



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PENSACOLA REGULATORY OFFICE  
41 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET, SUITE 111  
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA 32502

Pensacola Permits Section

19 October 2009

## ***PUBLIC NOTICE***

Permit Application No. SAJ-2009-3187 (IP-SWA)

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:** This district has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403) as described below:

**APPLICANT:** Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners  
6495 Caroline Street; Suite M  
Milton, Florida 32570

**WATERWAY & LOCATION:** The project is located in the Gulf of Mexico, approximately 340 linear feet south of the southern shore of Santa Rosa Island, and approximately 2,000 feet east of the new Navarre Beach Fishing Pier.

Directions to the site are as follows: From downtown Pensacola, head east on Bayfront Parkway (U.S. Highway 98). Continue on U.S. Highway 98 for approximately 23.6 miles to County Road 399. Turn right on County Road 399 to Gulf Boulevard. The project site is approximately 2,000 feet east of the new Navarre Beach Fishing Pier.

**LATITUDE & LONGITUDE:**

NE Site Corner:	Latitude	30.379526 North
	Longitude	86.853710 West
NW Site Corner:	Latitude	30.379492 North
	Longitude	86.853967 West
SE Site Corner:	Latitude	30.378745 North
	Longitude	86.853579 West
SW Site Corner:	Latitude	30.378745 North
	Longitude	86.853836 West

## PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: Establish Artificial Reef Site.

Overall: Establish a near shore artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico at Navarre Beach to provide habitat, diving and snorkeling opportunities.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to establish a near shore artificial reef area consisting of an 82' x 275' deployment area, totaling 22,550 square feet, which would provide habitat, diving and snorkeling opportunities. Material to be deployed would consist of thirty (30) tiered reefs modules (also known as Walter Eco-System Reef Modules) on 25-foot centers. Each tier reef module would be 5 feet in diameter. Additionally, two lighted buoys would be placed approximately 88 feet waterward of the deployment area, and spaced approximately 170' apart. A navigation warning sign would be placed on each buoy. The county is seeking a permit duration of 10 years.

EXISTING CONDITIONS, DEPTH, PROFILE & CLEARANCE: The site is located approximately 340 linear feet south of Santa Rosa Island in the Gulf of Mexico. The habitat within the proposed artificial reef sites contains medium to coarse grained sands, predominately unvegetated with a surficial layer of microalgae/cyanobacteria. There is no submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV's) located within the reef deployment site. Additionally, there are no natural rock outcrops or hard bottom formations within the deployment site. The water depth at the proposed deployment area ranges from - 10 feet to -11 feet at Mean High Water. Minimum depth after deployment would be 6 feet at Mean Low Water and would not exceed ½ the distance between the bottom and the Mean Low Water Line.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect swimming sea turtles, including green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) and the endangered West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), threatened Gulf Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and endangered smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*). Additionally, the project would not destroy or adversely modify any designated critical habitat. The Corps will request the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) concurrence with these determinations pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH): This notice initiates consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on EFH as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996. The proposal would impact approximately 0.52 acre of unvegetated bottom in the Gulf of Mexico, which may be utilized by various life stages of species within the following Fisheries Managements Plans (Shrimp, Reef Fish, Stone Crab and Coastal Migratory Pelagics). Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project

impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program.

AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and/or one of the states Water Management Districts.

Comments regarding the application should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer at the above address within 21 days from the date of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Steve Andrews Jr. at the letterhead address, by electronic mail at [stephen.w.andrews@usace.army.mil](mailto:stephen.w.andrews@usace.army.mil), or by telephone at 850-439-0707.

The decision whether to issue or deny this permit application will be based on the information received from this public notice and the evaluation of the probable impact to the associated wetlands. This is based on an analysis of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the project, as well as the compensatory mitigation proposed .

**IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES:** Preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Service, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area. By means of this notice, we are soliciting comments on the potential effects of the project on threatened or endangered species or their habitat.

