

## **Press release for Rum Cay Herald issue July 2003**

Further to the recent environmental surveys, representatives of Montana Holdings have been in Nassau and on Rum Cay to discuss plans for the first and second phases of their intended development. We understand that in a matter of weeks the UK and Bahamian project teams will have finalised the first phase plans.

Nick McConnell has stated that the extensive field tests and surveys carried out all over Montana's land have provided invaluable information on how the right form of development can protect and enhance Rum Cays outstanding natural beauty. One major and serious point of concern is however, the breached beach we previously reported. The normal long shore littoral drift has been impacted and the ramp is causing considerable down drift beach erosion that may take years to rectify naturally. Also non-beach compatible coarse fill material has now impacted down a previously pristine beach.

Whilst Montana appreciate docking facilities are all important, a matter they are currently assessing with Brave Davis, they now hope beach intrusion can be kept to a very minimal amount of disturbance to the environment. All non beach material must be kept above the high water mark at all times and only placed on the beach for loading and unloading it should then be immediately removed (to the last rock) to the holding area above the high water mark. As considerable erosion has already taken place Montana intend to monitor this beach along with their environmentalists over the coming months.