



2024 Late Session Update

by Pepper Uchino, President



We are rapidly approaching the end of the 2024 Regular Session. It is an even year (election year), which means the Legislature meets from January to March rather than March to May. If a bill has not made it through its committees of reference, with rare exception, it is now dead. This Session can be described as relatively common. Committees ran until their usual historical stopping points. There were some contentious bills, but not as many as recent sessions. The budget was in good shape with some excess general revenue to spread around but a little belt tightening as well to avoid eating into surpluses. All in all, if you are familiar with the Legislative

process, this one strikes you as average. All indications are that the Legislature will conclude its business early in the afternoon on March 8th. Hopefully nothing pops up to inject turbulence into this smooth landing.

APPROPRIATIONS

Regarding the budget, the two presiding officers have agreed upon allocations early Week 8, and budget conference subcommittees have already concluded their work, while the full appropriations conference meet multiple times on Saturday and Sunday. It is that time of year when there are no weekends. The Agriculture and Natural Resources general revenue fund allocation is \$1.37 billion. This amount does not include trust fund dollars. The entire silo for all agriculture and natural resources agencies will be approximately \$7 billion. For those unfamiliar



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of Engineers®

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with the budget process, each year the two chambers must agree on how much general revenue to allocate to each silo. The subcommittee budget chairs meet to discuss differences in each silo's budget and attempt to iron out the differences through offers to the other chamber. This process is time-limited and continues until each side cannot agree further within the time allotted. All remaining, non-matching line items get "bumped" to the full appropriations chairs. Any unresolved issues after those budget conferences get bumped to the president and speaker. For beaches, the chambers already agreed to \$50M in funding, so this issue was settled at the subcommittee level. In working with DEP early in the process, there is enough unallocated monies in the program to fund the entire FY 2024-25 beach list, which is why our advocacy this year focused on retaining the \$50M. I also successfully advocated for another budget issue to expand use of the hurricane restoration reimbursement grant program. It expands the authorized uses of programmatic funds to include additional sand placement options.

STATEWIDE BEACH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET LINE ITEMS

As mentioned above, the chambers have already closed out negotiations on the beach management program. The specific line item and proviso language is:

1856	GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BEACH PROJECTS - STATEWIDE FROM LAND ACQUISITION TRUST FUND . . .	50,000,000
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Funds in Specific Appropriation 1856 are provided to the Department of Environmental Protection for distribution to beach and inlet management projects consistent with any component of the comprehensive long-term management plan developed in accordance with section 161.161, Florida Statutes. Funds may be used in accordance with section 161.101, Florida Statutes, for projects on annual ranked lists, storm repair projects, or projects on lands managed by the state.

POLICY BILL UPDATES

As for policy, this has been an unexpectedly busy year for FSBPA and our advocacy program. We had to mobilize on several bills and were actively supporting a House memorial on shore protection.

[SB 1386 \(Calatyud\)/HB 1557 \(Chaney\)](#) – Department of Environmental Protection deals with many issues we monitor and one specific – Aquatic preserves. Regarding APs, the bill designates the Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area as an aquatic preserve, which could impact future nourishment operations. I have spoken to many members concerned about the impact on marine activities, as well as DEP, and were assured the AP will not negatively impact nourishment and restoration project in the AP. If any impacts do occur, DEP is on record saying that is not the intent of the bill, so it should be straightforward to fix the issues whenever and if they materialize.

[SB 7074 \(Finance and Tax; Ingoglia\)/HB 7073 \(Ways and Means; McClain\)](#) is this year's tax package. The relevant and concerning part of the House tax package is changes to TDTs. It provides that a TDT ordinances expire six years after the date the ordinance is approved in a referendum but may be renewed by

referendum for another six years. All TDTs in effect on June 30, 2024, must be renewed by referendum on or before July 1, 2029, to remain in effect. The bill specifies the pledge of TDTs for existing local debt obligations are exempt until the retirement of the debt. The sponsor indicated the Senate and House are still negotiating the terms of the tax package, which will not include the six-year expiration. The Senate only impact TDTs used for convention centers.

[HB 1411](#) (Cross, Berfield, and others) – Shore Protection is a House memorial to Congress to urge it direct the US Army Corps to take immediate action to amend its current easement policies for CSRSM projects to allow critical shore protection projects in Florida to proceed without delay. It has bipartisan support but is in danger of not passing this year.

