



NSU Oceanography Wharf Renewal

FUNDING REQUEST

- **Total Project or Program Cost** - \$14,000,000
- **Requested Amount for Project or Program** - 50% Match

ISSUE SUMMARY

NSU is launching a Wharf Renewal Project to create a dedicated berth for research vessels and enhance the long-term utility of the wharf.

FULL DETAILED BACKGROUND

NSU and Broward County have a decades-long, valuable partnership that has resulted in significant benefits to the people and community of Broward County. NSU brings economic diversity and development to the County, as well as educational and research resources, including world-class oceanographic research and education opportunities based at our Oceanographic Campus. The uses of NSU's existing waterfront facility include top-notch academic research, academic instruction, and public education and outreach that benefit South Florida, the larger community, and the planet.

NSU is interested in reconstructing its existing wharf to support a proposed berth for oceanographic research vessels, which are too large for the existing marina at the campus. The wharf project would entail dredging of the nearshore area to provide adequate depth in the berth. NSU has had initial coordination meetings with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the proposed plan.

If the NSU wharf reconstruction project triggers the need to mitigate seagrass habitats in proximity to the wharf project, NSU's engineers have identified numerous conceptual seagrass mitigation projects that would serve to offset the impacts during permitting of the NSU Wharf Renewal. The project is in the early phase, and NSU is preparing to release the engineers to complete the full engineering design and permit process for berth dredging and wharf reconstruction to accommodate additional nearshore water depth and large vessel mooring forces.

Once NSU obtains the local, state, and federal environmental permits for the project, its construction is expected to generate sufficient ecological lift (i.e., UMAM functional gain) to offset seagrass impacts such that the USACE would not need to construct a toe wall as part of the adjacent Port Everglades Navigational Improvements Project. (PENIP).

BENEFITS/EXPECTED OUTCOME

- **Maintain and expand wharf utility long-term**, supporting ongoing scientific operations.
- **Create a dedicated berth** for oceanographic research vessels.
- **Enhance research opportunities** focused on marine species such as sharks, corals, and whales.
- **Expand the Coral Nursery**, increasing capacity for coral restoration and repopulation projects.
- **Promote resiliency** in coastal infrastructure and ecosystems.
- **Serve the broader scientific research community**, fostering collaboration and innovation.
- **Marine industry job growth**, contributing to the local economy.
- **Mitigate seagrass** habitats in proximity to the wharf project if required.

POINT(S) OF CONTACT

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