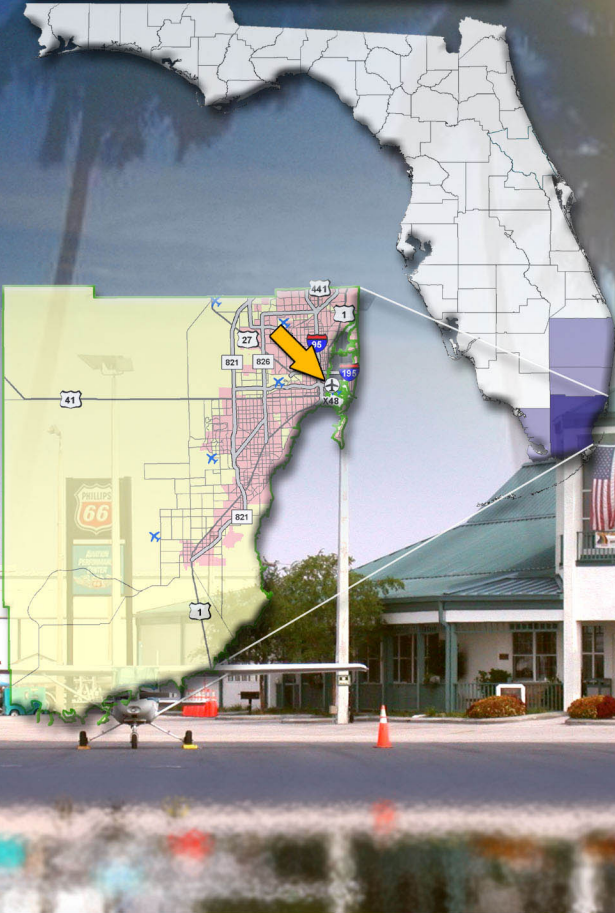


MIAMI SEAPLANE BASE



AIRPORT LOCATION



The Miami Seaplane Base is collocated with the Miami Heliport on Watson Island, near the southern tip of the Miami Beach peninsula. The facility is adjacent to the Port of Miami.



Existing Facilities

Miami Seaplane Base is privately owned and operated by Chalk's Airways, a Miami based seaplane operator. The Miami Heliport is currently operational and is located on Watson Island, on the same property occupied by Chalk's Miami Seaplane Base and some adjacent properties. The new facility combines the two operations into one aviation center.

Airside facilities include a new seaplane ramp and apron, one helipad, and four parking positions for rotor aircraft. Landside facilities include a terminal for Chalk's operation, a visitor's center with a media and press conference room, an observation deck, and a small passenger holding area with a gift shop and food service.

The combined Heliport and Seaplane Base are jointly operated, with Chalk's owning its own operation and the heliport operating as a city-owned establishment. The Seaplane Base uses the Port of Miami's deep-water channel and turning basin for aircraft operations, and has use of approximately 15,000 feet of water runway in a NE/SW configuration. The City of Miami has restricted private boating activity in the channel to reduce environmental impacts, but this action has also eased accessibility to the channel by seaplane operations. The Heliport has two helipads for use by the public, as well as two parking positions.

NOTE: In 2004, Florida experienced a record number of hurricanes, with many airports in Florida sustaining various amounts of damage. Since this report was in print at the time, facilities and based aircraft identified in this report do not reflect damage to infrastructure that may have occurred as a result of those hurricanes. Future reports will identify the impact of storm damage.

Current and Forecast Demand

COMMERCIAL AND GENERAL AVIATION

Chalk's Miami Seaplane Base currently serves commercial passengers on flights to several destinations in the Bahamas. The seaplane base conducts approximately 270 operations per year from Miami to Bimini. The company's Ft. Lauderdale branch also serves destinations in Walker's Cay and Paradise Island. The Seaplane Base serves only Chalk's operations. The Miami Heliport is an unattended public facility that serves corporate aircraft and houses a fixed base operator that serves rotor aircraft.

The seaplane base currently exists solely to support Chalk's operation, with flights to destinations in the Caribbean. This facility is highly specialized; few other services and operations will be possible from this facility. The combined Airport facility is currently completing a master plan.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The combined Miami Seaplane Base and Heliport, also known as the Watson Island Aviation and Visitor's Center, serves commercial seaplane flights to Caribbean destination, as well as general aviation rotorcraft operations. Landside facilities include a terminal for Chalk's operation, a visitor's center with a media and press conference room, an observation deck, and a small passenger holding area with a gift shop and food service.

Other Airport Characteristics

Airside facilities include a new seaplane ramp and apron, one helipad, and four parking positions for rotor aircraft. The largest aircraft that uses the facility is a Grumman G73-T Turbine Mallard. There is no permanent aircraft storage on the facility; however, there are temporary parking spaces for helicopters and seaplanes. The facility accommodates seaplane, and corporate and tourist helicopter operations.

CURRENT AND FUTURE SYSTEM SERVICE REQUIREMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS

Given the nature of the water runway surface, few other services will be possible from the Seaplane Base facility. The analysis indicates that the Airport is best suited for providing Recreational/Sport and Tourism (CA) services. The facility did not receive a high quotient in the Tourism (CS) service category because of the small acreage of the Airport. However, seaplane bases are rather unique in their operations, and, because this is a privately owned facility, it can be expected that the Airport will continue to provide Tourism (CS) service in the future.

Because there has been no local match for heliport development for over 10 years, the viability of this facility to provide any services in the future must be questioned. The current and future intent for this facility is to provide Corporate and Tourism services; if adequate funding becomes available, this facility could make a significant impact.

Based on the infrastructure planning analysis for Miami Seaplane Base and Heliport, the following depicts the Airport's current levels of service as well as the types and levels of service that the Airport will likely be required to accommodate by the year 2030:

	<u>Current Service</u>	<u>Future Service</u>
COMMERCIAL SERVICE ROLE		
Tourism	X	X
Business		
Air Cargo		
International		
COMMUNITY AIRPORT ROLE		
Flight Training		
Corporate	X	X
Tourism	X	X
Recreational / Sport		
Business / Recreational		