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Letter, Randolph Hodges to Ernest Martin, Tampa Harbor Project Report, January 20, 1969

Randolph Hodges

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Florida



Board of Conservation

LARSON BUILDING TALLAHASSEE 32304

January 20, 1969

Mr. Ernest C. Martin
Assistant Regional Director
U.S. Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
Peachtree-Seventh Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30323

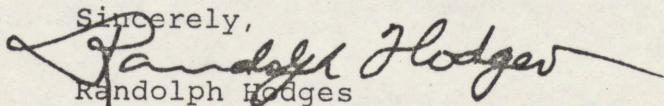
Dear Mr. Martin:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Report
on Tampa Harbor, Florida, Project

This responds to your letter of January 14, 1969, to which was attached a copy of your proposed report on the subject project.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife suggestion that spoil banks and spoil islands be planted with marine grasses and red mangroves to create additional natural substrata for marine animals, stabilize marine soils and reduce erosion by storm waves, and provide feeding, roosting and rookery areas for birds, is a constructive approach to rehabilitation of bays such as Hillsborough Bay, that have been adversely affected by heavy dredging and filling, siltation, over-enrichment, and pollution. Perhaps there are federal funds or enabling legislation for such work. However, such planting should be confined to those areas onto which spoiling will be complete at the time of the completion of this project. If future deepening beyond 38 feet requires ultimate re-use of these areas, the Corps would be subject to adverse criticism for destroying the vegetation that promotes and protects marine and animal life.

RH/swb

Sincerely,

Randolph Hodges
Director