

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

**Permittee:** Ms. Zoe Mansfield, City Manager  
City of St. Marks  
788 Port Leon Drive  
St. Marks, Florida 32355

**Permit No:** SAJ-1993-01520(SP-LSL)

**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.

**Project Description:** The permittee is authorized to expand an artificial reef site known as the Dog Ballard artificial reef. The proposed artificial reef will be ¼ nautical mile by ¼ nautical mile encompassing 52 acres of sand bottom. The required navigational clearance is -14' Mean Low Low Water. All reef materials will be consistent with the publication *Guidelines for Marine Artificial Reef Materials*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, the National Artificial Reef Plan, the state of Florida Artificial Reef Strategic Plan, and the Organization for Artificial Reefs (OAR) Artificial Reef Development Plan. Materials will be transported by barge or ship and deployed using a crane and placed in 'patch reefs' at 500' intervals within the permitted area. It is anticipated that at least 4 separate phases of reef deployments will be made over the course of the permit depending on funding and suitable reef material availability. It is proposed that each 'patch reef' consists of 300 tons of reef materials or 153 cubic yards of mainly concrete depending on the type of materials deployed. For the life of this permit, up to 1,200 tons or 613 cubic yards of reef materials will be deployed on this site. There is a 50' buffer zone area inside the site borders on all sides where no materials will be deployed to ensure all reef materials are deployed within the permit site. The work described above is to be completed in accordance with the 8 pages of drawings and 5 attachments affixed at the end of this permit instrument.

**Project Location:** The center of the proposed reef site is 6.7 nautical miles on a direct bearing of 131° from the #1 buoy (green) in the St. Marks River Entrance Channel or 13.7 nautical miles on a direct bearing of 103° from the #4 buoy for the Panacea Channel off the coast of Wakulla County, Florida.

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**Directions to site:** The center of the proposed reef site is about 6.7 nautical miles on a direct bearing of 131° from the #1 buoy (green) in the St. Marks River Entrance Channel or 13.7 nautical miles on a direct bearing of 103° from the #4 buoy for the Panacea Channel.

**Approximate Central Coordinates:**

Point	Latitude	Longitude
Centroid	29.95209	-84.08052
Northeast Corner	29.95418	-84.07813
Southeast Corner	29.95000	-84.07813
Southwest Corner	29.95000	-84.08292
Northwest Corner	29.95418	-84.08292

Centroid	N 29° 57.125'	W 084° 04.831'
Northeast Corner	N 29° 57.250'	W 084° 04.688'
Southeast Corner	N 29° 57.000'	W 084° 04.688'
Southwest Corner	N 29° 57.000'	W 084° 04.975'
Northwest Corner	N 29° 57.250'	W 084° 04.975'

**Permit Conditions**

**General Conditions:**

1. The time limit for completing the work authorized ends on **March 12, 2030**. 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

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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.

**Special Conditions:**

**1. Reporting Addresses:** The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-1993-01520, 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  
P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

or by email at: SAJ-RD-Enforcement@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)  
Hale Boggs Federal Building  
500 Poydras Street  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70130

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- 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](mailto: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:

- 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

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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 permit drawing pages 3-4 of 8. A minimum clearance of 14 feet from the top of the deployed material relative to mean low water (MLW) shall be maintained.

**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 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.

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The Permittee shall provide of 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 (Attachment A), 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.

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 (Attachment B). 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.

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**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. Manatee Conditions:** The Permittee shall comply with the "Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work – 2011" (Attachment C).

**12. 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 850-433-8860 and the National Marine Fisheries Service by telephone at 727-824-5301.

**13. Protected Species Guidance:** The Permittee shall comply with the "Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Injured or Dead Protected Species Reporting" (Attachment D), for marine turtles and marine mammals.

**14. Cultural Resources/Historic Properties:**

a. Prior to deploying the reef materials, SHPO recommends that divers visually inspect the deployment locations to determine whether or not there is any evidence of exposed cultural resources.

b. 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.

c. 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

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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.

d. Additional cultural resources assessments may be required of the permit area in the case of unanticipated discoveries as referenced in accordance 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.

e. 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.

**15. Agency Changes/Approvals:** Should any other agency require and/or approve changes to the work authorized or obligated by this permit, the Permittee is advised 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 Panama City Permits Section. The Corps reserves the right to fully evaluate, amend, and approve or deny the request for modification of this permit.

**16. Jacksonville District Programmatic Biological Opinion (JAXBO), November 2017, Project Design Criteria (PDCs):** Structures authorized under this permit must comply with all applicable PDCs, based on the permitted activity, as required by JAXBO. Please note that failure to comply with the applicable PDCs, where a take of listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and noncompliance with this permit. The NMFS is the appropriate authority to enforce the terms and conditions of JAXBO. The most current version of JAXBO can be accessed at the Jacksonville District Regulatory Division internet webpage in the Endangered Species section of the



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Sourcebook located at:

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

**Note** - JAXBO may be subject to revision at any time. The most recent version of these conditions must be utilized during the design and construction of the permitted work. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act, and for those projects which do not comply with JAXBO, the Corps will seek individual consultation with the NMFS.

**Note** - some authorized activities may deviate from the PDCs. In cases, where the activity (i.e., structure dimensions, length, etc.) deviates from the PDCs, the permit drawings shall supersede the PDCs.

For each of the following authorized activities subject of this permit, the permittee shall adhere to the following PDCs, which are attached to, and made part of, this authorization/verification letter:

Activity 7 - Aquatic Habitat Enhancement: (AP.1-14; A7.1-31; S.1; S.4) (Attachment D)

**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)

( ) 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.

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

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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 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

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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.

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

Zoe A Mansfield  
(PERMITTEE)

2-7-2020  
(DATE)

Zoe A Mansfield  
(PERMITTEE NAME-PRINTED)

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

For (DISTRICT ENGINEER)  
Andrew D. Kelly, Jr.  
Colonel, U.S. Army  
District Commander

(DATE)

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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)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(NAME-PRINTED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE)

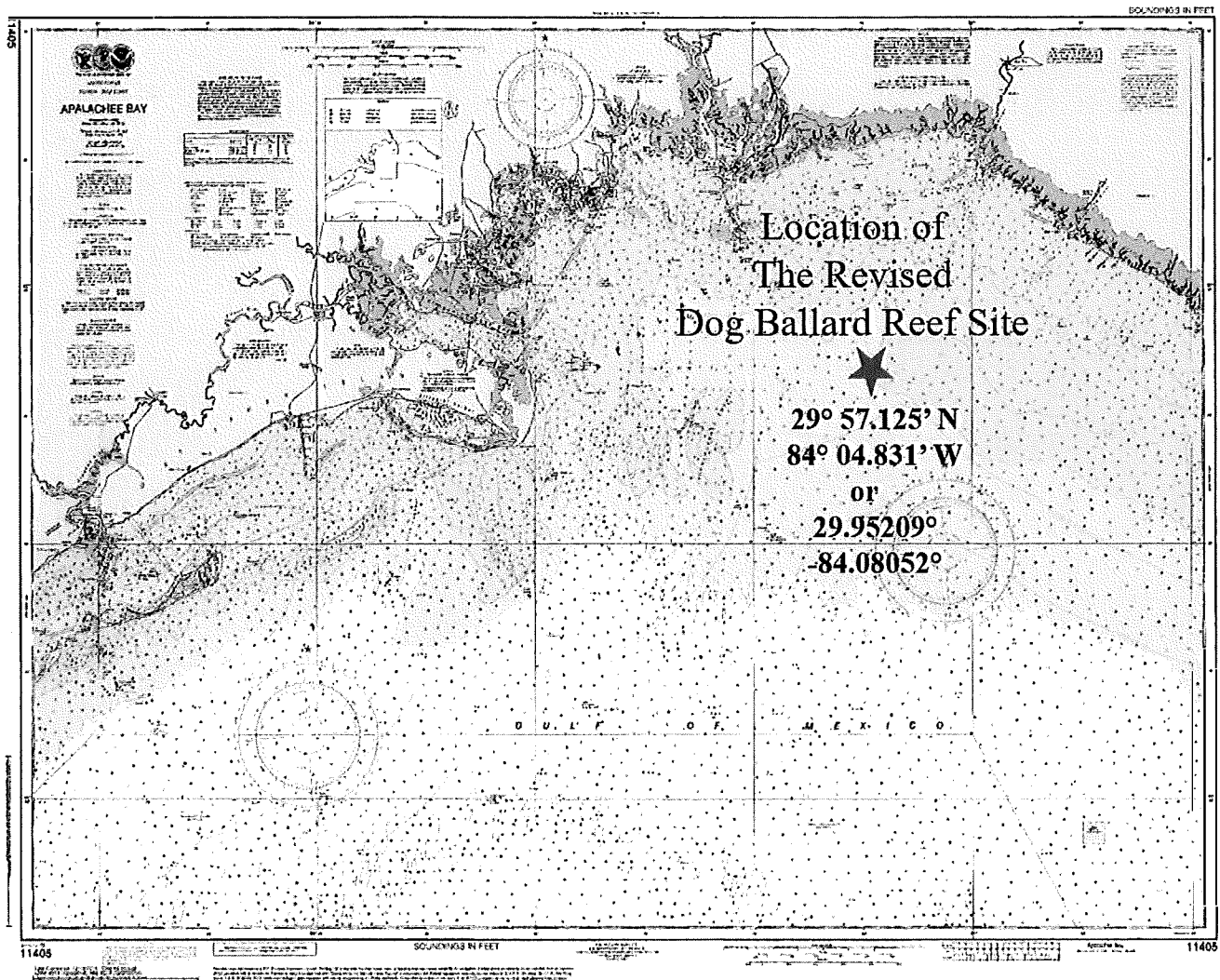
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***Attachments to Department of the Army  
Permit Number SAJ-1993-01520***

1. PERMIT DRAWINGS: 8 pages, dated August 29, 2019
2. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Specific Conditions of the water quality permit/certification in accordance with General Condition number 5 on page 3 of this DA permit. 20 pages.
3. PRE-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFICATION: 2 pages, *Florida Artificial Reef Materials Cargo Manifest and Pre-Deployment Notification*.
4. POST-DEPLOYMENT PLACEMENT REPORT: 2 pages, *Florida Artificial Reef Materials Placement Report and Post-Deployment Notification*.
5. MANATEE CONDITIONS: 2 pages, *Standard Manatee Conditions for In-Water Work – 2011*.
6. PROTECTED SPECIES GUIDANCE: 2 pages, *Vessel Strike Avoidance Measures and Reporting for Mariners*.
7. JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION (JAXBO), NOVEMBER 2017, PROJECT DESIGN CRITERIA (PDCS): 21 pages.

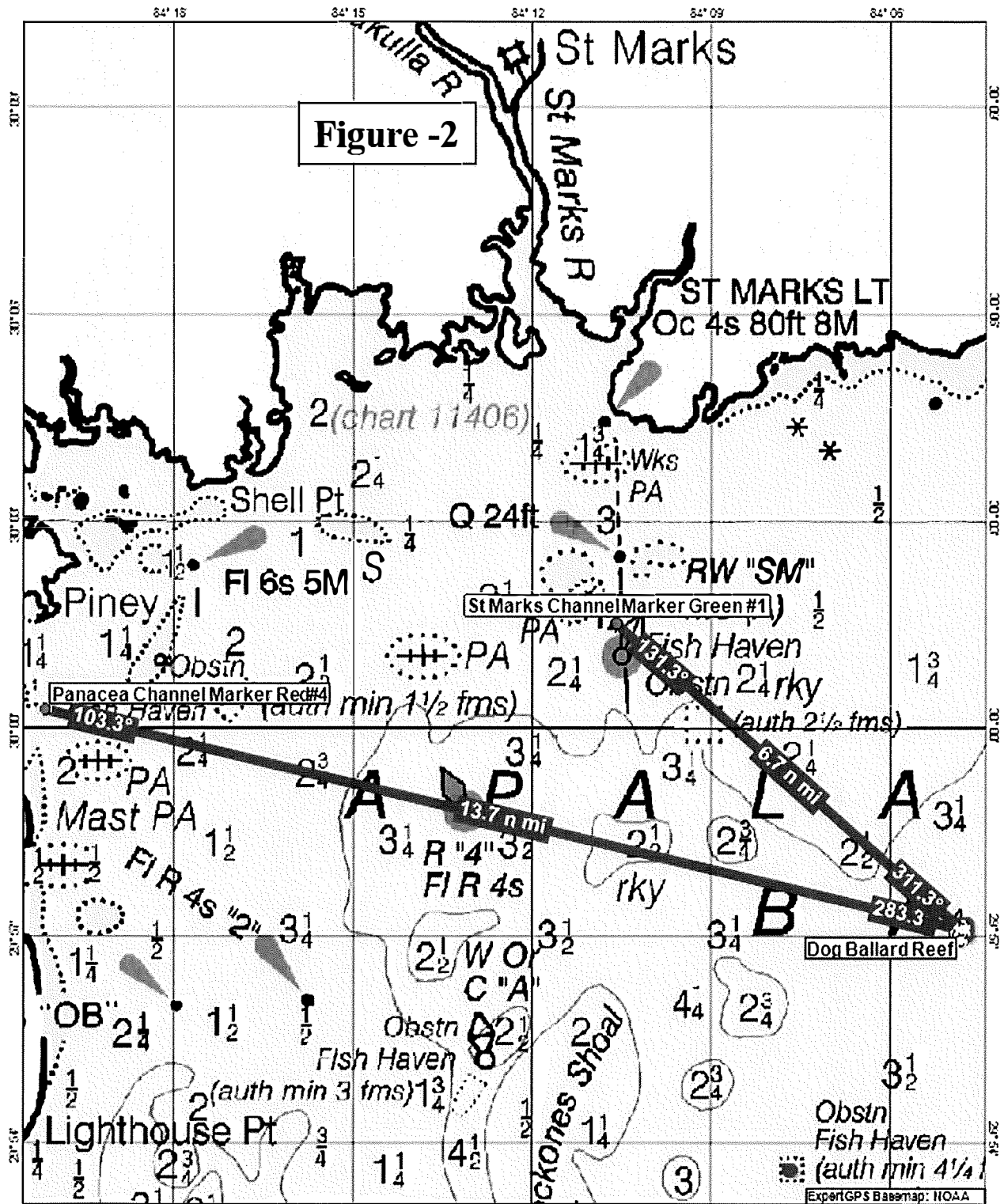
# Figures

Figure -1



NOAA Nautical Chart 11405  
Apalachee Bay edition 12/27/2014  
Updated - 8/29/2019





