

OCEAN AVENUE
BRIDGE OVER THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY



Project Description

For this bridge design and permitting project, Scheda ecologists were responsible for mapping underwater natural resources, establishing wetland jurisdictional lines, identifying any protected species concerns, preparing the Essential Fish Habitat Assessment, calculating impacts, and compiling all permit applications. The assessment of natural resources included mapping and characterization of seagrass beds in the vicinity of the bridge, including Johnson's seagrass (*Halophila johnsonii*).

In addition, Scheda professionals were the lead for conducting all regulatory agency coordination and communication. This included meetings and coordination with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), and Palm Beach County. Permit applications were prepared, and permits were obtained as follows:

- USCG Bridge Permit;
- Section 404 Dredge and Fill Nationwide; and
- SFWMD Environmental Resource Permit, including a new Sovereign Submerged Lands Easement.

