

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCT A RECREATIONAL FISHING PIER

NEAR

THE FAMCAMP, POSTL POINT

RCS # 00-476

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, FLORIDA
December 2003

The proposed action is to construct a Saltwater Fishing Pier 125 feet long into the Choctawhatchee Bay near the present FAMCAMP. This fishing pier would provide a recreational facility for members of the Air Force Community located at Eglin as well as vacationers who are camped in the FAMCAMP.



By:
Alvin G. Jordan
AAC/EMSP
Eglin Air Force Base

Proposed Project Implementation Date: 2005

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CONSTRUCT A RECREATIONAL FISHING PIER NEAR THE FAMCAMP AT POST'L POINT, EGLIN AFB FL RCS 00-476

Pursuant to the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), 32 CFR Part 989, the Department of the Air Force has conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) of the probable environmental consequences for the construction of a Recreational Fishing Pier near the FAMCAMP, Eglin Air Force Base (AFB), Florida.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

Proposed Action: The 96 Services Squadron proposes to construct a single fishing pier 125 feet long into the waters of Choctawhatchee Bay at Post'l Point. The pier would originate on the sandy point of Eglin property near the FAMCAMP. This sandy point juts out into Choctawhatchee Bay. The pier would be constructed of treated pine and would have safety railings. A photograph of a typical public use recreational fishing pier is provided in Section 2 of the EA. The pier would be available for continuous use, 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week. The pier would be lighted; but no other utilities such as water would be provided. Trash containers would be provided for waste collection. Waste collection by 96 Services Squadron would be accomplished on a daily basis..

No Action Alternative: The alternative to the proposed action is to take no action to construct the proposed fishing pier. The pier would not be constructed.

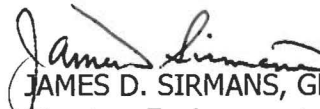
ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Anticipated environmental effects involving Land Use, Traffic, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Environmental Justice, and Socioeconomics are discussed in Section 4 of the EA. Environmental analysis identified no significant impacts to human health or the environment.

This project must be coordinated through the Environmental Compliance Division, AAC/EMCE (POC is Mr. Dan Robeen 882-7661). Section 1.3 of the EA identifies several permits and a submerged lands lease that may be required.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on my review of the facts and the Environmental Assessment, I conclude that the proposed construction of a recreational fishing pier at Post'l Point, Eglin AFB, Florida, will not have a significant adverse impact of a long-term nature to the quality of the human or natural environment. This analysis fulfills the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and 32 CFR 989. Therefore an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared.


JAMES D. SIRMANS, GM-15
Director, Environmental Management

01 MAR 2004

CONSTRUCT A RECREATIONAL FISHING PIER
RCS # 00-476

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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1.0 NEED AND PURPOSE

A need exists to provide recreational fishing opportunities for those who do not own or have access to a boat, as well as to all who enjoy the fun activity of fishing. The Air Force community at Eglin continues to expand and the construction of a recreational fishing pier would provide an exceptional opportunity for an improved quality of life experience. The purpose of the project is to provide an improved fishing opportunity for members of the Air Force Community at Eglin.

1.1 Location of the Proposed Action

The fishing pier would be constructed near the existing Eglin AFB FAMCAMP at Post'l Point. This is a recreational area along the northern shoreline of Choctawhatchee Bay that has a small peninsular point (a spit of land) that juts out into the bay. The proposed action would be constructed on this peninsular point (Figure 1).

1.2 Scope of the Environmental Review

The Scope of this Environmental Assessment (EA) is limited to the anticipated environmental issues that were identified by the Environmental Impact Analysis Review Process. This document has been prepared as part of the environmental review process IAW 32 CFR 989.

1.3 Applicable Regulatory Requirements

The proposed action is to construct a structure partially on submerged lands owned by the State of Florida. As such, the following permits and regulatory requirements may apply.

