



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
41 N. JEFFERSON STREET, SUITE 301
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32502

May 26, 2017

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
North Permits Branch
Pensacola Permits Section
SAJ-2015-03567 (NW-EPS)

National Park Service, Gulf Islands National Seashore
c/o Jolene Williams
3500 Park Rd.
Ocean Springs, MS 39564 9709

Dear Ms. Williams:

Your application for a Department of the Army permit received on November 10, 2015, has been assigned number SAJ-2015-03567. A review of the information and drawings provided shows the proposed work is to restore one area of an injured seagrass bed, approximately 8 meters by 35 meters in size, by harvesting and transplanting 72 6-inch diameter seagrass donor cores and installing 72 bird stakes at a single location in Santa Rosa Sound. Bird stakes would be one-inch PVC pipe topped with 2"x2"x8" wood blocks extending approximately 2-feet above mean high water. These stakes would be removed no later than 2 years after planting completion. The project is located in waters of Santa Rosa Sound south of the National Park Service's Naval Live Oaks unit of Gulf Islands National Seashore at 1801 Gulf Breeze Pkwy, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32563-5008, in Section 2, Township 3 South, Range 29 West, in Santa Rosa County.

The project, as depicted on the enclosed drawings, is authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) Number 27. In addition, project specific conditions have been enclosed. This verification is valid until **March 18, 2022**. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant nationwide permit is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this nationwide permit. Please access the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (Corps) Jacksonville District's Regulatory Internet page to access Internet links to view the Final Nationwide Permits, Federal Register Vol. 82, dated January 6, 2017, specifically pages 1983 to 2008, and the table of Regional Conditions. The Internet page address is:

<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>

Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive and should be entered as it appears above. Once there you will need to click on "Source Book"; and, then click on "Nationwide Permits." These files contain the description of the Nationwide Permit authorization, the Nationwide Permit general conditions, and the regional conditions, which apply specifically to this verification for NWP 27. Enclosed is a list of the six General Conditions, which apply to all Department of the Army authorizations. You must comply with all of the special and general conditions and any project specific condition of this authorization or you may be subject to enforcement action. In the event you have not completed construction of your project within the specified time limit, a separate application or re-verification may be required.

The following project-specific conditions are included with this authorization:

1. Reporting Address: The Permittee shall submit all reports, notifications, documentation and correspondence required by the general and special conditions of this permit to the following address:

a. For standard mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, 41 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

b. For electronic mail CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil (not to exceed 10 MB). The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2015-03567(NW - EPS), on all submittals.

2. Commencement Notification: Within 10 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit/Within 10 days from the date of initiating the work authorized by this permit for each phase of the authorized project, the Permittee shall provide a written notification of the date of commencement of authorized work to the Corps.

3. Within 60 days of completion of the work authorized, the attached "Self-Certification Statement of Compliance" must be completed and submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mail the completed form to the Regulatory Division, Enforcement Section, 41 N. Jefferson Street, Suite 301, Pensacola, Florida 32502.

4. 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 in the vicinity and notify the Corps. 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. A cultural resources assessment may be required of the permit area, 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 and 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 in the vicinity shall immediately cease and the Permittee shall immediately notify the medical examiner, Corps, and State Archeologist. 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, SHPO and the Corps.

e. In the unlikely event that human remains are encountered on federal or tribal lands, or in situations where Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, or Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act of 1990 applies, all work in the vicinity shall immediately cease and the Permittee immediately notify the Corps. The Corps shall then notify the appropriate THPO(s) and SHPO. 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. After such notification, project activities on federal lands shall not resume without written authorization from the Corps, and/or appropriate THPO(s), SHPO, and federal manager. After such notification, project activities on tribal lands shall not resume without written authorization from the appropriate THPO(s) and the Corps.

5. Regulatory Agency Changes: Should any other regulatory agency require changes to the work authorized or obligated by this permit, the Permittee is advised that a modification to this permit instrument is required prior to initiation of those changes. It is the Permittee's responsibility to request a modification of this permit from the

Pensacola Regulatory Office.

