



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1520 ROYAL PALM SQUARE BLVD., SUITE 310
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33919

July 11, 2019

Regulatory Division
West Permits Branch
Fort Myers Permits Section
SAJ-2011-00601 (MOD-SJF)
Modification-1

West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND)
C/o Mr. Justin McBride, Executive Director
200 Miami Avenue East
Venice, FL 34285

Dear Mr. McBride:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has completed the review and evaluation of your modification request, received on 25 February 2016, in which you asked to extend the permit expiration date authorized by Department of the Army permit number SAJ-2011-00601, issued to West Coast Inland Navigation District, dated 21 December 2011. The project site is located at an area adjacent to the Punta Rassa boat ramp within San Carlos Bay in Section 10, Township 46 South, Range 23 East, Punta Rassa, Lee County, Florida.

The proposed modification is to extend the expiration date to complete your proposed project. This authorization is hereby extended for 2 year(s) from the date of this letter.

>Special Conditions:

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

a. For standard mail: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, Special Projects and Enforcement Branch, 9900 SW 107th Ave., Suite 203, Miami, Florida 33176-2785.

b. For electronic mail (preferred) SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil (not to exceed 10 MB).

The Permittee shall reference this permit number, SAJ-2011-00601 (MOD-SJF), on all submittals.

2. Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for In-Water Activities: The Permittee shall comply with National Marine Fisheries Service's "PDCs for In-Water Activities" dated November 20, 2017 (Attachment 1).

3. Daylight Hours: All activities must be completed during daylight hours.
4. Dredge Method: This verification applies only to mechanical and hydraulic dredging activities, it does not authorize hopper dredging.
5. Dredged Material Disposal: All dredged material must be placed in an Corps-verified upland disposal site, EPA or Corps designated open water disposal site, Corps Dredged Material Management Area, or Corps-approved beneficial use sites for mitigation or restoration, as long as it meets the following:
 - The disposal sites shall employ erosion control measures such as upland erosion control, such as filtration or berms, or in-water turbidity curtains.
 - Handling and storage of dredged material must be completed in a manner that prevents sedimentation, erosion, and turbidity during dewatering, overflow, transferring, and storage of the dredged material. For example, the overwater transfer of dredge material should either contain the dredged material and any water to prevent sedimentation or employ other methods, such as turbidity curtains in the marine environment, to ensure that any turbidity generated as the water is returned to the marine environment is contained. If the applicant conducts sediment testing voluntarily or in compliance with other law, and such testing indicates high levels of contaminants in the sediments to be dredged, water from dewatering should not be released back into the marine environment.

The impact of your proposal on navigation and the environment has been reviewed and found to be insignificant. The permit is hereby modified in accordance with your request. You should attach this letter to the permit. All other conditions of the permit remain in full force and effect.

If you have any questions concerning this permit modification, please contact the project manager Stephen Fleming at the letterhead address, by telephone at 239-334-1975 or by electronic mail at Stephen.J.Fleming@usace.army.mil.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. The Corps' Jacksonville District Regulatory Division is committed to improving service to our customers. We strive to perform our duty in a friendly and timely manner while working to preserve our environment. We invite you to complete our automated Customer Service Survey at http://corpsmapu.usace.army.mil/cm_apex/f?p=regulatory_survey. Please be aware this Internet address is case sensitive; and, you will need to enter it exactly as it appears above. Your input is appreciated – favorable or otherwise.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

for: Andrew D. Kelly
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

Attachement 1: PDCs for In-Water Work

Enclosures

Copy/ies Furnished:

Justin McBride - WCIND
CESAJ-RD-PE

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District's Programmatic Biological Opinion (JaxBO) Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for In-Water Activities

November 20, 2017

- 1) **(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
- 2) **(AP.8.) Reporting** of 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 and SAJ-RD-Enforcement@usace.army.mil.
 - b) Smalltooth sawfish: Report sightings to 1-844-SAWFISH or email Sawfish@MyFWC.com
 - c) Sturgeon: Report dead sturgeon to 1-844-STURG 911 (1-844-788-7491) or email 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.
- 3) **(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.

- 4) **(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 cableline). 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.
- 5) **(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.