



United States Department of the Interior



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

October 18, 2018

Julie Espy
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000
julie.espy@dep.state.fl.us

Re: Mosquito Lagoon Reasonable Assurance Plan Comments

Dear Ms. Espy:

Canaveral National Seashore (CNS or park) appreciates the cities, counties, and all the Mosquito Lagoon stakeholders working together to restore the health of the lagoon. The Reasonable Assurance Plan (RAP) certainly demonstrates the commitment and concern all share about the lagoon.

The park is committed to protection of the resource enjoyed by 1.7 million visitors each year. The lagoon is so important to the community, to the livelihoods of many, ecotourism, and for recreational activities. The park is home to 15 threatened and endangered species, over 300 species of birds, 1000 species of plants, and supports nationally recognized fisheries for finfish, clams, oysters, blue crab, and shrimp. The park was established in 1975 "in order to preserve and protect the outstanding natural, scenic, scientific, ecologic, and historic values of certain lands, shoreline, and waters of the State of Florida, and to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of the same". Lowering water quality standards does not fulfill this mission and may allow for further impairment. The park does understand the challenges of more stringent standards but also believes it should not settle if we truly want to have a healthy, thriving lagoon once again.

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

Sincerely,

Myrna Palfrey
Superintendent