6. 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.

7. All contractors involved in this permitted activity shall be provided copies of this permit in its entirety. A copy shall remain on site at all times during construction.

8. Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Conditions: The Permittee shall comply with the attached National Marine Fisheries Service's "Sea Turtle and Smalltooth Sawfish Construction Conditions" dated March 23, 2006.

9. Right Whale Protection: It is illegal to approach within 500 yards of a right whale by vessel, aircraft, or any other means (50 CFR 224.103 (c)). Any vessel finding itself within 500 yards of a right whale must depart immediately at a slow speed.

10. Manatee Conditions: The Permittee shall comply with the attached "Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work – 2011".

11. Species reporting: Any collision(s) with and/or injuries to any sea turtle, sawfish, whale, or sturgeon occurring during the construction of a project, shall be reported immediately to NMFS's Protected Resources Division (PRD) at (727-824-5312) or by email to takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov and CESAJ-ComplyDocs@usace.army.mil. Sea turtle and marine mammal stranding/rescue organizations' contact information is available by region at <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/health/networks.htm>. Smalltooth sawfish encounters shall be reported to <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu/fish/sharks/sawfish/sawfishencounters.html>.

*Failure to report take of a federally listed threatened or endangered species may lead to suspension, revocation, or modification of this authorization. (From Section 3(18) of the Federal Endangered Species Act: The term 'take' means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.)

12. Marine Life Entrapment: Neither structure nor material or the method of construction shall pose more than minimal risk of entrapping fish, marine turtles, or marine mammals. In-water lines must be industrial grade metal or heavy cables that do not readily loop and tangle. All in-water lines (rope and cable) must be rigid and cannot have excess line in the water. Lines may be enclosed in a plastic or rubber sleeve/tube to add rigidity.

13. Core holes created at the donor sites must be refilled immediately with harvested sediments from the receiver sites.

14. All bird stakes must be removed within 2 years from completion of planting the 72 seagrass cores.

This authorization does not give absolute Federal authority to perform the work as specified on your application. The proposed work may be subject to local building restrictions mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program. You should contact your local office that issues building permits to determine if your site is located in a flood-prone area, and if you must comply with the local building requirements mandated by the National Flood Insurance Program.

Please note U.S. Coast Guard regulations may require you as permittee to provide information for a Notice to the maritime community regarding your project. You should contact the Coast Guard Sector Mobile Waterways Management Branch (spw), 1500 15th Street, Mobile, AL 36615 or by phone at 251-441-5684 to determine if a Notice is necessary. Also any safety lights, signs and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard through their regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at your expense as permittee on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States. To receive a U.S. Coast Guard Private Aids to Navigation marking determination, you are advised to contact the Eighth Coast Guard District (dpw), 500 Poydras St. Suite 1230, New Orleans, LA 70130, 504-671-2328 or via email to: D8oanPATON@uscg.mil prior to installation/construction of any fixed structures. For general information related to Private Aids to Navigation please visit the Eighth CG District web site at: <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/waterways/PATON.Home.asp>

If you are unable to access the internet or require a hardcopy of any of the conditions, limitations, or expiration date for the above referenced NWP, please contact Ed Sarfert by telephone at 850-439-9533.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps' Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our

environment. We invite you to complete our automated Customer Service Survey at http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey. Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive; and, you will need to enter it exactly as it appears above. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ESARFERT', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ed Sarfert
Project Manager

Enclosures

Copy Furnished: CESAJ-RD-SE

GENERAL CONDITIONS

33 CFR PART 320-330

PUBLISHED FEDERAL REGISTER DATED 13 NOVEMBER 1986

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **date identified in the letter**. 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 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 a representative 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.

SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Permit Number: NW-27
Application Number: SAJ-2015-03567

Permittee's Name & Address (please print or type): _____

Telephone Number: _____

Location of the Work: _____

Date Work Started: _____ Date Work Completed: _____

PROPERTY IS INACCESSIBLE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTIFICATION: YES _____ NO _____

TO SCHEDULE AN INSPECTION PLEASE CONTACT _____
AT _____

Description of the Work (e.g. bank stabilization, residential or commercial filling, docks, dredging, etc.): _____

Acreage or Square Feet of Impacts to Waters of the United States: _____

Describe Mitigation completed (if applicable): _____

Describe any Deviations from Permit (attach drawing(s) depicting the deviations):

I certify that all work, and mitigation (if applicable) was done in accordance with the limitations and conditions as described in the permit. Any deviations as described above are depicted on the attached drawing(s).

Signature of Permittee

Date

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT TRANSFER REQUEST

PERMIT NUMBER: SAJ-2015-03567 (NW27)

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. Although the construction period for works authorized by Department of the Army permits is finite, the permit itself, with its limitations, does not expire.

To validate the transfer of this permit and the associated responsibilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below and mail to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Enforcement Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019.

(TRANSFEREE-SIGNATURE)

(SUBDIVISION)

(DATE)

(LOT)

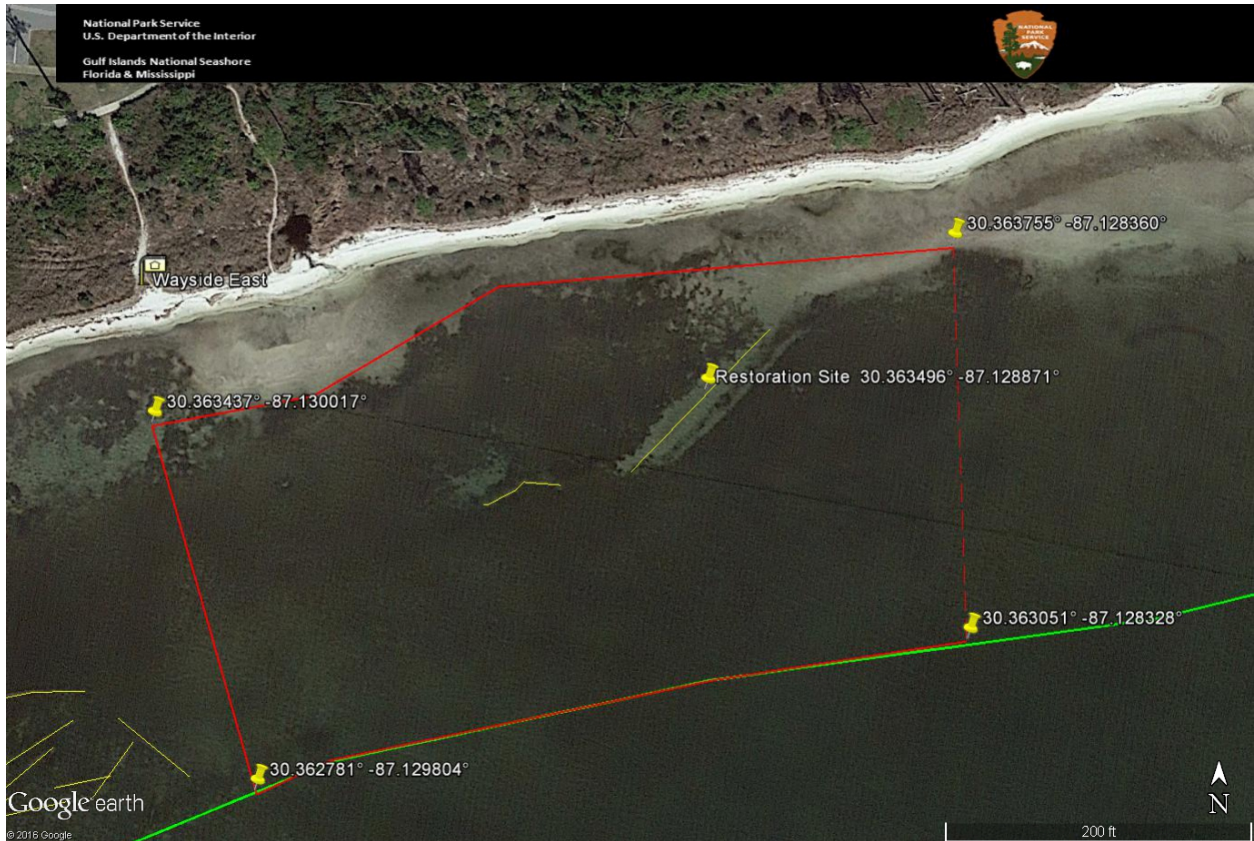
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(NAME-PRINTED)

