

**Key¹ for Construction Conditions for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed
in or Over Johnson's Seagrass (*Halophila johnsonii*)
National Marine Fisheries Service/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
October 2002**

- 1a. The construction site is within the known range of Johnson's seagrass occurrence (Sebastian Inlet to central Biscayne Bay in the lagoonal systems on the east coast of Florida). *Go to 2.*
- 1b. The construction site is not within the known range of Johnson's seagrass occurrence but submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) is present at the site. Use *"Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat"* - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001.
- 1c. The construction site is not within the range of Johnson's seagrass and SAV is not present at the site: *No construction conditions for SAV are necessary.*
- 2a. Seagrass survey for Johnson's seagrass is performed at the proposed site during the April 1 – August 31 growing season. *Go to 3.*
- 2b. No survey for Johnson's seagrass is performed at the proposed site during the growing season, or a survey is performed at the proposed site but is outside of the growing season. *Go to 4.*
- 3a. Johnson's seagrass is present at the proposed construction site. *Go to 5.*
- 3b. Johnson's seagrass is not present at the proposed construction site. *Go to 6.*
- 4a. The construction is in an area designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service - Protected Resources Division (NMFS-PRD) as **critical habitat²** for Johnson's seagrass. Use *"Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat"* - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001, **except that light-transmitting materials² (LTMs) shall comprise 100% of all pedestrian surfaces waterward of the mean low water (MLW) line.**
- 4b. The construction is not in an area designated by NMFS-PRD as critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass. Use *"Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat"* - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001, **except that LTMs shall comprise at least 75% of all pedestrian surfaces waterward of the MLW line and a minimum 1-inch spacing shall be maintained between all wooden deckboards used waterward of the MLW line.**
- 5a. The construction is in an area designated by NMFS-PRD as critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass. Use *"Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat"* - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001, **except that LTMs shall comprise at least 75% of all pedestrian surfaces waterward of the MLW line and a minimum 1-inch spacing shall be maintained between all wooden deckboards used waterward of the MLW line.**
- 5b. The construction is not in an area designated by NMFS-PRD as critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass. Use *"Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat"* - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001, **except that all pedestrian surfaces directly over Johnson's seagrass areas shall be constructed of LTMs and a minimum**

1-inch spacing shall be maintained between all wooden deckboards used waterward of the MLW line.

- 6a.** The construction is in an area designated by NMFS-PRD as critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass. Use "*Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat*" - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001, **except that a minimum 1-inch spacing shall be maintained between all wooden deckboards used waterward of the MLW line.**
- 6b.** The construction is not in an area designated by NMFS as critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass. *Go to 7*
- 7a.** SAV other than Johnson's seagrass is present at the site. Use "*Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat*" - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001.
- 7b.** No SAV present. *No construction conditions for SAV are necessary.*

Notes:

¹ This key is meant to complement but not supersede the "*Dock Construction Guidelines in Florida for Docks or Other Minor Structures Constructed in or over Submerged Aquatic Vegetation, Marsh or Mangrove Habitat*" - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/National Marine Fisheries Service, August 2001. **Docks incorporating light-transmitting materials shall not exceed the dimensions recommended in the Guidelines.**

² Federal Register 65 FR 17786, April 5, 2000, Designation of critical habitat for Johnson's seagrass.

³ Light-transmitting materials are made of various materials shaped in the form of grids, grates, lattices, etc., to allow the passage of light through the open spaces. **All light-transmitting materials used for dock construction in the known range of Johnson's seagrass shall have a minimum of forty-three (43) percent open space.**

Grid Specifications and Suppliers

The following information does not constitute a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or National Marine Fisheries Service endorsement or advertisement for any particular provider and is provided only as an example for those interested in obtaining these materials for dock construction. A type of fiberglass grate panel is manufactured by SeaSafe (Lafayette, LA; phone: 1-800-326-8842). Similar panels are also manufactured or distributed by ChemGrate (1-800-527-4043) and Southern Pine Lumber Co. (1-800-322-1500). Panels are available in a variety of sizes and thicknesses. For safety, the grate should contain an anti-slip texture which is integrally molded into the top surface. The manufacturer or local distributor should be consulted to ensure that the load-bearing capacity of the selected product is sufficient to support the intended purpose. Contact the manufacturer(s) for product specifications and a list of regional distributors.