

About this Guide

This guide is designed to help boaters enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural resources in the Loxahatchee River and Jupiter Inlet vicinity. The maps and text display and describe features from the maritime history of the area, resources important to boaters and anglers, including marinas and boat ramps; fish species commonly caught in local waters; the distribution of natural resources, such as sea grass, estuaries, and beaches; and sources of information and assistance.

Do not rely on this guide for navigational purposes. Instead, use the latest charts.

The Jupiter Inlet District provided funding for this guide, which was prepared in collaboration with the Florida Sea Grant College Program.

For information on obtaining a copy of this guide, please contact:

Jupiter Inlet District (561) 746-2223
 Florida Sea Grant (352) 392-1837

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High-speed fishing boat passing Jupiter Inlet Lighthouse. Postcard image, Florida Photographic Collection.

Navigational, Historical and Environmental Perspective of Jupiter Inlet and the Loxahatchee River



Front cover postcard of Lynn L. Drake collection.



Fishermen take advantage of the south jetty in 1918. (Credit: Jupiter Inlet District)

The Jupiter Inlet District (JID), a special taxing district established in 1921 by the Florida Legislature, is the oldest local government in northern Palm Beach County. The Legislature requires the JID Board to maintain and preserve (1) the Jupiter Inlet, with a specific emphasis on navigability, and (2) the Loxahatchee River and its tributaries. Additionally, JID operates and maintains the northernmost portion of Jupiter Beach Park.

JID built two parallel, 400-foot jetties at the inlet in 1922 and in 1929 extended the north jetty by 200 feet and the south by 75 feet. In 1941,

A Sense of Time and Place

Jupiter Inlet District - An Area of Distinction



In the foreground of this 1997 aerial photograph, a dredge pumps material from the "sand trap" in Jupiter Inlet and deposits it on the beach south of the inlet. To the west, beyond the bridges, are the Loxahatchee River Central Embayment and the river's North and Northwest Forks. Photo credit: National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration Photo Library (Mrs. Marge Beaver, photographer)



The sidewheel steamboat *Bea* navigated the Loxahatchee River sometime before 1902. The *Bea* was one of many steamboats and sailing craft engaged in commerce along the river.

Good Reading

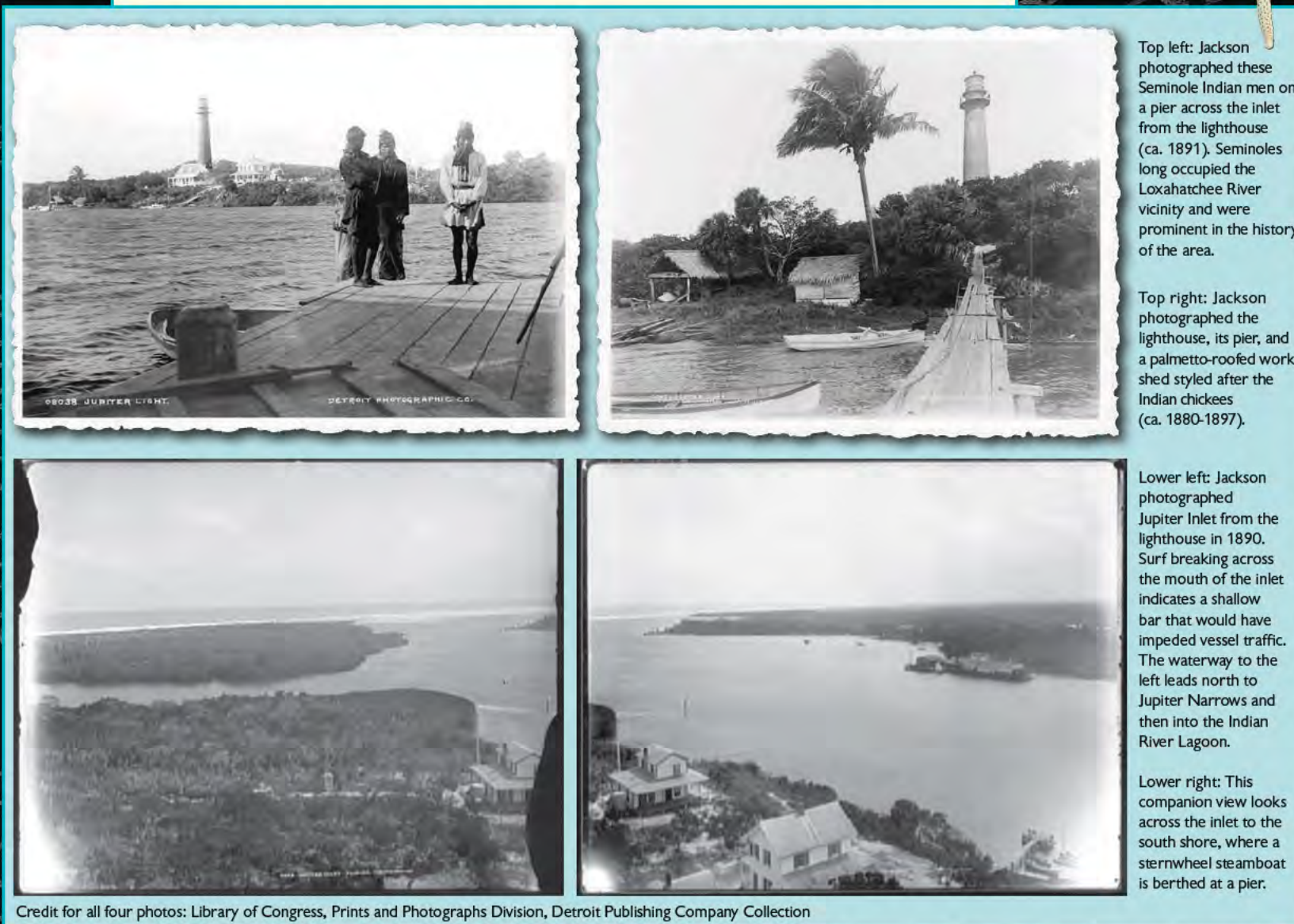
In 1696, the barkentine *Resolution*, with passengers including Philadelphia Quaker Jonathan Dickinson, his wife, and his infant son, ran aground in a storm on the beach of Jupiter Island, about five miles north of the inlet. In his diary, Dickinson recorded an account of the wreck, encounters of the survivors with the native Tequesta Indians, and their eventual rescue following an arduous trek north to Spanish St. Augustine. Convinced the party's salvation resulted from divine intervention, Dickinson published an account of the journey in 1699. Usually called simply *Jonathan Dickinson's Journal*, the volume became an immediate success and has been reprinted many times.