**Nearest Ports to Dog Ballard Reef Site**

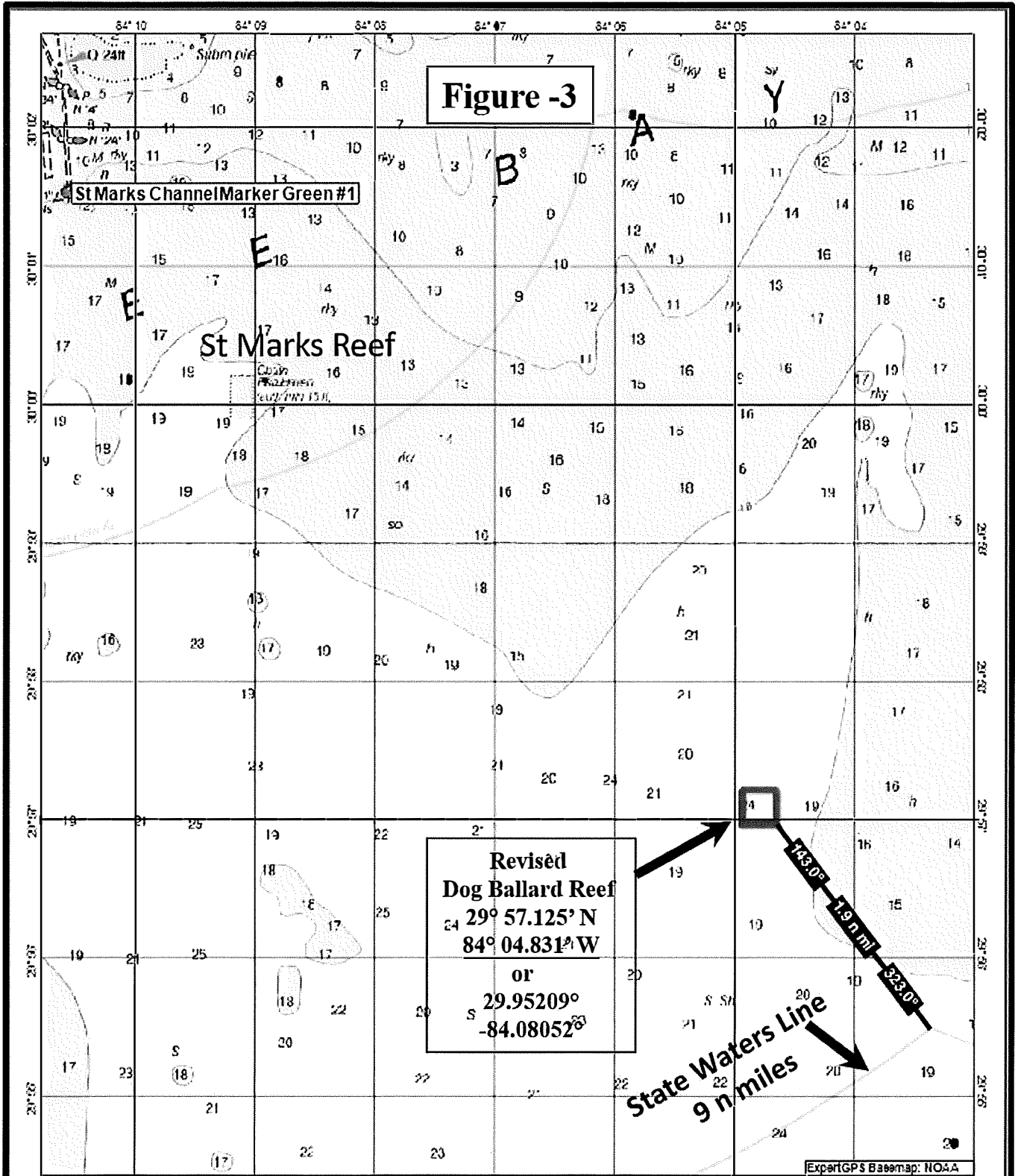


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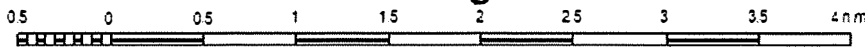
Updated - 8/29/2019







**State Waters Line - Dog Ballard Reef Site**

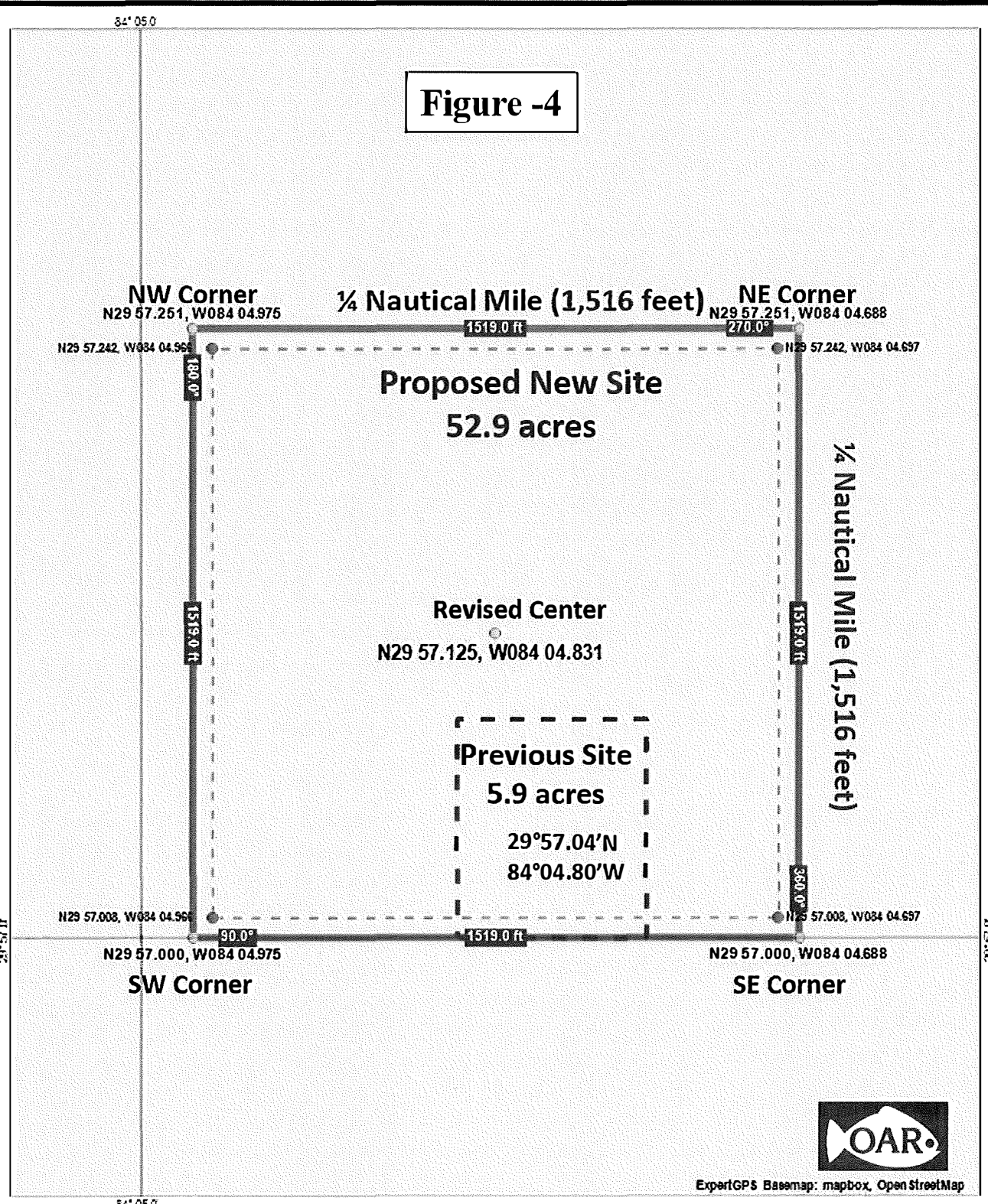


Updated - 8/29/2019

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**Figure -4**



ExpertGPS Basemap: mapbox, Open StreetMap

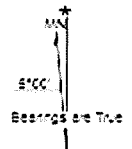


**Revised Dog Ballard Site and Previous Site (1993)**



Updated – 8/29/2019

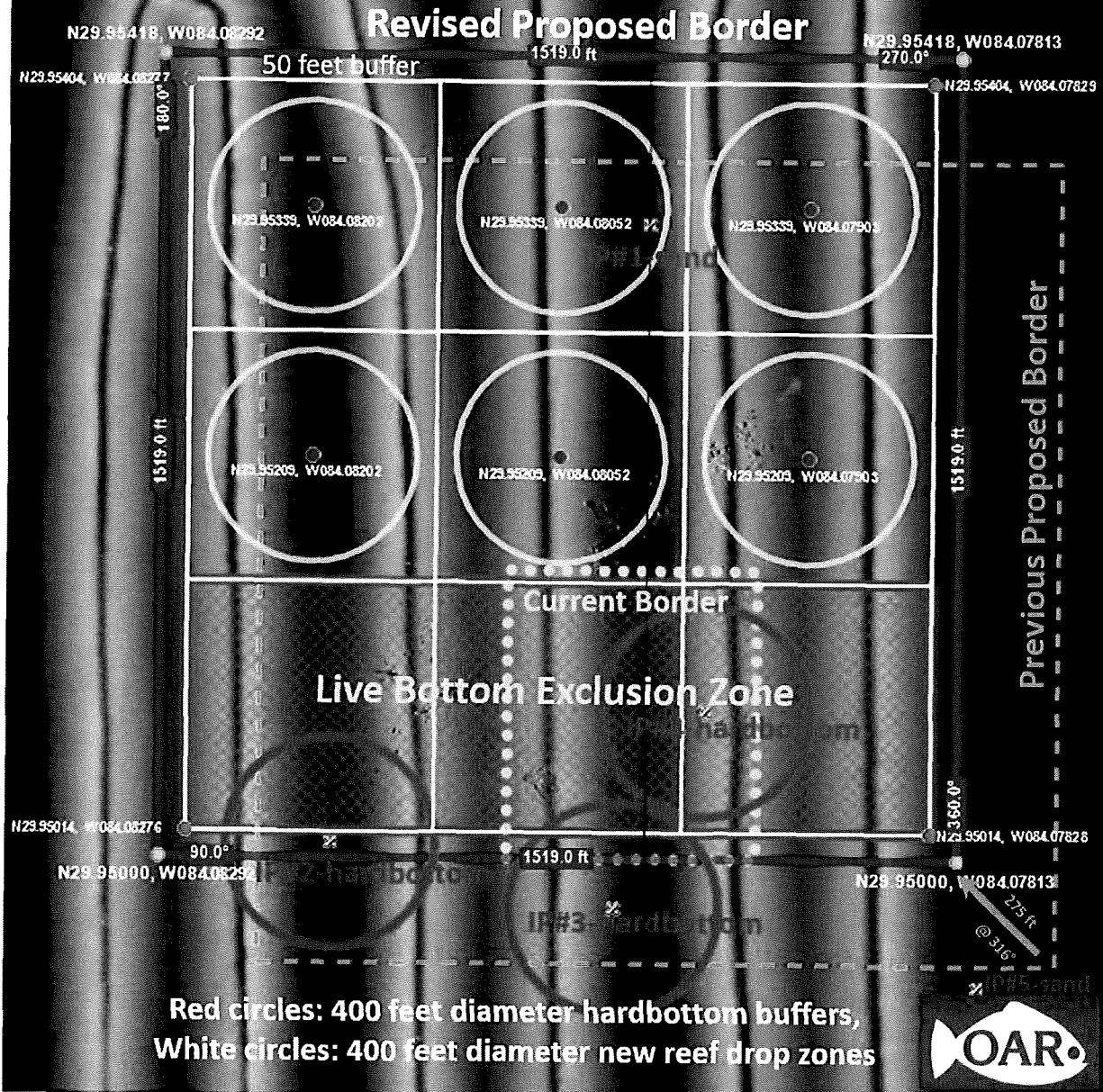
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84.03°