There are several other bills we opposed early and were able to stop and others we are monitoring that are tangential to our program. If you would like specific details on any of these bills, please reach out to me.

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**National Conference on
Beach Preservation Technology**

2024 Tech Conference St. Augustine Beach, FL A Few Closing Thoughts



The National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology was held for the third time at the Embassy Suites in St. Augustine, and the turnout and program were once again - a big success. Over 60 speakers presented their work and 315 attendees participated, including many new faces from federal, state, and local governments, academia, private sector firms, homeowner associations, and private citizens. We applaud the Planning Committee's excellent work on the program and are beyond pleased with the quality of the presentations and topics of discussion. The presentations for speakers who gave permission will be available on-line later this month.

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A big round of applause also goes to the Student Scholarship Winners for their outstanding work in coastal engineering and science. With the generous support of CEC and the Sebastian Inlet District, a record number of 10 students were invited to attend and compete for scholarships. Awards were presented to the top four students as follows:

1st place: Leanne Hauptman, Florida Atlantic University, Presented on "Hurricane Ian Damage Assessment Using Remote Sensing." Sponsoring professor is Tiffany Roberts Briggs.

2nd place: Brennan Banks, Florida Institute of Technology, Presented on "Evaluation of Beach-Fx - Beach Nourishment Planning Model - Miami Beach Case Study." Sponsoring professor is Gary Zarillo.

3rd place: Teagan Frazier, University of Florida, Presented on "Effects of Substrate Type and Nutrient Addition on the Growth of Two Foundational Dune Grasses: Implication & Restoration." Sponsoring professor is Christine Angelini.

4th place: Sofia Gutierrez, University of South Florida, Presented on "Beach Processes and Erosional Hotspots along West-central Florida Barrier Island." Sponsoring professor is Ping Wang.



We would like to close by thanking everyone who participated and supported the event, especially our generous sponsors and exhibitors. We couldn't be happier about the overall success of the conference. The 38th Tech Conference dates and venue will be announced soon.



Miami-Dade County Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Program, Key Biscayne Segment CSRM Study

By Chris McNees, Project Manager and Amy Thompson, Planner, USACE, Jax District



US Army Corps of Engineers®

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District has partnered with Miami-Dade County (MDC or County) as the non-Federal Sponsor and the Village of Key Biscayne (VKB or Village) as the key stakeholder to undertake a CSRM feasibility study for the Key Biscayne segment under MDC’s CSRM program. Key Biscayne is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida (Figure 1), southeast of Miami, and consists of a densely populated barrier island (approximately 1.4 square miles with approximately 13,000 people (Census 2020) with an average elevation of 3.4 feet above sea level, a western shoreline along Biscayne Bay (back bay), and an eastern shoreline on the Atlantic Ocean (Figure 2).

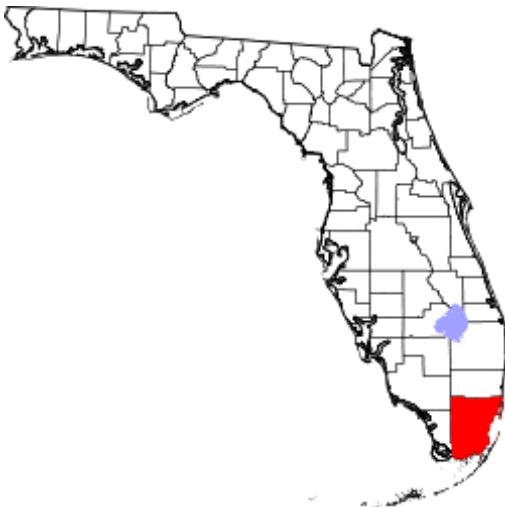


Figure 1: Project is located in Miami-Dade County, Florida. Source: Wikipedia

The study is authorized under Public Law 84-71 of June 15, 1955, stating An Act “To authorize an examination and survey of the coastal and tidal areas of the eastern and southern United States, with particular reference to areas where severe damages have occurred from hurricane winds and tides.” The study is cost shared 50/50 between the Federal government and the non-Federal sponsor per Section 105(a) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, as amended.

