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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
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F/SER3:EGH

FEB 18 2005

Mr. James C. Duck
Chief, Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P.O. 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Dear Mr. Duck:

This correspondence responds to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (COE) letter and draft Project Implementation Report with integrated Environmental Assessment (EA) dated February 2005 for the Site 1 Impoundment Project located in Palm Beach County, Florida, to NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Protected Resources Division. We received your submissions on February 18, 2005. You requested our review and comments of the EA.

We believe the EA adequately addresses the issues associated with threatened and endangered species under NMFS purview. We have no additional comments.

NOAA-1

We look forward to continued cooperation with the COE in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions regarding the ESA consultation process, please contact Mr. Eric Hawk, fishery biologist, at (727) 570-5779, or by e-mail at Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

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