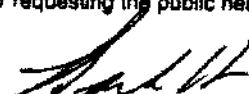
**IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES:** Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties, or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. Presently, unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

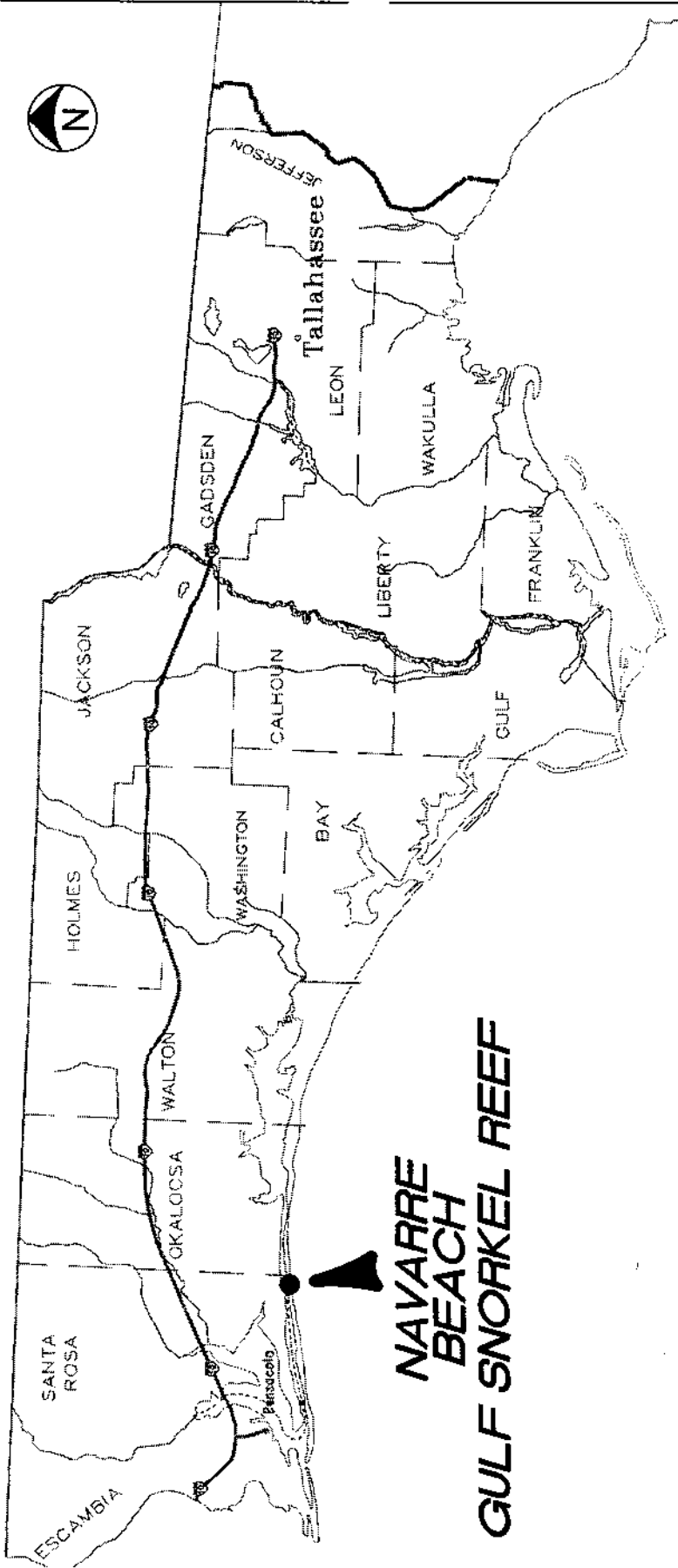
**EVALUATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act of the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine, Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make or deny this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY:** In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board. In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance with approved Coastal Zone Management Plan.

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING:** Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.

