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

Jupiter Inlet District - An Area of Distinction

The Jupiter Inlet District (1921) is an example of a society-controlled harbor that was created to provide navigation access to a large body of water. The inlet was constructed to open the Jupiter Inlet and the Loxahatchee River to large boats and was designed to facilitate commerce and tourism. The inlet was initially designed to be 1,000 feet wide, but due to difficulties with the construction, it was reduced to 750 feet wide.

The Loxahatchee River is a barrier-impounded, estuarine river that runs from Jupiter Inlet to the southern end of the Everglades. The river is a major drainage area for the western Everglades and is an important breeding and nursery area for many fish species.

Lighthouse Keepers

The Jupiter lighthouse was built in 1868 and is the oldest lighthouse in Florida. It is a popular attraction for tourists and is located at the southern end of the Loxahatchee River. The lighthouse is a focal point for boaters and fishermen and is a symbol of the rich history of the area.

Resources Directory

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: www.fwc.gov

Florida Master Naturalists: www.flmn.org

Loxahatchee River Historical Society: www.lrhs.org

Lake Worth Creek Aquatic Society: www.lwca.com

Palm Beach County Sheriff’s Department: www.pbcso.com

US Coast Guard Auxiliary, Unit 070-05-02: www.uscgaux.org/index.html

About this Guide

This guide is designed to help boaters enjoy and appreciate the natural and cultural resources in the distribution of natural resources, such as sea grass, estuaries, and beaches. The guide provides information on navigation, regulations, and safety.

The Jupiter Inlet District provided funding for two parallel jetties at the inlet in 1932. The northern jetty was extended by 300 feet and the southern jetty was extended by 100 feet. In 1941, the northern jetty was extended by 300 feet and the southern jetty was extended by 200 feet. The inlet was stabilized and open continuously since 1947.

Geological History

The Loxahatchee River's Northwest Fork slowly meanders 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 Coastal Wetlands of National and State Importance.

Waterways and Wildlife

The Loxahatchee River is a major drainage area for the western Everglades and is an important breeding and nursery area for many fish species. The river is home to a variety of wildlife, including manatees, dolphins, and sea birds.

A Sense of Time and Place

The Loxahatchee River estuary is a "species of concern." The river supports a diverse array of aquatic species, including manatees, dolphins, and sea birds. The river is a haven for many species of fish, including black drum, sea bass, and snappers.

Recycle Your Fishing Line

Recycling fishing lines can help reduce the amount of monofilament that enters our waterways. Recycle used fishing lines by contacting local fishing clubs or organizations that participate in the National Fishing Line Recycling Program.

Manatees, Our Gentle Giants

Manatees are a species of concern in the Loxahatchee River. They are known to visit the area in search of food and shelter. Manatees are herbivorous and feed on aquatic plants, including seagrass and algae.

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