- Section 404 Dredge and Fill Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (if any additional impervious surface pavement is required).
- A Florida Works in the Water Permit
- FCMP (Florida Coastal Management Program) and Federal Consistency Determination

Project design, construction, and permitting must be coordinated through the Environmental Compliance Division, AAC/EMCE (POC is Mr. Dan Robeen 882-7661). It may require a submerged lands lease from the State of Florida. This will require preparation of a survey of the area to be affected for bathymetric resources and underwater topography.

The Florida Clearinghouse has concurred that the proposed project is consistent with the FCMP. The Clearinghouse Letter and Federal Consistency Determination are presented in Appendix A of this document.

1.4 Environmental Justice

Environmental Justice impacts are defined as disproportionately adverse health effects on low income or minority populations. This requires identification of minority and low-income populations that may be affected by construction and operation of the proposed recreational fishing pier.

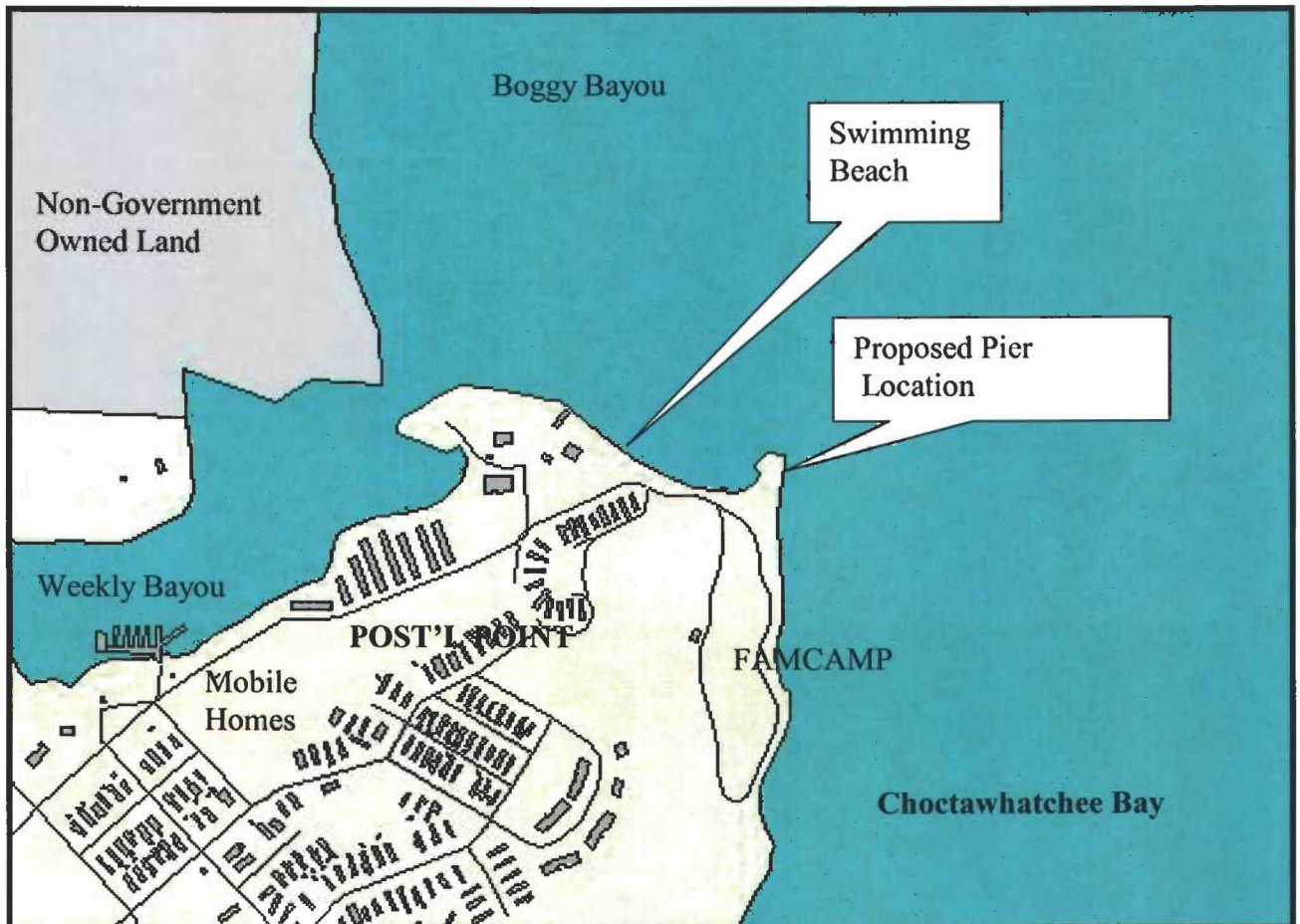


Figure 1
Project Location Map

Existing Land Uses on Post'l Point

- Existing Swimming Beach and Picnic Pavilion
- Recreational Equipment Rental Facility
- Temporary Lodging Facility
- Mobile Home Park (Phasing this out by 2008)
- FAMCAMP (Family Camping Area)

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

2.1 Description of Proposed Action

The 96 Services Squadron proposes to construct a single fishing pier 125 feet long into the waters of Choctawhatchee Bay. The pier would originate on the sandy point of land that juts out into Choctawhatchee Bay (Figure 2). The pier would be constructed of treated pine and would have safety railings. A typical public use recreational fishing pier is depicted in Photograph 1.

The pier would be available for continuous use, 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week. The pier would be lighted; no other utilities such as water would be provided. Trash containers would be provided for waste collection. Schedule for trash collection services would be daily, 7 days per week. A fish cleaning station will not be constructed for use on or near the pier. (R. Christian 96 SVS/SVRO).

2.2. Description of the No Action Alternative.

The alternative to the proposed action is to take no action to construct the proposed fishing pier. The pier would not be constructed.



PHOTO 1
Typical Public Recreational Fishing Pier
The Eglin Pier would be similar to the one depicted here.

