South Florida Ecological Services Office

DRAFT

February 12, 2004

STANDARD PROTECTION MEASURES FOR THE ATLANTIC SALT MARSH SNAKE

- 1. Develop educational materials on Atlantic salt marsh snakes and on the ecological communities and hydrological functions of coastal saltwort flats and salt grass-bordered tidal creeks in Indian River County. Educational materials could include a combination of posters, videos, pamphlets, and lectures (*e.g.*, an observer trained to identify Atlantic salt marsh snakes could instruct construction personnel before any clearing activities occur). You may also fund development of educational materials by a local environmental organization or institution.
- 2. Post informational signs throughout the construction site and along any proposed access road containing the following information:
 - a. a description of Atlantic salt marsh snakes, their habits, and protection under Federal Law:
 - b. instructions not to injure, harass, or kill this species;
 - c. directions to cease activities, and to contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if an Atlantic salt marsh snake is encountered; and,
 - d. telephone numbers of pertinent agencies to be contacted if a dead Atlantic salt marsh snake is encountered.

Informational posters should be submitted for review as part of the consultation package.

- 3. An Atlantic salt marsh snake monitoring report must be submitted to the South Florida Ecological Services Office within 60 days of the conclusion of activities. The report should be submitted whether or not Atlantic salt marsh snakes are observed. the report should contain the following information:
 - a. any sightings of Atlantic salt marsh snakes and
 - b. other obligations required by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, as stipulated in the permit.