

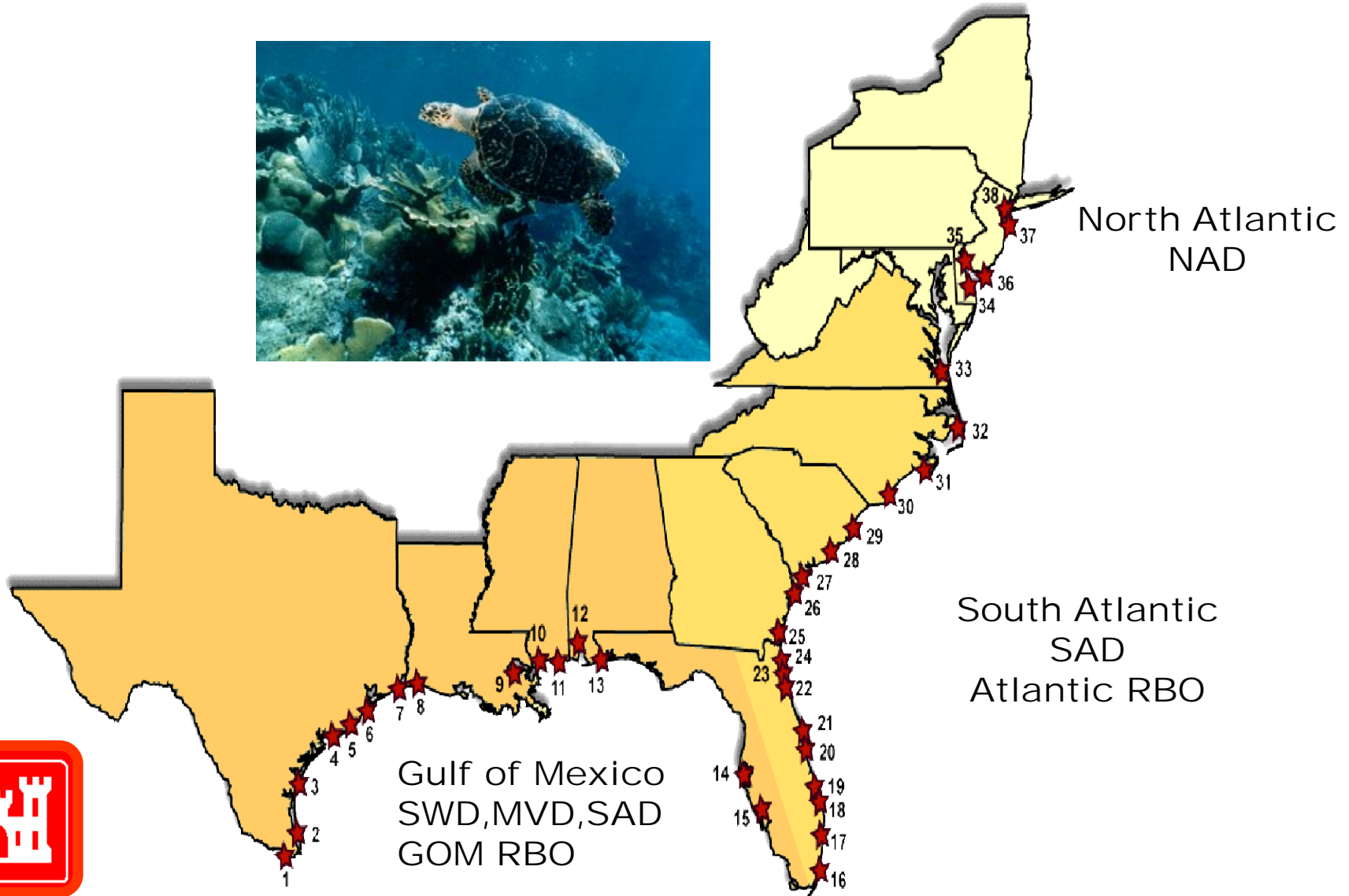


Sea Turtle Management

National Dredging Meeting
Sea Turtle Management
Update
June 13-14, 2006



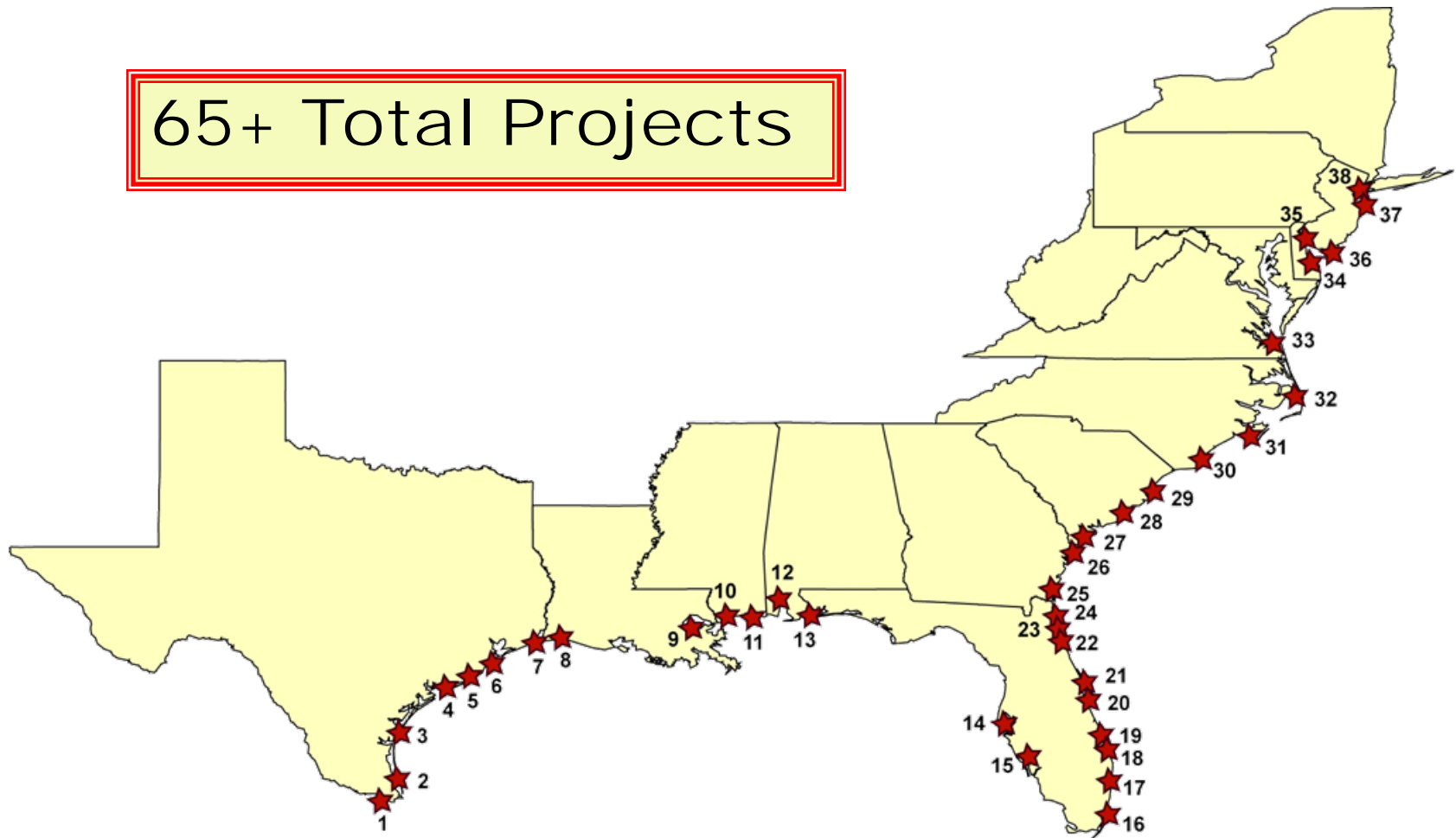
Geographic Regions with Associated Channel Dredging and Sea Turtle Monitoring





Navigation Projects With Sea Turtle Monitoring

65+ Total Projects





Scope of USACE Hopper Dredging

- ◆ 65+ projects
- ◆ 11 Districts
- ◆ 4 Divisions
- ◆ 4 Corps Labs
- ◆ HQUSACE
- ◆ 3 NMFS
