

# Summary: Investigation of Coral Bay Marina Project

**Report Date: January 7, 2015**

We investigated allegations that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) officials violated Federal regulations in awarding a Boating Infrastructure Grant to the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources to construct a mega yacht marina in the Coral Bay area of St. John, VI. The complaint alleged that the project was ineligible for funding because it was not being built to benefit the public and it would negatively impact the natural environment, local economy, culture, and history of the Coral Bay community.

Our investigation did not uncover any evidence to support that the Coral Bay Marina project was ineligible for Federal funding. We found that an FWS 12-member national ranking panel reviewed and ranked the proposals submitted for the project before the FWS Director approved them. We also found that FWS has not spent any money on the project thus far. Finally, we learned that FWS had initiated an environmental assessment process by which it will consider environmental impact comments from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Marine Fisheries, the FWS Boqueron office, and the general public.

Upon completion of the environmental impact statement, FWS will decide whether to terminate the award without going through the full grant process, or to follow normal protocol with respect to endangered species and cultural resources.

We did not substantiate the allegations we received. We provided a copy of our report to FWS and closed the investigation with no further action required.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on December 2, 2015.*