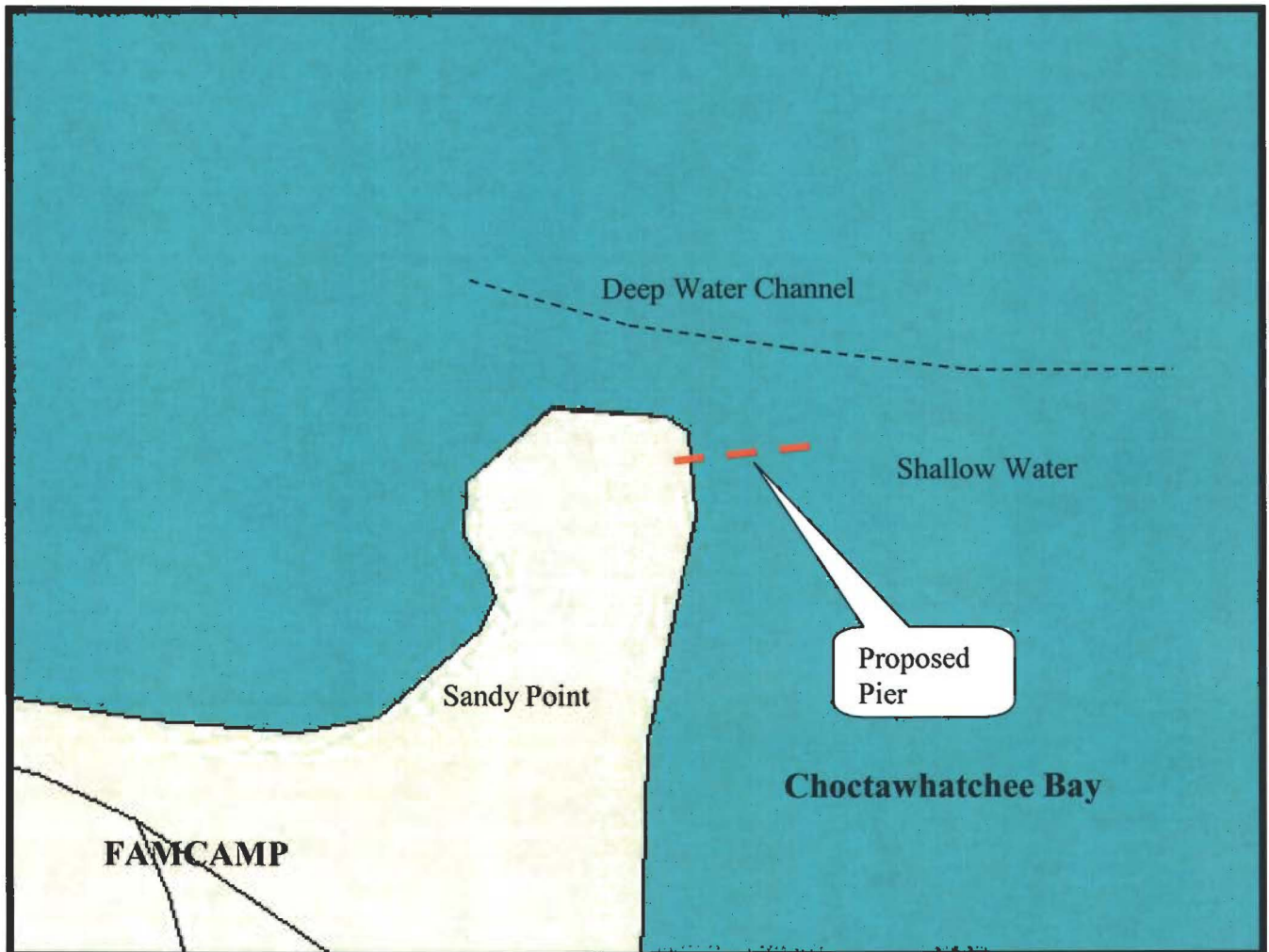


Figure 2
Site Layout
Proposed Recreational Fishing Pier

The pier would be located so that fishermen and crabbers would have access both to shallow water, deep water, and the drop-off edge. The proposed location also places fishermen at a strategic location to take advantage of the tidal currents as they swirl around the point. These currents carry and move schools of fish as the currents flow. At night when the pier is lighted, large fish lurking along the drop-off edge move to feed on the small baitfish that are attracted to the lights.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 Physical

Land Use.

The proposed project (Figure 1) is located in an existing recreational area known as Post'l Point. This Land Use is consistent with the 2001 Eglin General Plan. Existing recreational land uses at this location consist of the following:

- An outdoor recreational equipment rental facility.
- Rental equipment includes power boats, pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks, fishing and camping gear, camping trailers, sports equipment and BBQ grills just to name a few.
- A military FAMCAMP for overnight tent or recreational vehicle (RV) camping.
- A sandy swimming beach & picnic pavilion

A large paved parking area is centrally and conveniently located to the swimming beach, picnic pavilion, and the recreational equipment rental facility. Handicap access may be required across the soft sand to the pier from the paved access road.

