

APRIL 2016
DREDGING PROJECT TO DEEPEN THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY IN
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

SUMMARY: Existing depths in the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW), part of the federally-authorized navigation channel along Florida’s east coast, are currently -10 feet (ft) Mean Low Water (MLW). The [Florida Inland Navigation District](#) (FIND) is sponsoring a project to deepen the IWW channel to -15 ft MLW in a ±2-mile section from the 17th Street Causeway to just north of the Las Olas Bridge. Material from the IWW channel will be mechanically dredged by [Cashman Dredging, Inc.](#) and placed into a barge. The material will be dewatered and temporarily placed at a Dredged Material Management Area (DMMA) located at Port Everglades.

Dredging began the first week of May 2016, and is expected to continue through 2017. During the project, every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate normal, safe navigation operations. However, mariners should be aware that clearances within the IWW will be reduced and navigability will be limited during dredge operations. Mariners are urged to subscribe to daily email updates at IWWDredgePosition@jaycashman.com for operation reports and potential impacts to navigation, or call 877-294-9990 or 888-280-9630 for general questions concerning the project.

PROJECT BACKGROUND: Broward County residents and the area’s vital marine industry will benefit from deeper water and easier navigation following the completion of the IWW deepening project. The FIND is committed to ensuring safe navigational waterways that allow for the passage of commercial and private vessels.

The project will result in significant increased economic benefits while providing for continued operation of the area as a boating destination and international marine hub. In order to remain competitive with other emerging popular marine destinations, Fort Lauderdale’s waterways must remain open and accessible to boats of all sizes. Broward County residents who make up the marine industry are some of the hardest-working people in our community; deepening of the IWW from -10 ft to -15 ft facilitates vessel access to marine facilities and helps protect marine industry jobs. The marine industry’s estimated 110,000 marine-related jobs in Broward County comprise one of the largest portions of the estimated industry’s \$8.8 billion economic revenue to the county. A similar, recently completed, \$7 million dredging project at the Dania Cut-Off Canal resulted in a \$23 million economic benefit to Broward County in the first year after completion, according to a recent study by Thomas J. Murray & Associates. This financial input included \$11 million in additional revenues for boatyards, hotel room nights, restaurants and other local businesses.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The original submerged natural resources survey and dredging template identified 1.83 acres of submerged environmental resources (seagrass) within the project footprint. Due to the FIND’s commitment to minimize (and in this case, completely avoid) environmental resource impacts, the FIND reduced the average bottom width of the channel from 125 ft wide to 110 ft (Figure 1). The dredge template requires a minimum 10-ft buffer from seagrass beds, and reflects a compromise between navigational requirements and minimization of environmental impacts.

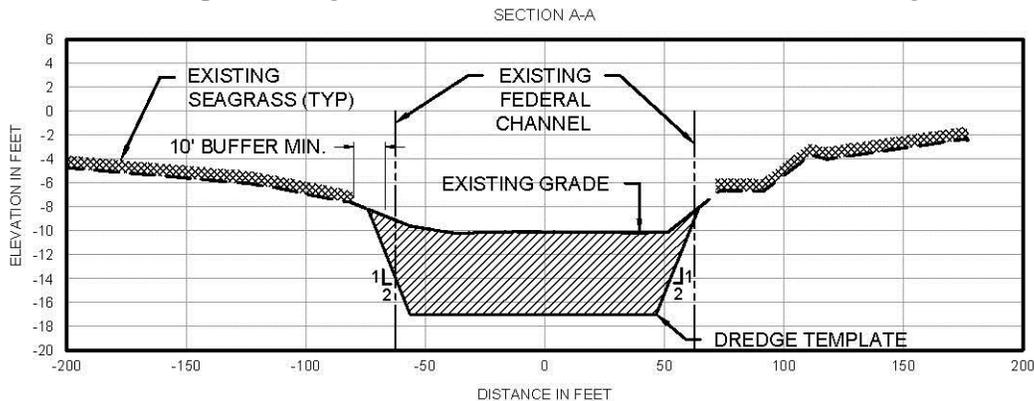


Figure 1. IWW typical dredging template cross section

PROJECT LOCATION MAP:

