

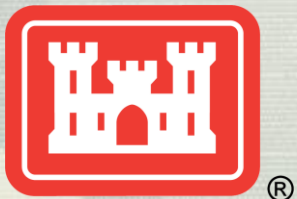
# **IMPROVING FLORIDA'S BEACHES:**

## **USFWS AND USACE PARTNERSHIP UNDER 7(A)(1) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT**

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# **Endangered Species Act**

## **Section 7(a)1 – What is it?**

- **Section 7 – Interagency Cooperation**
- **Section 7(a)(1)**
  - “... Federal agencies shall, in consultation with and with the assistance of the Secretary, utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of endangered species and threatened species listed pursuant to section 4 of this Act.”





# 7(a)1 – What ISN'T it?

## ■ Section 7(a)(2)

- ...Insure that any action...is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species... or result in destruction... of [critical] habitat...
- Focus on minimizing harm to the species
- Results in an opinion (or concurrence of the Agency's opinion) from the Secretary under Section 7(b)



# Section 7(a)(1) Example: Navigation Dredging with Beach Placement

## ■ Section 7(a)(2)

- Navigation dredging with hopper dredge risks entraining turtles
- Placing sand on beach may impact sea turtle nesting habitat





# **Section 7(a)(1) Example: Navigation Dredging with Placement on Beach**

## ■ **Section 7(a)(1)**

- Manage dredging program to benefit the species and aid in its recovery
- Use sediment to increase/improve habitat availability/contribute to conservation (where geotechnically and economically feasible)
- Increases operational flexibility, lowers both short- and long-term costs, and contributes to the recovery of the species



# Why 7(a)(1)? (USACE Perspective)

- Improves operational flexibility
- Improves budget planning capabilities
- Reduces adverse impacts to mission execution
- Compliments Section 7(a)(2)





# **Why 7(a)(1)? (USFWS Perspective)**



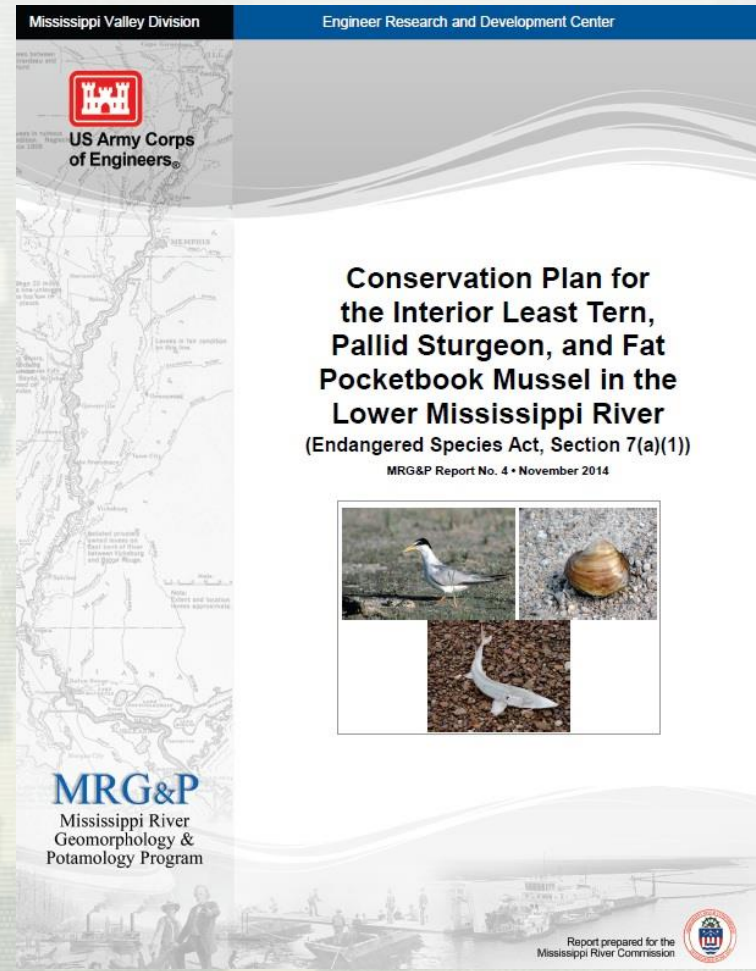
- **Encourages other agencies to be more proactive**
- **Works towards improvements to the species baseline... increases future options**



# Section 7(a)1 Process

## ■ Conservation Management Plan for the Lower Mississippi River

- Interior least tern, pallid sturgeon, fat pocketbook mussel
- Established SOPs and BMPs





# CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Beach Placement Activities

### ■ USFWS Listed Species Affected

- Nesting sea turtles
- Piping plover
- *Rufa* red knot
- Manatee
- Beach mouse



# **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **Beach Placement Activities**

### ■ **Data Analysis Needs**

- Synthesize existing data regarding the effects of beach nourishment on sea turtle nesting
- Comparison map of sea turtle nesting v. historic beach placement





# **CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

## **Beach Placement Activities**

- **Create/enhance/restore wading bird habitat**
- **Include dune features**
- **“Sea Turtle Friendly” beach profiles**
- **Wrack**
- **Compaction testing**
- **Silt content**



# Questions?

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