**Figure -5**

**Proposed shift in permitted site to the NW  
based on 8/11/2019 OAR dive assessment**



84.03°

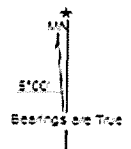


**Dog Ballard Proposed Reefs - Revised 8/29/2019**

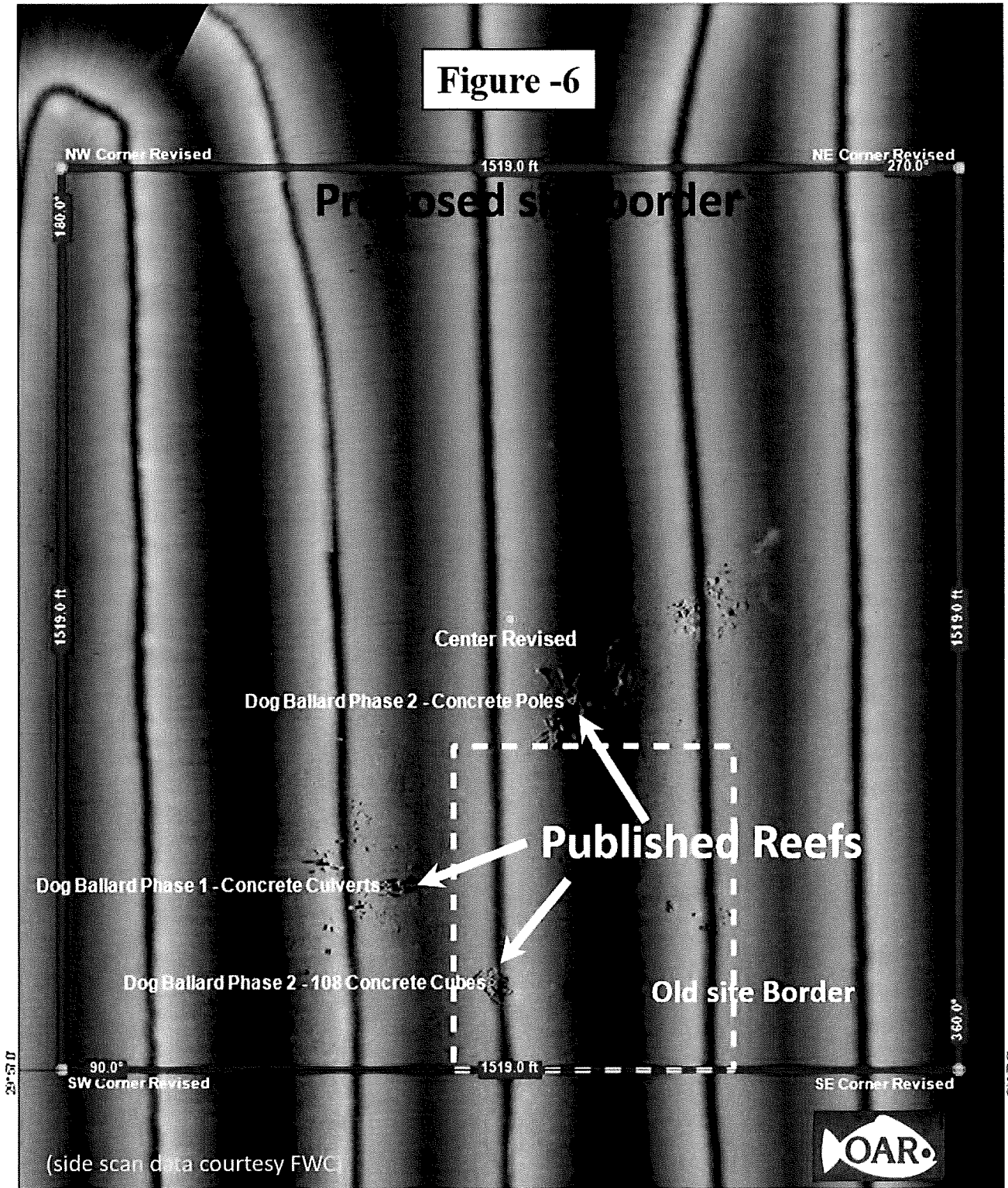


Updated - 8/29/2019

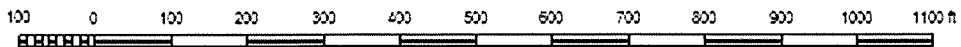
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**Figure -6**

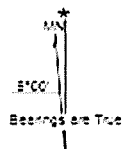


**Revised Dog Ballard Side Scan Map with Existing Materials**



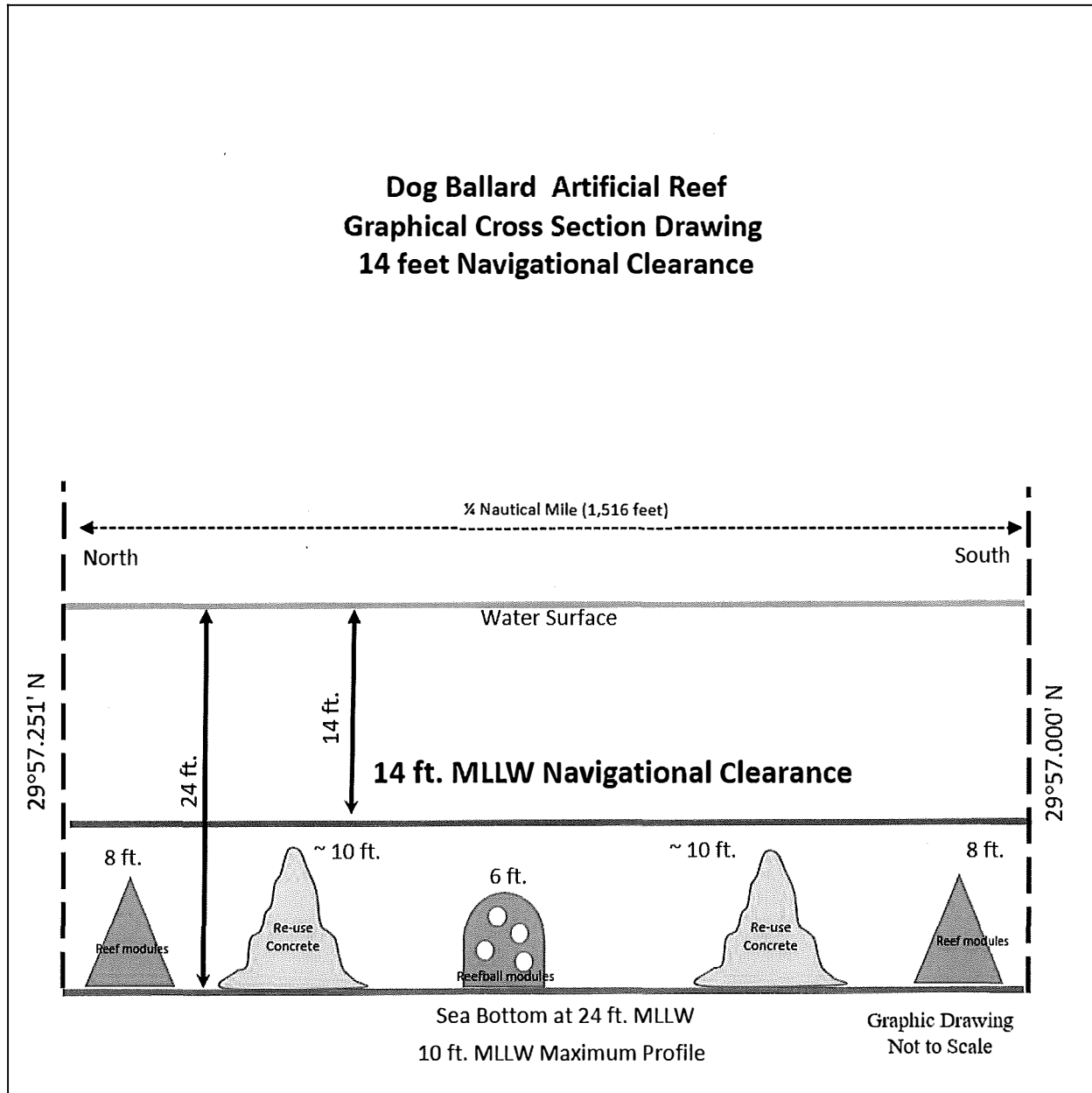
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**Figure - 7**

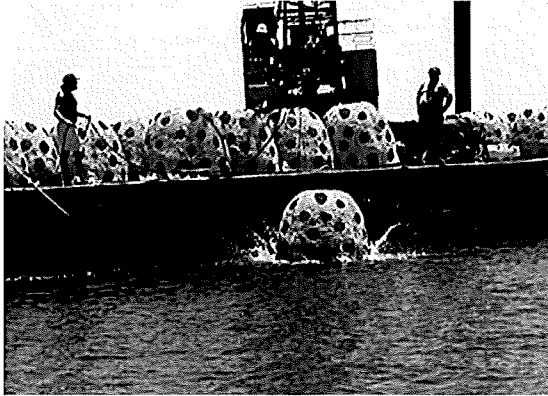
**Dog Ballard Artificial Reef  
Graphical Cross Section Drawing  
14 feet Navigational Clearance**



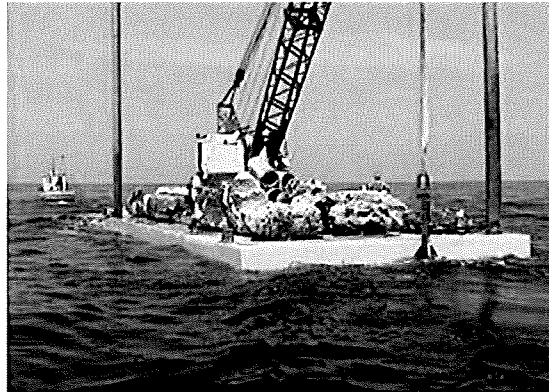
**Dog Ballard Reef Site  
Cross Section Drawing  
Updated – 8/29/2019**



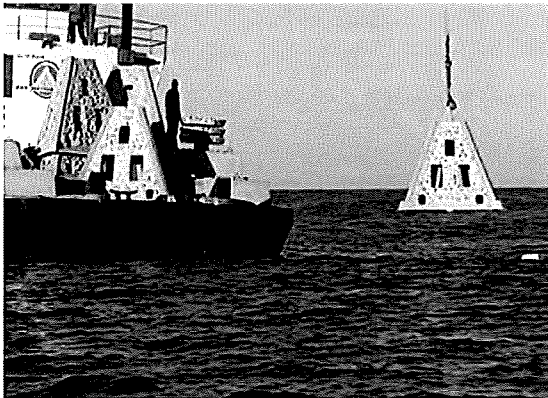
**Figure -8**



Reefballs



Limestone Rock



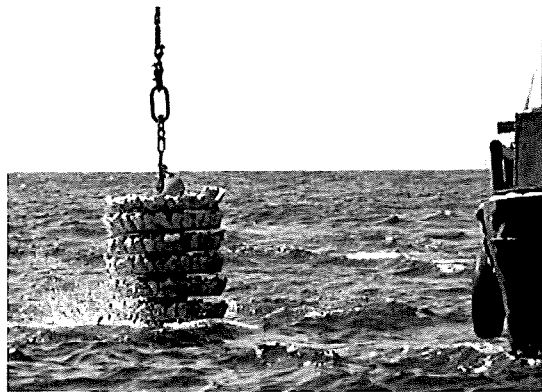
Walter Florida Limestone Reefs



Walter Grouper/Ecosystem Reefs



Concrete Culverts

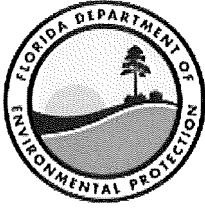


Walter EcoSystem Reefs



Dog Ballard Reef Site  
Examples of possible  
artificial reef materials  
Updated – 8/29/2019





# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF Environmental Protection

Northwest District  
160 W. Government Street, Suite 308  
Pensacola, FL 32502

**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Jeanette Nuñez**  
Lt. Governor

**Noah Valenstein**  
Secretary

October 23, 2019

City of St. Marks  
c/o Zoe Mansfield  
PO Box 296  
St. Marks, Florida 32355  
[Cityofst.marks@comcast.net](mailto:Cityofst.marks@comcast.net)

File No.: 0373731-002-EG/65, Wakulla County

Dear Ms. Mansfield:

On October 3, 2019, we received your notice 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 made from clean concrete materials, does not exceed half the distance from the bottom of the surface, and will not impact the existing hard bottom. Deployment is to occur approximately 6.7 nautical miles Southeast from the St. Marks Channel Marker Green #1 and approximately 13.7 nautical miles East Southeast from the Panacea Channel Marker Red #4, Wakulla County, within the Gulf of Mexico, Class III Florida Waters, Unclassified Shellfish Harvesting. The project is located within the boundary of the listed coordinates listed in the following table.