(STREET ADDRESS)

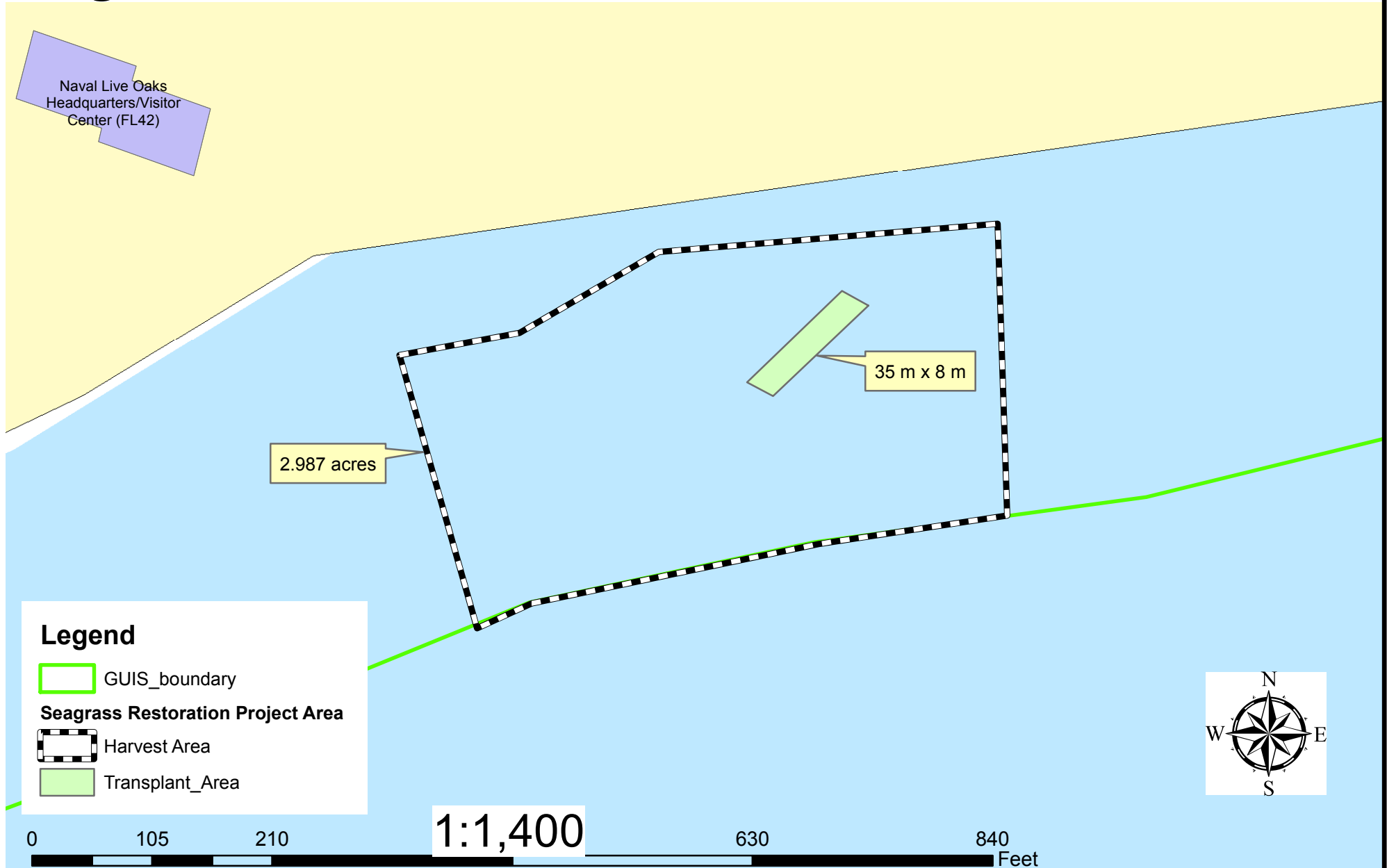