Regions
- ◆ NMFS
Headquarters
- ◆ 15 States
- ◆ 4 Observer Companies
- ◆ 23 Hopper Dredges
- ◆ 6+ Dredging Companies
- ◆ US Navy, Air Force
- ◆ Municipalities
- ◆ Other Stakeholders



USACE Support Functions

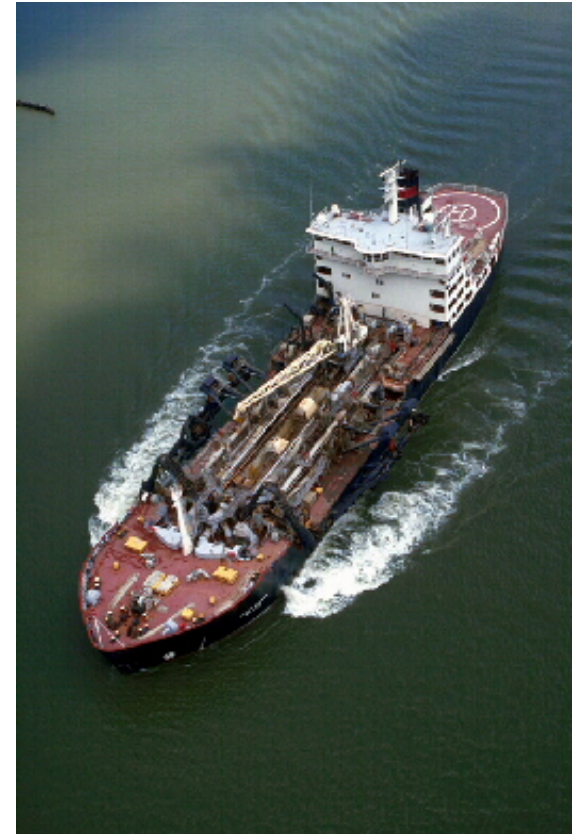
Hopper Dredging and Sea

Turtle Activities

- Planning
- Contracting
- Regulatory
- Construction
- Operations -Navigation
- General Counsel
- HQUSACE
- Engineering Research Development Center (ERDC)