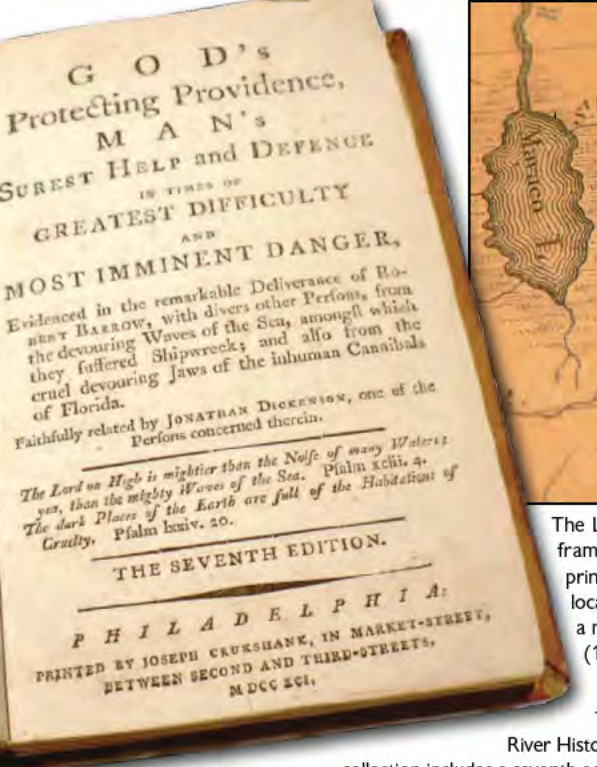
This postcard image, taken from Jupiter Inlet, with the U.S. Weather station in the foreground (left).