  
David S. Hobbie  
Regulatory Division



**NAVARRE BEACH  
GULF SNORKEL REEF**

APPLICANT NAME AND ADDRESS

SANTA ROSA COUNTY  
6495 CAROLINE ST., SUITE M  
MILTON, FL 32570

PROJECT LOCATION

SANTA ROSA SOUND  
NORTH OF NAVARRE BEACH PARK

INDEX OF SHEETS

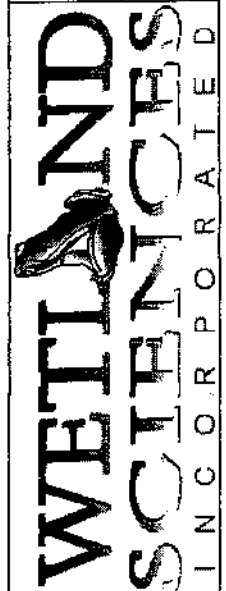
SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	TITLE PAGE AND INDEX OF SHEETS
2	SITE LOCATION MAP
3	NOAA CHART 11385
4	OVERALL PLAN VIEW DRAWING
5	CLOSE UP PLAN VIEW (WITH AERIAL)
6	CLOSE UP PLAN VIEW
7	SECTION A--A
8	SIGN DETAILS

**TITLE PAGE AND INDEX OF SHEETS**

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009

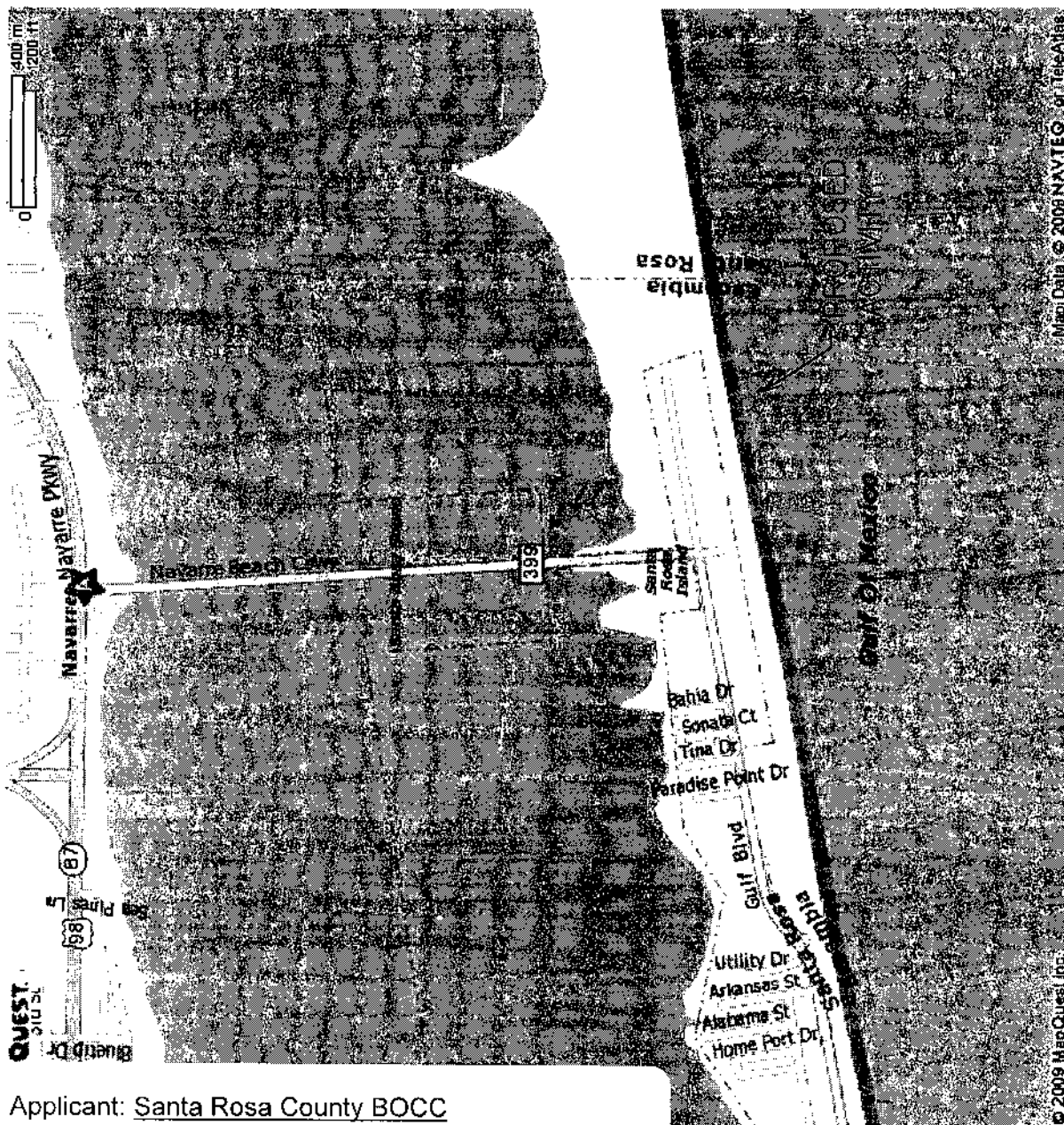
