

DATE: January 03, 2003

FACT SHEET  
OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

PROJECT NAME AND STATE: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Texas

AUTHORIZATION: Various; particularly PL 77-675 (1942) authorizing the Laguna Madre reach, and Section 101(a)(29) of WRDA 96 authorizing the work at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

<u>SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA:</u>	<u>O&amp;M</u>
Expended for FY 2002	32,371,460
Allocation for FY 2003	22,400,000
President's proposed Budget for FY 2004	21,329,000

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: The Main Channel of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway traverses the entire Texas Coast from Sabine River to Port Isabel, Texas.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2003: Continue ongoing contracts.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2004: FY 04 funding will be used to construct placement areas within the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. These sites are to be created for birds and other wildlife that inhabit the Wildlife Refuge, in particular the endangered Whooping Crane. Failure to provide these sites could place the Corps of Engineers in violation of the Endangered Species Act. Additional funding would also be used to construct beneficial use sites in the Laguna Madre in order to comply with the Supplement Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and 50-Year Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP). Additionally, funding would also be used to dredge Freeport to Brazos River, if the channel is not dredged in FY 04, impacts to navigation will be immediate and severe. Impacts will progress from random groundings to eventual closure of the channel. As the channel shoals, it will cause major economic impacts to the region and the nation. As the channel is allowed to shoal the risk increases for vessel accidents that could result in catastrophic loss of human and marine life, and property. Funding in the amount of \$3,470,000 was eliminated by OMB and replaced with lower SWD priority Homeland Security and Hydropower work packages.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: The SEIS and 50 Year DMMP for the Laguna Madre will be finalized in calendar year 2003. Freeport to Brazos River is scheduled for advertisement December 2003.

LOCAL SPONSOR: Texas Department of Transportation.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Congressmen Ron Paul (TX-14) and Solomon Ortiz (TX-27).