The USACE previously studied the Key Biscayne segment under the MDC CSRM – Main Segment’s reauthorization feasibility study but removed the segment from that study when it was determined that Key Biscayne’s problems included coastal flooding from the back bay areas, not just from the Atlantic Ocean shoreline. The USACE recommended a new study to examine flooding from the ocean and back bay shoreline of Key Biscayne in 2022, and initial appropriations were made available in the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) Work Plan under the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328). Following the announcement of the initial appropriation, USACE, MDC and the Village began coordination, and a feasibility cost share agreement (FCSA) was signed on November 1, 2023, between USACE and the County for the Key Biscayne CSRM Feasibility Study.

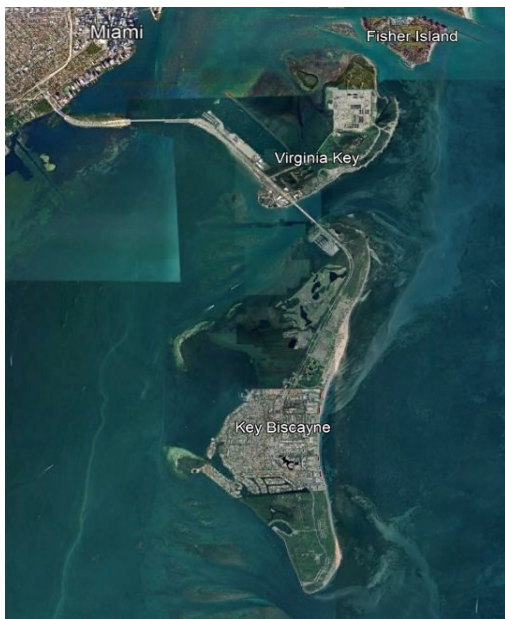


Figure 2: Key Biscayne. Source: Google Earth

Existing problems in the study area include storm damages primarily due to coastal flooding from the oceanside and back bay areas, which include storm surge, tides and waves combined with the effects of sea level rise (primary); erosion and wave attack, combined with the effects of sea level rise (secondary); and rainfall and stormwater movement (tertiary). The purpose of the study is to conduct a comprehensive analysis to find a complete solution for the extensive coastal flooding along the ocean coastline and in the back

bay areas, and erosion and wave attack along the eastern shoreline. The study’s objectives for the Village of Key Biscayne over a 50-year period of analysis (2030 – 2080) are to reduce damages due to coastal flooding, erosion, and wave attack with considerations for recreation, tourism, and environmental resources in the study area and reduce potential risk to public health and life safety.

To evaluate a complex system such as Key Biscayne and proposed potential measures, the USACE plans to use various engineering and economic models during the study: Hydrologic Engineering Center’s River Analysis Section (HEC-RAS), Generation 2 Coastal Risk Model (G2CRM), LifeSim, Beach-fx with CShore, and circulation and/or morphologic change models (e.g., Delft3D or ADCIRC). To study flooding/inundation, HEC-RAS and G2CRM modeling will be performed. The HEC-RAS model will provide a determination of flood pathways across the Village as it relates to existing conditions or future without project (FWOP) conditions, will feed into LifeSim for FWOP and future with project (FWP) conditions, and will be used to conduct a drainage analysis of the recommended plan. The G2CRM model is primarily an economic model that will be used to assess inundation damages from both the ocean and the back bay. For the oceanside analysis, USACE will use Beach-fx modeling with CShore to evaluate economic damages from erosion and wave attack along the island’s eastern shoreline. Additionally, USACE plans to use LifeSim, a system for estimating life loss with the fundamental intent to simulate population redistribution during an evacuation. Lastly, circulation and/or morphologic change models may be used to assess impacts from any alternatives (or measures) that extend into the water and will likely be needed to achieve environmental compliance and engineering guidelines.

