

Dear Ms Bobbe

There is a plan under consideration to widen and deepen the entry channel into Port Everglades for the purpose of bringing deeper draft cargo and bulk tanker vessels into port. If put into effect, this plan would totally decimate between 16 and 26 acres of coastal coral reef.

Proper scheduling could eliminate the need for deepening the channel by offloading a portion of the ship's cargo at other ports, thus lessening the draft of the vessel prior to entering Port Everglades, and would eliminate the possibility of having 2 such ships in the channel simultaneously.

Mitigation for damage this extensive

- a.) would contravene the *CRTF's National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs*
- b.) would be cost prohibitive as well as time consuming, and
- c.) likely would never be undertaken, much less, completed.

At a time when protection for this vital resource is finally to be realized, consideration of a plan such as this is outrageous; implementation would be disastrous.

If this plan should come up for approval, I strongly urge disapproval on the foregoing grounds.

Grant Campbell
South Florida Audubon Society
Director of Wildlife Policy
Conservation Chair