PROJECT #2009-058

DRAWN BY: KDJ  
SCALE: NTS



DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE  
FROM DEP'S OFFICE ON WEST GOVERNMENT ST.

START GOING EAST ON W GOVERNMENT TOWARD SOUTH BAYLEN. TURN LEFT ONTO S BAYLEN ST. TURN RIGHT ONTO W GARDEN ST/US-98. CONTINUE TO FOLLOW US-98. TURN RIGHT ONTO CHASE ST. TURN LEFT ONTO US-98/BAYFRONT PKWY. CONTINUE TO FOLLOW US-98 FOR 23.6 MILES. TAKE RIGHT ONTO CR-399 S/NAVARRE BEACH CAUSEWAY. TURN LEFT ONTO GULF BLVD. THE DEPLOYMENT SITE IS APPROXIMATELY 2,000 FEET EAST OF THE NEW NAVARRE BEACH FISHING PIER.



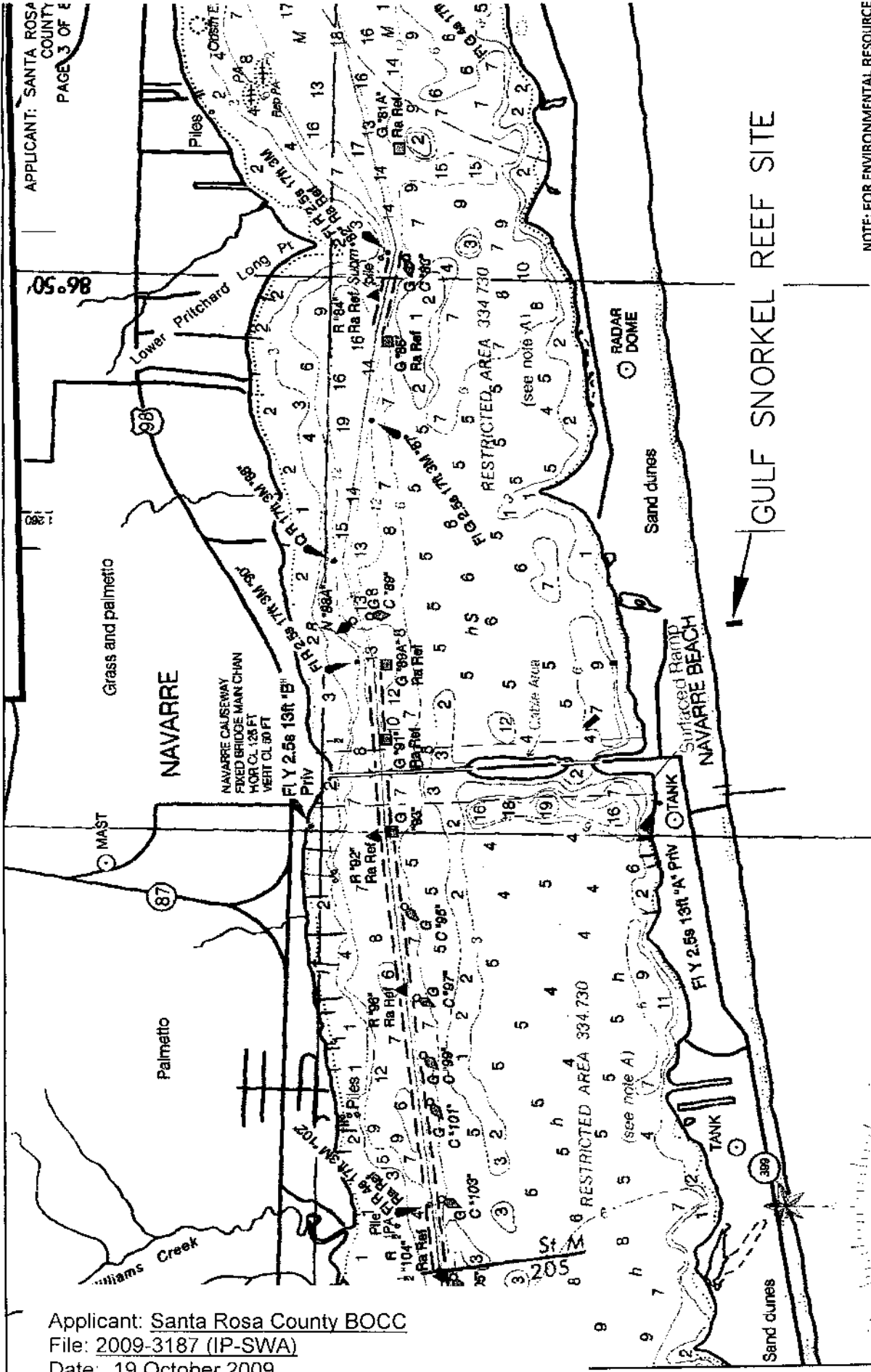
Map Data © 2009 NAVTEQ, et al. TerreStar