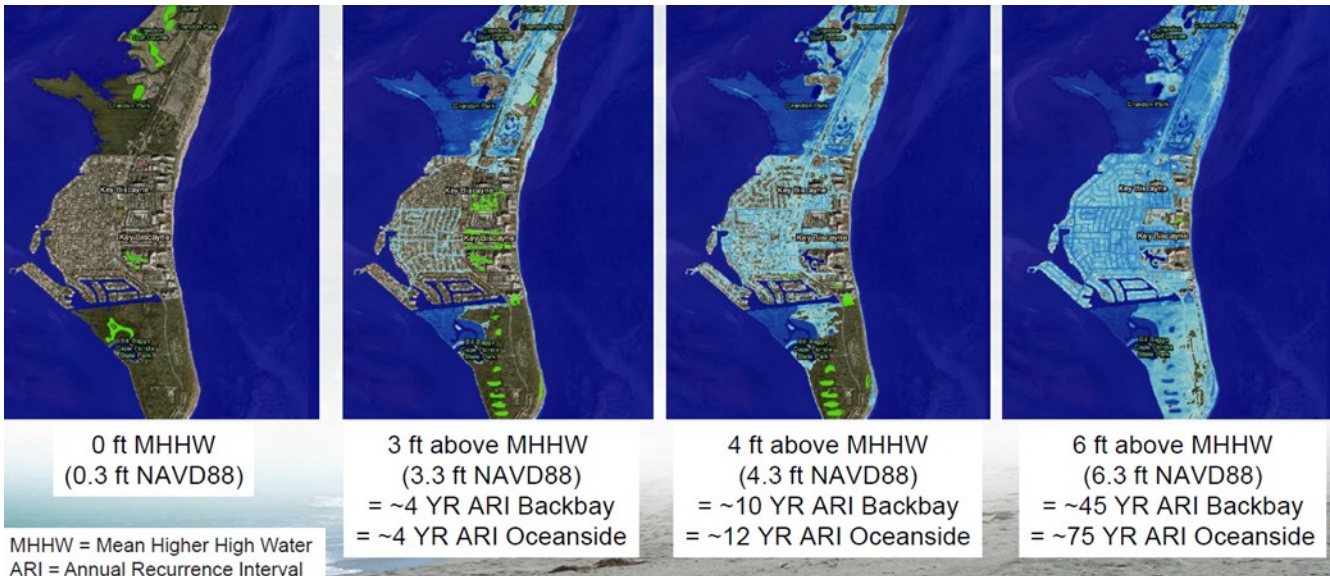


Figure 3: Key Biscayne’s Vulnerability to Flooding/Inundation.

The study’s scope of work will also include the following key tasks:

- Execute the plan formulation process by developing a recommended solution. This task includes identifying problems, opportunities, objectives, and constraints; developing alternative plans; and then evaluating, comparing and selecting a tentatively selected plan, which will become the recommended plan.

- Conduct shoreline analysis to assess risk from erosion and wave attack in the FWOP condition and to evaluate proposed damage reduction alternatives. This includes Beach-fx modeling, environmental and cultural resource surveys on the eastern coastline, engineering design, cost estimating, and economic analysis.
- Conduct back bay analysis to assess risk from inundation in the FWOP condition and to evaluate proposed damage reduction alternatives. This includes HEC-RAS and G2CRM modeling, environmental, cultural resource, and geotechnical surveys along the western portions of Key Biscayne. The environmental surveys, if necessary for in-water measures, will be approached in an incremental manner and coordinated with applicable resource agencies.
- Complete a comprehensive benefits analysis that will require a commensurate level of effort for each of the four accounts: national economic development (NED), regional economic development (RED), other social effects (OSE), and environmental quality (EQ).
- Develop a Real Estate Plan for the tentatively selected plan/recommended plan. This effort will include inventory and/or verification of structure values, development of property maps, development of non-structural costs, internal and external coordination, and gross appraisal prior to the final report.
- Develop a Public Involvement and Communications Plan. This plan will detail how the team will engage with the public and stakeholders through a project website for frequent updates and plan for in-person workshops/open houses.
- Coordinate with other agencies throughout the study. This effort allows for early awareness, open discussion, and support/compromise of proposed measures, and also allows coordination for required documents under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with cooperating agencies.

The USACE project delivery team held a study kickoff meeting with the County and the Village in December 2023 and facilitated an Interagency Meeting with Federal, State, and local regulatory agencies; a planning workshop; and two public open houses in January 2024. Most recently, USACE completed one of its first major feasibility study milestones, the Alternatives Milestone Meeting, on February 27th. The PDT presented an array of alternatives that incorporated various management measures (e.g., structural, non-structural, and natural and nature-based features [NNBFs]) that would be further evaluated during the study planning process. The structural measures included floodwalls/seawalls, elevating roads, breakwaters, barriers, and gates. Non-structural measures included flood proofing structures and critical infrastructure, elevating structures and infrastructure, updating building codes, amending evacuation systems, and public outreach. NNBFs included mangroves, oyster reefs, island creation, and dunes and beach features.

