

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**PALM BEACH COUNTY BREAKWATERS PROJECT
DEAD IN THE WATER!**

Singer Island, FL (March 29, 2010) – Palm Beach County-Environmental Resource Management (ERM) has withdrawn its permit to construct breakwaters just off-shore of Singer island. The \$30-50 million project, which involved the construction of 11 limestone and granite structures placed in 12 feet of water, was designed to dissipate beach erosion.

However, the breakwaters proved to be a significant threat to the geological and biological coastal systems, and would adversely affect sea turtle nesting and increase down drift erosion. The proposed breakwaters are a one-mile long series of emergent rock structures, and would have been the largest of its kind in Florida. This type of breakwater structure had been unsuccessfully implemented in the Miami area (32nd Street), and has caused serious erosion problems for beaches south of the structures.

Because of the downfalls in project planning, the United States Army Corps of Engineers requested Palm Beach County ERM to drop its permit seeking to install these breakwaters off the coast of Singer Island, and they did.

Per the ACOE's analysis of the permit application and design by Humiston & Moore Engineers, it was determined that the breakwaters would be harmful to sea turtle nesting, reduce the survival rate of sea turtle hatchlings, destroy valuable hard bottom breeding grounds for fish populations, would have created a hazard for swimmers and boaters, and would accelerate erosion to beaches south of the project.

“Surfrider Foundation has been actively opposed to this project and will continue to monitor and evaluate any revised submittals, as these types of structures are harmful to the environment and have dangerous side-effects that were not adequately addressed by ERM or their engineers. Ultimately this is not a fiscally responsible solution, especially when public money is being used to protect private property,” stated Greg Lyon, chair of Surfrider Foundation Palm Beach County.

About Surfrider Foundation

The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots, 501(c)(3) non-profit, environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our oceans, waves, and beaches, for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.

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