

## **APPENDIX E**

### **CHARTER OF THE FLORIDA SAND MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Develop and implement an environmentally responsible process for assisting the MMS in planning and decision-making relative to the use of Federal sand for beach nourishment, coastal restoration, and wetlands protection projects along the Florida coast.

#### **Guiding Principles**

- Coordination among agencies, stakeholders, and potential users of Federal sand in Florida.
- Long-term commitment to the process by each organization and the individuals assigned to participate in the process.
- Information sharing among stakeholders through open meetings, web-based data sharing, conferences, and other innovative means where issues can be raised and discussed.
- Cooperation and coordination among the various municipalities, counties, the States of Florida and Alabama, MMS, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense, NOAA, USFWS, USEPA, and other stakeholders relative to the use of OCS sand resources.
- Management, policy, and scientific support for sound MMS decision-making. Guidance and consultation to MMS as it sets priorities and goals. Resolution of issues through coordinated data collection, exchange, and interpretation that will lead to consensus building.

#### **General Goals**

- Provide for organized access and use of sand in Federal waters for responsible beach nourishment projects
- Avoid or minimize environmental impacts (both short-term and cumulative) to OCS sand borrow sites that may represent long-term sources of sand for coastal protection and restoration in Florida, including any adverse biological, physical, geological, chemical, or archaeological impacts or effects to the borrow sites, the surrounding pelagic benthic environment, and to the long-term wave/current effects on the coastline resulting from modification of the sand deposit areas.
- Identify potential problems and data gaps, collect appropriate information needed to address the problems and data gaps; based on scientific analyses of information, propose and implement needed solutions in a timely manner.
- Reduce the time and costs to efficiently access OCS borrow sites.
- Promote coordination among stakeholders to assist the MMS in efficiently and expeditiously completing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and related environmental compliance (e.g., Endangered Species Act, Essential Fish Habitat) relative to proposed restoration projects, as well as the negotiated agreement lease process in general.

- Promote coordination among restoration projects that will need OCS sand to maximize cost-effectiveness.
- Encourage adaptive management, learning from past projects to better manage future projects.
- Evaluate the current processes for planning, implementing, and coordinating OCS dredging projects, and identify potential problem areas. Set priorities for working on problems.
- Coordinate with other uses of OCS resources that might conflict with sand access, including subsea cables, artificial reefs, and alternative energy facilities.

### **Specific Activities**

- Compile an inventory of projected sand needs from all entities in coastal Florida for the next 50 to 100 years.
- Compile an inventory of known suitable sand resources available, including sand borrow sites in State and Federal waters.
- Identify critical data gaps in the resource inventory at both the placement and borrow sites and potential adverse biological, physical, geological, chemical, or archaeological impacts; recommend actions to address these gaps.
- Develop guidelines for sand resource allocation (volume of suitable sand available versus short- and long-term needs). The objective is to preclude future "sand wars", as well as define appropriate current and new uses of available sand resources.
- Develop protocols for sand quality QA/QC that can be applied to regional projects.
- Develop and keep updated a master schedule of proposed OCS sand dredging plans.
- Evaluate strategies for permit streamlining (e.g., define up-front what information is needed to consider a permit to dredge and then move ahead in deliberate and efficient manner to collect the information and address concerns). Streamlining does not mean cutting corners and neglecting assessment tasks just to ease the permitting process.
- Develop procedures for accessing sand under emergency conditions.
- Establish monitoring requirements and recovery endpoints. Monitoring requirements may be different for different regions of the state depending on particular conditions and resource concerns.
- Develop techniques for dredging that maximizes use of the site and minimizes potential environmental or oceanographic impacts, by testing and monitoring different dredging and engineering methods (e.g., dredging in strips that leave undisturbed areas to promote rapid recruitment or to maintain bathymetric characteristics; designating specific sites or types of sites as preferred dredging zones to concentrate impacts in more restricted areas; dealing with overburden on buried sites, etc.).
- Coordinate setting of time windows for dredging that protect sensitive species and habitats and meet operational needs.
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