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SITE LOCATION MAP AND DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

PROJECT #2009-058	DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009
DRAWN BY: KDJ	SCALE: NTS

**WETLAND**  
**SCIENCES**  
INCORPORATED



GULF SNORKEL REEF SITE

NOTE: FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING ONLY. NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION.



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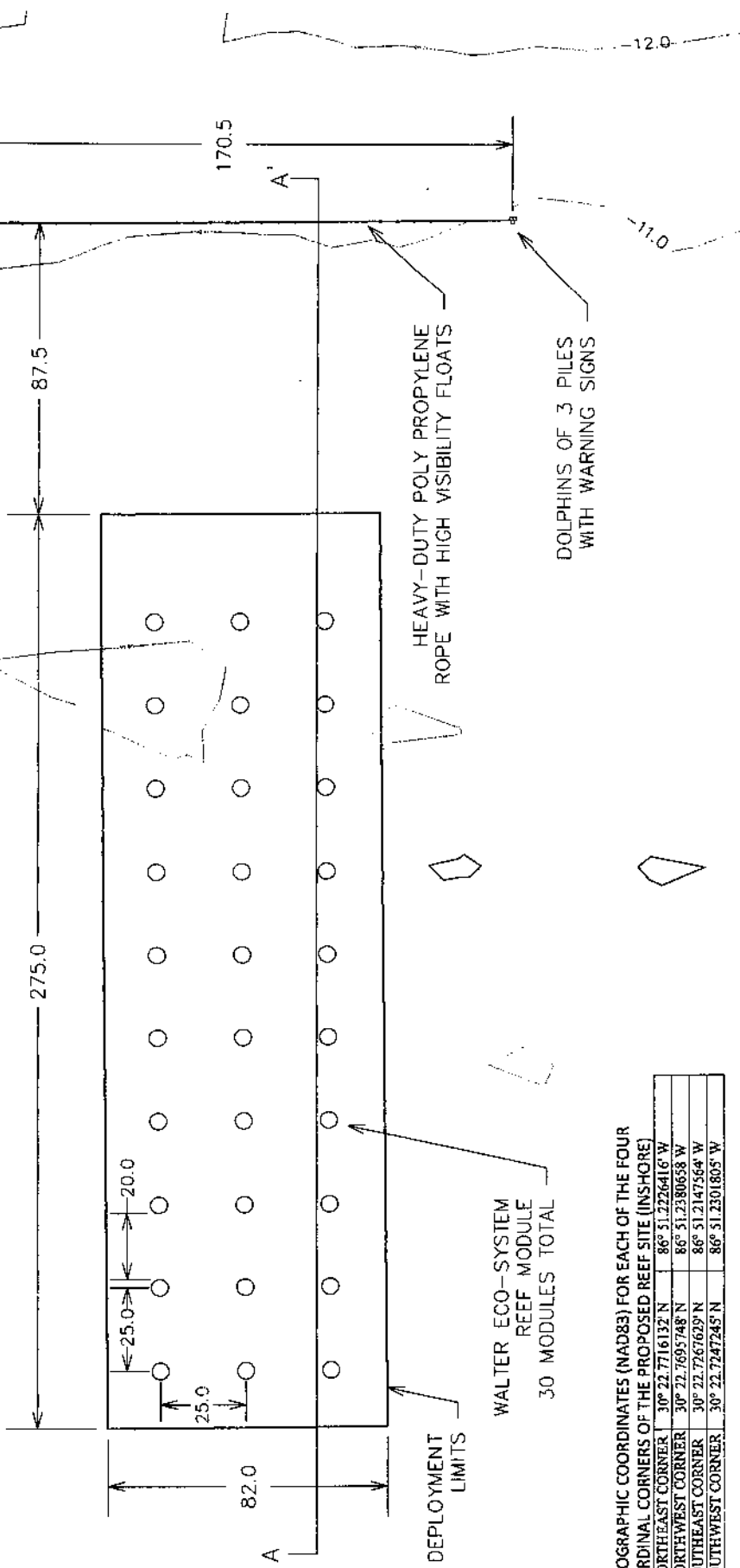
<b>NOAA CHART 11385</b>	
<b>WETLAND SCIENCES</b> INCORPORATED	PROJECT #2009-058 DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009 SCALE: 1 INCH = 1/2 MILE DRAWN BY: KDJ