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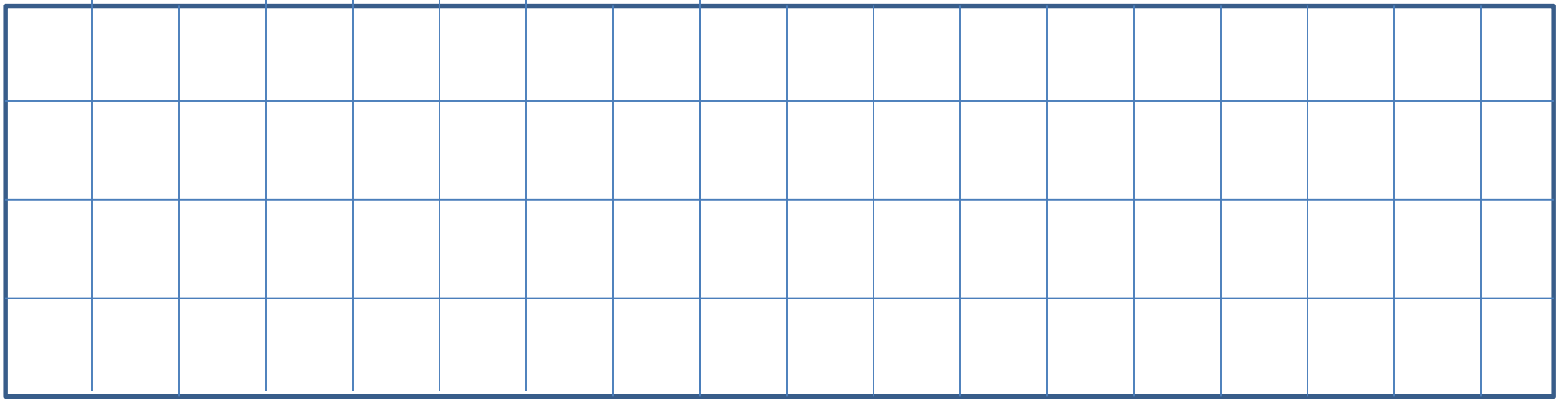
