

APPENDIX C: Additional Conditions for In-water Activities in Manatee Habitat, March 2011

Note: These conditions may be subject to revision at any time. It is our intention that the most recent version of these conditions will be utilized during the evaluation of the permit application.

Depending on the work proposed and the location, further protective measures may be required in addition to the standard manatee conditions (Appendix B). Additional information regarding: (1) dredging techniques/methods; (2) planned start and end times; (3) the amount of material to be removed; (4) the specific project location; (5) spoil disposal location; and (6) a current submerged vegetation survey (documenting the presence/absence of vegetation and the extent of any project-related impacts, if any, to submerged aquatic vegetation occurring on-site) should be provided to expedite the review process.

The additional protective measures that may be required include (but are not limited to):

- Impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) must be avoided. If impacts have been avoided to the greatest extent practicable, impacts must be minimized (see Appendix E and Appendix F for minimizing impacts after avoidance has taken place).
- For dredging projects that do not impact SAV and involve less than 50,000 cubic yards, additional measures outlined in the 2011 Manatee Key shall be followed. For dredging projects involving more than 50,000 cubic yards, additional measures may be necessary. Areas not identified in the Key may also require special conditions.
- In-water activities may need to be conducted at times of the year when manatees are not likely to be found in the project area. In particular, activities shall not occur in or near manatee aggregation areas or important manatee areas when manatees are present.
- Dedicated manatee observers, whose sole responsibility is to watch for manatees, may be needed and must be positioned on each vessel to watch for manatees. The observer must be experienced in manatee observation techniques and assist direct dredging activity-related personnel with complying with the standard manatee conditions (Appendix B). The manatee observer must be on site during all in-water activities.
- If observers are required, but conditions (weather, heavy currents, etc.) are such that manatees cannot be seen within 50 to 100 feet, in-water activity shall not be conducted.
- In areas of high manatee use, in-water activities may not be conducted at night, particularly clamshell dredging.
- Movement of work boats and barges should be minimized at night.

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- All watercraft-access facilities that accommodate large vessels, particularly those 100 feet or more in length, shall provide a fendering system to reduce the probability of crushing manatees between wharves and bulkheads or between vessels moored together. Fenders, mooring buoys, or cantilevered docks must provide a minimum standoff distance of 4 feet (for fenders and buoys, under maximum compression).