As the study proceeds to the next phase, the team will further evaluate the proposed measures and alternatives based on benefits vs. costs to implement so as to narrow down the alternatives to the one that will be identified as the tentatively selected plan, the study's next major milestone.

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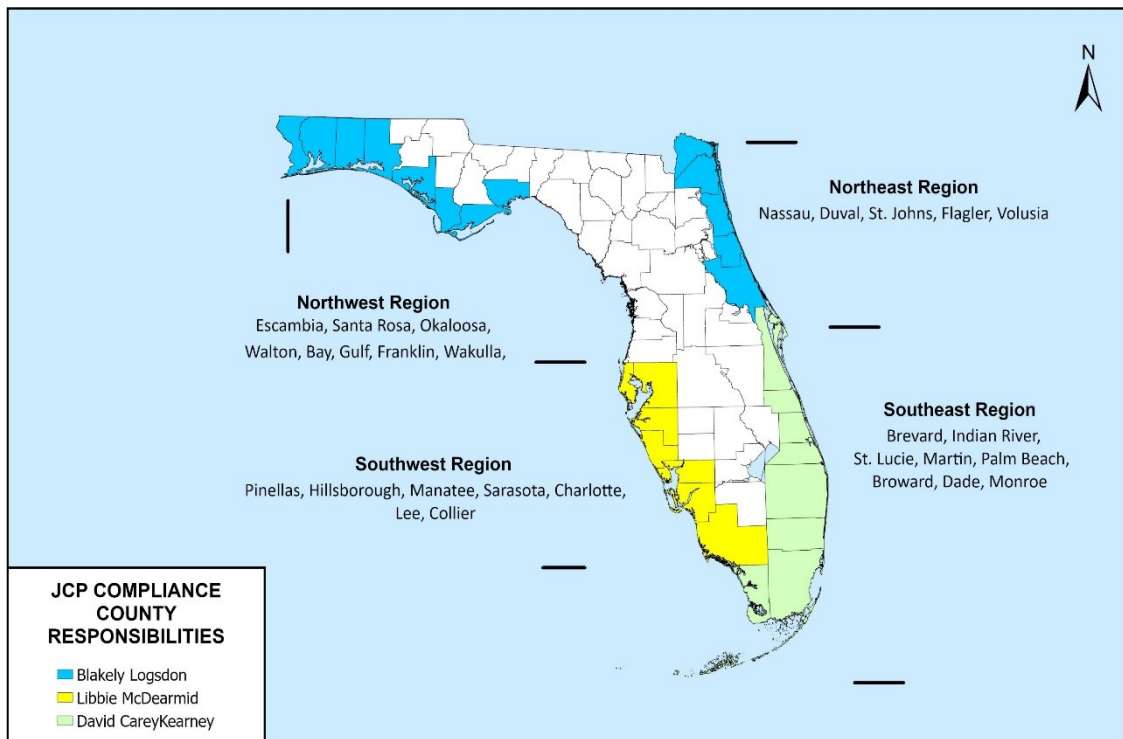
The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) March 2024 Update



Reintroducing Our Beaches, Inlets and Ports Compliance Assurance Team

Remember the days when compliance assurance for authorizations issued by the Beaches, Inlets and Ports program was managed by one compliance officer? Recognizing that the workload was unmanageable for just one employee, our Program Administrator, Greg Garis advocated and successfully created more positions. Today, the Compliance Assurance team includes one manager, Ivana Kenny Carmola, and three compliance officers, David Carey-Kearney, Libbie McDearmid and Blakely Logsdon.

Regional Distribution



Regional distribution of the workload has shifted as the team has expanded. Compliance for the Southeast Region continues to be handled by David Carey-Kearney, who joined the team in October 2022, bringing with him experience as a Compliance Enforcement Officer in DEP’s Southeast District Regulatory Office. Libbie McDearmid, who has been a part of the compliance team since 2017, manages the Southwest Region, including Pinellas and Hillsborough counties.

Compliance for the Northwest and Northeast Regions, are now handled by Blakely Logsdon, extending her management responsibility to two regions.

Construction Season Reminders

While coastal construction occurs year-round in some locations statewide, many of us consider this period, between marine turtle nesting season and shorebird nesting season, as the peak construction season. We would like to share a few helpful reminders for our permittees and agents.