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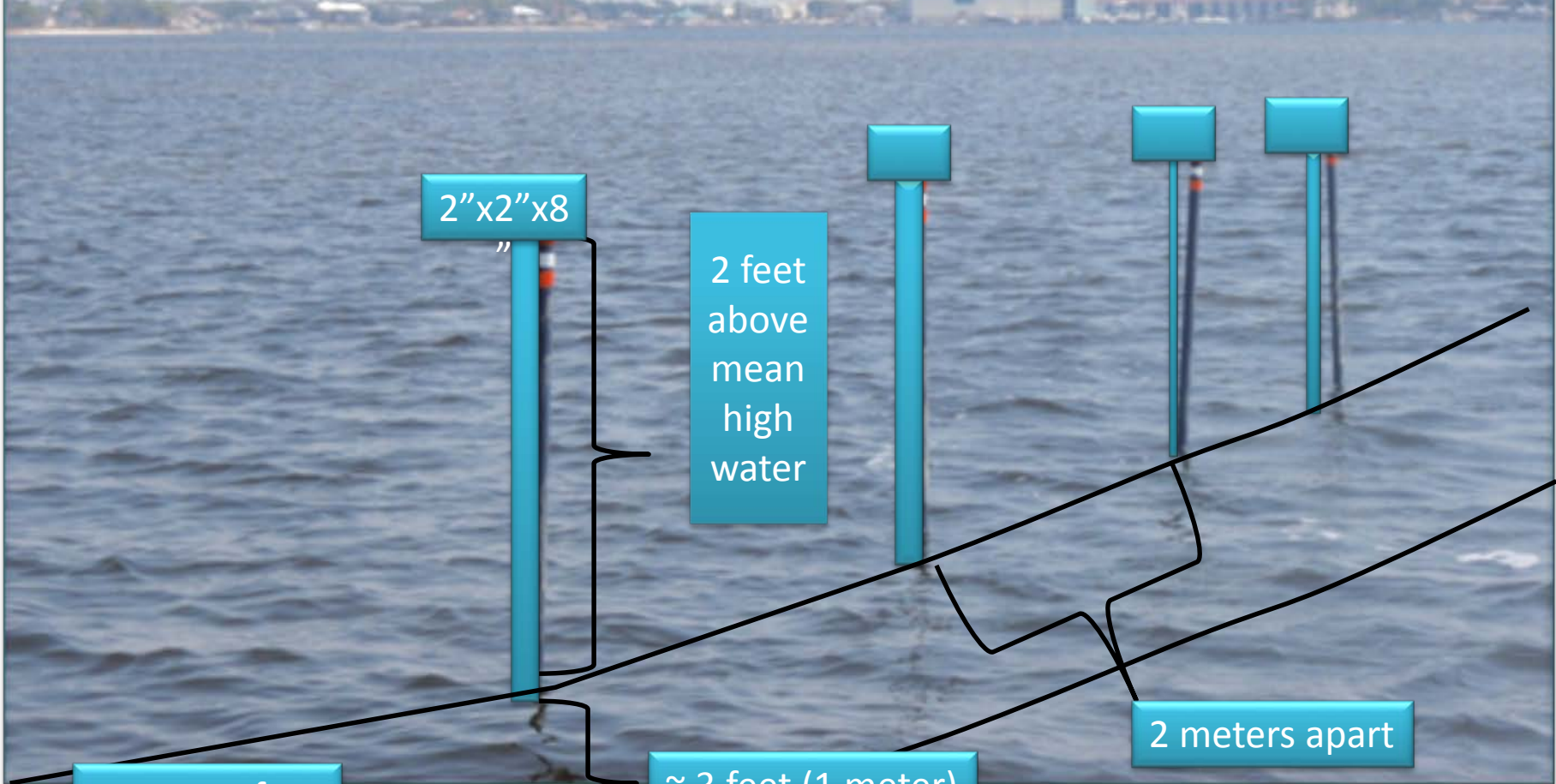


Seagrass Restoration - Naval Live Oaks





The 35x8 meter area will support transplants 2 meters apart.



2"x2"x8

2 feet above mean high water

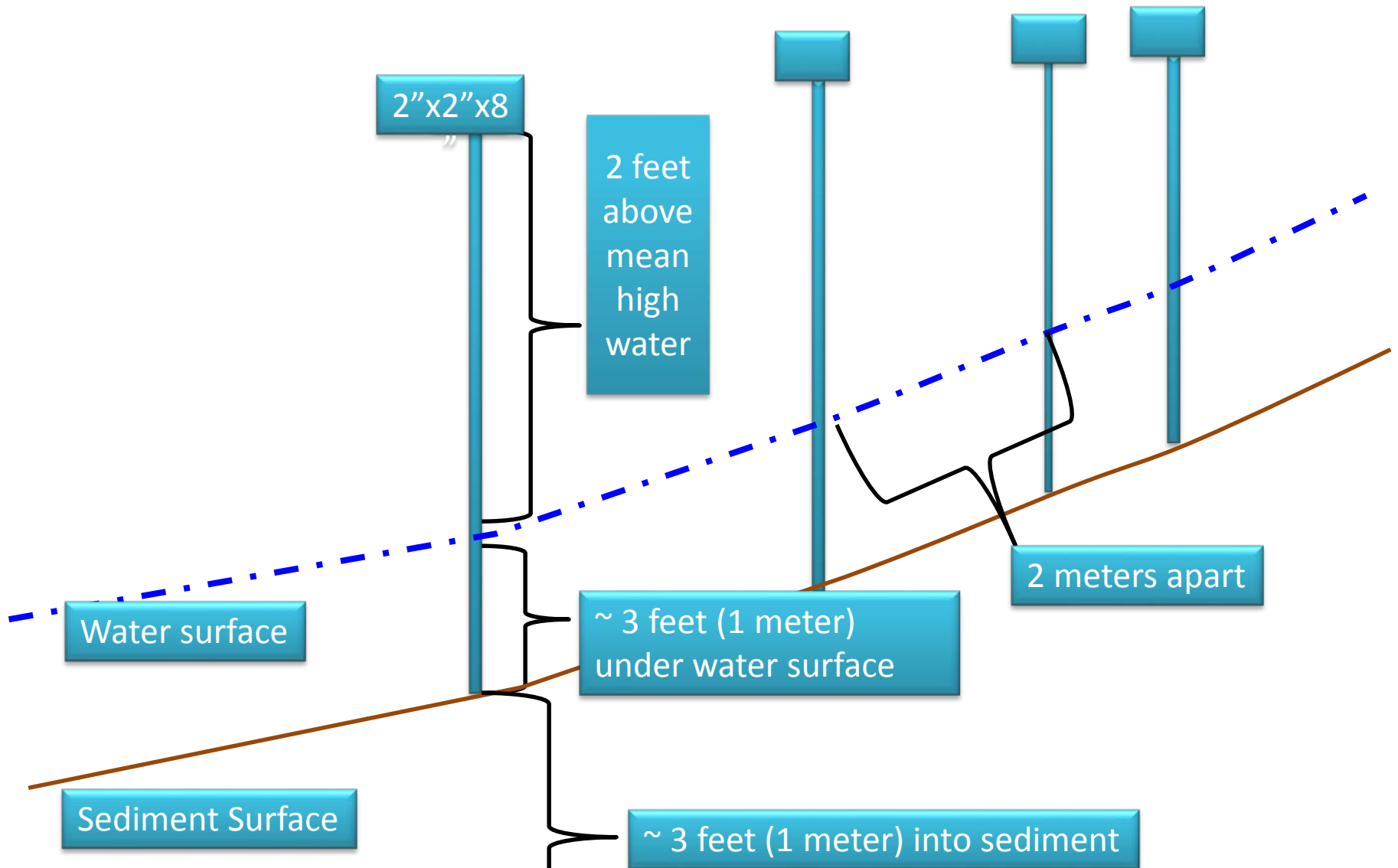
Water surface

~ 3 feet (1 meter)

2 meters apart

Sediment Surface

~ 3 feet (1 meter) into sediment



Bird stakes will be made by attaching 2 x 2 x 8 inch blocks of pressure treated wood to the top of one inch marine grade PVC (sch 80) pipes that will be marked with orange and white reflective tape. PVC stakes will be approximately 8 feet in length with 3 feet driven into the sediment to provide stability of the stake if larger birds (e.g. brown pelicans and osprey) utilize the perches. Total length of the PVC may be adjusted so that the height of the birdstake is approximately 2' above mean high water.



2 meters / 6.6 feet

Using the "Staple" method (as described in Fonseca et. al. 1998 on page 114) will include the use of a small trowel to collect planting units (which include 3-4 rhizomes and several shoots) while digging no more than 3 cm into the substrate. After shoots are collected, they will be affixed to landscape staples by twist ties. The staple will be pushed into the substrate, but no excavation will take place. The constant proximity of the rhizomes to the substrate (provided by being fixed by the staple) will allow the rhizome to take root in the substrate. Each planting unit of 3-4 rhizomes and up to 80 shoots per unit, will be spaced approximately 2 meters apart.



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



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@myFWC.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

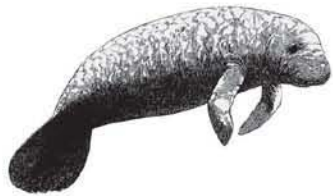
All project vessels

IDLE SPEED / NO WAKE

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