Dog Ballard Reef	Latitude	Longitude
Northeast Corner	29°57'14.5440"	84°4'41.8440"
Northwest Corner	29°57'14.5440"	84°4'57.9720"
Southeast Corner	29°57'0.5040"	84°4'41.8440"
Southwest Corner	29°57'0.5040"	84°4'57.9360"

Your intent to use a general permit has been reviewed by Department staff for three types of authorization: (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 did not qualify for the federal authorization, therefore additional authorization must be obtained prior to commencement of the proposed activity.** This letter does not relieve you from the responsibility of obtaining other federal, state, or local authorizations that may be required for the activity. Please refer to the specific section(s) dealing with that portion of the review below for advice on how to proceed.

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.

## **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 completed within five years from the date the notice to use the GP was received by the Department. 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, Florida Statutes (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 Chapters 253 and 258, F.S. and Chapters 18-20 and 18-21, F.A.C.

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 Section 253.77, F.S. 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.

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), F.A.C. 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 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, F.S. 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 –SPGP Not Approved**

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 **shall be required** from the Corps. You must apply separately to the Corps using their APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT, ENG FORM 4345, or alternative as allowed by their regulations. More information on Corps permitting may be found online in the Jacksonville District Regulatory Division Source Book at: <https://www.saj.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Source-Book>.

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.

#### **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 a subsequent order of the Department. Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the subsequent order may modify or take a different position than this action.

#### 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 Rules 28-106.201 and 28-106.301, 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, 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, or via electronic correspondence at [Agency\\_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Agency_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov). 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 and persons entitled to written notice under Section 120.60(3), F.S., must be filed within 21 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 21 days of publication of the notice or within 21 days of receipt of the written notice, whichever occurs first. You cannot justifiably rely on the finality of this decision unless notice of this decision and the right of substantially affected persons to challenge this decision has been duly published or otherwise provided to all persons substantially affected by the decision. While you are not required to publish notice of this action, you may elect to do so pursuant Rule 62-110.106(10)(a).

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. If you do not publish notice of this action, this waiver may not apply to persons who have not received a clear point of entry.

#### 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, or via electronic correspondence at [Agency\\_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Agency_Clerk@FloridaDEP.gov), before the 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 Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure 9.110 and 9.190 with the Clerk of the Department in the Office of General Counsel (Station #35, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, 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 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 Una Johnson at the letterhead address, at (850)595-0585, or at [Martha.U.Johnson@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Martha.U.Johnson@FloridaDEP.gov).

**EXECUTION AND CLERKING**

Executed in Orlando, Florida.

STATE OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



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Una Johnson  
Environmental Specialist  
Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program

**Attachments:**

1. Rule 62-330.600, F.A.C., 1 page
2. General Conditions for All General Permits, Rule 62-330.405, F.A.C., 3 pages
3. Special Consent Conditions for Use of Sovereignty Submerged Lands, 1 page
4. General Consent Conditions for Use of Sovereignty Submerged Lands, 2 pages
5. Project Drawings, 7 pages

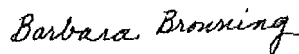
**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned duly designated deputy clerk hereby certifies that this document and all attachments were sent on the filing date below to the following listed persons:

William Horn, [fishhaven07@gmail.com](mailto:fishhaven07@gmail.com)  
Wakulla County, [Rwilde@mywakulla.com](mailto:Rwilde@mywakulla.com)

**FILING AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

FILED, on this date, pursuant to Section 120.52, F.S., with the designated Department Clerk, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.



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Clerk

October 23, 2019  
Date

**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 email at artificialreefdeployments@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 for stormwater management systems under 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) The 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; and it does not authorize any violation of any other applicable federal, state, local, or special district laws (including, but not limited to, those governing the “take” of listed species).

(3) The 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) The general permit is not transferable to a new third party. To be used by a different permittee, a new notice to use a general permit must be submitted in accordance with rule 62-330.402, F.A.C. Activities constructed in accordance with the terms and conditions of a general permit are automatically authorized to be operated and maintained by the permittee and subsequent owners in accordance with subsection 62-330.340(1), F.A.C. Any person holding the general permit, persons working under the general permit, and owners of land while work is conducted under 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 general permit.

(9) The permittee shall maintain any permitted project or activity in accordance with the plans submitted to the Agency and authorized in the general permit.

(10) A permittee’s right to conduct a specific activity under the 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 <https://www.flrules.org/Gateway/reference.asp?No=Ref-04227>, 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 [http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/Stormwater\\_\\_Training\\_Docs/erosion-inspectors-manual.pdf](http://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DEAR/Stormwater__Training_Docs/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 four 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 as soon as practicable after equipment has completed passage through, or work has been completed, at any location along the alignment of the project, but in no case longer than seven days after equipment has completed work or passage through that location; 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 the 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; or
- (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.

(16) If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, stone tools, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The permittee or other designee

shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section (DHR), at (850)245-6333, as well as the appropriate permitting agency office. Project activities 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 the proper authorities notified 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 shut down 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 onsite 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](mailto: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](mailto: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, 6-1-18.*



### **Special Consent Conditions**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. This authorization does not allow any activity prohibited in a conservation easement or restrictive covenant that prohibits the activity.

**General Conditions for Authorizations for Activities on State-Owned Submerged Lands:**

All authorizations granted by rule or in writing under rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., except those for geophysical testing, shall be subject to the general conditions as set forth in paragraphs (a) through (j) below. The general conditions shall be part of all authorizations under this chapter, shall be binding upon the grantee, and shall be enforceable under chapter 253 or 258, part II, F.S.

(a) Authorizations are valid 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 shall constitute a violation. Violation of the authorization shall result in suspension or revocation of the grantee's use of the sovereignty submerged land unless cured to the satisfaction of the Board.

(b) Authorizations convey no title to sovereignty submerged land or water column, nor do they constitute recognition or acknowledgment of any other person's title to such land or water.

(c) Authorizations may be modified, suspended or revoked in accordance with their terms or the remedies provided in sections 253.04 and 258.46, F.S., or chapter 18-14, F.A.C.

(d) Structures or activities shall be constructed and used to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to sovereignty submerged lands and resources.

(e) Construction, use, or operation of the structure or activity shall 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.

(f) Structures or activities shall not unreasonably interfere with riparian rights. When a court of competent jurisdiction determines that riparian rights have been unlawfully affected, the structure or activity shall be modified in accordance with the court's decision.

(g) Structures or activities shall not create a navigational hazard.

(h) Activities shall not interfere with the public easement for traditional uses of the sandy beaches provided in section 161.141, F.S.

(i) Structures shall be maintained in a functional condition and shall be repaired or removed if they become dilapidated to such an extent that they are no longer functional. This shall not be construed to prohibit the repair or replacement subject to the provisions of rule 18-21.005, F.A.C., within one year, of a structure damaged in a discrete event such as a storm, flood, accident, or fire.

(j) Structures or activities shall be constructed, operated, and maintained solely for water dependent purposes, or for non-water dependent activities authorized under paragraph 18-21.004(1)(g), F.A.C., or any other applicable law.

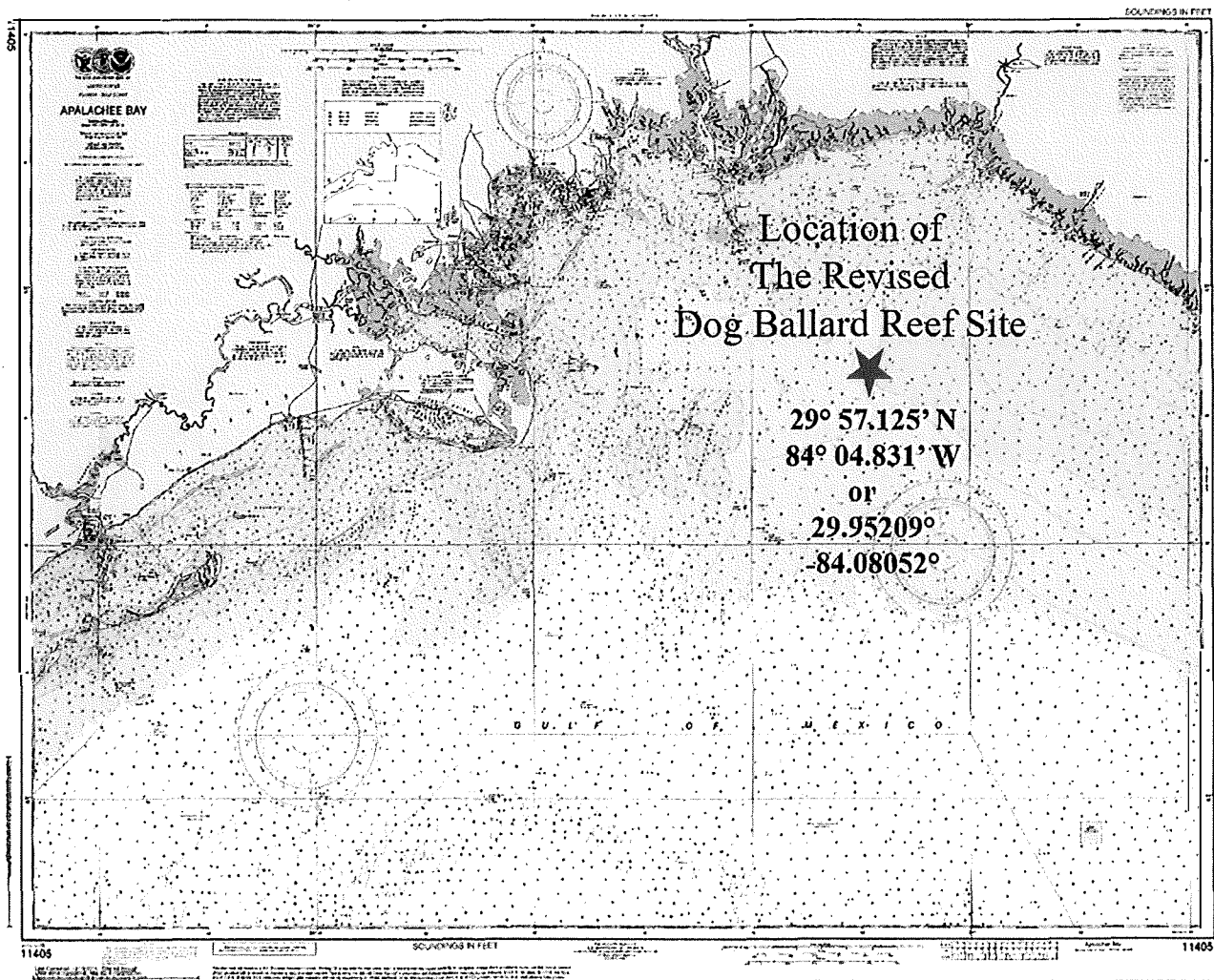
*Rulemaking Authority 253.03(7), 253.73 FS. Law Implemented 253.001, 253.03, 253.141, 253.0347, 253.665, 253.71, 253.68, 253.72, 253.74, 253.75, 253.77 FS. History--New 3-27-82,*

*Amended 8-1-83, Formerly 16Q-21.04, 16Q-21.004, Amended 12-25-86, 1-25-87, 3-15-90, 8-18-92, 10-15-98, 12-11-01, 10-29-03, 12-16-03, 3-8-04, 10-27-05, 4-14-08, 9-1-09, 3-21-19.*

