



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Canaveral National Seashore
212 South Washington Ave.
Titusville, Florida 32796

July 19, 2017

Indian River Lagoon Council
Science, Technology, Engineering, and Modeling Advisory Committee
1235 Main Street
Sebastian, Florida 32958

Re: Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan

STEM Advisory Committee:

Canaveral National Seashore (CNS or park) is pleased to see the county and Mosquito Lagoon stakeholders working together to develop a Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) with the goal of restoration. It has been difficult and upsetting to see the decline of health of our beautiful lagoon in the past few years. Part of the National Park Service's mission is to not let the lands and waters it manages reach impairment.

The park understands the challenges in developing realistic and statistically sound water quality targets. We also appreciate the consultants researching and developing several proposed alternatives based on several methods/reference periods from which the targets are established. The park believes since Mosquito Lagoon being part of the larger Indian River Lagoon should have its targets established based on the same best five years as recommended by the Department of Environmental Protection. We do know and have data to support the loss of seagrass and water quality starting in 2011. We do understand there are many factors to take into account and each water body is unique. While the proposed targets are not unreasonable, if we truly have restoration as the goal, than for the benefit of resource and those who utilize the resource, we should strive to return the lagoon to its glory years.

Thank you for opportunity to provide input in the RAP process.

Sincerely,

Myrna Palfrey
Superintendent