

SOUTH ATLANTIC REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL OPINION (SARBO) UPDATE



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***World-Class Delivery...
Real-World Impact!***



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**



SARBO History & Schedule

- 1997 Current BiOp – Amended 1995 opinion
- 2007: Formally reinitiate consultation
- 2007: NMFS tells Corps to keep dredging while under consultation
- 2012 – 1214: Additional species listed
- July 2018: Significant agreements reached on long standing critical elements
- March 2019: Draft Project Design Criteria (PDCs) received from NMFS; Corps/Industry Review
- August 2019: USACE receives final DRAFT of SARBO
- February 2020: SARBO Signed?



SARBO Scope

- O&M of Navigation Channels under NMFS jurisdiction to include Puerto Rico, USVI, and AIWW
- Federal Beach renourishments; some new beaches
- Regulatory routine dredging – berths, beach renourishments, etc.
- All equipment types – hopper, pipeline, mechanical
- Relocation trawling & bed leveling authorized
- Rock exclusions screens (UXO)



Species Restrictions

- Turtles - No dredging windows; placement windows during nesting on high density beaches (USFW)
- Atlantic Sturgeon - Some windows on small non-routinely dredged channels
- NARW – Speed reductions if in the winter and a whale is spotted within 38NM for 36 hours
- Corals – No overflow w/in 500' (5%) or 1000' (10%) for a maximum of 18 days per location; no overflow for >10%; relocate corals on pipeline corridors
- Sea Grass – Turbidity curtains required if using mechanical dredges



SARBO Benefits

- Significantly reduces the need for stand alone BiOps
- Adopts a risk based approach to multiple species management – no longer turtle centric
- Levels National Dredge Schedules – reduces bottlenecks
- Incorporates NARW Conservation Plan – expands aerial surveillance
- Anticipate higher takes limits for recovered species; i.e. Green Sea Turtles
- Supersede for one offs and technology improvements



Additional Research

- Tickler chains
- DO drops around a dredge
- Turbidity Plume Modeling
- Sediment Transport Modeling
- Fate of Fines



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Questions?

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