Jupiter Inlet Views by William Henry Jackson

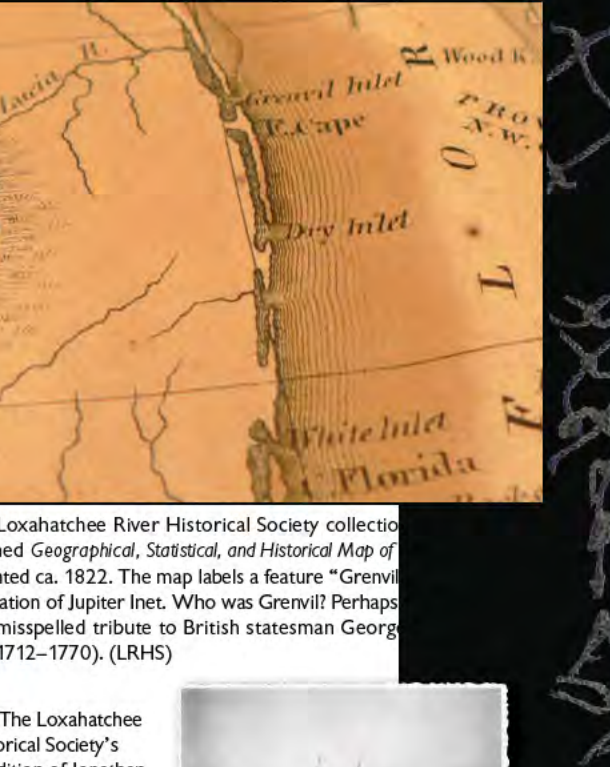
These photographs, made by William Henry Jackson (1843 - 1942), are from the Library of Congress. The works of Jackson influenced the establishment of Yellowstone and other early national parks. His extensive travels included working visits to many sites in Florida, including the vicinity of Jupiter.



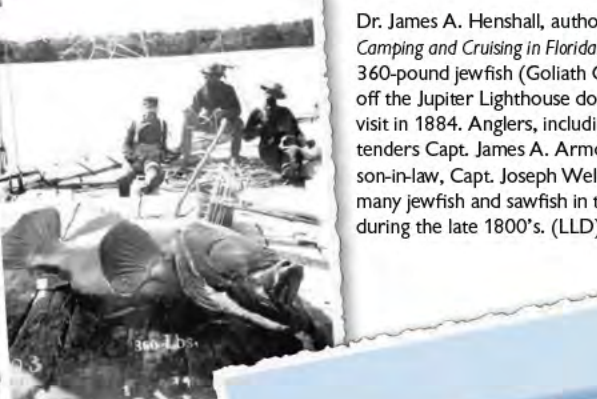
Credit for all four photos: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Detroit Publishing Company Collection



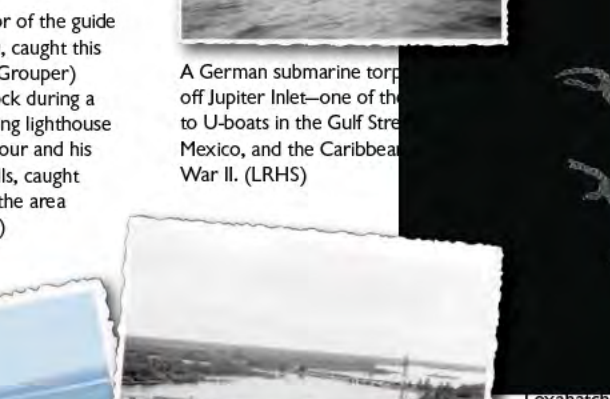
The Loxahatchee River Historical Society's collection includes a seventh edition of Jonathan Dickinson's journal, published in 1791.



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Dr. James A. Henshall, author of the guide *Camping and Cruising in Florida*, caught this 340-pound jewfish (Goliath Grouper) off the Jupiter Lighthouse dock during a visit in 1894. Anglers, including lighthouse tenders Capt. James A. Armour and his son-in-law, Capt. Joseph Wells, caught many jewfish and sawfish in the area during the late 1800's. (LLD)



A German submarine torpedoes off Jupiter Inlet—one of the 14 boats in the Gulf Stream, Mexico, and the Caribbean War II. (LRHS)



Loxahatchee River. The Central Embayment is visible in the background. (LRHS)

Natural Features of the Area

Popular Fishes

- DOLPHIN (MAHI-MAHI):** Offshore, especially in Gulf Stream, often under floating cover. Feeds on flying fish and squid.
- GAG GROUPE:** Usually offshore, on rocks and reefs, but occasionally inshore and in estuaries.
- KING MACKEREL:** Nearshore and offshore, sometimes from piers and in the surf.
- MUTTON SNAPPER:** Offshore wrecks and reefs. Inshore sea grass beds, mangrove shore, and canals. Check latest regulations for size and season limits.
- BLUEFISH:** Nearshore, inlet, and surf. Migratory; best in winter. Be careful with sharp teeth and strong jaws.
- SHEEPSHEAD:** Inshore around oyster bars, seawalls, and pilings and in tidal creeks; nearshore in late winter and early spring, gathering over rocks and artificial reefs and around navigation markers.
- SNOOK:** Usually inshore in coastal and brackish waters, along mangrove shorelines, seawalls, and bridges; also on reefs and pilings. Check latest regulations for size and season limits.
- SPOTTED SEATROUT:** Inshore and/or nearshore over grass, sand, and sandy mud bottoms; move into slow-moving or still, deep waters in cold weather.
- CREVALLE JACK:** Beaches, inlet, estuaries, and rivers. Generally not prized for the table, but challenging and fun to catch and release.

Resources Directory

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 Information: (352) 732-1225, myfwc.com
 Fish Kill Hotline: (800) 636-0511
 Fish tag reports: (800) 367-4461
 Fishing regulations: myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/
 Licenses: myfwc.com/recreational/saltwater-fishing
 Species ID: myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles
 Violations: (888) 404-3922 (Cell. *FWC or #FWC)
 Toxic spills: (800) 320-0519

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
 Clean Marina Program: (850) 245-2100, www.dep.state.fl.us/cleanmarina

US Coast Guard: www.uscg.mil/d77
US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Florida 5-2: www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=1-070-05-02

NOAA VHF Weather: 162.55, 162.425

Tides and weather
 Extended tide forecasts:
 www.saltwaterfishing.com/dynamic.dir/floridantidestimates.htm
 National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov
 National Weather Service: www.srh.noaa.gov/mia

Jupiter Inlet District: www.jupiterinletdistrict.org
Loxahatchee River District: www.loxahatcheeriver.org
Florida Sea Grant: (352) 392-1837, www.flseagrant.org
Martin County Sheriff's Department:
 Emergency: Dial 911 Non-emergency: (772) 220-7000
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Department:
 Emergency: Dial 911 Non-emergency: (561) 688-3000

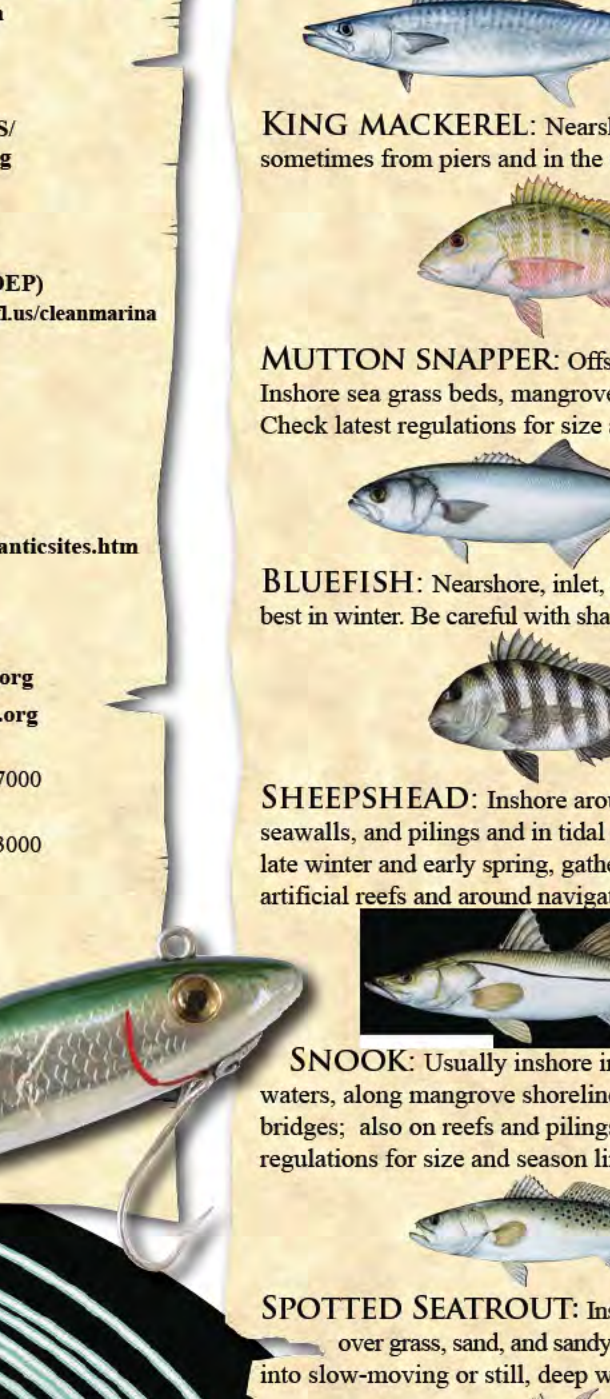
Jupiter Inlet Information Websites:
 www.tcpalm.com/news/news/local/
 (service of the Jupiter Courier newspaper)
 www.jupiterinlet.org
 (visitor information)

Loxahatchee River Historical Society:
 www.lrhs.org (561) 747-8380

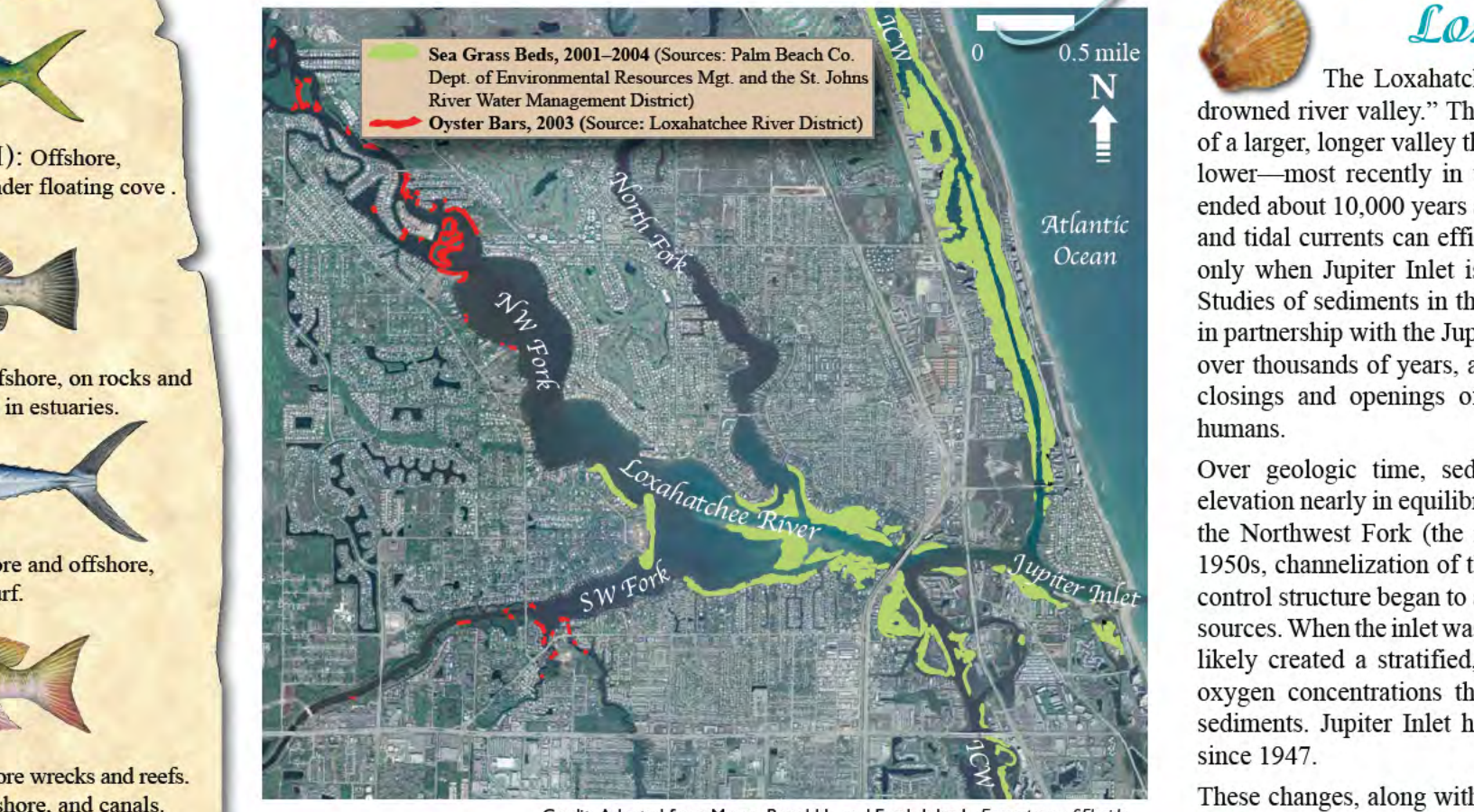
Recycle Your Fishing Line

Monofilament fishing line can last for centuries in the water, out of the sun's ultra-violet rays. Each year thousands of animals and many boat propellers become tangled in discarded fishing line. Shorebirds, sea turtles, and manatees can starve to death, lose limbs, or drown because of entanglement. Human divers can also become tangled in line.

Please deposit used fishing line in designated recycling containers.



Sea Grass Beds and Oyster Bars



Credit: Adapted from Myers, Ronald L. and Ewel, John L., *Ecosystems of Florida*, University of Central Florida Press, Orlando, 1990

Sea grass beds are among the most productive communities on earth. They provide habitat for small invertebrates and fishes; serve as nurseries and feeding grounds for species such as drums, sea bass, and snappers; and efficiently convert nutrients in their environments to organic matter vital to the base of the food chain. Among the sea grass species present in the Loxahatchee River estuary, Jupiter Inlet, and nearby Intracoastal Waterway are manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*) and turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), named for its appeal to green sea turtles. A variety of wading and diving birds also use sea grass beds as feeding grounds. Healthy sea grasses in estuaries are essential to commercial and recreational fisheries, including that of the pink shrimp, economically one of the most important in Florida.

Grass bed extent varies seasonally, as well as over longer time spans, responding to changes in water salinity, temperature, turbidity, and quality. Dismantled seabed scars caused by boat anchors and propellers take many years to heal. Boaters can help to maintain healthy sea grass beds by just not anchoring in grass—which generally offers relatively poor holding anyway—and by using a pole or oars to move vessels over grass when the water is too shallow to avoid prop scarring under power. This map shows distribution of sea grass beds in the lower Loxahatchee, Jupiter Inlet, and the Intracoastal Waterway, but remember to look out for grass wherever you anchor and when venturing into shallow water.

Oysters (*Crassostrea virginica*) are filter feeding, sedentary invertebrates found mostly in estuaries with firm substrates, such as mud/shell bottom. Oysters provide food and habitat for a variety of estuarine species, including sponges, mollusks, worms, and crustaceans. Freshwater runoff provides food for oysters, limits predation, and reduces disease, so oyster beds are associated with areas of lower salinity.

Found in the northwest and southwest forks of the Loxahatchee, oyster bars (red on the map) are productive fishing spots that attract adult snook. Exercise caution in these areas; oyster bars severely damage boat hulls and props, and the sharp shells are treacherous for people wading or swimming.

Manatees, Our Gentle Giants

Some helpful tips for boaters:

- Wear polarized sunglasses and look for a snout, back, tail, or flipper breaking the surface. A swimming manatee's tail creates whirls or flat spots on the water.
- Stay in deep-water channels. For high-speed water sports, choose areas that manatees do not or cannot frequent.
- Remain at least 50 feet away from manatees. Stop your prop if you must go closer. Obey speed zone signs and avoid posted manatee sanctuaries.
- Recycle your litter or throw it in a proper trash container. Debris such as discarded plastic bags or six-pack holders is dangerous to manatees and other wildlife. Properly discard or recycle monofilament line and fishhooks.
- Don't touch, feed, or provide water to manatees. These practices may encourage the animals to approach persons who might harm them.

Geology of the Lower Loxahatchee River

The Loxahatchee River flows in a "barrier-impounded, drowned river valley." That is, the present valley is the upper reach of a larger, longer valley that likely formed when sea level was much lower—most recently in the Pleistocene glaciation (Ice Ages) that ended about 10,000 years ago. The river can flow freely to the ocean, and tidal currents can efficiently flush the river's lower reaches, but only when Jupiter Inlet is open through the coastal barrier island. Studies of sediments in the river by University of Florida scientists, in partnership with the Jupiter Inlet District, reveal a complex history over thousands of years, affected by sea level change, many natural closings and openings of the inlet, and, recently, the actions of humans.

Over geologic time, sediment deposition has kept the riverbed elevation nearly in equilibrium with sea level. However, in the 1930s, the Northwest Fork (the main river channel) was dammed. In the 1950s, channelization of the Southwest Fork and a new sluice-gated control structure began to affect the natural stream flow and sediment sources. When the inlet was closed in the past, the limited tidal flushing likely created a stratified, stagnant water body with low dissolved oxygen concentrations that reduced biological activity within the sediments. Jupiter Inlet has been stabilized and open continuously since 1947.

These changes, along with significant alteration in use of the nearby lands due to increasing population, modify the river's sediment

Waters of the Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve and the Wild and Scenic Loxahatchee River

The Loxahatchee River-Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Preserve (outlined in red on the map) includes the three forks and central embayment of the Loxahatchee River, the waterway that continues south of the Loxahatchee behind the barrier islands. The 9,000-acre preserve was established in 1984 and comprises two sections: Wilderness and Urban. The Wilderness Preserve—upstream from mile 5.5 of the Loxahatchee River Northwest Fork—is managed to maintain the existing wilderness condition. Management goals for the Urban Preserve are to restore and enhance the natural condition of the resources.

Several miles of the Loxahatchee River's Northwest Fork slowly meander through one of the last vestiges of native cypress river swamp in southeast Florida. In 1985, the federal government designated 9.5 miles of the fork as Florida's first National Wild and Scenic River (outlined in yellow on the map)—one of only two rivers in the state so designated. Large sections of the river and watershed are within Jonathan Dickinson State Park, which contains outstanding examples of the region's natural biological communities.

Visitors to the area enjoy fishing, boating, and watching animals, such as manatees and birds, in their natural environment. The three forks of the Loxahatchee are freshwater tributaries, characterized by riverine communities such as freshwater and tidal marshes. Near and within the estuary, mangrove communities are predominant with submerged resources including tidal flats, sea grass beds, and oyster bars. The preserve hosts recreationally and commercially important species such as blue crabs, mullet, snook, and tarpon, as well as unusual fish species such as the bigmouth sleeper and the opossum pipefish, a "species of concern."



Adapted from manuscript by Jaeger, John M., Ashish Mehta, Richard Faas, and Michael Grella, *Anthropogenic Impacts on Sedimentary Sources and Processes in a Small Urbanized Subtropical Estuary, Florida*, 2005.

MARINAS AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Marina	Reported Approach Depth (ft)	Reported Alongside Depth (ft)	Repair Hull Engine Electronics	Haul Out Tons	Rent Motor Sail Row PWC	Restaurant Lodging Snacks	Pumpout Toilets Showers Laundry	Wet Slips Dry Storage	Charts	Water Ice	Bait Tackle	Gas Diesel	Contact (Area Code 561)	Address
1 Black Pearl	6	4	E		S	S T	W D	Y	W I	B			744-2223 Dockmaster@gilbaneboatworks.com	19137 SE Federal Hwy Tequesta, FL 33469 www.gilbaneboatworks.com
2 Jupiter Pointe	10	5	H En El	16	R	R S	P T	W D	Y	W I	B	G D	746-2600 Info@JupiterPointe.com	18701 SE Federal Hwy Tequesta, FL 33469 www.jupiterpointe.com
3 Blowing Rocks	6	6	H En El	4.5		S L R	P T S	W D	Y	W I	B	G D	746-3312 blowingrocks1@aol.com	18487 SE Federal Hwy Tequesta, FL 33469 www.blowingrocksmarina.com
4 Jupiter Island Beach (JIB) Club	7.5	7.5				S	P T S L	W	Y	W I	B	G D	746-4300 jibmarina@broadsmart.net	46 Beach Road Tequesta, FL 33469 www.jibmarinajupiter.com
5 U-Tiki Jupiter Inlet	10	6	El		M PWC	R	T	W D	Y	W I	B	G D	406-2210	1095 N A1A Jupiter, FL 33477 www.facebook.com/utikibeach
6 Jupiter Yacht Club	8	8				R		W					741-3469 jycmarina@aol.com	400 S US Hwy 1 Jupiter, FL 33477 www.jycmarina.com

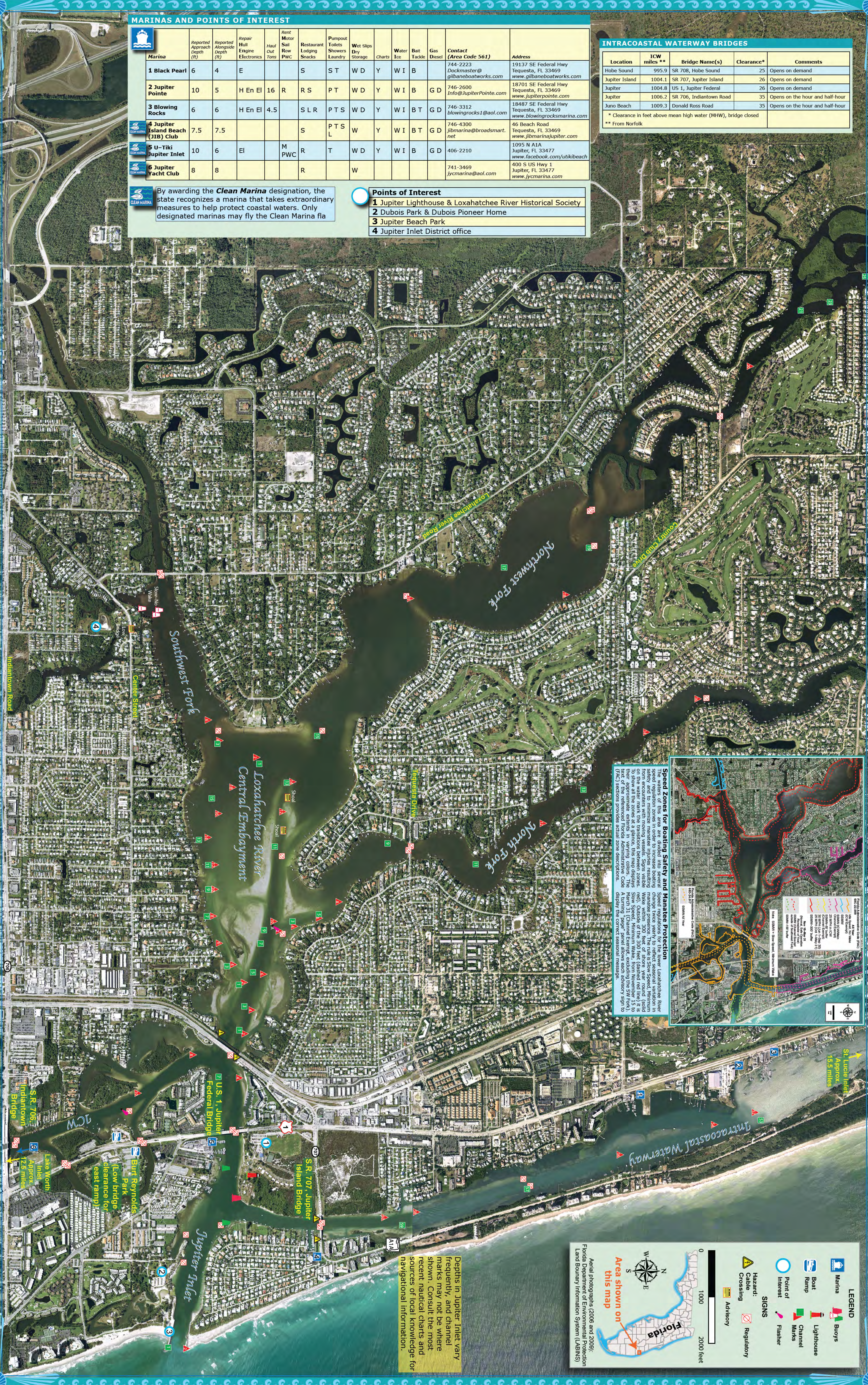
By awarding the **Clean Marina** designation, the state recognizes a marina that takes extraordinary measures to help protect coastal waters. Only designated marinas may fly the Clean Marina flag.

- Points of Interest**
- Jupiter Lighthouse & Loxahatchee River Historical Society
 - Dubois Park & Dubois Pioneer Home
 - Jupiter Beach Park
 - Jupiter Inlet District office

INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY BRIDGES

Location	ICW miles **	Bridge Name(s)	Clearance*	Comments
Hobe Sound	995.9	SR 708, Hobe Sound	25	Opens on demand
Jupiter Island	1004.1	SR 707, Jupiter Island	26	Opens on demand
Jupiter	1004.8	US 1, Jupiter Federal	26	Opens on demand
Jupiter	1006.2	SR 706, Indiantown Road	35	Opens on the hour and half-hour
Juno Beach	1009.3	Donald Ross Road	35	Opens on the hour and half-hour

* Clearance in feet above mean high water (MHW), bridge closed
 ** From Norfolk



Speed Zones for Boating Safety and Manatee Protection

The Loxahatchee River speed regulation zones in order to increase boating safety and to minimize manatee injuries resulting from manatee presence. The rule is Slow Speed, Minimum 10 mph, Maximum 20 mph, from November 15 to April 15. Outside of the 300 feet cleared red line it is to show all the zones at a glance, this map displays Slow Speed, Minimum Wake, from November 15 to April 15. Channel opening, including the SW fork, from April 15 to November 15. From November 15 to April 15, the map displays the correct seasonal message. (FAC) sections provides actual zone descriptions.

Depths in Jupiter Inlet vary frequently, and channel marks may not be where shown. Consult the most recent nautical charts and sources of local knowledge for navigational information.

LEGEND

- Marina
- Boat Ramp
- Point of Interest
- Hazard: Cable Crossing
- Regulatory
- Advisory
- Buoys
- Lighthouse
- Channel Marks
- Fishler
- Signs

Aerial photographs (2005 and 2009); Florida Department of Environmental Protection Land Boundary Information System (LABIS)