Industry Corps Hopper Dredged Management Group (ICHDMG)

- ✓ Industry Corps Partnership
- ✓ Industry Involvement
- ✓ Collaborative efforts
- ✓ Hopper Dredge Scheduling



Sea Turtle Project Management Plan (PMP)



(PMP Approved by ICHDMG - March 2004)

24 Work Tasks

- ❖ Improve communications – 7
- ❖ Improve documentation of sea turtle/dredging data – 4
- ❖ Implement draghead modifications – 5
- ❖ Revise operational requirements for cleanup dredging – 1
- ❖ Provide additional contracting options - 1

Sea Turtle Project Management Plan (PMP) (Continued)



❖ 24 Work Tasks

- ❖ Demonstrate hopper dredging in Canaveral Harbor - 1
- ❖ Collect biological data - 3
- ❖ Evaluate bed-levelers and alternative dredging concepts - 1
- ❖ Funding and Cost Effectiveness - 1

Improve Communications

(a) Re-establish Corps sea turtle coordinators team to provide continuity and communications.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

(b) Establish working group to address issues and prioritize tasks.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

(c) Reinitiate consultation-Gulf Region Biological Opinion (GRBO).

Status: Task Ongoing

(d) Improve data collected during dredging post projects.

Status: Task Completed: documented

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

Improve Communications (cont.)

(e) Analyze historical sea turtle data.

Status: Task Completed: documented

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

(f) Public outreach at National and International conferences.

Status: Task Completed : documented

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

(g) Develop training resources that effectively guide operation of draghead/deflector equipment setup.

Status: Task Completed need documentation

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

Improve Documentation of Sea Turtle/Dredging Data

- (a) Establish/maintain online Sea Turtle protection and data warehouse.

Status: Task Completed-Documented

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

- (b) Guidance on data collection protocols for turtle observers aboard dredges and trawlers.

Status: Task Completed-Need documentation

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

- (c) Coordinate field testing of Silent Inspector (SI) instrumentation during hopper dredging project(s) with sea turtle concerns

Status: Task ongoing

- (d) Incorporate SI on hopper projects with turtle issues.

Status: Task ongoing

Implement Draghead Modifications

- (a) Evaluate cost-benefits of draghead modifications.
Status: Task completed-need documentation
- (b) Performance specifications for improved draghead modifications. Status: Need for task under review
- (c) Investigate draghead modifications based on performance specifications.
Status: Task under review-need documentation
- (d) Investigate draghead modifications specific to individual dredges based on performance specifications.
Status: Task under review-need documentation
- (e) Test draghead modifications at selected field sites.
Status: Task under review-need documentaion

Address Operational Requirements For Cleanup Dredging

- (a) Develop innovative ways and contractual methods to reduce dredging during cleanup phase.

Status: Task under review–need documentation



Evaluate Other Contract Options

- (a) Evaluate innovative contractual methods to reduce turtle takes.

Status: Task under review-need documentation



Demonstrate Hopper Dredging Outside of Normal Dredging Windows

(a) Conduct field demonstration-Canaveral
Harbor/Key West.

Status: Task Completed- need documentation





Collect Biological Data

(a) Develop sampling protocols during relocation trawling activities.

Status: Task Completed- Need documentation

(b) Address genetic sampling during sea turtle relocations.

Status: Task being addressed through GRBO revisions

(c) Identify biological information gaps – develop field studies to target hopper-dredged channels with least known sea turtle data.

Status: Task ongoing -need documentation

Evaluate Bed-Levelers and Alternative Dredging Concepts

- (a) Evaluate environmental impacts of bed-levelers and other alternative dredging concepts.

Status: Task ongoing – need documentation





Funding and Cost Effectiveness

(a) Evaluate work tasks relative to funding source, efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Status: Being addressed through each task –need documentation



Sea Turtle PMP Work Tasks

Summary-June 2006

PMP Schedule

- ❖ Document all tasks-end of FY06
- ❖ Prepare summary report - end of FY06
- ❖ Place summary report on ERDC's sea turtle webpage

<http://el.erdcl.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>



Knowledge Management and Sharing

➤ USACE Threatened Species :

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/teesp/index.cfm>

USACE Sea Turtle Data Warehouse:

<http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/seaturtles/index.cfm>

➤ USACE Planning Community-Endangered Species:

<http://www.sad.usace.army.mil/protected%20resources>

QUESTIONS?