# Figures

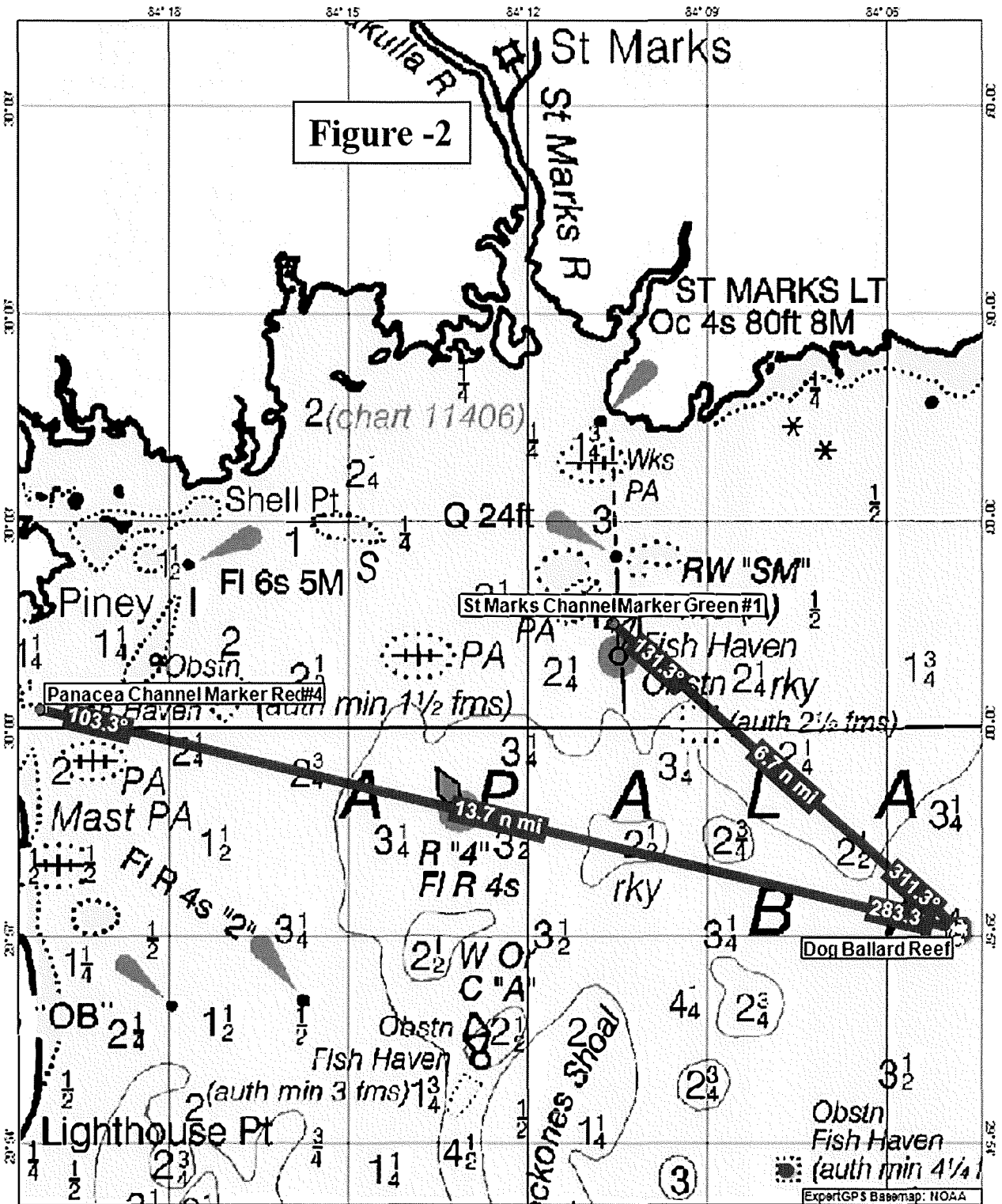


**Figure -1**

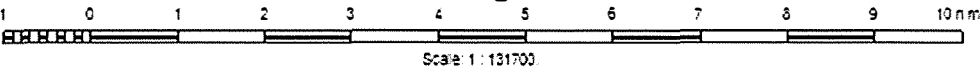


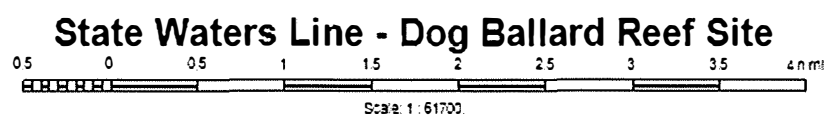
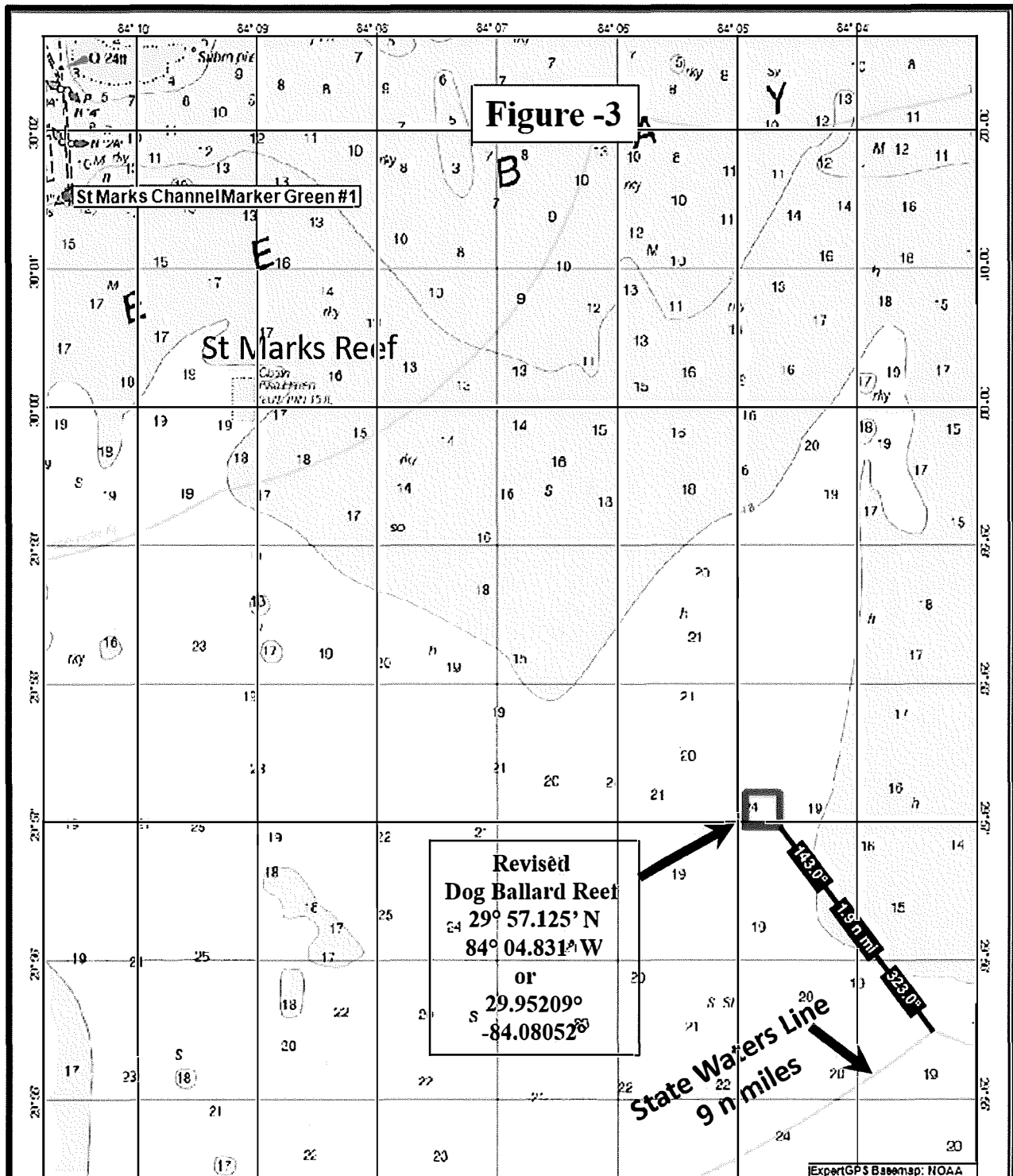
NOAA Nautical Chart 11405  
Apalachee Bay (12/27/2014)



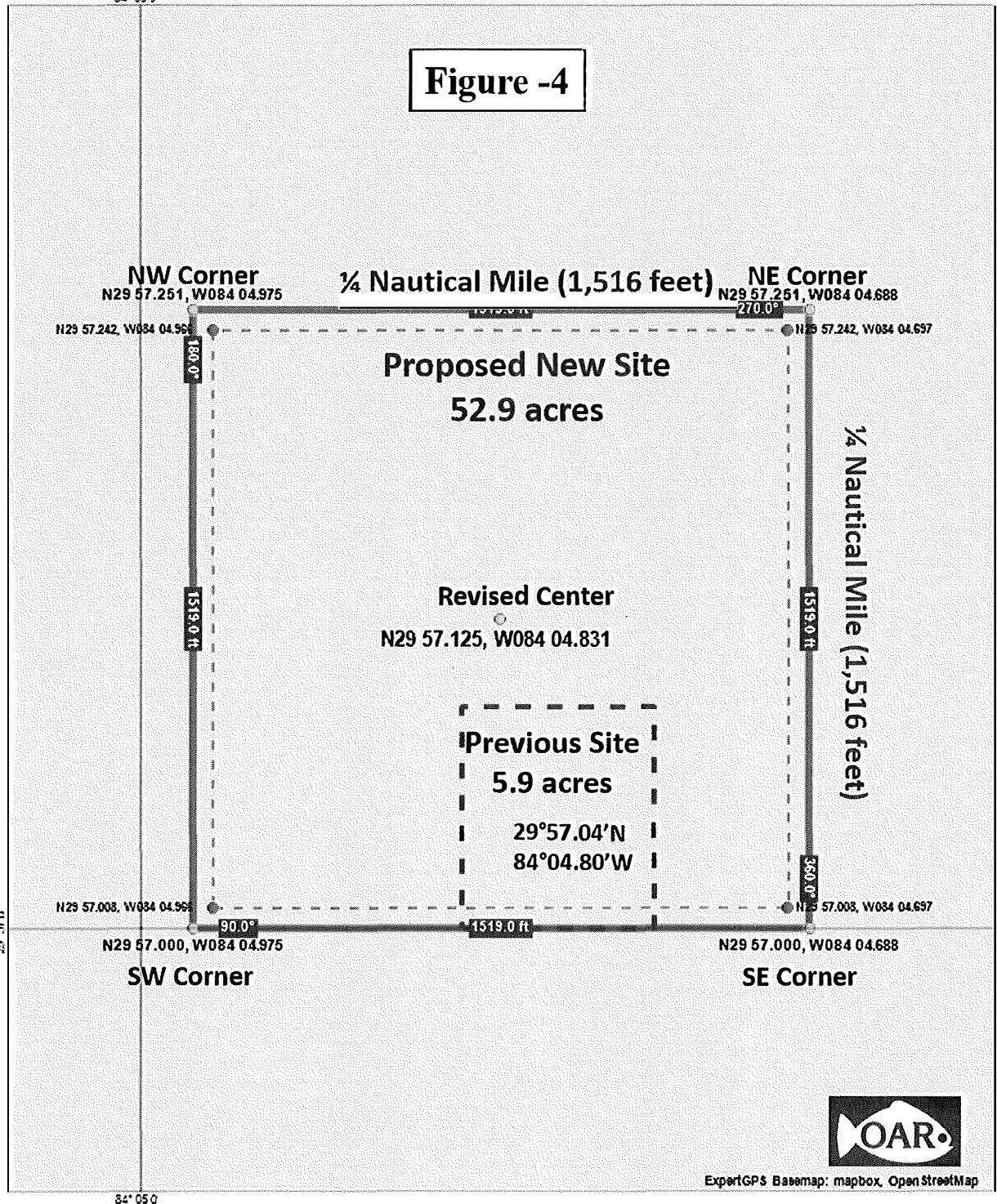


**Nearest Ports to Dog Ballard Reef Site**

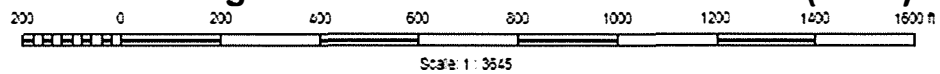




**Figure -4**

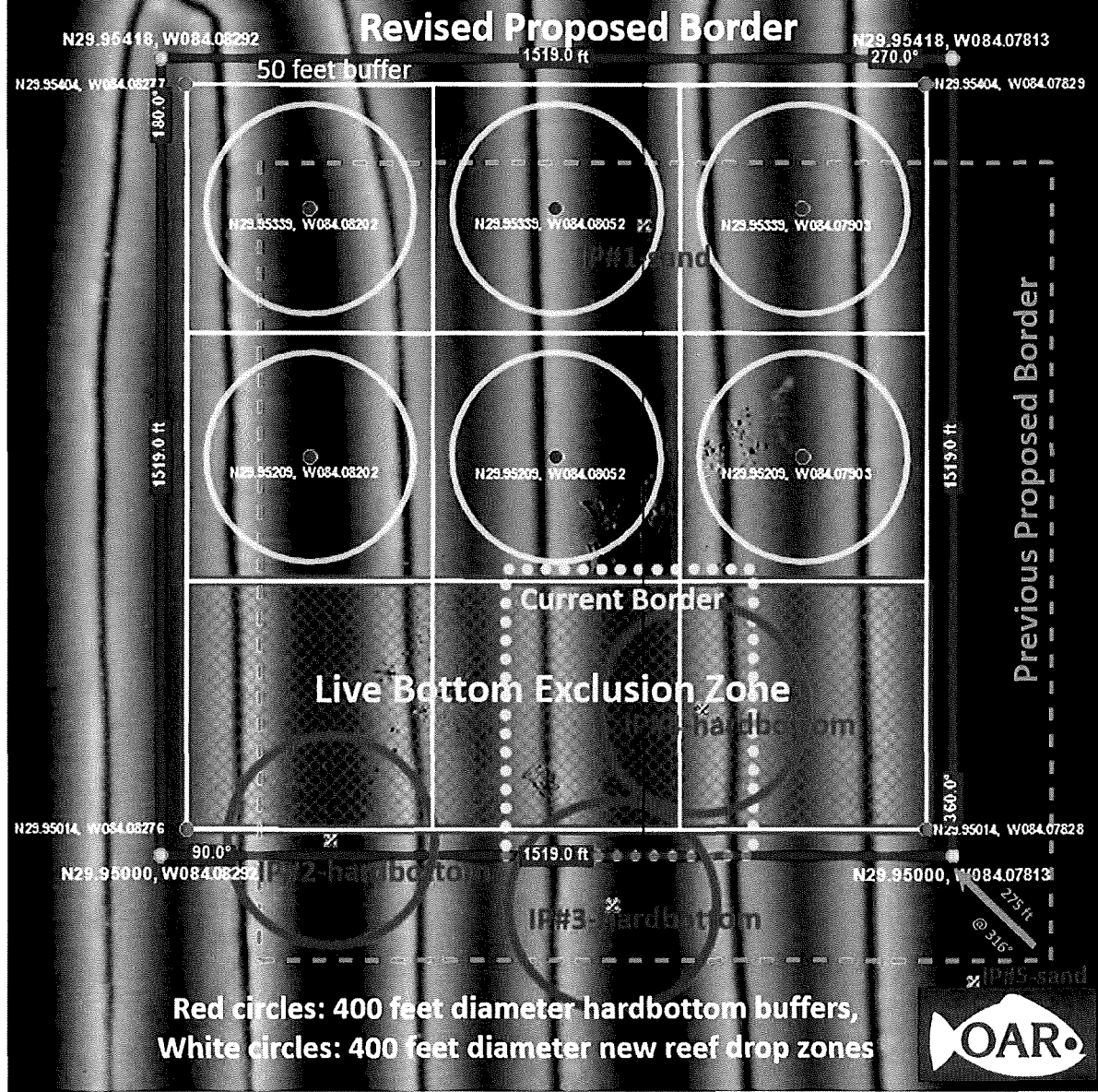


**Revised Dog Ballard Site and Previous Site (1993)**

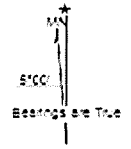
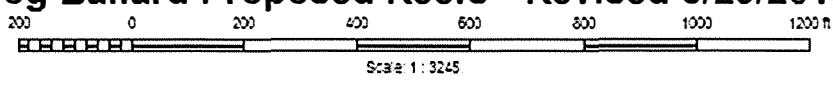