Please provide your pre-construction deliverables and meeting requests **in a timely manner**. Most permits require submittal of the pre-construction deliverables 30 to 45 days prior to intended commencement. Additionally, pre-construction meetings must be held at least seven days prior to intended commencement (with initiation of discussions amongst all relevant parties for a suitable date 21 days prior to intended commencement).

For projects that continue into nesting season, a **pre-season meeting** (essentially a secondary pre-construction meeting, held to specifically address protected species permit conditions) is helpful to ensure that all parties are aware of the differences in project operations that will occur. Summary reports for the typical permit required fish and wildlife monitoring already should have been submitted (e.g., post-construction lighting summary reports were due Dec. 31, 2023, and annual reports on sea turtle nesting success were due Jan. 15, 2024).

When in doubt, [contact our Compliance Assurance team](#). Reach out early so we can facilitate communication and a smooth resolution of any issues that may arise.

Water Quality Certification Notices

Applicants are now receiving an automated email: “*NOTIFICATION of Request for Certification*” whenever an application is deemed complete. This is in response to the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule” effective Nov. 27, 2023, that requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to notify the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when a request for water quality certification is received. Therefore, DEP implemented an automated response system due to the volume of permit applications processed statewide. This does not change the timeframe for issuance of a permit as we are still held to Florida’s statutory timelines that are well within a year. As a reminder, the issuance of Joint Coastal Permits and Environmental Resource Permits constitutes a water quality certification, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1341.

Coastal Engineering and Geology Program has a New Environmental Manager

Ty Amorosano has been promoted to assist the Program Administrator in management responsibilities and to supervise the surveyors. The position is responsible for numerical modeling of coastal hydro-morphodynamics, hydrographic data analysis and beach erosion assessments and for conducting coastal engineering reviews of beach and inlet management projects. Ty will also be evaluating post-storm impacts of major storm events on coastal construction, beaches, and dune resources. Ty's bachelor's degree from McGill in earth systems and his master's degree from the University of South Hampton (UK) in coastal engineering makes him an ideal candidate for this program.

Welcome to the New Grant Managers in Beach Management Funding Assistance

Devon Witczak comes to us from the toxicology lab at DEP. She has a bachelor's degree in marine sciences from Jacksonville University and a master's degree from the University of Miami in marine affairs and policy. She is the grants manager for Palm Beach through Monroe counties.

Eric Massa is the grant manager for Dixie through Pinellas counties on the west coast, and Indian River through Martin counties on the east coast. He has degrees from the University of Florida and Florida International University in biology.

We bid a fond farewell to Alyssa Lamb, who has taken a private sector position. We now have two grant manager vacancies. Please apply through People First!

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Florida's Beaches Top National Charts and the Worldwide Top 10 List

Year after year, Florida's beaches are celebrated as the state's most distinguished tourist attraction and recognized by the travel industry as a top tourist destination for anyone looking for beautiful vistas, sandy toes, sun-kissed skin, and serene relaxation. 2024 is no exception. Florida's beaches once again receive kudos by national and international travelers.

On the international scale, TripAdvisor announced Siesta Beach made the Top Ten list on its Travelers' Choice Awards for the Best of the Best Beaches in the World, citing its white sands, clear water, and sunsets.

TripAdvisor also published its top 20 list of the Best Beaches in the United States. Two Florida beaches made the top 5 list (Siesta #2 and Hollywood #4 beaches) and seven Florida beaches were voted in the top 20! Most of these beaches are part of the statewide beach management program, highlighting the importance of the collective work we do to restore and maintain Florida's sandy beaches for tourists, locals, and wildlife.

[TripAdvisor awards are given to those who receive a high volume of above-and-beyond reviews and opinions from the TripAdvisor community over a 12-month period. Out of their 8 million listings, fewer than 1% achieve this milestone.]

Readers Digest also explored Florida's beaches to determine the local fav's. If you'd like to know more about the best beaches for families, seclusion, shelling, camping, sunsets, fishing, bird watching, and more, check out the : "15 Hidden gems" list on its [website](#)



Photos courtesy of Visit Sarasota

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Shoreline

A monthly electronic publication of the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Events**

September 11-13, 2024

3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference

featuring the 67th FSBPA Annual Meeting

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL

**Other Events**

2024 Legislative Session

January 9 - March 8

March 26-28, 2024

2024 ASBPA Coastal Summit

National Association of Counties Building

Washington, D.C

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