimeter buoys during construction to ensure that no material 17. is deposited outside of the site.

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- 18. The permittee shall notify the National Ocean Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association, U.S. Department of Commerce, Rockville, Maryland, of the precise location of the reef within 30 days of placement of the material.
- 19. Pursuant to Section 379.249, Florida Statutes, the FWC is required to track all artificial reef deployments state-wide. The attached "Florida Artificial Reef Materials Placement Report and Post-Deployment Notification" form must be filled out and submitted to the FWC within 30 days of completion for each date of deployment or separate deployment location. The completed form must be submitted to the FWC Artificial Reef Program via email artificialreefdeployments@myfwc.com, via fax (850) 487-4847, or mailed to the FWC Artificial Reef Program, 620 S. Meridian Street, Box 4B2, Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600. The form is also available online at:

http://myfwc.com/media/131597/FWCArtificialReefMaterialPlacementReport.pdf.

SPECIFIC CONDITIONS - MONITORING/REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- 20. Beginning one year after the date of issuance and annually thereafter, for the duration of this permit, the permittee shall submit to the Department a report to include the following information:
 - Dates of all materials deployed during the year;
 - Detailed description of the types of materials deployed during the year;
 - c. Location of all reef material deployed during the year;
 - d. Total impacts of materials deployed during the year and total impacts for the project during the life of the permit.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL PERMITS

The following general conditions are binding on all individual permits issued under chapter 62-330, F.A.C., except where the conditions are not applicable to the authorized activity, or where the conditions must be modified to accommodate project-specific conditions.

- 1. All activities shall be implemented following the plans, specifications and performance criteria approved by this permit. Any deviations must be authorized in a permit modification in accordance with Rule 62-330.315, F.A.C. Any deviations that are not so authorized may subject the permittee to enforcement action and revocation of the permit under Chapter 373, F.S.
- 2. A complete copy of this permit shall be kept at the work site of the permitted activity during the construction phase, and shall be available for review at the work site upon request by the Agency staff. The permittee shall require the contractor to review the complete permit prior to beginning construction.
- 3. Activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not cause or contribute to violations of state water quality standards. Performance-based erosion and sediment control best management practices shall be installed immediately prior to, and be maintained during and after construction as needed, to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources and adjacent lands. Such practices shall be in accordance with the State of Florida Erosion and Sediment Control Designer and Reviewer Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Department of Transportation June 2007), and the Florida Stormwater Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspector's Manual (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Nonpoint Source

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Management Section, Tallahassee, Florida, July 2008), which are both incorporated by reference in subparagraph 62-330.050(9)(b)5., F.A.C., unless a project-specific erosion and sediment control plan is approved or other water quality control measures are required as part of the permit.

- 4. At least 48 hours prior to beginning the authorized activities, the permittee shall submit to the Agency a fully executed Form 62-330.350(1), "Construction Commencement Notice," [October 1, 2013], which is incorporated by reference in paragraph 62-330.350(1)(d), F.A.C., indicating the expected start and completion dates. A copy of this form may be obtained from the Agency, as described in subsection 62-330.010(5), F.A.C. If available, an Agency website that fulfills this notification requirement may be used in lieu of the form.
- 5. Unless the permit is transferred under Rule 62-330.340, F.A.C., or transferred to an operating entity under Rule 62-330.310, F.A.C., the permittee is liable to comply with the plans, terms and conditions of the permit for the life of the project or activity.
- 6. Within 30 days after completing construction of the entire project, or any independent portion of the project, the permittee shall provide the following to the Agency, as applicable:
 - a. For an individual, private single-family residential dwelling unit, duplex, triplex, or quadruplex "Construction Completion and Inspection Certification for Activities Associated with a Private Single-Family Dwelling Unit" [Form 62-330.310(3)]; or
 - b. For all other activities "As-Built Certification and Request for Conversion to Operational Phase" [Form 62-330.310(1)].
 - c. If available, an Agency website that fulfills this certification requirement may be used in lieu of the form.
- 7. If the final operation and maintenance entity is a third party:
 - a. Prior to sales of any lot or unit served by the activity and within one year of permit issuance, or within 30 days of as-built certification, whichever comes first, the permittee shall submit, as applicable, a copy of the operation and maintenance documents (see sections 12.3 thru 12.3.3 of Volume I) as filed with the Department of State, Division of Corporations and a copy of any easement, plat, or deed restriction needed to operate or maintain the project, as recorded with the Clerk of the Court in the County in which the activity is located.
 - b. Within 30 days of submittal of the as-built certification, the permittee shall submit "Request for Transfer of Environmental Resource Permit to the Perpetual Operation Entity" [Form 62-330.310(2)] to transfer the permit to the operation and maintenance entity, along with the documentation requested in the form. If available, an Agency website that fulfills this transfer requirement may be used in lieu of the form.
- 8. The permittee shall notify the Agency in writing of changes required by any other regulatory agency that require changes to the permitted activity, and any required modification of this permit must be obtained prior to implementing the changes.
- 9. This permit does not:
 - a. Convey to the permittee any property rights or privileges, or any other rights or privileges other than those specified herein or in Chapter 62-330, F.A.C.;
- b. Convey to the permittee or create in the permittee any interest in real property;

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- c. Relieve the permittee from the need to obtain and comply with any other required federal, state, and local authorization, law, rule, or ordinance; or
- d. Authorize any entrance upon or work on property that is not owned, held in easement, or controlled by the permittee.
- 10. Prior to conducting any activities on state-owned submerged lands or other lands of the state, title to which is vested in the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, the permittee must receive all necessary approvals and authorizations under Chapters 253 and 258, F.S. Written authorization that requires formal execution by the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund shall not be considered received until it has been fully executed.
- 11. The permittee shall hold and save the Agency harmless from any and all damages, claims, or liabilities that may arise by reason of the construction, alteration, operation, maintenance, removal, abandonment or use of any project authorized by the permit.
- 12. The permittee shall notify the Agency in writing:
 - a. Immediately if any previously submitted information is discovered to be inaccurate; and
 - b. Within 30 days of any conveyance or division of ownership or control of the property or the system, other than conveyance via a long-term lease, and the new owner shall request transfer of the permit in accordance with Rule 62-330.340, F.A.C. This does not apply to the sale of lots or units in residential or commercial subdivisions or condominiums where the stormwater management system has been completed and converted to the operation phase.
- 13. Upon reasonable notice to the permittee, Agency staff with proper identification shall have permission to enter, inspect, sample and test the project or activities to ensure conformity with the plans and specifications authorized in the permit.
- 14. If any prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American cultures, or early colonial or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, work involving subsurface disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries shall cease. The permittee or other designee shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance and Review Section, at (850) 245-6333 or (800) 847-7278, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Such subsurface work shall not resume without verbal or written authorization from the Division of Historical Resources. If unmarked human remains are encountered, all work shall stop immediately and notification shall be provided in accordance with Section 872.05, F.S.
- 15. Any delineation of the extent of a wetland or other surface water submitted as part of the permit application, including plans or other supporting documentation, shall not be considered binding unless a specific condition of this permit or a formal determination under Rule 62-330.201, F.A.C., provides otherwise.
- 16. The permittee shall provide routine maintenance of all components of the stormwater management system to remove trapped sediments and debris. Removed materials shall be disposed

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of in a landfill or other uplands in a manner that does not require a permit under Chapter 62-330. F.A.C., or cause violations of state water quality standards.

- This permit is issued based on the applicant's submitted information that reasonably 17. demonstrates that adverse water resource-related impacts will not be caused by the completed permit activity. If any adverse impacts result, the Agency will require the permittee to eliminate the cause, obtain any necessary permit modification, and take any necessary corrective actions to resolve the adverse impacts.
- A Recorded Notice of Environmental Resource Permit may be recorded in the county public records in accordance with subsection 62-330.090(7), F.A.C. Such notice is not an encumbrance upon the property.

GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR SOVEREIGNTY SUBMERGED LANDS AUTHORIZATION

Any use of sovereignty submerged lands is subject to the following general conditions are binding upon the applicant and are enforceable under Chapter 253, F.S.

- 1. Sovereignty submerged lands may be used only for the specified activity or use. Any unauthorized deviation from the specified activity or use and the conditions for undertaking that activity or use will constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization will result in suspension or revocation of the applicant's use of the sovereignty submerged lands unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board of Trustees.
- Authorization under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., conveys no title to sovereignty submerged 2. lands or water column, nor does it constitute recognition or acknowledgment of any other person's title to such land or water.
- Authorizations under Rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., may be modified, suspended or revoked in 3. accordance with its terms or the remedies provided in Sections 253.04, F.S. and Chapter 18-14, F.A.C.
- Structures or activities will be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to 4. resources.
- Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity will not adversely affect any species which is endangered, threatened or of special concern, as listed in Rules 68A-27.003, 68A-27.004, and 68A-27.005, F.A.C.
- Structures or activities will not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of 6. competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity will be modified in accordance with the court's decision.
- 7. Structures or activities will not create a navigational hazard.

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Expiration Date: March 26, 2024

US Army Corps of Engineers SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML) City of Mexico Beach Page #5 of 9 June 4, 2015

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- 8. Structures will be maintained in a functional condition and will be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional.
- 9. Structures or activities will be constructed, operated, and maintained solely for water dependent purposes.
- 10. The applicant agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Board of Trustees and the State of Florida from all claims, actions, lawsuits and demands in any form arising out of the authorization to use sovereignty submerged lands or the applicant's use and construction of structures on sovereignty submerged lands. This duty to indemnify and hold harmless will include any and all liabilities that are associated with the structure or activity including special assessments or taxes that are now or in the future assessed against the structure or activity during the period of the authorization.
- 11. Failure by the Board of Trustees to enforce any violation of a provision of the authorization or waiver by the Board of Trustees of any provision of the authorization will not invalidate the provision not enforced or waived, nor will the failure to enforce or a waiver prevent the Board of Trustees from enforcing the unenforced or waived provision in the event of a violation of that provision.
- 12. Applicant binds itself and its successors and assigns to abide by the provisions and conditions set forth in the authorization. If the applicant or its successors or assigns fails or refuses to comply with the provisions and conditions of the authorization, the authorization may be terminated by the Board of Trustees after written notice to the applicant or its successors or assigns. Upon receipt of such notice, the applicant or its successors or assigns will have thirty (30) days in which to correct the violations. Failure to correct the violations within this period will result in the automatic revocation of this authorization.
- 13. All costs incurred by the Board of Trustees in enforcing the terms and conditions of the authorization will be paid by the applicant. Any notice required by law will be made by certified mail at the address shown on page one of the authorization. The applicant will notify the Board of Trustees in writing of any change of address at least ten days before the change becomes effective.
- 14. This authorization does not allow any activity prohibited in a conservation easement or restrictive covenant that prohibits the activity.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS

This action is final and effective on the date filed with the Clerk of the Department unless a petition for an administrative hearing is timely filed under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., before the deadline for filing a petition. On the filing of a timely and sufficient petition, this action will not be final and effective until further order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the hearing process may result in a modification of the agency action or even denial of the application.

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Petition for Administrative Hearing

A person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may petition for an administrative proceeding (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S. Pursuant to Rule 28-106.201, F.A.C., a petition for an administrative hearing must contain the following information:

- (a) The name and address of each agency affected and each agency's file or identification number, if known;
- (b) The name, address, any email address, any facsimile number, and telephone number of the petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's substantial interests are or will be affected by the agency determination;
 - (c) A statement of when and how the petitioner received notice of the agency decision;
- (d) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- (e) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts that the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- (f) A statement of the specific rules or statutes that the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action, including an explanation of how the alleged facts relate to the specific rules or statutes; and
- (g) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action that the petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

The petition must be filed (received by the Clerk) in the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000. Also, a copy of the petition shall be mailed to the applicant at the address indicated above at the time of filing.

Time Period for Filing a Petition

In accordance with Rule 62-110.106(3), F.A.C., petitions for an administrative hearing by the applicant must be filed within 14 days of receipt of this written notice. Petitions filed by any persons other than the applicant, and other than those entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 14 days of publication of the notice or within 14 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. Under Section 120.60(3), F.S., however, any person who has asked the Department for notice of agency action may file a petition within 14 days of receipt of such notice, regardless of the date of publication. The failure to file a petition within the appropriate time period shall constitute a waiver of that person's right to request an administrative determination (hearing) under Sections 120.569 and 120.57, F.S., or to intervene in this proceeding and participate as a party to it. Any subsequent intervention (in a proceeding initiated by another party) will be only at the discretion of the presiding officer upon the filing of a motion in compliance with Rule 28-106.205, F.A.C.

Extension of Time

Under Rule 62-110.106(4), F.A.C., a person whose substantial interests are affected by the Department's action may also request an extension of time to file a petition for an administrative hearing. The Department may, for good cause shown, grant the request for an extension of time.

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SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML) City of Mexico Beach Page #6 of 9 June 4, 2015 Water Quality Certification (03-0322337-001-E1) Attachment #2 Requests for extension of time must be filed with the Office of General Counsel of the Department at 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Mail Station 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000, before the applicable deadline for filing a petition for an administrative hearing. A timely request for extension of time shall toll the running of the time period for filing a petition until the request is acted upon.

Mediation

Mediation is not available in this proceeding.

FLAWAC Review

The applicant, or any party within the meaning of Section 373.114(1)(a) or 373.4275, F.S., may also seek appellate review of this order before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission under Section 373.114(1) or 373.4275, F.S. Requests for review before the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission must be filed with the Secretary of the Commission and served on the Department within 20 days from the date when this order is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

Judicial Review

Once this decision becomes final, any party to this action has the right to seek judicial review pursuant to Section 120.68, F.S., by filing a Notice of Appeal pursuant to Rules 9.110 and 9.190, Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure, with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, M.S. 35, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000; and by filing a copy of the Notice of Appeal accompanied by the applicable filing fees with the appropriate District Court of Appeal. The Notice of Appeal must be filed within 30 days from the date this action is filed with the Clerk of the Department.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mike Mathews at the letterhead address, at 850-767-0042, or at <u>michael.mathews@dep.state.fl.us</u>..

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Executed in Bay County, Florida

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

M& Wat for

Benjamin A. Blitch, P.E.

Assistant District Director, Northwest FL Dept. of Environmental Protection

Attachments:

Exhibit 1, Project Drawings, 2 pg.

Exhibit 2, Florida Artificial Reef Materials Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Notification, 2 pgs. Exhibit 3, Florida Artificial Reef Materials Placement Report and Post-Deployment Notification, 1 pg.

Copies of 62-330 forms can be obtained at:

http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/forms.htm.

C:

Ms. Lea Crandall, FDEP, .lea.crandall@dep.state.fl.us.

Mr. Jason Lockwood, USACE, .jason.m.lockwood@usace.army.mil.

Mr. Jon Dodrill, FWC, jon.dodrill@myfwc.com.

Mr. Keith Mille, FWC, keith.mille@myfwc.com.

File

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this permit and authorization to use sovereignty submerged lands, including all copies, were mailed/emailed before the close of business on March 26, 2014, to the above listed persons.

FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FILED, on this date, under 120.52(7), F.S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

Clerk Date

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES, INC. GARLICK BY: PREPARED

FAX (850) 653-9656 garlick@garlickenv.com

(850) 653-8899 P. O. BOX 385, APALACHICOLA FLORIDA 32329-0385

APPLICANT/CLIENT: CITY OF MEXICO BEACH LB No. 7415

WATERBODY/CLASS: GULF OF MEXICO PURPOSE: ARTIFICIAL REEF

PROJECT LOCATION / USGS: BAY COUNTY/CITY OF MEXICO BEACH

LATITUDE:

LONGITUDE:

TWNSHP: SECTION:

RNG:

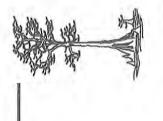
CROSS SECTION OF PROPOSED

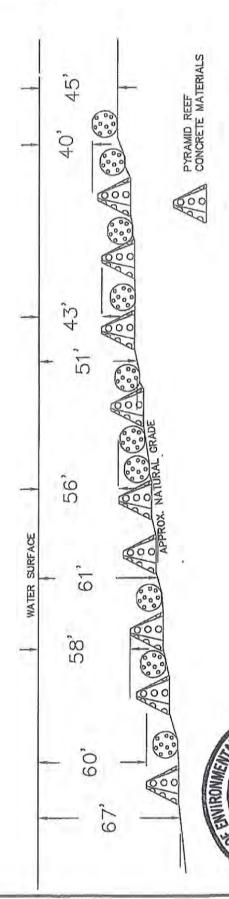
REEF AREA NOT TO SCALE

JOB: 10-081 DEP: COE:

OTHER:

DATE: October 23, 2013 SHEET: 1/1







The material shall be placed so that the top of the reef does not exceed 1/2 the distance from the bottom to the surface of the water, unless a greater distance is required for safe navigation. At no time shall the distance between the top of the reef and the surface of the water be less than 40' feet.

AROPHOPIO

3-0322337-001-EI

DEPARIMEN

Narch 26, 2014





EXHIBIT 2

FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS CARGO MANIFEST AND PRE-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION (Issued pursuant to Ch. 379.249(6)(b), Florida Statutes)



K						
	ividual managing reef d		Signatur	е		Date
whose address is	Street				<u> </u>	
declare that I am the U.S. Army Co conditions in the paccess and this a general public. The address of the conditions of the conditions in the packets are public.	staging and transportin rps of Engineers Artific permit listed below and uthorization does not p ne land based reef ma	g the following artificial ial Reef Permit referer attached to this manif rovide any rights or exterials staging area is	al reef construction ranced below and aground the landerstand	ee to comp s artificial i over those	ly with al reef site i rights or	I permit s open to puk uses to the
	ssel Registration Numl					
	ems are to be deplo	yed as reef materia	al (attach additional	sheets whe	n more t	han four locat
MATERIAL TAG ID NUMBER(S), if applicable		criptions of mate eces, type, dimen			ees, minute	ordinates s, decimal minute M.mmm')
				Lat	°	:
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	elow referenced per ried on board the ve		g, storing, or tra	nsporting	j artifici	
		PERMIT HOLDER, OR AU	THORIZED ARTIFICIAL	KEEF INSPE	ECTOR)	
Permit Holder:	Name of U.S. De	epartment of the Army	Corps of Engineer	s (ACOF) I	Permit H	older
COE permit num	ber					
	mber (if applicable): _					
(1)	Name of FWC authoriz	zed Artificial Reef Ins	pector, printed)	-		
		(Signature)		- 1	(1	Date)

EXHIBIT 2

EXPLANATION SHEET FOR THE ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS CARGO MANIFEST FORM

The attached artificial reef cargo manifest has been developed in compliance with subsection 379.249(6)(b), Florida Statutes, which states that:

"It is unlawful for any person to: store, possess or transport on or across state waters any materials reasonably suited for artificial reef construction and stored in such a manner providing ready access for use and placement as an artificial reef, unless a valid cargo manifest issued by the commission or a commission-certified inspector is onboard the transporting vessel. The manifest will serve as authorization to use a valid permitted site or land-based staging area, which will validate that the type of artificial reef construction material being transported is permissible for use at the permitted site, and will describe and quantify the artificial reef material being transported. The manifest will also include the latitude and longitude coordinates of the proposed deployment location, the valid permit number, and the copy off the permit conditions for the permitted site. The manifest must be available for inspection by any authorized law enforcement officer or commission employee."

This requirement for a cargo manifest became part of the statutory revision of the artificial reef program statute Section 379.249 Florida Statutes (F.S.), modified during the 2000 State of Florida Legislature. The statutory language allows a "commission certified inspector" to complete and approve the artificial reef materials cargo manifest. Therefore, we are providing the attached cargo manifest form to all local coastal government artificial reef coordinators and eligible non-profit corporations who may physically construct artificial reefs with the approval of the permit holders.

INSTRUCTIONS

A separate cargo manifest form is to be completed for each load to be transported offshore (i.e., one manifest per voyage). The manifest is to list all, and only, the reef materials onboard.

The top of the form is to be filled out by the reef builder with his/her contact information and the information about the proposed reef materials to be deployed written into the boxes. If several materials are identical but have different tag numbers, please write "SAME" in the box for the other materials. Also put "SAME" under additional coordinates if all materials are going to the same deployment site.

The shaded portion of the form at the bottom is to be filled out by the materials inspector. The cargo manifest must be completed by an entity representing the holder of the applicable artificial reef permit to assure that all materials meet the requirements of the permit.

Completion of the artificial reef materials cargo manifest is required for all construction activities.

The requirement to complete this document is not intended to be an undue burden on entities wishing to legally construct artificial reefs within permitted sites, but is a tool to assist law enforcement personnel in preventing the ill egal construction of artificial reefs without the knowledge of the permit holder or in areas outside of legally permitted sites. It is intended to allow law enforcement staff to determine whether or not a load of materials is legal under the permit conditions. Without a properly completed Cargo Manifest Form on board, reef builders will be returned to port pursuant to Chapter 379.249 (6) (b). It is not necessary to send a copy of the Cargo Manifest Form to the FWC artificial reef section in Tallahassee. Documentation of the reef building activity should be maintained by the entity issuing the manifest in the event of any FWC inquiries.

Reminder: the placement of all public artificial reefs in state or adjacent federal waters requires the submittal of a Materials Placement Report to the FWC artificial deployment in accordance with s. 379.249 F.S.

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City of Mexico Beach
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Water Quality Certification (03-0322337-001-EI)
Attachment #2





FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS PLACEMENT REPORT AND POST-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION



To Be Completed For Each Deployment Location or Date of Deployment

County or Municipality:	Date of Plac	ement:		
Grant No. FWC(if applicable)	U.S. Army Corps Permit No.:			
Total project cost: \$ (Funding Source(s) and Amount	(s): FWC \$	Local \$	Other \$)	
Name of Permitted Reef Site:	Location Nar for This Dep	me loyment:		
Latitude: O North		Degrees minutes	decimal minutes	
GPS Brand: GPS Model number:				
Geographical Location: at d egree d egree at d egree d egree at d egree at d egree d egree at d egree	es from	(reference inlet)		
Water Depth: feet (minus) Max. Material Height:			Clearance:feet	
TYPE AND AMOUNT OF MATERIAL DEPLOYED (ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MATERIAL ON THE BA				
Primary Type of Material:		_ Number of Pie	eces:	
Dimensions:				
Secondary Type of Material:		Number of Pie	eces:	
Dimensions:		Marie 1		
How was tonnage calculated?(Check all that apply, attach additional s		☐ Known weig	er barge draft calculation ht of individual pieces eipts	
I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE ANI		The second secon		
Observer's Name:	Title:	(PLEASE PRIN	NT)	
Observer's Signature:	Date:			
Observer's Remarks:				
I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION COMPLIES V	WITH THE ABOVE F	REFERENCED PER	RMIT CONDITIONS	
Permittee's Staff Name:	Title:	(PLEASE PRINT)		
Permittee's Staff Signature:	Date:	W. C.		
Local Tracking number FWC Tracking number	E	intered by	on	



FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS CARGO MANIFEST AND PRE-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION (Issued pursuant to Ch. 370.25(6)(b), Florida Statutes)



Name of indi	vidual managing reef deployment (print)	Signature Date
whose address is		. ()
declare that I am s the U.S. Army Cor conditions in the p access and this au general public.	Street City State staging and transporting the following artificial reef consings of Engineers Artificial Reef Permit referenced below ermit listed below and attached to this manifest. I unde uthorization does not provide any rights or exclusive pri	and agree to comply with all permit rstand this artificial reef site is open to pulvate use over those rights or uses to the
The address of th	ne land based reef materials staging area is:	
Transporting Ves	sel Registration Number:	
Vessel Owner: _	Vessel Operato	r:
he following ite	ems are to be deployed as reef material (attach a	dditional sheets when more than four loca
MATERIAL TAG ID NUMBER(S), if applicable	Descriptions of material (number of pieces, type, dimension, we	GPS Coordinates degrees, minutes, decimal minute (DD*MM.mmm')
		Lat:
		Lon:°
		Lat: ° .
		Lon:°
		Lat: ° .
		Lon:°
		Lat: ° .
		Lon:°
	low referenced permit(s) and all associated co ried on board the vessel during loading, storing	
	OFFICIAL USE ONLY (TO BE COMPLETED BY PERMIT HOLDER, OR AUTHORIZED A	
Permit Holder:	Name of U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of	Engineers (ACOF) Permit Holder
ACOE permit num	ber, permitted site name	
	and has an expiratio	

(Name of FWC authorized Artificial Reef Inspector, printed)

(Signature)

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City of Mexico Beach
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Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Form
Attachment #3

(Date)

EXPLANATION SHEET FOR THE ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS CARGO MANIFEST FORM

The attached artificial reef cargo manifest has been developed in compliance with subsection 370.25 (6)(b), Florida Statutes, which states that:

"It is unlawful for any person to: store, possess or transport on or across state waters any materials reasonably suited for artificial reef construction and stored in such a manner providing ready access for use and placement as an artificial reef, unless a valid cargo manifest issued by the commission or a commission-certified inspector is onboard the transporting vessel. The manifest will serve as authorization to use a valid permitted site or land-based staging area, which will validate that the type of artificial reef construction material being transported is permissible for use at the permitted site, and will describe and quantify the artificial reef material being transported. The manifest will also include the latitude and longitude coordinates of the proposed deployment location, the valid permit number, and the copy off the permit conditions for the permitted site. The manifest must be available for inspection by any authorized law enforcement officer or commission employee."

This requirement for a cargo manifest became part of the statutory revision of the artificial reef program statute Section 370.25 Florida Statutes (F.S.), modified during the 2000 State of Florida Legislature. The statutory language allows a "commission certified inspector" to complete and approve the artificial reef materials cargo manifest. Therefore, we are providing the attached cargo manifest form to all local coastal government artificial reef coordinators and eligible non-profit corporations who may physically construct artificial reefs with the approval of the permit holders.

INSTRUCTIONS

A separate cargo manifest form is to be completed for each load to be transported offshore (i.e., one manifest per voyage). The manifest is to list all, and only, the reef materials onboard.

The top of the form is to be filled out by the reef builder with his/her contact information and the information about the proposed reef materials to be deployed written into the boxes. If several materials are identical but have different tag numbers, please write "SAME" in the box for the other materials. Also put "SAME" under additional coordinates if all materials are going to the same deployment site.

The shaded portion of the form at the bottom is to be filled out by the materials inspector. The cargo manifest must be completed by an entity representing the holder of the applicable artificial reef permit to assure that all materials meet the requirements of the permit.

Completion of the artificial reef materials cargo manifest is required for all construction activities.

The requirement to complete this document is not intended to be an undue burden on entities wishing to legally construct artificial reefs within permitted sites, but is a tool to assist law enforcement personnel in preventing the illegal construction of artificial reefs without the knowledge of the permit holder or in areas outside of legally permitted sites. It is intended to allow law enforcement staff to determine whether or not a load of materials is legal under the permit conditions. Without a properly completed Cargo Manifest Form on board, reef builders will be returned to port pursuant to Chapter 370.25 (6) (b). It is not necessary to send a copy of the Cargo Manifest Form to the FWC artificial reef section in Tallahassee. Documentation of the reef building activity should be maintained by the entity issuing the manifest in the event of any FWC inquiries.

Reminder: the placement of all public artificial reefs in state or adjacent federal waters requires the submittal of a Materials Placement Report to the FWC artificial reef program within 30 days of public reef deployment in accordance with s. 370.25 F.S.

SAJ-1988-60104 (SP-JML)

City of Mexico Beach Page #2 of 2 June 4, 2015 Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Form

Attachment #3



Local Tracking number

Rev. 4/23/2007

FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS PLACEMENT REPORT AND POST-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION



To Be Completed For Each Deployment Location or Date of Deployment

County or Municipality:	Date of Placement:				
Grant No. FWC (if applicable)	U.S. Army Corps Permit No.:				
Total project cost: \$					
Funding Source(s) and Amount(s): FWC \$ Local \$	Other \$				
Name of Permitted Reef Site:	Location Name for This Deployment:				
Latitude: O North (degrees, minutes, decimal minutes (DD°MM.mmm')	Longitude: ' We (degrees, minutes, decimal minutes (DD°MM.mmm')	est			
GPS Brand and Model Number:					
Geographical Location: atdegreesdegrees	from(reference inlet)	_			
Water Depth: feet - Maximum Material Height:	feet = Minimum Vertical Clearance:feet				
(ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MATERIAL ON THE BARG Primary Type of Material:	Number of Pieces:	J			
Secondary Type of Material:					
Dimensions:					
TOTAL TONNAGE FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT:					
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CO					
Observer's Name:(PLEASE PRINT)	Title:(PLEASE PRINT)	-			
Observer's Signature:	Date:	_			
Observer's Remarks:					
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION COMPLIES WITH		Tax			
Permittee's Staff Name:(PLEASE PRINT)	_ Title:	4, 2015			
Permittee's Staff Signature:	Date:	cico Beach 2 June 4, 2015			

FWC Tracking number

Materials Placement and Post-Deployment Form

Second page to contain instructions....

FOR GRANT-FUNDED REEFS, the following data will be recorded at the staging area prior to and after the deployment. This formula represents an average, single rake barge and may not represent the exact tonnage of materials placed.

<u>USING THIS FORMULA FOR PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS SHOULD BE AGREED UPON INADVANCE WITH A CONTRACTOR.</u>

Barge Length: feet Barge Width:	feet Loaded Draft:	feet Unloaded Draft:	feet
(Length X Width X Loaded Draft X 0.93		(Loaded barge weight in to SUBTRACT	ons)
(Length X Width X Unloaded Draft X 0.93	X 65) = 2,000 =	(Unloaded barge weight in	tons
TOTAL TONNAGE FOR THIS D	EPLOYMENT =		

STANDARD MANATEE CONDITIONS FOR IN-WATER WORK 2011

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions intended to protect manatees from direct project effects:

- a. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- b. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- c. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- d. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shutdown if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
- e. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-731-3336) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and to FWC at ImperiledSpecies@mvFWC.com
- f. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the permittee upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads *Caution: Boaters* must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 8 ½" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shut down of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at MyFWC.com/manatee. Questions concerning these signs can be sent to the email address listed above.

CAUTION: MANATEE HABITAT

IDLE SPEED / NO WAKE All project vessels

When a manatee is within 50 feet of work all in-water activities must

SHUT DOWN

Report any collision with or injury to a manatee:

Wildlife Alert:

1-888-404-FWCC(3922)

cell *FWC or #FWC



US Army Corps of Engineers.
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Manatee Conditions
Attachment #5



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office 263 13th Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701

SEA TURTLE AND SMALLTOOTH SAWFISH CONSTRUCTION CONDITIONS

The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824-5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

Revised: March 23, 2006

O:\forms\Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions.doc





Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Reporting for Mariners NOAA Fisheries Service, Southeast Region

Background

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has determined that collisions with vessels can injure or kill protected species (e.g., endangered and threatened species, and marine mammals). The following standard measures should be implemented to reduce the risk associated with vessel strikes or disturbance of these protected species to discountable levels. NMFS should be contacted to identify any additional conservation and recovery issues of concern, and to assist in the development of measures that may be necessary.

Protected Species Identification Training

Vessel crews should use an Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico reference guide that helps identify protected species that might be encountered in U.S. waters of the Atlantic Ocean, including the Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico. Additional training should be provided regarding information and resources available regarding federal laws and regulations for protected species, ship strike information, critical habitat, migratory routes and seasonal abundance, and recent sightings of protected species.

Vessel Strike Avoidance

In order to avoid causing injury or death to marine mammals and sea turtles the following measures should be taken when consistent with safe navigation:

- Vessel operators and crews shall maintain a vigilant watch for marine mammals and sea turtles to avoid striking sighted protected species.
- When whales are sighted, maintain a distance of 100 yards or greater between the whale and the vessel.
- When sea turtles or small cetaceans are sighted, attempt to maintain a distance of 50 yards or greater between the animal and the vessel whenever possible.
- 4. When small cetaceans are sighted while a vessel is underway (e.g., bow-riding), attempt to remain parallel to the animal's course. Avoid excessive speed or abrupt changes in direction until the cetacean has left the area.
- 5. Reduce vessel speed to 10 knots or less when mother/calf pairs, groups, or large assemblages of cetaceans are observed near an underway vessel, when safety permits. A single cetacean at the surface may indicate the presence of submerged animals in the vicinity; therefore, prudent precautionary measures should always be exercised. The vessel shall attempt to route around the animals, maintaining a minimum distance of 100 yards whenever possible.

NMFS Southeast Region Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Reporting for Mariners; revised February 2008.

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of Engineers:
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Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures
Attachment #7

6. Whales may surface in unpredictable locations or approach slowly moving vessels. When an animal is sighted in the vessel's path or in close proximity to a moving vessel and when safety permits, reduce speed and shift the engine to neutral. Do not engage the engines until the animals are clear of the area.

Additional Requirements for the North Atlantic Right Whale

- If a sighted whale is believed to be a North Atlantic right whale, federal regulation requires a minimum distance of 500 yards be maintained from the animal (50 CFR 224.103 (c)).
- Vessels entering North Atlantic right whale critical habitat are required to report into the Mandatory Ship Reporting System.
- 3. Mariners shall check with various communication media for general information regarding avoiding ship strikes and specific information regarding North Atlantic right whale sighting locations. These include NOAA weather radio, U.S. Coast Guard NAVTEX broadcasts, and Notices to Mariners. Commercial mariners calling on United States ports should view the most recent version of the NOAA/USCG produced training CD entitled "A Prudent Mariner's Guide to Right Whale Protection" (contact the NMFS Southeast Region, Protected Resources Division for more information regarding the CD).
- Injured, dead, or entangled right whales should be immediately reported to the U.S. Coast Guard via VHF Channel 16.

Injured or Dead Protected Species Reporting

Vessel crews shall report sightings of any injured or dead protected species immediately, regardless of whether the injury or death is caused by your vessel.

Report marine mammals to the Southeast U.S. Stranding Hotline: 877-433-8299 Report sea turtles to the NMFS Southeast Regional Office: 727-824-5312

If the injury or death of a marine mammal was caused by a collision with your vessel, responsible parties shall remain available to assist the respective salvage and stranding network as needed. NMFS' Southeast Regional Office shall be immediately notified of the strike by email (takereport.nmfsser@noaa.gov) using the attached vessel strike reporting form.

For additional information, please contact the Protected Resources Division at:

NOAA Fisheries Service Southeast Regional Office 263 13 Avenue South St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Tel: (727) 824-5312 Visit us on the web at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

NMFS Southeast Region Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Reporting for Mariners; revised February 2008.

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