

Please help! Sadly, two additional, recent applications have been submitted to dredge on the RiverWatch Conservation Easement located on the Indian River at the Martin/ St. Lucie County borders.. These applications have a very short turn around time. The deadline for public comment is on January 13th for the Army Corps permit and January 20th for the FDEP permits. But I am hopeful that both deadlines will be extended. Three permit applications are in place to dredge 17000 square feet on a 1991 12.9 acre Conservation Easement on the Indian River at the border of Martin and St. Lucie Counties. The channel to be dredged is located directly on the Indian River Lagoon Aquatic Preserve and is included as NMFS Essential Fish Habitat and is a manatee birthing area. The channel is also directly connected to a 153 acre Martin County mangrove forest/preserve on the IRLAP. This sensitive and environmentally valuable area and it's fish and wildlife have been protected from dredging since 1991. Photos of seagrass growing on the area to be dredged are available upon request.

Please help stop these agencies from allowing the dredging and removal of the CE and its restrictions which will set a dangerous precedent.

Please send a note to the Army Corps and the FDEP at the email addresses below ASAP.

* Army Corps Permit Application No. SAJ-2023-00574 (LP-BJC), Brandon Conroy, Ph.D. brandon.j.conroy@usace.army.mil -Please email Brandon regarding the loss of mangroves, seagrass, manatees, fish and wildlife due to dredging on a mangrove wetland.

FDEP Permit Ap 0173825-005-EI to dredge the CE

*FDEP Permit #0433560-001-EE to allow gasoline powered vessels on the CE. Please email John Tracey FDEP-SE District at- john.tracey@floridadep.gov for both permit #'s.

Thank you,

Patty Barlow
RiverWatch

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