



MIDNIGHT PASS REOPENING PROJECT

Summary: Erickson Consulting Engineers, Inc. (ECE) contracted with Sarasota County in 2004 to conduct all coastal engineering services required to plan, design and construct a project to reopen Midnight Pass, closed since 1983. Two barrier island beaches adjacent to the Pass will benefit from sand placement when this Pass is reopened.

Date: 2004 to Present

Location: Sarasota County, Florida

Key Project Elements:

- Planning Design and Engineering Services
- Hydrodynamic Modeling and Engineering Analysis to Design a stable Pass
- Acquire all State and Federal Construction Permits and Develop a State Approved Inlet Management Plan
- Geotechnical Investigations and Biological Mapping and Assessments
- Develop the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Documents
- Analyze Project Benefits and Formulate a Funding Program
- Design and Engineering for the Mitigation and Restoration Projects
- Construction Contract Documents and Bidding

Benefits of the Midnight Pass Reopening Project include restoring tidal flows and improve water quality within Little Sarasota Bay, creating a productive marine environment, providing sand for beach nourishment and stabilizing the adjacent beaches. In addition to creating recreational opportunities for boaters and fisherman, and returning seagrass habitat to adversely impacted spoil islands that surround the Pass.

The plans and design for the Pass reopening project consists of excavating 525,000 cubic yards, which includes removal of 250,000 cubic yards from excavating the reopened Midnight Pass channel, 110,000 cubic yards from the sedimentation basin and 165,000 cubic yards from Turtle Beach Access Channel and the adjacent two spoil islands for placement along 16,000 ft of eroding beaches. ECE is presently working with State and Federal agencies to acquire the permits to construct this project that is planned for construction in 2009.