The portion of the pier constructed out over the water would require pilings to be embedded in the bottom of Choctawhatchee Bay. The Choctawhatchee Bay bottoms are submerged lands owned by the State of Florida.

3.2 Biological

The biological environment potentially affected by the proposed action includes the peninsular sandy spit of land (aka "a point") that protrudes out into Choctawhatchee Bay. It is devoid of any endangered species or sensitive habitat. This sterile, sandy point is armored along its shoreline with recycled broken concrete pieces (Rip-Rap) to protect the shoreline from wave energy that would cause erosion (Photo 2).

Also included in the biological environment potentially affected would be the sandy bottom of Choctawhatchee Bay. The sandy bottom area selected for pier construction is devoid of any sea grass. It is a clean, bare bottom (Photo3).

3.3 Cultural Resources

Historical and archeological uses of land at Eglin AFB have been proven to be diverse. A Historic Preservation Plan was prepared for Eglin AFB to ensure short- and long-term management of cultural resources. Most areas of archeological and historical significance occur within 200 meters of water sources or a water body. The proposed site lies within 200 meters of Choctawhatchee Bay.



PHOTO 2

The Sandy Point

The proposed pier would be sited toward the end of this point. Note the recycled concrete riprap that protects the shoreline from erosion.



PHOTO 3

Approximate siting location of pier.

Note the deep water (dark) and shallow water (light). As the tidal currents swirl around the point, fishermen would have access to fish in both deep water and shallow water.