NOTE: COORDINATES SHOWN ON DRAWING ARE STATE PLANE  
 COORDINATES 1983-NAD83(86) DATUM  
 FLORIDA NORTH ZONE

NOTE: FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE  
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 CONSTRUCTION.

APPLICANT: SANTA ROSA  
 COUNTY  
 PAGE 6 OF 8  
 E1224750  
 NS120000

GULF OF MEXICO



GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES (NAD83) FOR EACH OF THE FOUR  
 CARDINAL CORNERS OF THE PROPOSED REEF SITE (INSHORE)

NORTHEAST CORNER	30° 22.7716132' N	86° 51.2226416' W
NORTHWEST CORNER	30° 22.7695748' N	86° 51.2380658' W
SOUTHEAST CORNER	30° 22.7267629' N	86° 51.2147564' W
SOUTHWEST CORNER	30° 22.7247245' N	86° 51.2301805' W

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**WETLAND  
 SCIENCES**  
 I N C O R P O R A T E D

CLOSE UP PLAN VIEW

PROJECT #2009-058  
 DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009  
 DRAWN BY: KDJ  
 SCALE: 1"=50'

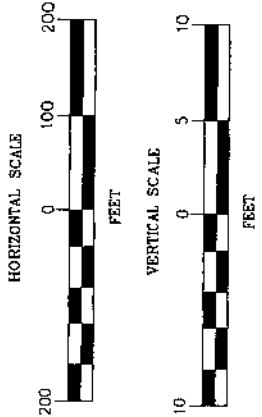
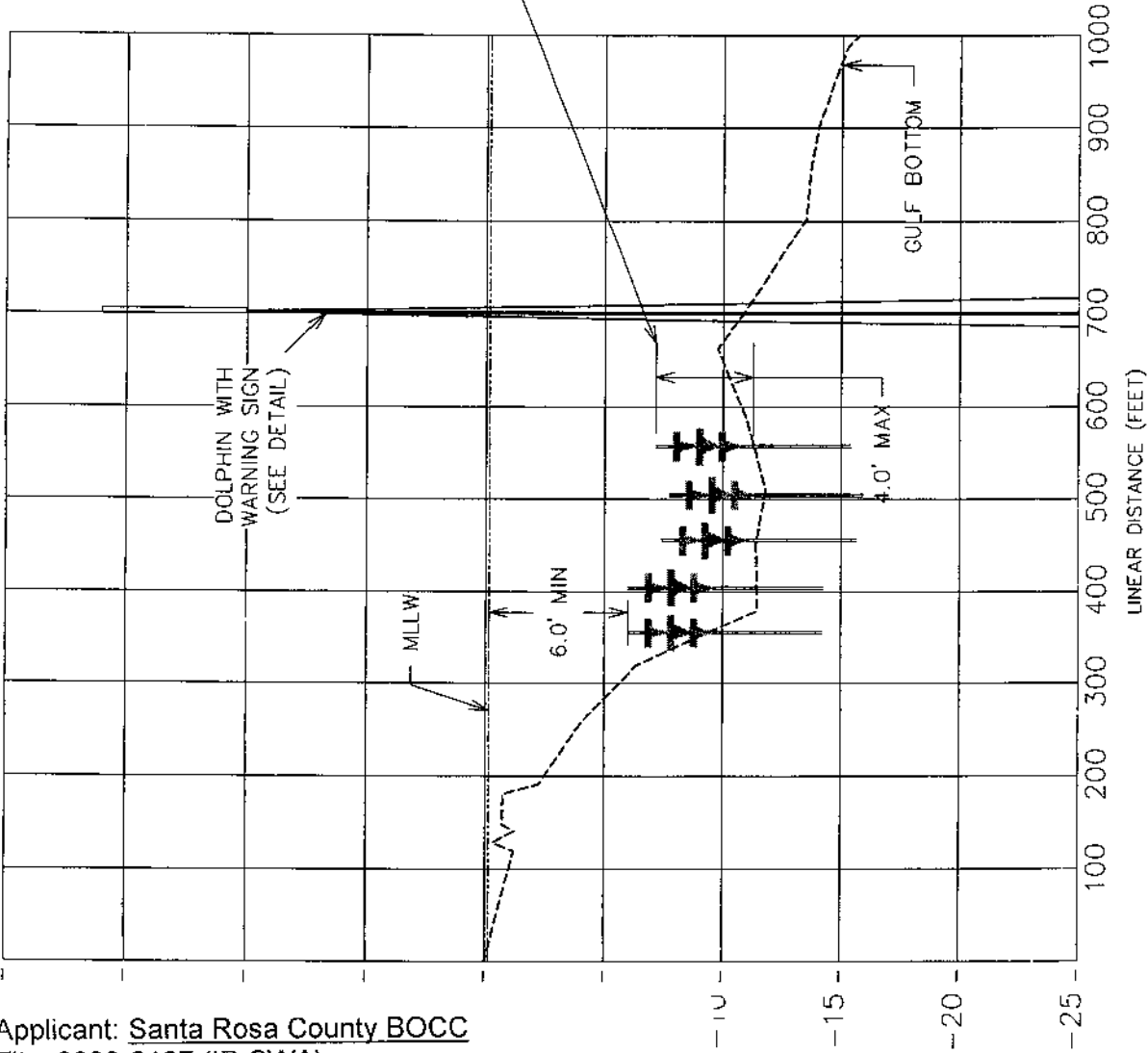


NOTES:

1. EACH WALTER ECO-REEF WILL BE DEPLOYED AT LEAST 20-FEET FROM ANY OTHER REEF.
2. REEF MATERIAL WILL BE DEPLOYED NO LESS THAN 10-FEET FROM THE LIMIT OF THE DEPLOYMENT AREA
3. THIS DRAWING IS A GENERALIZATION. REEF MATERIALS MAY BE DEPLOYED IN A DIFFERENT CONFIGURATION AS SHOWN ON THE DRAWING. REGARDLESS OF THE CONFIGURATION THE APPLICANT SHALL MEET THE SETBACK FROM EACH ECO-REEF AND DEPLOYMENT LIMITS AS SPECIFIED ON THIS DRAWING.

REEF MATERIAL SHALL BE PLACED SO THAT THE TOP OF THE REEF DOES NOT EXCEED 1/2 THE DISTANCE FROM THE BOTTOM TO THE MLW ELEVATION. AT NO TIME SHALL THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE TOP OF THE REEF AND THE MLW ELEVATION BE LESS THAN 6-FEET.