**Figure -5**

**Proposed shift in permitted site to the NW based on 8/11/2019 OAR dive assessment**

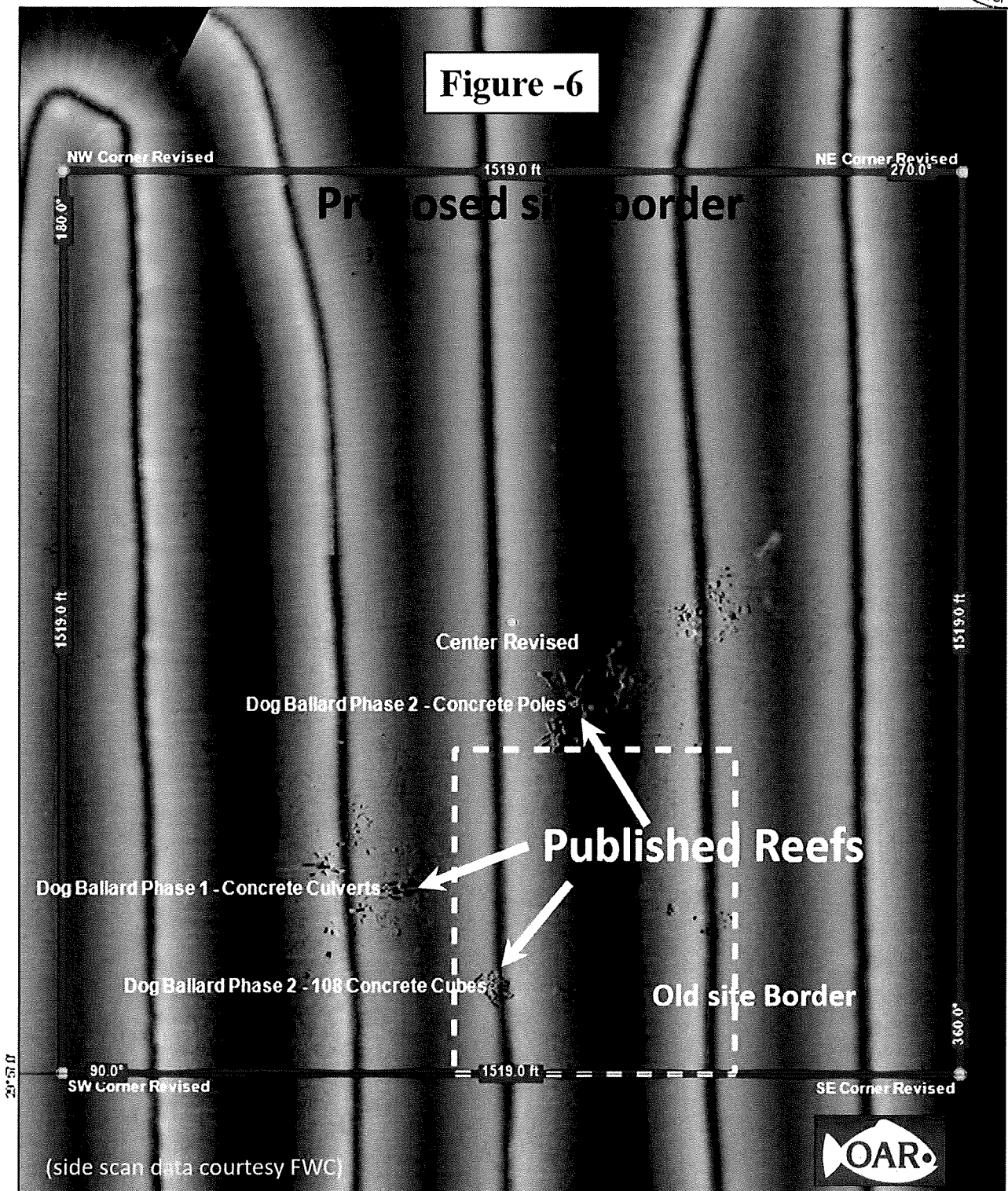


**Dog Ballard Proposed Reefs - Revised 8/29/2019**

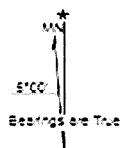
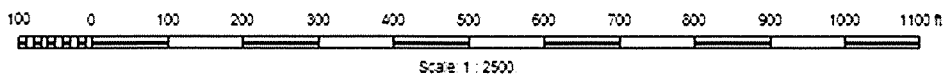




**Figure -6**



**Revised Dog Ballard Side Scan Map with Existing Materials**







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



I, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of individual managing reef deployment (print) Signature Date

whose address is \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street City State Zip Code Phone

declare that I am staging and transporting the following artificial reef construction materials allowable pursuant to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Artificial Reef Permit referenced below and agree to comply with all permit conditions in the permit listed below and attached to this manifest. I understand this artificial reef site is open to public access and this authorization does not provide any rights or exclusive private use over those rights or uses to the general public.

The address of the land based reef materials staging area is: \_\_\_\_\_

Transporting Vessel Registration Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Vessel Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Vessel Operator: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following items are to be deployed as reef material (attach additional sheets when more than four locations):**

MATERIAL TAG ID NUMBER(S), if applicable	Descriptions of material (number of pieces, type, dimension, weight)	GPS Coordinates degrees, minutes, decimal minutes (DD°MM.mmm')
		Lat: _____ ° _____ ' _____ '' Lon: _____ ° _____ ' _____ ''
		Lat: _____ ° _____ ' _____ '' Lon: _____ ° _____ ' _____ ''
		Lat: _____ ° _____ ' _____ '' Lon: _____ ° _____ ' _____ ''
		Lat: _____ ° _____ ' _____ '' Lon: _____ ° _____ ' _____ ''

**A copy of the below referenced permit(s) and all associated conditions is attached to this manifest and shall be carried on board the vessel during loading, storing, or transporting artificial reef material.**

**-- OFFICIAL USE ONLY --**  
 (TO BE COMPLETED BY PERMIT HOLDER, OR AUTHORIZED ARTIFICIAL REEF INSPECTOR)

Permit Holder: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name of U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Permit Holder

ACOE permit number \_\_\_\_\_, permitted site name \_\_\_\_\_

issued on \_\_\_\_\_ and has an expiration date of \_\_\_\_\_.

Local tracking number (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Name of FWC authorized Artificial Reef Inspector, printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (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.



# FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF MATERIALS PLACEMENT REPORT AND POST-DEPLOYMENT NOTIFI



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' North  
(degrees, minutes, decimal minutes (DD°MM.mmm'))

Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_ ° \_\_\_\_\_ ' West  
(degrees, minutes, decimal minutes (DD°MM.mmm'))

GPS Brand and Model Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Location: \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ degrees from \_\_\_\_\_  
(nautical miles) (bearing) (reference inlet)

Water Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ feet - Maximum Material Height: \_\_\_\_\_ feet = Minimum Vertical Clearance: \_\_\_\_\_ feet

### TYPE AND AMOUNT OF MATERIAL DEPLOYED AT THE LOCATION DESCRIBED ABOVE:

(ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE MATERIAL ON THE BARGE IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO DEPLOYMENT)

Primary Type of Material: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Pieces: \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Type of Material: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Pieces: \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL TONNAGE FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

Observer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Observer's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Observer's Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE INFORMATION COMPLIES WITH THE ABOVE REFERENCED PERMIT CONDITIONS

Permittee's Staff Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT)

Permittee's Staff Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Tracking number \_\_\_\_\_ FWC Tracking number \_\_\_\_\_ Entered by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. 4/23/2007 FWC initials date

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.

USING THIS FORMULA FOR PAYMENT OF TRANSPORTATION COSTS SHOULD BE AGREED UPON IN ADVANCE WITH A CONTRACTOR.

Barge Length: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Barge Width: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Loaded Draft: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Unloaded Draft: \_\_\_\_\_ feet

(Length X Width X Loaded Draft X 0.93 X 65) = 2,000 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Loaded barge weight in tons)  
SUBTRACT

(Length X Width X Unloaded Draft X 0.93 X 65) = 2,000 = \_\_\_\_\_ (Unloaded barge weight in tons)

TOTAL TONNAGE FOR THIS DEPLOYMENT = \_\_\_\_\_

## 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 in Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and emailed to FWC at [ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com](mailto: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 8½" 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 [http://www.myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/manatee\\_sign\\_vendors.htm](http://www.myfwc.com/WILDLIFEHABITATS/manatee_sign_vendors.htm). Questions concerning these signs can be forwarded to the email address listed above.

# CAUTION: MANATEE HABITAT

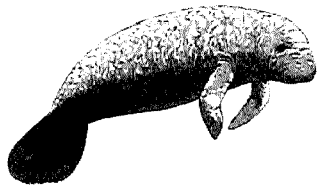
All project vessels

**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





## **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:

1. Vessel operators and crews should maintain a vigilant watch for marine mammals and sea turtles to avoid striking sighted protected species.
2. When whales are sighted, maintain a distance of 100 yards or greater between the whale and the vessel.
3. 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 should attempt to route around the animals, maintaining a minimum distance of 100 yards whenever possible.

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**

1. 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)).
2. Vessels entering North Atlantic right whale critical habitat are required to report into the Mandatory Ship Reporting System.
3. Mariners should 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).
4. 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 should 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 should remain available to assist the respective salvage and stranding network as needed. NMFS' Southeast Regional Office should be immediately notified of the strike by email ([takereport.nmfsser@noaa.gov](mailto: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<sup>th</sup> Avenue South

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Tel: (727) 824-5312

Visit us on the web at <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

## Project Design Criteria (PDCs) Applicable to All Projects

**NOTE** - You are required to comply with the following PDCs, which serve to address requirements pursuant to Section 7, Endangered Species Act (ESA) for those listed species and designated critical habitat under purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division. These PDCs are taken from the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) referred to as JaxBO. These criteria serve to address ESA requirements only, and additional conditions may be required to address other Federal laws, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. Authorization under this permit is conditional upon your compliance with all applicable PDCs, which are made part of this permit. You are reminded that you must complete the attached self-certification statement of compliance following completion of the authorized work. Your statement of compliance does not obviate the need to satisfy all PDCs, including those requirements (e.g., such as structural dimensions and educational signs) that are observable post-construction, and those requirements (e.g., construction methods or procedures to be followed) that are not observable post-construction. Please note that failure to comply with the applicable PDCs of this PBO, where a take of the listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute noncompliance with this permit. The NMFS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this PBO.

**AP.1.** The applicant must agree to adhere to PDCs for *In-Water Activities* (provided below).

**AP.2.** All projects involving the installation of piles or sheet piles shall follow the PDCs for *In-Water Noise from Pile and Sheet Pile Installation* (Section 2.2). This Opinion does not cover projects that use seismic surveys, low frequency sonar, explosions, and seismic air guns.

**AP.3.** All projects proposed in or near areas with mangroves, seagrasses, corals, or hard bottom habitat must refer to PDCs for *Mangroves, Seagrasses, Corals, and Hard Bottom for All Projects* (provided below) to determine whether the project is covered under the Opinion and, if it is covered, to ensure it is sited, designated, and implemented following all of the PDCs in that section.

**AP.4.** For every project, the USACE must determine if the project is located within:

- a) Smalltooth sawfish critical habitat limited exclusion zones (Section 2.1.1.1)
- b) Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones (Section 2.1.1.2)
- c) Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat exclusion zone (St. Marys River) (Section 2.1.1.3)
- d) North Atlantic right whale educational sign zones (Section 2.1.1.4)
- e) U.S. Caribbean sea turtle critical habitat restriction zones (Section 2.1.1.5)
- f) Bryde's whale exclusion zone (Section 2.1.1.6)

Where the activity is excluded from the Opinion within a particular zone, the application must be processed under a separate consultation. Where additional restrictions apply to activities within that zone, the USACE or other authorizing entity must ensure that the project meets the requirements for that zone.

**AP.5.** This Opinion only covers new construction (i.e., installation, repair, replacement) and does not apply to after-the-fact consultations or enforcement actions handled by the Corps.

