

Florida Inland Navigation District

# Seagrass and Benthic Habitat Surveying Services

**Location**

Palm Beach County, FL

**Year Complete**

2012



ESA Scheda scientists conducted pre-dredging seagrass and benthic habitat assessment surveys at three proposed dredging sites located along or adjacent to the Intracoastal Waterway in Palm Beach County Florida. The three sites include the Intracoastal Waterway in North Palm Beach, the Intracoastal Waterway separating Peanut Island and the Port of Palm Beach in Riviera Beach, and a canal adjacent to the FIND MSA 690 Parcel in Boca Raton. The assessments included the preparation of benthic habitat survey methodology that was approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) prior to each field event. Divers conducting the benthic assessments using both SCUBA and snorkel to apply qualitative and quantitative sampling methods, delineating all protected natural resource boundaries, providing detailed resource boundary maps to the client, and drafting

summary reports that documented the benthic habitats by species observed, aerial coverage, and associated substrate type.