

City of Mary Esther

RESOLUTION 2005-04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA REQUESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS BE AMENDED TO ALLOW FOR MAINTAINANCE DREDGING OF THE DESTIN EAST PASS (EAST PASS) ON A BIENNIAL BASIS AS A MEASURE TO IMPROVE PUBLIC WELFARE AND SAFETY BY ALLOWING PROPER AND SAFE ACCESS BETWEEN CHOCTAWHATCHEE BAY AND THE GULF OF MEXICO; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the East Pass provides the only direct link between the Gulf of Mexico and Choctawhatchee Bay; and

WHEREAS, the East Pass is the lone waterway linking Eglin Air Force Base and the United States Coast Guard Station-Destin to the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the East Pass provides the only safe harbor within approximately 100 statute miles of the Gulf of Mexico shoreline between Pensacola, Florida and Panama City, Florida; and

WHEREAS, East Pass is used daily by over 100 vessels in the area's charter fishing fleet and by thousands of recreational boaters, sport fishers, and tourists; and

WHEREAS, the charter fishing industry contributes well in excess of \$55 million annually to the local area economy, serving over a quarter million customers per year and employing in excess of 400 persons; and

WHEREAS, the East Pass Project was last funded by the President in fiscal year 1996 for dredging in the fall of 1995 immediately following Hurricane Opal; and

WHEREAS, since that time the East Pass has been dredged only four times with supplemental funds received from U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, East Pass was dredged this year with supplemental funds received from the U.S. Congress in response to Hurricane Ivan; and

WHEREAS, the most recent two federal administrations have not supported shallow draft navigation projects such as East Pass; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to revise the federal criteria for dredging appropriations in fiscal year 2006 and beyond to include shallow draft waterways such as the East Pass.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Mary Esther respectfully requests the U.S. Congress to fund the United States Army Corps of Engineers East Pass Dredging Project on a biennial basis beginning in 2006.

SECTION 2. This resolution becomes effective upon the approval and adoption by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Mary Esther.

ADOPTED IN SESSION THIS 6th DAY OF June, 2005.

John Thomas
Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura Aldrich, CMC
City Clerk