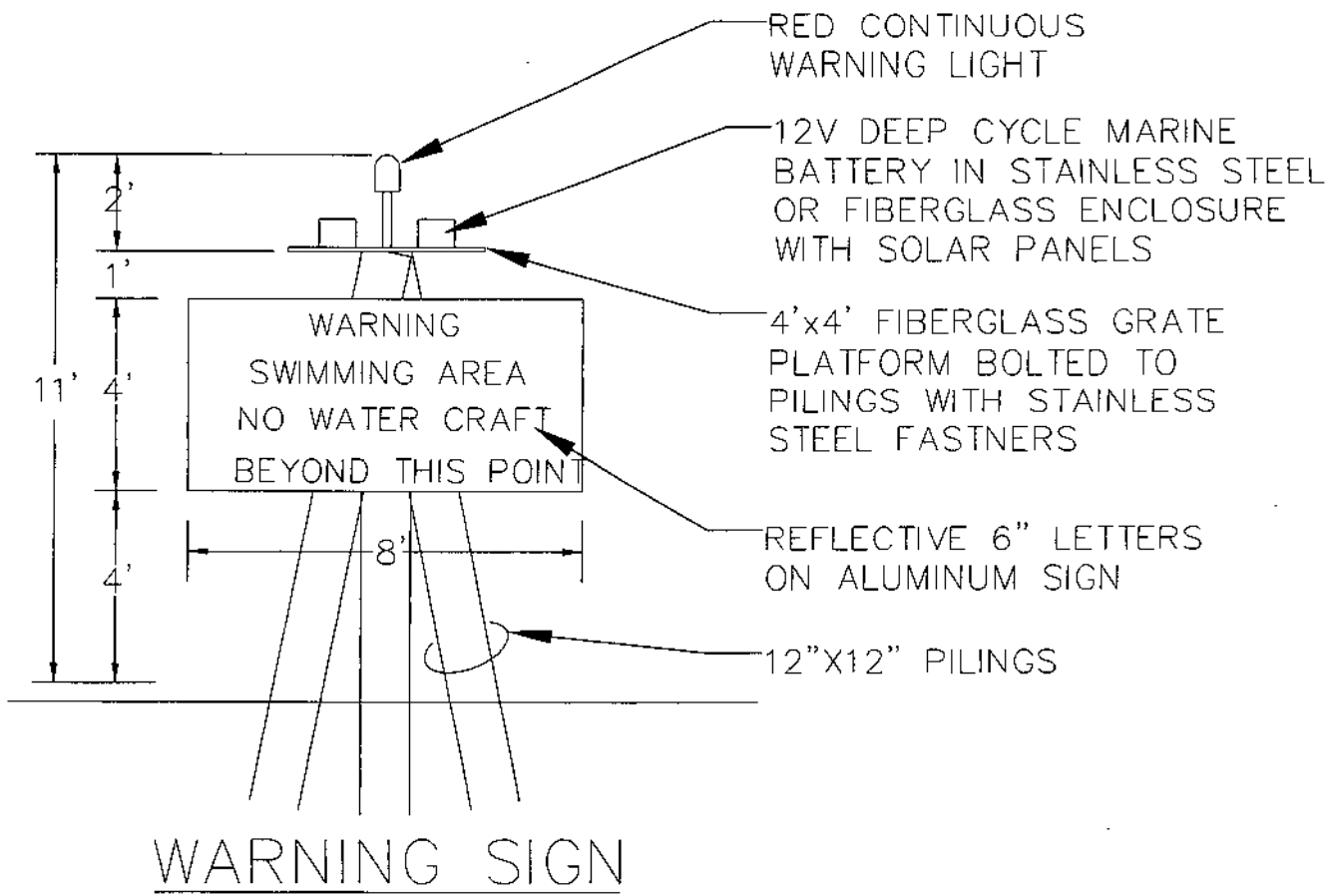
NOTE: FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE PERMITTING ONLY. NOT RELEASED FOR CONSTRUCTION.



SECTION A-A

**WETLAND SCIENCES**  
 INCORPORATED

PROJECT #2009-058	DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009
DRAWN BY: KDJ	SCALE: VARIES



### WARNING SIGN DETAIL

Applicant: Santa Rosa County BOCC  
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# 2009-058

DATE: AUGUST 3, 2009

Y: KJM

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE