

Project Design Criteria (PDCs) Applicable to All Projects

NOTE - You are required to comply with the following PDCs, which serve to address requirements pursuant to Section 7, Endangered Species Act (ESA) for those listed species and designated critical habitat under purview of the National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division. These PDCs are taken from the Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) referred to as JaxBO. These criteria serve to address ESA requirements only, and additional conditions may be required to address other Federal laws, including the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. Authorization under this permit is conditional upon your compliance with all applicable PDCs, which are made part of this permit. You are reminded that you must complete the attached self-certification statement of compliance following completion of the authorized work. Your statement of compliance does not obviate the need to satisfy all PDCs, including those requirements (e.g., such as structural dimensions and educational signs) that are observable post-construction, and those requirements (e.g., construction methods or procedures to be followed) that are not observable post-construction. Please note that failure to comply with the applicable PDCs of this PBO, where a take of the listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute noncompliance with this permit. The NMFS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of this PBO.

AP.1. The applicant must agree to adhere to PDCs for *In-Water Activities* (provided below).

AP.2. All projects involving the installation of piles or sheet piles shall follow the PDCs for *In-Water Noise from Pile and Sheet Pile Installation* (Section 2.2). This Opinion does not cover projects that use seismic surveys, low frequency sonar, explosions, and seismic air guns.

AP.3. All projects proposed in or near areas with mangroves, seagrasses, corals, or hard bottom habitat must refer to PDCs for *Mangroves, Seagrasses, Corals, and Hard Bottom for All Projects* (provided below) to determine whether the project is covered under the Opinion and, if it is covered, to ensure it is sited, designated, and implemented following all of the PDCs in that section.

AP.4. For every project, the USACE must determine if the project is located within:

- a) Smalltooth sawfish critical habitat limited exclusion zones (Section 2.1.1.1)
- b) Gulf sturgeon critical habitat migratory restriction zones (Section 2.1.1.2)
- c) Atlantic sturgeon critical habitat exclusion zone (St. Marys River) (Section 2.1.1.3)
- d) North Atlantic right whale educational sign zones (Section 2.1.1.4)
- e) U.S. Caribbean sea turtle critical habitat restriction zones (Section 2.1.1.5)
- f) Bryde's whale exclusion zone (Section 2.1.1.6)

Where the activity is excluded from the Opinion within a particular zone, the application must be processed under a separate consultation. Where additional restrictions apply to activities within that zone, the USACE or other authorizing entity must ensure that the project meets the requirements for that zone.

AP.5. This Opinion only covers new construction (i.e., installation, repair, replacement) and does not apply to after-the-fact consultations or enforcement actions handled by the Corps.

AP.6. All activities must be completed during daylight hours.

Project Design Criteria (PDCs) for In-Water Activities

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

AP.8. Reporting 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 91 (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.

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.

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 cable

line). 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.

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.

Project Design Criteria (PDCs) Specific to Activity 2 for Pile-Supported Structures and Anchored Buoys

- A2.1.** Activities covered by this Opinion include the installation, repair, replacement, and removal of structures as described below:
- A2.1.1.** The pile-supported and anchored structures included in this Opinion are: docks and piers, boatlifts, mooring piles and dolphin piles associated with docks/piers; ATONs and PATONs; floating docks; pile-supported chickees (i.e., small, back-country, over-water, pile-supported, primitive camping shelters); boardwalks (as long as they are designed and clearly marked to prohibit fishing and vessel mooring); mooring fields and buoys; and other minor pile-supported structures. This does not include structures that support large commercial vessels including ferries, tankers, and cargo ships such as ferry terminals and large ports.
 - A2.1.2.** Pile-supported docks/piers for a single-family residential lot are limited to 4 slips for motorized vessels. Slips for non-motorized vessels (e.g., kayak, canoe, and paddleboard) and associated launching areas do not count toward the total slip number.
 - A2.1.3.** Pile-supported structures for marinas, multi-family facilities (e.g., condo complexes, trailer parks, subdivisions when the homeowners association owns and controls the in-water structures). Docks and piers for multi-family residential properties (e.g., condos, trailer parks, apartment complexes), and marinas are limited to a maximum of 50 total slips (i.e., combination of wet and dry slips for existing plus proposed slips).
 - A2.1.4.** Anchored buoys and temporary pile-supported structures associated with marine events. Upon completion of the event, these structures must be removed and, to the maximum extent practical, the site must be restored to pre-construction elevations. Water depths in the area of marine events must be deep enough to support at least 5 ft of water depth under the keel of a vessel and between the keel of a vessel and ESA-listed coral colonies when transiting to the mooring areas. There is no limit on the number of vessel slips allowed for temporary structures associated marine events such as boat shows.
 - A2.1.5.** Mooring fields are limited to a maximum of 50 motorized vessels (there is no limit on the number of non-motorized vessels).
 - A2.1.6.** All pile-supported structures constructed must comply with PDC 2.17 for *Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in Florida Under this Opinion* (see below).

The following PDCs apply to all the activities described in PDC A2.1 above:

- A2.2.** For commercial, multi-family, or public facilities, and marine events, signs must be posted in a visible location(s), alerting users of listed species in the area susceptible to vessel strikes and hook-and-line captures. The most current version of the signs that must be downloaded and sign installation guidance are available at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/protected_resources/section_7/protected_species_educational_signs/index.html). The signs required to be posted by area are stated below:
- A2.2.1.** All projects in Florida shall use the Save Sea Turtle, Sawfish, and Dolphin sign. These signs shall include contact information to the sea turtle and marine

- mammal stranding networks and smalltooth sawfish encounter database.
- A2.2.2.** Projects within the North Atlantic right whale educational sign zone (as defined in Section 2.1.1.4) shall post the Help Protect North Atlantic Right Whales sign.
- A2.2.3.** On the east coast of Florida, projects located within the St. John's River and those occurring north of the St. Johns River to the Florida-Georgia line shall post the Report Sturgeon sign. On the west coast of Florida, projects occurring from the Cedar Key, Florida north to the Florida-Alabama line.
- A2.2.4.** We are still developing the signs to be used in the U.S. Caribbean. Once developed, those signs will be included at the website above.
- A2.3.** For commercial, multi-family, or public facilities, monofilament recycling bins must be provided at the docking facility to reduce the risk of turtle or sawfish entanglement in, or ingestion of, marine debris. Monofilament recycling bins must:
- A2.3.1.** Be constructed and labeled according to the instructions provided at <http://mrrp.myfwc.com>.
- A2.3.2.** Be maintained in working order and emptied frequently (according to <http://mrrp.myfwc.com> standards) so that they do not overflow.
- A2.4.** For any dock project (new construction, repair, or replacement) at a private residence located within 11 nautical miles of North Atlantic right whale critical habitat (as measured in a radius from the center of the nearest inlet to open ocean and described in Section 2.1.1.4), the property owner will be provided a handout with their USACE permit describing the presence of North Atlantic right whales in the area and the Federal regulations governing the approach to North Atlantic right whales (Appendix C).
- A2.5.** ATONs and PATONs must be approved by and installed in accordance with the requirements of the USCG (see 33 CFR, chapter I, subchapter C, part 66 and RHA Section 10 and any other pertinent requirements).
- A2.6.** Chickees must be less than 500 ft² and support no more than 2 slips.
- A2.7.** No activities associated with municipal or commercial fishing piers are covered under this Opinion.
- A2.8.** Docks installed within visible distance of ocean beaches are required to comply with turtle-friendly lighting, if lighting is necessary to the project. Turtle-friendly lighting is explained and examples are provided on the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission website:
<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/sea-turtles/lighting/>
- A2.9.** Project construction will take place from uplands or from floating equipment (e.g., barge); prop or wheel-washing is prohibited.