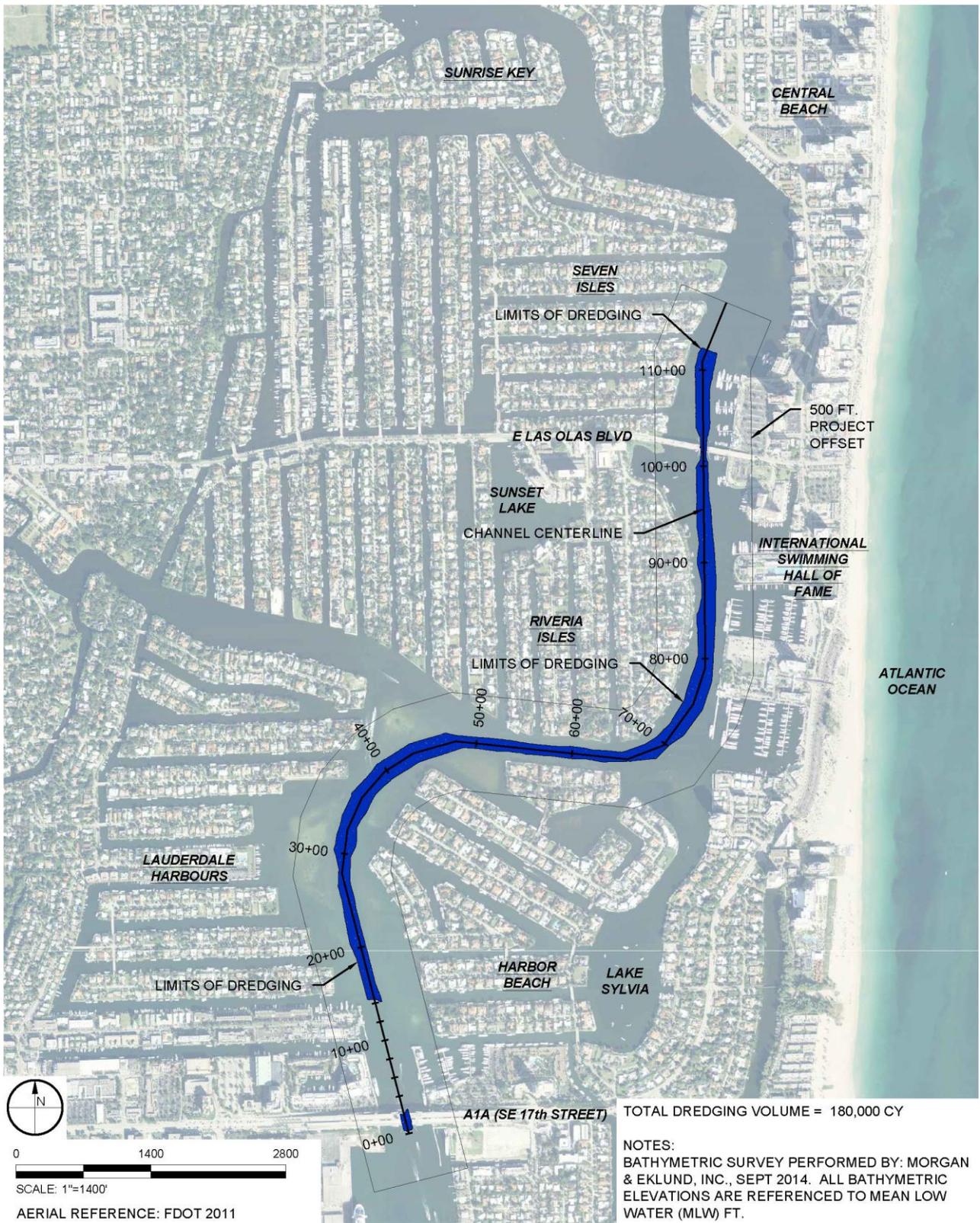


Figure 2. Broward County IWW deepening project overview