3.4 Environmental Justice.

Residential land uses are also present on Post'l Point. These consist of:

- A military family mobile home trailer park
- A Temporary Lodging Facility (TLF) for transient military personnel.

Military families who reside in the mobile home park own the mobile home, however the real estate parcel on which each mobile home is situated is owned by the Air Force and is leased to the occupant of each mobile home.

The TLF is totally owned and operated by the Air Force. It is simply a transient housing facility for inbound or outbound individuals or families.

3.5 Socioeconomics

The outdoor recreational equipment rental facility at Post'l Point rents a variety of outdoor equipment including fishing rods and fishing equipment. It also rents the FAMCAMP spaces for the RV campers. There will be no fee required of persons who wish to use the proposed pier.

Saltwater fishing licenses are required only for those fishermen using boats. Saltwater licenses are not required of fishermen fishing from shoreline or piers.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

4.1 Environmental Effects of the Proposed Action

4.1.1 Physical

The existing outdoor recreational equipment rental facility, the FAMCAMP, the swimming beach, and picnic pavilion would not be adversely affected by the construction and operation of the pier.

Minor soil disturbances would occur to the point (the peninsular spit of land) during construction activities. Dust from disturbed soil, and noise from construction activities will be minor and temporary. Some traffic congestion may occur during construction activities since the access road will be shared with vacationers at the FAMCAMP. Congestion is expected to be minor and temporary.

Existing parking is sufficient. Fishermen would utilize the centrally located parking area near the picnic pavilion and swimming beach. Use of this parking would minimize traffic around the FAMCAMP. No additional parking is planned for the pier. If hard-surface handicap access is required across the sandy point, it must be included in the permits described in section 1.3 of this EA.

Submerged lands of the State would not be adversely affected. Only minor bay bottom soil disturbances would occur during the water jetting process of the sinking of the pier pilings to the proper depth. The sandy bottom contains very minute amounts of clay. The sand particles settle almost immediately around the piling, and the very small amounts of clay remain suspended within the water for a short period and then settle or they are dispersed with the normal water currents. These disturbances will be minor and temporary.

The construction of the pier would be regulated by the State's required permitting process. Any potential hazards to watercraft would be resolved during this process. The proposed construction of the pier lies completely outside (not within) any boating channel marked by US Coast Guard channel marker buoys.

4.1.2 Biological

The sandy spit of land from which the pier would originate is devoid of any endangered species or sensitive habitat. Although the Choctawhatchee Bay is critical habitat for Gulf Sturgeon, the construction and operation of the pier would not create any adverse effects on species or habitat in the bay. Since the southern high-energy shoreline is armored with concrete rip - rap, erosion of the spit is not expected

The Choctawhatchee Bay bottom in the area of the proposed pier does not contain sea grass. It is a bare bottom. Any disturbance of the bottom during jetting of pilings is only temporary and minor. The sand particles settle almost immediately. The minute

clay particles remain suspended longer and they settle within hours or the current immediately disperses them. No adverse effects have been identified.

Wood pilings and decking used in small dock construction is primarily treated with chromated copper arsenate (CCA). This CCA contaminate may leach from the treated wood into the bay water, however the effects of this potential leaching is not conclusive. Although there are no regulations requiring it, it is recommended that materials such as concrete for pilings and recycled plastic composite material be used for pier decking boards. This would reduce potential of contaminants leaching into the biology of the bay(M. Nunley, EMSN).

4.1.3 Cultural Resources

Although the proposed action site lies within the 200-meter distance to a water body or water source, the Eglin Cultural Resources Division (AAC/EMH) confirms there are no cultural resources concerns for this proposed site. Therefore, the proposed action will have no adverse effect on historical or cultural resources.

4.1.4 Environmental Justice.

Construction and operation of the fishing pier would have no adverse effect on the military families residing at the mobile home trailer park. Likewise it would have no adverse effect on the transient residents residing in the TLF. The proposed pier would be located at a considerable distance from the trailer park and the TLF. And the pier would be located within the existing recreational areas of Post'l Point.

4.1.5 Socioeconomics

It is expected that the proposed Recreational Fishing Pier would attract additional users to the area than currently exist. However, it is not expected that the number would be very great. Because the area isn't particularly sensitive and the users are relatively few any adverse socioeconomics would be negligible. The socioeconomics effects are more likely to be beneficial. The FAMCAMP sites are likely to be more attractive to visitors because they would have convenient access to a fishing pier.

4.1.6 Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Effects

No adverse unavoidable environmental impacts have been identified for the proposed construction of the pier. There will be only minor irretrievable commitment of resources such as lumber and fasteners used in the construction of the pier.

4.2 Environmental Effects of the No Action Alternative.

If the No Action Alternative were selected, construction of the proposed recreational fishing pier would not occur. However since no adverse effects have been identified for the proposed action, and since the No-Action Alternative does not provide the needed recreational activity for the Eglin community, the No-Action Alternative is not recommended.

5.0 PLANS, PERMITS, and ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Plans: The proposed Fishing Pier is consistent with the 2001 Eglin General Plan. This plan specifies the project area for Recreational Land Use.

5.2 Permits: Section 1.3 of this EA defines required permits and environmental coordination requirements.

5.3 Environmental Management Requirements: None required.



Photo 4
Sandy Point and FAMCAMP

The Eglin FAMCAMP can be seen in the background. The point of origin of the proposed recreational fishing pier is behind the photographer closer to the tip of the point. Other members of the Eglin Community, as well as FAMCAMPERS would have easy access to the proposed pier. Recycled concrete is used here as Rip-Rap to protect the shoreline. Rip-Rap also provides excellent habitat for small crabs, fish, and invertebrates important in the food chain. Larger fish and crabs also feed here.

APPENDIX A

The Federal Consistency Determination

And

The Florida Clearinghouse Consistency Concurrence Letter

FEDERAL AGENCY COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT (CZMA) CONSISTENCY DETERMINATION

Introduction

This document provides the State of Florida with the U.S. Air Force's Consistency Determination under CZMA Section 307 and 15 C.F.R. Part 930 sub-part C. The information in this Consistency Determination is provided pursuant to 15 C.F.R. Section 930.39.

Pursuant to Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456, as amended, its implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. Part 930, this is a Federal Consistency Determination for activities described within the Construct a Recreational Fishing Pier Near the FAMCAMP, Postl Point Property of Eglin Air Force Base, Florida Environmental Assessment (Chapter 2 of the EA).

Proposed Federal agency action:

The Proposed Action would entail construction of a single fishing pier 125 feet long into the waters of Choctawhatchee Bay. The pier would originate on the sandy point of land that juts out into Choctawhatchee Bay (Figure 2 in the EA). The pier would be constructed of treated pine and would have safety railings. A typical public use recreational fishing pier is depicted in Photograph 1 in the EA.

The pier would be available for continuous use, 24 hrs per day, 7 days per week. The pier would be lighted; no other utilities such as water would be provided. Trash containers would be provided for waste collection. Schedule for trash collection services would be daily, 7 days per week. A fish cleaning station will not be constructed for use on or near the pier.

The U.S. Air Force, Air Armament Center has evaluated the operations described in the Environmental Assessment for potential effects to the land or water uses or natural resources of the State of Florida's coastal zone within the context of the statutes listed in the Florida Coastal Zone Management Plan (below).

Federal Consistency Review

Statutes addressed as part of the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program consistency review and considered in the analysis of the proposed action are discussed in the following table.

Florida Coastal Management Program Consistency Review

Statute	Consistency	Scope
Chapter 161 <i>Beach and Shore Preservation</i>	The proposed project will not adversely affect beach and shore management, specifically as pertains to: -The Coastal Construction Permit Program. -The Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Permit Program. -The Coastal Zone Protection Program. All land activities occur on federal property.	Authorizes the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems within DEP to regulate construction on or seaward of the states' beaches.
Chapter 163, Part II <i>Growth Policy; County and Municipal Planning; Land Development Regulation</i>	The proposed action conforms with local government comprehensive development plans. Transitions from federal property into state waters occur within restricted and prohibited areas controlled by the U.S. Air Force and would not interfere with development.	Requires local governments to prepare, adopt, and implement comprehensive plans that encourage the most appropriate use of land and natural resources in a manner consistent with the public interest.
Chapter 186 <i>State and Regional Planning</i>	State and regional agencies will be provided the opportunity to review the environmental assessment. The proposed action conforms with the State Comprehensive Plan and associated translational plans, including the State Land Development Plan, Florida Water Plan, Florida Transportation Plan, and strategic regional policy plans.	Details state-level planning requirements. Requires the development of special statewide plans governing water use, land development, and transportation.
Chapter 252 <i>Emergency Management</i>	The proposed action would not increase the state's vulnerability to natural disasters. Emergency response and evacuation procedures would not be impacted by the proposed action.	Provides for planning and implementation of the state's response to, efforts to recover from, and the mitigation of natural and manmade disasters.
Chapter 253 State Lands	The construction of the pier would be regulated by the State's required permitting process. A Florida Works in the Water Permit will be required. An Environmental Resource Permit (ERP) or Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) is not necessary given that the proposed action would not result in impacts to submerged resources.	Addresses the state's administration of public lands and property of this state and provides direction regarding the acquisition, disposal, and management of all state lands.
Chapter 258 <i>State Parks and Preserves</i> Chapter 259 <i>Land Acquisition for Conservation or Recreation</i>	State parks, recreational areas and aquatic preserves would not be affected by the proposed action. Construction would not occur within any aquatic preserves. Tourism and outdoor recreation would not be significantly affected. Opportunities for recreation on state lands would not be affected.	Addresses administration and management of state parks and preserves (Chapter 258). Authorizes acquisition of environmentally endangered lands and outdoor recreation lands (Chapter 259).

Chapter 260 <i>Recreational Trails System</i>		Authorizes acquisition of land to create a recreational trails system and to facilitate management of the system (Chapter 260).
Chapter 375 <i>Multipurpose Outdoor Recreation; Land Acquisition, Management, and Conservation</i>		Develops comprehensive multipurpose outdoor recreation plan to document recreational supply and demand, describe current recreational opportunities, estimate need for additional recreational opportunities, and propose means to meet the identified needs (Chapter 375).
Chapter 267 Historical Resources	Potential impacts to cultural resources are discussed in Chapter 4, Section 4.1.3 of the EA. The project is consistent with the goals of this chapter.	Addresses management and preservation of the state's archaeological and historical resources.
Chapter 288 <i>Commercial Development and Capital Improvements</i>	The proposed action occurs on federal property. The proposed action is not anticipated to have any effect on future business opportunities on state lands, or the promotion of tourism in the region.	Provides the framework for promoting and developing the general business, trade, and tourism components of the state economy.
Chapter 334 <i>Transportation Administration</i>	The proposed pier project would not result in any changes in traffic levels or patterns, nor result in any changes to existing roads. Based on the analysis, the proposed action would not have a significant effect on water and land transportation within the region of influence.	Addresses the state's policy concerning transportation administration (Chapter 334).
Chapter 339 <i>Transportation Finance and Planning</i>		Addresses the finance and planning needs of the state's transportation system (Chapter 339).
Chapter 370 Saltwater Fisheries	The proposed action would not affect Saltwater Fisheries.	Addresses management and protection of the state's saltwater fisheries.
Chapter 372 Wildlife	Potential impacts to wildlife, including threatened and endangered (T&E) species are evaluated in Chapter 4. The proposed action would not affect wildlife or threatened and/or endangered species.	Addresses the management of the wildlife resources of the state.
Chapter 373 Water Resources	As discussed in Chapter 4, potential impacts to water resources would not be significant.	Addresses the state's policy concerning water resources.
Chapter 376 <i>Pollutant Discharge Prevention and Removal</i>	The proposed action does not involve the storage and transportation of pollutants. Compliance with applicable federal, state, and local regulations would preclude the need for mitigation measures. There would be no significant impacts to the environment from pollutant discharges.	Regulates transfer, storage, and transportation of pollutants, and cleanup of pollutant discharges.
Chapter 377	Energy resource production, including oil and gas, and the	Addresses regulation, planning, and development

Energy Resources	transportation of oil and gas, would not be affected by the proposed action.	of energy resources of the state.
Chapter 380 <i>Land and Water Management</i>	The proposed action would occur on federally owned lands. Under the proposed action, development of state lands with regional (i.e. more than one county) impacts would not occur. Areas of Critical State Concern or areas with approved state resource management plans such as the Northwest Florida Coast would not be affected. Changes to coastal infrastructure such as bridge construction, capacity increases of existing coastal infrastructure, or use of state funds for infrastructure planning, designing or construction would not occur.	Establishes land and water management policies to guide and coordinate local decisions relating to growth and development.
Chapter 381 <i>Public Health, General Provisions</i>	The proposed action does not involve the construction of an on-site sewage treatment and disposal system. Field wastes would be collected via on-site latrines. A permit is not applicable for the proposed action.	Establishes public policy concerning the state's public health system.
Chapter 388 Mosquito Control	The proposed action would not affect mosquito control.	Addresses mosquito control effort in the state.
Chapter 403 <i>Environmental Control</i>	The proposed action would not affect ecological systems and water quality of state waters. Effects on water quality would not be significant. No discharges into groundwater or effects to public drinking water supplies would occur. Impacts to air quality are not expected.	Establishes public policy concerning environmental control in the state.
Chapter 582 <i>Soil and Water Conservation</i>	The proposed action would result in minimal soil erosion. Only minor bay bottom soil disturbances would occur during the water jetting process of the sinking of the pier pilings to the proper depth. The construction of the pier would be regulated by the State's required permitting process.	Provides for the control and prevention of soil erosion.

Pursuant to 15 C.F.R. § 930.41, the Florida State Clearinghouse has 60 days from receipt of this document in which to concur with or object to this Consistency Determination, or to request an extension, in writing, under 15 C.F.R. § 930.41(b). Florida's concurrence will be presumed if a response is not received by Eglin AFB on the 60th day from receipt of this determination.



Job Bush
Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

January 30, 2004

Mr. Stephen M. Seiber
Chief, Natural Resources Branch
AAC/EMSN
501 DeLeon Street, Suite 101
Eglin AFB FL 32542-5133

RE: Department of Air Force - Eglin Air Force Base - CZMA Determination - Construct a Recreational Fishing Pier - Post'l Point Property of Eglin Air Force Base - Draft Environmental Assessment - Eglin Air Force Base, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, and Walton Counties, Florida
SAI # FL200312234900C

Dear Mr. Seiber:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated the review of the above-referenced Draft Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) indicates that the proposed project will occur in Class II waters. Class II waters are afforded additional protection due to their special value and importance to Florida's economy as existing or potential sites of commercial and recreational shellfish harvesting and as nursery areas for fish and shellfish. Paragraph 62-312.080(6)(a) of the Florida Administrative Code requires that a plan or proposed procedure be submitted that details the measures to be taken to prevent significant damage to the immediate project area and adjacent area. Additionally, reasonable assurance must be provided that standards for Class II waters will not be violated. The DEP also indicates that the project will require proprietary authorization to use sovereign submerged lands and may require a regulatory permit for the wetland impacts. The Department of Air Force is advised to continue close coordination with the Northwest District.

Based on the information contained in the above-referenced draft EA and the comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that, at this stage, the proposed project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP). All subsequent environmental documents prepared for the project must be reviewed to determine the project's continued consistency with the FCMP. The state's consistency concurrence with the project will be based, in part, on the adequate resolution of issues identified during this and subsequent reviews.

"More Protection, Less Process"

Printed on recycled paper.

Mr. Stephen M. Seiber
SAI # FL200312234900C
Page Two

The state's final concurrence of the project's consistency with the FCMP will be determined during the environmental permitting stage.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the project. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mr. Daniel Lawson at (850) 245-2174.

Sincerely,

Sally B. Mann

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/dl

cc: Dick Fancher, DEP, Northwest District

Florida
02/02/2004 11:06