**AP.6.** All activities must be completed during daylight hours.

## **Project Design Criteria (PDCs) Specific to Activity 7 for Aquatic Habitat Enhancement, Establishment, and Restoration Activities**

**A7.1.** Only native plant species can be planted.

### Additional Conditions for living shoreline and oyster habitat on unvegetated bottom in tidal waters:

**A7.2.** Oyster reef materials shall be placed and constructed in a manner that ensures that materials will remain stable and that prevents movement of materials to surrounding areas (e.g., oysters will be contained in bags or attached to mats and loose cultch must be surrounded by contained bagged oysters or another stabilizing feature).

**A7.3.** Oyster reef materials must be placed in designated locations only (i.e., the materials shall not be indiscriminately or randomly dumped or allowed to spread outside of the reef structure).

**A7.4.** Living shorelines can only be constructed in unvegetated, nearshore water along shorelines to create tidal marshes or mangrove habitat for the purpose of shoreline erosion control or aquatic habitat enhancement. Native plants can be placed along the shoreline or between the shoreline and the living shoreline structure.

**A7.5.** Living shoreline structures and permanent wave attenuation structures can only be constructed out of the following materials: oyster breakwaters (described above in the project description and A7.2), clean limestone boulders or stone (sometimes contained in metal baskets or cages to contain the material), small mangrove islands, biologs, coir, rock sills, and pre-fabricated structures made of concrete and rebar that are designed in a manner so that they do not trap sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, or sturgeon. Reef balls or similar structures that are not open on the bottom, open-bottom structures with a top opening of at least 4 ft, and reef discs stacked on a pile are pre-fabricated structures are designed in a manner so that they do not trap sea turtles. Other materials may be used for living shorelines if pre-approved by NMFS to ensure that they are stable and not an entanglement risk to listed species. The approval process to use other materials is described in the Section 2.3 (Project-Specific Review).

**A7.6.** Both living shoreline and oyster reefs must have 5 ft gaps at least every 75 ft in length, as measured parallel to the shoreline and at the sea floor, to allow for tidal flushing and species movement.

### Additional Conditions for the establishment or restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation:

**A7.7.** The placement of loose or bagged sediment suitable for the project site in blowholes/dredge holes or in prop scars, and berm redistribution or sod replacement in excavations, must be to an elevation level with or otherwise consistent with the adjacent area.

- A7.8.** This Opinion covers leveling submerged spoil piles or berms if necessary to level the restoration area to match the elevation of adjacent seagrass beds.
- A7.9.** Exclusion cages may be used around seagrass restoration areas if necessary to allow the seagrass beds to establish themselves to the point where they are sustainable after the cages are removed. Exclusion cages can only be used on a temporary basis, for a period not to exceed 4 months. Each exclusion cage must be securely fastened to the substrate so that it does not become detached. All cages must be constructed of firm, taut materials and cannot include any loose mesh, thin twistable wire, or rope that could twist or become entangled or present an entanglement risk to species.
- A7.10.** Seagrass transplantation and harvesting from the donor site may occur only by hand. Donor sites could include (i) upland seagrass farms, (ii) areas with seagrasses that would be impacted by another project, or (iii) existing seagrass beds, as long as the seagrass is removed in a manner that is not detrimental to the existing seagrass bed. Transplantation methods may include, but are not limited to, plugging devices, manual transplant, peat pellets, peat pots, and coconut fiber mats. No in-water machinery (e.g., marsh buggies, track hoe) may be used in harvesting or transplanting the seagrasses.  
The selection of and harvesting from seagrass donor sites shall be coordinated with NMFS Habitat Conservation Division. This Opinion does not cover transplantation of the invasive seagrasses (e.g., *Halophila stipulacea*).
- A7.11.** In Florida, this Opinion covers installation of stakes to attract birds, if necessary or appropriate for the project. Bird stakes should not be used in areas where additional nutrients may be detrimental to the seagrass. Bird stakes are not authorized in the U.S. Caribbean.
- A7.12.** This Opinion covers installation of signage (supported on piles or anchored) if the signs are necessary to prevent motorized boats from entering the area and anchoring. Signs must be sized and placed in a manner that prevents the loss of native seagrasses from sign shading.

Additional conditions for the installation of artificial reefs from the placement of man-made materials:

- A7.13.** Artificial reef materials shall be clean and free from asphalt, creosote, petroleum, other hydrocarbons and toxic residues, loose free-floating material, or other deleterious substances.
- A7.14.** New reef sections are limited to 1 reef section measuring ¼- by ¼-nmi area (40 ac)

in size with a distance of 500 ft between each section. Offshore reefs shall maintain a minimum vertical clearance of twice the height of the structure from the top of the deployed material relative to the MLW at all times.

**A7.15.** Reauthorization of existing reefs is limited to the previously permitted size. Approved materials defined in PDC A7.19 can be added to the existing reef area.

**A7.16.** No artificial reef materials shall be deployed until a benthic assessment of the bottom conditions has been accomplished by diver or submersible video camera. 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 ft from any submerged aquatic resources, including seagrasses, macroalgae, hard or soft coral (including coral reefs), sponges, oysters, or hard bottom when placed in areas of sand. If materials are off-loaded from a barge or placed in areas that may generate turbidity (e.g., areas with fines or muck), a 500 ft buffer is required.

**A7.17.** This Opinion does not cover the use of mid-water fish aggregation devices.

**A7.18.** All reefs must be cleaned annually to remove marine debris and derelict fishing line in areas safely accessible to recreational SCUBA divers. Cleanup efforts shall follow the PDCs for Activity 9, marine debris removal, and all pertinent general PDCs.

Additional conditions for reef materials:

**A7.19.** Individual reef units or modules must weigh at least 500 pounds. Reef materials shall be clean and free from asphalt, petroleum, other hydrocarbons, and toxic residues, as well as 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. Only the following reef materials may be used under this Opinion:

- A7.19.1. Prefabricated artificial reef modules composed of ferrous and/or aluminum- alloy metals, concrete, rock, or a combination of these materials.
- A7.19.2. Natural rock boulders and pre-cast concrete material, such as culverts, stormwater junction boxes, power poles, railroad ties, jersey barriers, or other similar concrete material.
- A7.19.3. Clean steel and concrete bridge or large building demolition materials such as slabs or piles with all steel reinforcement rods cut at the base of the concrete so no rebar or metal protrudes from the concrete.

**A7.20.** Reef structures, materials, and installation methods shall be designed and deployed to prevent entanglement and entrapment of listed species. Open-bottom pre-fabricated reef modules may not be used unless the module also has a top opening sufficiently large to allow a turtle to escape. Approved open-bottom modules include:

A7.20.1. Three-sided modules where each side of the top opening is at least 36-in in length along its edge.

A7.20.2. Four or more sided modules where each side of the top opening is at least 40-in in length along its edge.

A7.20.3. Modules with a round opening with a diameter of at least 40-in (oval openings are not allowed unless a 40-in diameter circle space can fit within the oval).

A7.20.4. Modules that are approved by the FWS Artificial Reef Program as being turtle friendly. FWS is currently working on developing this list.

No open-bottom modules are allowed that include additional modules, discs, or other materials stacked or placed on or immediately adjacent to the top opening, as they may prevent turtles from easily escaping.

**A7.21.** This Opinion does not cover projects that use explosives to deploy reef material.

**A7.22.** If pile placement is required in the construction of a reef, such placement must comply with the PDCs for Activity 2, pile-supported structures, and all applicable general PDCs.

Fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality:

**A7.23.** Fill of scars or ruts caused by vessel groundings or similar activities must match the surrounding natural elevation.

**A7.24.** This Opinion covers fill of deep holes or canal bottoms that are determined to be hypoxic (i.e., that have critically low dissolved oxygen levels).

### **Additional PDCs Specific to Activity 7 if in Critical Habitat**

- A7.25.** Smalltooth sawfish critical habitat: Oyster reefs, living shorelines, and artificial reefs cannot be placed in waters containing the shallow, euryhaline essential feature. Fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality and seagrass restoration can occur in waters containing the shallow, euryhaline essential feature, as long as the activity meets the PDCs for Activity 7 and all pertinent general PDCs. No aquatic habitat enhancement, establishment, or restoration activities are allowed in areas identified as smalltooth sawfish limited exclusion zones (Section 2.1.1.1).
- A7.26.** Gulf sturgeon critical habitat: Oyster reefs, living shorelines, and seagrass restoration in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat are restricted to areas that are in water depths shallower than -6 ft (-2 m) MHW (i.e., between the shoreline and -6 ft deep). Artificial reef structures cannot be placed in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat. Fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality can occur in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat, regardless of project depth. Living shorelines, oyster reefs, and artificial reefs cannot be placed in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones, defined in Section 2.1.1.2.
- A7.27.** North Atlantic right whale critical habitat: All artificial reefs must meet specifications below. Oyster reefs, living shorelines, seagrass restoration, and fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality can occur in North Atlantic right whale critical habitat, as long as those activities meet the PDCs for Activity 7 and any pertinent general PDCs, as described above.
- A7.27.1. No artificial reefs can be placed in water shallower than 30 ft deep
- A7.27.2. The maximum reef height off the sea floor is 20 ft
- A7.27.3. The maximum footprint of new reefs shall be 1 nmi<sup>2</sup>. If a new reef is added to an existing artificial reef, the total footprint of the combined reefs must not exceed 1 nmi<sup>2</sup>.
- A7.27.4. Density of newly permitted reefs shall not exceed 2 reefs (old or new) per 10 nmi<sup>2</sup>



A7.27.5. All effort should be made to avoid placing reef material during North Atlantic right whale calving season (November 15 through April 15). If reef material has to be placed during North Atlantic right whale calving season, then the following additional measures are required:

- The maximum speed for all vessels involved in placing the reef material is 10 knots.
- Deployments cannot be conducted at any time when lighting or weather or sea conditions (e.g., darkness, rain, fog, sea state) prevent visual monitoring of the project area.
- Deployment activities will not commence until the protected species observer reports that no marine mammals or sea turtles have been sighted for at least 60 minutes.
- Deployment activities will cease immediately if sea turtles or marine mammals are sighted within the project area.
- Deployment activities will not recommence until the protected species observer reports that no marine mammals or sea turtles have been sighted for at least 60 minutes.

**A7.28.** *Acropora* critical habitat: This Opinion does not cover any aquatic habitat enhancement, establishment, or restoration activities in *Acropora* critical habitat where the essential feature is present.

**A7.29.** Johnson's seagrass critical habitat: Living shorelines, oyster reefs, and artificial reefs cannot be placed in waters shallower than -13 ft MHW within the geographic boundaries of Johnson's seagrass critical habitat. Seagrass restoration and fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality can occur in Johnson's seagrass critical habitat regardless of depth, as long as those activities meet the PDCs for Activity 7 and any pertinent general PDCs, as described above.

**A7.30.** Loggerhead critical habitat: Living shorelines, oyster reefs, and artificial reefs cannot be placed in nearshore reproductive habitat of loggerhead critical habitat. Seagrass restoration and fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality can occur in nearshore reproductive habitat of loggerhead critical habitat, as long as those activities meet the PDCs for Activity 7 and any pertinent general PDCs, as described above.

**A7.31.** U.S. Caribbean Sea Turtle Critical Habitat (NA DPS of green, Hawksbill, and Leatherback Sea Turtle Critical Habitat): No aquatic enhancement activities (living shorelines, oyster reefs, artificial reefs, seagrass restoration, and fill to restore natural contours or improve water quality) can occur within sea turtle critical habitat in the U.S. Caribbean.

## Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for In-Water Activities

**AP.7. Education and Observation:** The permittee must ensure that all personnel associated with the project are instructed about the potential presence of species protected under the ESA and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA). All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of protected species. All personnel shall be advised that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing ESA-listed species or marine mammals. To determine which species may be found in the project area, please review the relevant Protected Species List at:  
[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected\\_resources/section\\_7/threatened\\_endangered/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/threatened_endangered/index.html)

**AP.8. Reporting Interactions with Protected Species:**

- a) Any collision(s) with and/or injury 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 (1-727-824-5312) or by email to: [takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov](mailto:takereport.nmfs@noaa.gov) and [SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil](mailto:SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil).
- b) Smalltooth sawfish: Report sightings to 1-844-SAWFISH or email: [Sawfish@MyFWC.com](mailto:Sawfish@MyFWC.com)
- c) Sturgeon: Report dead sturgeon to 1-844-STURG 91 (1-844-788-7491) or email: [nmfs.ser.sturgeonnetwork@noaa.gov](mailto:nmfs.ser.sturgeonnetwork@noaa.gov)
- d) Sea turtles and marine mammals: Report stranded, injured, or dead animals to 1-877-WHALE HELP (1-877-942-5343).
- e) North Atlantic right whale: Report injured, dead, or entangled right whales to the USCG via VHF Channel 16.

**AP.9. Vessel Traffic and Construction Equipment:** All vessel operators must watch for and avoid collision with species protected under the ESA and MMPA. Vessel operators must avoid potential interactions with protected species and operate in accordance with the following protective measures:

- a) *Construction Equipment:*
  - i) All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while operating in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a 4-foot (ft) clearance from the bottom, and in all depths after a protected species has been observed in and has departed the area.
  - ii) All vessels will follow marked channels and/or routes using the maximum water depth whenever possible.
  - iii) Operation of any mechanical construction equipment, including vessels, shall cease immediately if a listed species is observed within a 50-ft radius of construction equipment and shall not resume until the species has departed the area of its own volition.
  - iv) If the detection of species is not possible during certain weather conditions (e.g., fog, rain, wind), then in-water operations will cease until weather conditions improve and detection is again feasible.

- b) *All Vessels:*
- i) Sea turtles: Maintain a minimum distance of 150 ft.
  - ii) North Atlantic right whale: Maintain a minimum 1,500-ft distance (500 yards).
  - iii) Vessels 65 ft in length or longer must comply with the Right Whale Ship Strike Reduction Rule (50 CFR 224.105) which includes reducing speeds to 10 knots or less in Seasonal Management Areas (<http://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pr/shipstrike/>).
  - iv) Mariners shall check various communication media for general information regarding avoiding ship strikes and specific information regarding right whale sightings in the area. These include NOAA weather radio, USCG NAVTEX broadcasts, and Notices to Mariners.
  - v) Marine mammals (i.e., dolphins, whales [other than North Atlantic right whales], and porpoises): Maintain a minimum distance of 300 ft.
  - vi) When these animals are sighted while the 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 they have left the area.
  - vii) Reduce speed to 10 knots or less when mother/calf pairs or groups of marine mammals are observed, when safety permits.

**AP.10. Turbidity Control Measures during Construction:** Turbidity must be monitored and controlled. Prior to initiating any of the work covered under this Opinion, the Permittee shall install turbidity curtains as described below. In some instances, the use of turbidity curtains may be waived by the USACE project manager if the project is deemed too minimal to generate turbidity (e.g., certain ATON installation, scientific survey device placement, marine debris removal) or if the current is too strong for the curtains to stay in place. Turbidity curtains specifications:

- a) Install floating turbidity barriers with weighted skirts that extend to within 1 ft of the bottom around all work areas that are in, or adjacent to, surface waters.
- b) Use these turbidity barriers throughout construction to control erosion and siltation and ensure that turbidity levels within the project area do not exceed background conditions.
- c) Position turbidity barriers in a way that does not block species' entry to or exit from designated critical habitat.
- d) Monitor and maintain turbidity barriers in place until the authorized work has been completed and the water quality in the project area has returned to background conditions.
- e) In the range of ESA-listed corals (St. Lucie Inlet, Martin County south to the Dry Tortugas and the U.S. Caribbean) and Johnson's seagrass (Turkey Creek/Palm Bay south to central Biscayne Bay in the lagoon systems on the east coast of Florida):
  - i. Projects that include upland earth moving (e.g., grading to install a building or parking lot associated with a dock and seawall project), must install sediment control barriers to prevent any upland sediments from reaching estuarine or marine waters.
  - ii. The turbidity curtain requirement cannot be waived for any project that moves or removes sediment (e.g., dredging, auger to create a pile, trenching to install a cable

line). If turbidity curtains are not feasible in an area based on site conditions such as water current, high wave action, or stormy conditions, the project must undergo individual Section 7 consultation and is not covered under this Programmatic Opinion.

**AP.11. Entanglement:** All turbidity curtains and other in-water equipment must be properly secured with materials that reduce the risk of entanglement of marine species (described below). Turbidity curtains likewise must be made of materials that reduce the risk of entanglement of marine species.

- a) In-water lines (rope, chain, and cable, including the lines to secure turbidity curtains) must be stiff, taut, and non-looping. Examples of such lines are heavy metal chains or heavy cables that do not readily loop and tangle. Flexible in-water lines, such as nylon rope or any lines that could loop or tangle, must be enclosed in a plastic or rubber sleeve/tube to add rigidity and prevent the line from looping and tangling. In all instances, no excess line is allowed in the water.
- b) Turbidity curtains and other in-water equipment must be placed in a manner that does not entrap species within the construction area or block access for them to navigate around the construction area.

## Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for Mangroves, Seagrasses, Corals and Hard Bottom for All Projects

Note: **For projects authorized in reliance on this Opinion only**, the PDCs below supercede any other guidance documents otherwise applicable to reduce or avoid impacts to mangroves, seagrasses, and corals. This includes the NMFS's *Construction Guidelines in Florida for Minor Piling-Supported Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh, or Mangrove Habitat* dated August 2001, and NMFS's *Key for Construction Conditions for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Johnson's Seagrass (Halophila johnsonii)*, dated October 2002. NMFS may still apply these guidance documents in other consultations, including consultations on Essential Fish Habitat under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as appropriate.

### **AP.12. Mangroves:**

- a) To qualify for coverage under this Opinion, all projects must be sited and designed to avoid or minimize impacts to mangroves.
- b) Mangrove removal must be conducted in a manner that avoids any unnecessary removal and is limited to the following instances:
  - i. Removal to install up to a 4-ft-wide walkway for a dock.
  - ii. Removal to install up to an 8-ft-wide walkway for public docks, where the walkway is necessary to address compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).
  - iii. Removal to install culverts necessary to improve water quality or restore hydrology between 2 water bodies. Such mangrove removal is limited to a maximum of 20 linear feet (lin ft) of shoreline per culvert opening.
  - iv. Removal of mangroves above mean high water (MHW) provided that the tree does not have any prop roots that extend into the water below the MHWL.
- c) Mangrove Trimming. Mangrove trimming is regulated by FDEP, Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, and U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources. Consistent with those authorities, when used in this Opinion, mangrove trimming refers to the removal (using hand equipment such as chain saws and/or machetes) of lateral branches (i.e., no alteration of the trunk of the tree) in a manner that ensures survival of the tree. This Opinion does not limit or supersede any restrictions on mangrove removal required under any federal, state, or local law.
  - i. This Opinion only covers projects with associated mangrove trimming occurring waterward of MHW if such trimming (1) occurs within the area where the authorized structures are placed or will be placed (e.g., removal of branches that overhang a dock),
  - ii. (2) is necessary to provide temporary construction access, and (3) is conducted in a manner that avoids any unnecessary trimming.

- iii. The Opinion does not apply to projects proposing to remove red mangrove props roots waterward of MHW, except for removal to install the dock walkways, as described above (up to a 4-ft walkway and up to a 8-ft ADA compliant walkway) and to install culverts necessary to improve water quality or restore hydrology between 2 water bodies.

**AP.13. Seagrass:**

- a) Pile-supported structures must follow the PDCs for *Docks or Other Minor Structures* (PDC A2.17, Section 2.2.2)

**Johnson's seagrass:**

- b) This Opinion does not apply to projects where Johnson's seagrass is found within the project footprint except for:
  - i. Installation of pile-supported structures that meet the PDCs for *Docks or Other Minor Structures* (PDC A2.17, Section 2.2.2).
  - ii. Maintenance dredging of previously authorized areas. This is limited to the removal of no more than 0.1 acre (ac) (4,356 ft<sup>2</sup>) of Johnson's seagrass per year (Activity 3; see Section 2.2.3).
  - iii. Transmission/utility line repairs within the same footprint of the lines being repaired (Activity 8; see Section 2.2.8).

**Non-listed seagrasses:**

- a) All impacts to non-ESA listed native, non-invasive seagrasses should be avoided and minimized to the extent practicable.
- b) This Opinion does not apply to projects located within the geographic boundary of U.S. Caribbean sea turtle critical habitat (hawksbill, leatherback, and the NA DPS of green sea turtle critical habitat identified in Section 2.1.1.5) if non-ESA listed, native, non-invasive seagrasses are found within the project footprint.
- c) This Opinion does not apply to projects that may affect, directly or indirectly, ESA-listed corals.
- d) Projects occurring within in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) may require separate consultation or authorization from NOAA's FKNMS. Projects authorized to occur in the FKNMS shall comply with any measures NOAA FKNMS has developed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any effects on non-listed corals. For projects occurring outside of the FKNMS, if non-listed corals are found within the project footprint, we recommend relocating all non-listed corals, when possible, in a manner that is protective of the corals.

**AP.14. Coral and Hard Bottom Habitat:**

- a) This Opinion does not apply to projects that may affect, directly or indirectly, ESA-listed corals.
- b) Projects occurring within in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) may require separate consultation or authorization from NOAA's FKNMS. Projects authorized to occur in the FKNMS shall comply with any measures NOAA FKNMS has developed to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any effects on non-listed corals. For projects occurring outside of the FKNMS, if non-listed corals are found within the project footprint, we recommend relocating all non-listed corals, when possible, in a manner that is protective of the corals.
- c) This Opinion does not apply to projects where hard bottom habitat is found within the project footprint, except for the temporary placement (up to 24 months) of scientific survey devices (Activity 5) that have a footprint of less than 1 square foot (ft<sup>2</sup>) per device and are installed in a manner that does not permanently alter the hardbottom (e.g., the devices are not installed by drilling). For this Opinion, we define hard bottom in 2 ways:
  - i. Natural consolidated hard substrate that is suitable to support corals, coral larval settlement, reattachment and recruitment of asexual coral fragments. These areas of hard bottom or dead coral skeleton must be free from fleshy or turf macroalgae cover and sediment cover.
  - ii. Nearshore and surf-zone, low-profile hard bottom outcroppings (e.g., worm-rock reef [sabellariid worm reefs] and eolianite, granodiorite). This habitat can be persistent or ephemeral, cycling through periods of exposure and cover by sand. The range of this hard bottom habitat extends along the southeastern coast of Florida from Cape Canaveral to Miami-Dade County and in the U.S. Caribbean. It is an important developmental habitat for juvenile hawksbill and green sea turtles, which use it for both foraging and refuge.

## Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for Gulf Sturgeon Critical Habitat Migratory Restriction Zones

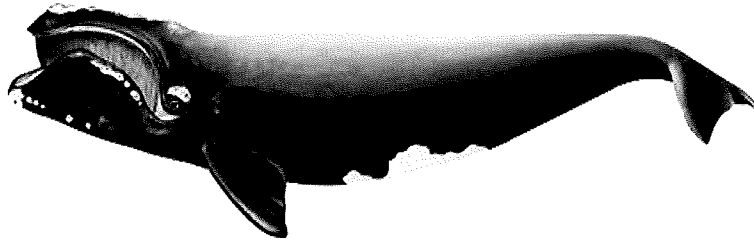
1. This Opinion does not apply to the placement of living shoreline, oyster reef, and artificial reef materials (Activity 7, PDC A7.26) and temporary platform, fill, and cofferdams (Activity 10, PDC A10.11) in Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones.
2. This Opinion does not apply to new transmission and utility line installation in the Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones between September and March, when sturgeon are likely to be present in these areas. Emergency repair/replacement of transmission and utility lines may occur in these areas during this time frame if the work is conducted without the use of heavy in-water equipment (e.g., dredging equipment) (Activity 8, PDC A8.10).
3. This Opinion does not apply to the installation of metal piles and metal sheet piles by impact hammer in the areas identified as Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones.
4. The allowable pile and sheet pile driving activities vary depending on the width of the project action area, as described below.
5. Areas that are 0-500 ft wide: In areas up to 500 ft wide, the allowable pile or sheet pile driving activities within the Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones are:
  - a. Creating a pilot hole for any type of pile using an auger or drop punch
  - b. Trenching a shoreline with mechanical equipment to create a space to install any type of sheet pile and backfilling behind it
  - c. Installing any type of piles and sheet piles by jetting.
6. Areas that are 501-1,400 ft wide: In areas over 500 ft wide, but less than 1,400 ft wide, the allowable pile or sheet pile driving activities within the Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones are:
  - a. The activities described in 1-3 above, and
  - b. Installing any type of piles and sheet piles by vibratory hammer.
7. Areas over 1,401 ft wide: In areas 1,401 ft wide or wider, the allowable pile or sheet pile driving activities within the Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones are:
  - a. The activities described in 1-4 above, and
  - b. Installing wood, vinyl, and concrete piles and sheet piles by impact hammer.



## Attachment X

### North Atlantic Right Whale Federal Regulations Information Handout

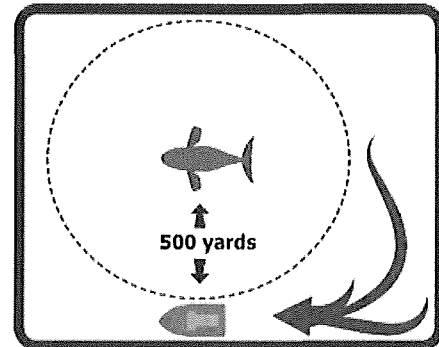
#### Federal Regulations Governing the Approach to North Atlantic Right Whales



1. Federal regulations governing the approach to North Atlantic right whales can be found at 50 CFR 224.103(c). It is illegal to approach and remain within 500 yards of right whales; 500 yards is equal to the distance of 5 football fields.

Prohibitions on approaching right whales are as follows (Excerpts from 50 CFR 224.103(c), available at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov)): Unless otherwise lawfully allowed or unless doing so would create an imminent and serious threat to a person or vessel, it is unlawful to:

- (i) *Approach (including by interception) within 500 yards (460 m) of a right whale by vessel*
- (ii) *Fail to undertake required right whale avoidance measures. If underway, a vessel must steer a course away from the right whale and immediately leave the area at a slow safe speed.*



2. Updates can be downloaded from:
  - a. [http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale\\_northatlantic.htm](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/mammals/cetaceans/rightwhale_northatlantic.htm), or
  - b. [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov)