

**CANAL DEBRIS CLEANUP COMPLETE IN ISLAMORADA
WITH USDA NATIONAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES GRANT**

**SEDIMENT REMOVAL APPROVED FOR PORTIONS OF TWO ISLAMORADA
CANALS**

The project to remove canal debris caused by Hurricane Irma was completed for Islamorada canals on December 20, 2018. Twenty of the most heavily impacted canals within Islamorada were cleared of a significant amount of debris. The County-wide 220-day project is still in progress and is on schedule to be completed by March 21st.

No environmental or safety issues were reported during the cleanup efforts. The project went smoothly and residents living along the waterways reported excellent results. Cleanup was conducted by the locally based Adventure Environmental, Inc. Islamorada staff and Monroe County staff are very pleased with the canal debris cleanup work that Adventure Environmental has done. The work was completed through grant money obtained by Monroe County from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Over 1,000 Cubic Yards of debris were removed from canals in Islamorada. Some of the items removed during the cleanup project included car/boat batteries, gasoline tanks, boats, trees, shutters, appliances, old docks and roofing materials.

Hurricane Irma also left sediment deposits in many canals. Monroe County submitted 34 canals to the NRCS for funding for sediment removal caused by the hurricane; nine of the canals are located within Islamorada. Only two of the nine, both on Lower Matecumbe, were approved for the sediment removal and only limited portions of each of the two canals were approved. One approved canal is located between Sea Lane and Ocean Lane and the second is located at Sunset and Iroquois Drives. Maps below show the locations of the approved areas for sediment clearing within the two canals.

Permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are required before any of the sediment-removal projects can begin. Monroe County has submitted a request to extend the March 21st project completion deadline by 60 days to allow additional time for sediment removal projects. If approved by the NRCS, the new project completion deadline will be May 20, 2019.

For more information, contact Islamorada's Environmental Resources Manager Pete Frezza at peter.frezza@islamorada.fl.us or [305-664-6427](tel:305-664-6427).

SEA LANE AND OCEAN LANE CANAL SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT AREAS



SUNSET/IROQUOIS CANAL SEDIMENT REMOVAL PROJECT AREAS

