

PROJECT: South Shoreline Access Channel
PURPOSE/GOAL: Navigation Channel
PROJECT LOCATION: Loxahatchee River Central Embayment
PROJECT STATUS: Completed, 2014

Acting as engineer for the Jupiter Inlet District (JID), Taylor Engineering designed and permitted a new navigation channel along the southern shoreline of the Loxahatchee River's Central Embayment. Extensive negotiations with the regulatory agencies produced a permitted project that met JID's navigation goals and significantly limited the amount of impact to natural resources in the area. In response to numerous requests from local residents, JID first began working to obtain a permit for this project in the 1980's.

A detailed treatment of the sedimentation issues and tidal flows within the Loxahatchee River Central Embayment was undertaken by Dr. Ashish Merta, of the University of Florida. He concluded that a southern channel would improve overall water quality. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection issued an Environmental Resource Permit in 2007 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued a Department of Army Permit in 2008. Initial construction in 2011 provided a consistent channel elevation to at least -4.5 ft-NGVD and gated channel markers across a portion of the project area. In 2014, JID completed the channel and now maintains both the south and main channels as primary east-west travel routes through the Loxahatchee River's Central Embayment.