

REASON TO CELEBRATE

Summary Highlights of the
Congressional Bipartisan Budget
Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123)
Long-Term Disaster Recovery
Investment Plan
Debbie Flack, President

Without too many details, I wanted to provide FSBPA's entire membership with highlights previously shared with our BeachWatch member governments that are beneficiaries of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers effort to repair Florida's hurricane damaged federally-authorized beach projects funded as part of Long Term Disaster Recovery Investment Plan. [Click to read entire article.](#)



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

Jacksonville District
A Brief History of the
Nassau County
Shore Protection Project



Strategic Beach
Management Plan (2018)
by William "Guy" Weeks,
Planning Manager

Customary Use & HB631:

A Primer before
FSBPA's Annual Conference
Panel Discussion
Diana Ferguson, Rutledge-Ecenia

During the 2018 Legislative Session, FSBPA followed HB 631 closely. The legislation came as a result of controversy over Walton County's customary use ordinance, which has been in litigation for some time. While it looked as though the bill would die, it was ultimately resurrected in the last days of session and a compromise was reached. [Read the primer now.](#)

61st Annual FSBPA Conference

September 19-21, 2018
Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach

KEY DATES

Award Nominations - July 31
Early Registration - August 20
Hotel Reservations - August 20

Conference Program
is now available, [CLICK HERE](#)



Save your spot, [register now!](#)

In Memoriam

Dr. Muthuswamy Subbuswamy
1938-2018

2019 Tech Conference
February 6-8

St. Augustine Beach Embassy Suites
Call for Abstracts
are now being accepted
through October 12, 2018.

Reason to Celebrate

Summary Highlights of the Congressional Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (P.L. 115-123) Long-Term Disaster Recovery Investment Plan

Debbie Flack, President

Without too many details, I wanted to provide FSBPA's entire membership with highlights previously shared with our BeachWatch member governments that are beneficiaries of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers effort to repair Florida's hurricane damaged federally-authorized beach projects funded as part of Long Term Disaster Recovery Investment Plan. Early on, the expressed ideal was a strategy that addressed Irma sand storm losses and planned nourishment for virtually every federal project in Florida except for Northwest Florida. Early on the working estimates suggested a +16 million cubic yard sand budget to build or restore the full construction template, with a gross estimated cost of \$500 M. This cost estimate included possible 100% Federal FCCE (Flood Control and Coastal Emergency) dollars, O&M supplemental funding, and funding from Construction and Investigations Accounts. It is quite remarkable when the unexpected becomes reality, and Florida's coastal communities and beaches benefit from an unprecedented federal response with limited or no nonfederal matching requirements. This will certainly help overcome the State's limited response to Irma beach damages for FY18/19 of just over \$11 M, and a yet to be realized FEMA Category G funding response for so many severely impacted nonfederal engineered beaches.

The summary of funding that follows is not complete or precise to the dollar. Further, a number of projects may not be noted in the Plan because they were completed with previously appropriated FCCE or traditional Work Plan dollars outside of recently released Investment Plan dollars. I believe Pinellas, Nassau, part of Brevard, St. Johns (St. Augustine), Ft. Pierce and Martin fall into this category. FSBPA is always available to fill in further details or to hopefully direct you in the right direction.

There is no better time than the present to express our appreciation to the Corps of Engineers, especially the JAX District, and the perfect opportunity to celebrate before the hard part begins! Let's not forget delays will be costly or perhaps even fatal going forward.

Several Florida projects will receive approved **federal FCCE funding totaling approximately \$177 M**. They include Brevard (South Reach), Broward (Segments II and III), Duval, Lee (Gasparilla), and Palm Beach (Jupiter-Carlin, Ocean Ridge, Delray, North Boca). Broward and Palm Beach counties, with multiple projects, are receiving the vast majority of these dollars based on current working cost estimates.

From the Construction Account, Florida's federally-authorized projects will receive approximately **\$290 M**. Project allocations are identified as **current working estimates**. What is most notable is the inclusion of several new starts, and resiliency funding \$2M each for most counties. Also included is the first full periodic nourishment of our "legacy" Miami-Dade County shore-protection project with an estimated cost of \$158 M, and funding for the Manatee County Project. Especially noteworthy is

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St. Johns County (Vilano Segment) Post-Irma



St. Lucie County (Normandy South) Post-Irma

funding for new starts—Flagler County (\$17.5 M), Palm Beach County (Mid-Town, \$25 M), St. Lucie County (South Segment, \$20.3 M), and St Johns County (Vilano Segment, \$36.8 M). Add to these Recovery Plan new starts, are two new starts in the Corps traditional 2019 Work Plan for Brevard Midreach and Sarasota’s Lido Key that are in addition to the Recovery Plan’s \$290 M account. There is nothing comparable historically-- we can wait years to secure funding for a single new start. I have been stressing that new authorizations are rare and funding those new starts virtually impossible— I am delighted to be proven wrong. Now the emphasis must change to timely permitting, requiring maximum cooperation from the regulatory agencies, and streamlined contracting. Let’s not forget these are “emergency” driven dollars for Harvey, Irma and Maria impacts that may go elsewhere if not timely committed.

The final separate Recovery Plan funding source is the Investigations Account. For Florida it totals \$29 M, with \$16 M for the South Atlantic Coastal Study, \$3 M for a Collier County Feasibility Study, \$3 M for a study of Dade County backbay, \$3 M for a Coastal Storm Risk Management Study in the Monroe County, and 50 year

reauthorization reports for Dade and Pinellas counties. While off the radar screen, we are pleased to report after 10 years, Okaloosa County, through the Mobile District, also received \$3 M from the Investigations Account. If this were not enough, the even better news is that all Investigations under the Supplemental Bill will be at 100% Federal expense.

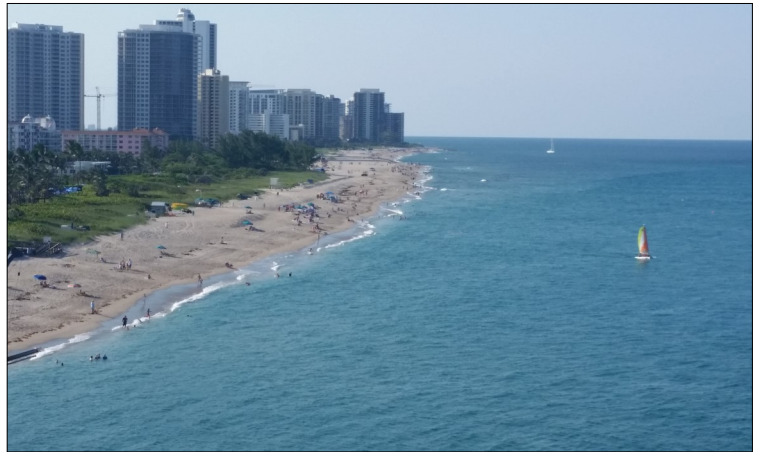
This is just the first look at this amazing response. More details will follow. We still are not certain what nonfederal cost-sharing, if any, will be required for projects included in the Construction Account; or if we will see once again the provision of 30-year loan opportunities. FSBPA will share additional information, which is expected shortly, with our local sponsors based on Corps guidance to reinforce your sources as it becomes available.

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Customary Use & HB631: A Primer before FSBPA's Annual Conference Panel Discussion

Diana Ferguson, Rutledge-Ecencia

During the 2018 Legislative Session, FSBPA followed HB 631 closely. This omnibus real property bill included language regarding customary use, a common law extension of the doctrine of custom that can determine use of the dry sandy beaches in areas where there is no erosion control line. The legislation came as a result of controversy over Walton County's customary use ordinance, which has been in litigation for some time. While it looked as though the bill would die, it was ultimately resurrected in the last days of session and a compromise was reached.



This compromise includes a new judicial process that local governments must follow in order to utilize customary use to delineate areas where the public may use, but not own, dry sandy beaches. It is important to note that this is only an issue in areas where there is no erosion control line. Chapter 161 of the Florida Statutes provides that, once an erosion control line is set, it replaces the mean high water line and the common law no longer applies.

Following the passage of HB 631, there were many inaccurate press reports regarding the impact of the bill. There were reports that beaches had been privatized and that property owners had new rights to keep people from using public beaches, neither of which are true. In response, FSBPA issued a brief legal memo to help our members better understand the legislation.

Since the bill's passage, some local governments have adopted new customary use ordinances. Additionally, some legislators have indicated a desire to file legislation that would repeal the provisions of HB 631 related to customary use. Recently, the same law firm that challenged Walton County's customary use ordinance in state court also filed litigation in federal court challenging the constitutionality of customary use. This firm previously challenged the entire statewide beach program in a case they lost that went all the way to the United States Supreme Court. FSBPA will continue to monitor both the federal litigation and any future legislative or other legal developments.

Last week, Governor Scott issued an executive order that directs the Department of Environmental Protection to do the following:

1. Establish an online reporting tool for members of the public to report any violations of their right to public beach access; identify and allocate staff to coordinate with the public in reviewing complaints; and refer any such complaints to the appropriate local authorities.
2. Submit a report to the Florida Legislature, on or before December 31, 2018, regarding comments received through the public hotline.
3. Serve as a liaison between local government entities and members of the public regarding the appropriate implementation of HB 631 by county and municipal governments.

The Executive Order also urges all government entities not under the Governor's supervision to refrain from adopting any ordinance or rule that would restrict or eliminate access to Florida's public beaches, and urges all State Attorneys throughout the State of Florida to take appropriate actions to ensure that the ability of the public to access Florida's public beaches is preserved and is not infringed.

Due to this recent flurry of activity, FSBPA will host a legal panel on customary use Friday, September 21, during the 2018 FSBPA Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach. Panelists will include David Theriaque with Theriaque and Spain, who represents Walton County, as well as Holly Parker with Surfrider, Tom Ankersen with the University of Florida Conservation Clinic in the Levin College of Law, and Brenna Durden with Lewis, Longman and Walker, who provides legal counsel to coastal local governments and other clients. We hope you will join us to learn more about this emerging legal issue.

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It's time to make plans to attend the 61st Annual Policy Conference

Are picturesque beaches on your mind? Wish you had brilliant white sands between your toes? Or maybe rolling turquoise waves are calling your name. Whatever the case may be, Clearwater Beach is the place to be this September. And what's more, an outstanding conference all about Florida's beaches. Join us early and stay late! There is so much to learn, see and do.

Program Highlights

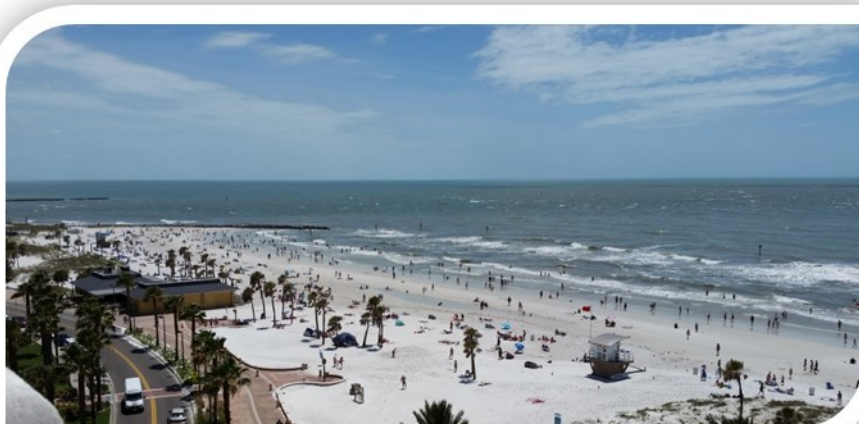
We are pleased to announce the 2018 Annual Conference program features incredible speakers from start to finish. The Keynote Address will be given by Senator Passidomo, and attendees will hear addresses from the new Commander of the USACE Jacksonville District and FDEP's Secretary, Noah Valenstein. The program will also feature discussion on the unprecedented federal response to Hurricane Irma storm damages and recovery for Florida's beaches, and in-depth decisions on post storm disaster response and recovery, coastal resiliency, and as discussed in Diana's article, a panel on customary use. [Here is a link to the program.](#)



Professional Development:

FSBPA is also happy to announce a new professional development opportunity for Certified Floodplain Managers, and for the second year, approval for Continuing Legal Credits to Florida Bar members completing the conference. The preapproved credits are as follows:

- ◆ Coastal engineers will receive 12 Professional Development Hours
- ◆ Certified Floodplain Managers will receive 12 Continuing Education Credits
- ◆ Florida Bar members will earn 12 Continuing Legal Education Credits



The Venue

Plan to stay with us at the Hyatt Regency in Clearwater Beach where the views are spectacular from every angle and the beach is only steps away. The hotel has undergone renovations since we were last there in 2010 - updated rooms, lobby and conference center. Be sure your conference plans include staying at the host hotel, and don't forget to reserve your room before **August 20** to take advantage of FSBPA's group rate discounts.

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The Area – things to do and places to see

Should you come early or stay late? Or bring your family? The answer is absolutely yes. This [video](#) says it all. As our generous host sponsor Visit St. Pete/Clearwater points out, “With hundreds of things to do on Clearwater Beach, the main attraction is still pretty much its near-perfect beach. Come visit and you’ll see exactly why it was named No. 1 in the U.S. on TripAdvisor’s list of Top Beaches for 2018.” www.visitstpeteclearwater.com



While you are staying in Clearwater, you may be looking to take advantage of tasting the local cuisine. There are a dozen or more restaurants within walking distance of the conference hotel. Please take a few minutes to click around Visit St. Pete / Clearwater’s website. They provide names of local restaurants and bars, and they include a map to boot! <https://www.visitstpeteclearwater.com/communities/clearwater-beach>

Award Nominations are Still Open with Just 12 days Left to Submit

Deadline: July 31, 2018

FSBPA invites you to submit an award nomination for a deserving co-worker or peer – someone who has shown exemplary commitment to preserving Florida’s beaches over the past year. The award winners will be notified in mid-August and presented their award during the Awards Banquet on September 20th.

The Awards Committee is looking for specific activities and accomplishments of your nominee. A listing of the Awards Categories can be [found here](#).

Be sure to submit the awards nomination form along with a statement listing specific reasons or accomplishments about why your nominee should be considered by **July 31st**. Your nomination packet can include additional supporting information that you believe merit consideration for an award.

2018 Award Nominating Committee

Gary McAlpin, Chair
James Gray
Andy Squires

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A look back at our 2017 Banquet Award Winners



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61st FSBPA Annual Conference Program

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort ♦ September 19-21, 2018

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Call to Order

Don Donaldson, FSBPA Chair and Deputy County Administrator, Martin County

1:20 p.m.

Welcome and Opening Remarks from Pinellas County

Karen Williams Seel, Vice Chair, Pinellas County Commissioner, District 5

1:30 p.m.

Host Keynote Address: Pinellas County's Beach Management Program and History

John Bishop, Ph.D., Coastal Management Coordinator and Andy Squires, MS, CPM, Section Manager, Coastal Resources, Environmental Management Division, Pinellas County Public Works, Clearwater

2:05 p.m.

Pinellas's Tourism Trends and the Contribution of the Beaches

David Downing, President and CEO, Visit St. Pete/Clearwater

2:25 p.m.

The Penny Effect - Expanding Uses of the Tourist Development Tax

Tamara Pigott, Executive Director, The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel, Fort Myers

2:40 p.m.

The Economic Value of Florida's Beaches

James R. Houston, Ph.D., Director Emeritus, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS

3:05 p.m. Vendor Introduction

3:10 p.m. Professional Exchange Break

3:40 p.m.

How Coastal Resiliency is Shaping Federal, State and Local Programs

Moderator - Alec Bogdanoff, President & Co-Founder, Brizaga, Inc., Fort Lauderdale

An Overview of the USGS Coastal-Change Hazards Program

Nathaniel Plant, Ph.D., St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center, USGS, St. Petersburg

Florida's Resilient Coastline Initiative - What's New and What's Worth Repeating

Whitney Gray, Resiliency Officer, Florida Coastal Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee

What is at Risk from the Next Hurricane? Find out How Pinellas County's Coastal Resiliency Program is Making Waves

Kelli Hammer Levy, Division Director, Environmental Management Division, Pinellas County Public Works, Clearwater

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4:40 p.m. Discussion and Q&A

4:50 p.m.

Rise of the Drones – The Growing Proliferation of Unmanned Aircraft in the National Airspace System

Michael Corso, Attorney, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., Fort Myers

5:15 p.m. Adjourn

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

Thursday, September 20, 2018

8:15 a.m.

Jacksonville District Commander's Update

Colonel Andrew D. Kelly, Commander, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

8:30 a.m.

Response, Recovery, and What the 2018 Supplemental Bill Means for Florida's Coastlines

Jacqueline Keiser, PG, PMP, Supplemental Program Manager, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

9:00 a.m.

Regional Sediment Management: Supporting Coastal Resiliency in the South Atlantic

Clay McCoy, Ph.D., Acting Director, Regional Sediment Management, Regional Center of Expertise, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

9:20 a.m.

Partnering with the Federal Government? Why Easements are Necessary

Jacqueline Keiser, PG, PMP, Supplemental Program Manager and Timothy McQuillen, Chief, Real Estate Division, Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Andy Squires, MS, CPM, Section Manager, Coastal Resources, Environmental Management Division, Pinellas County Public Works, Clearwater

9:35 a.m. Vendor Introduction

9:40 a.m. Professional Exchange Break

10:10 a.m.

Hurricane Impacts to Florida's Beaches - Is There a Better Way to Recover?

Moderator - Don Donaldson, FSBPA Chair and Deputy County Administrator, Martin County

10:15 a.m.

Navigating FEMA's Requirements for Reimbursement of Damages to Engineered Beaches

Bob Glassen, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Beach Task Force Leader, Hurricane Irma

10:40 a.m.

Hurricane Irma Shared Observations and How Local Governments are Responding

Tom Pierro, P.E., Director of Operations and Tara Brenner, P.E., Senior Coastal Engineer, APTIM, Boca Raton • J. Gary McAlpin, P.E., Coastal Zone Manager, Collier County, Naples • Mike McGarry, Beaches Program Manager, Brevard County, Viera

11:15 a.m. Q&A

11:20 a.m.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection Round Table: Post Hurricane Recovery and Planning

Alex Reed, Director; Bob Brantly, Program Administrator, Engineering, Hydrology and Geology Program; and Rob Buda, Program Administrator, Beaches Funding Assistance Program, Division of Water Resource Management, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee

11:55 p.m. Q&A

12:00 p.m. Adjourn

12:05 p.m. FSBPA Annual General Membership Meeting

6:00 p.m. Cash Bar

6:30 p.m. Awards Banquet

Friday, September 21, 2018

7:30 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

8:15 a.m.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection – The Future of the Beach Program and Other Agency Updates

Noah Valenstein, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee

8:35 a.m.

Hurricane Readiness . . . Beachfront Properties Need NOT Apply – How Cities Can Protect their Most Vulnerable (and Underserved) Residents

Shelli Freeland Eddie, Commissioner, District 3, City of Sarasota

8:55 a.m.

Customary Use Doctrine: Recent Legal and Legislative Developments

Thomas Ankersen, Levin College of Law, University of Florida, Gainesville • David Theriaque, Esquire, Theriaque & Spain, Tallahassee • Holly Parker, Florida Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation, Tallahassee • Brenna Malouf Durden, Shareholder, Lewis, Longman & Walker, Jacksonville

10:10 a.m.

Keynote Address – 2018 Legislative Wrap-up and a Look Forward to 2019: Beach Policy and Funding and the Bigger Legislative Picture

Senator Kathleen Passidomo, District 28, Consists of Collier, Hendry counties and part of Lee County

10:30 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

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11:00 a.m.

Coastal Case Law Update: Recent Administrative and Judicial Decisions Relating to Florida Beaches

Deborah A. Getzoff, Partner, Shutts & Bowen, LLP, Tampa

11:20 a.m.

Aging Infrastructure in the Era of Coastal Resiliency - A Case Study on Reality vs. Policy

Jenna Phillips, MS, Taylor Engineering, Inc., Sarasota

11:45 a.m.

Advanced Engineering Methods – Coastal Protection through Living Shorelines

Jeff Tabar, P.E., Stantec Consulting Services, Coastal Engineering Practice, Tampa

12:10 p.m.

Adjourn

Subject to change, any updates as necessary will be made online and presenters notified

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USACE Jacksonville District

A Brief History of the Nassau County Shore Protection Project



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

By Gabriel Todaro
Intern, EN-WC
USACE Jacksonville District

The Nassau County Shore Protection Project is the northernmost shore protection project on Florida's Atlantic coastline. It is one of the more recently added shore protection projects within U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, having been constructed in 2008. The project is located at Fernandina Beach, Florida, on the northern portion of Amelia Island, which is in Nassau County (Figure 1).

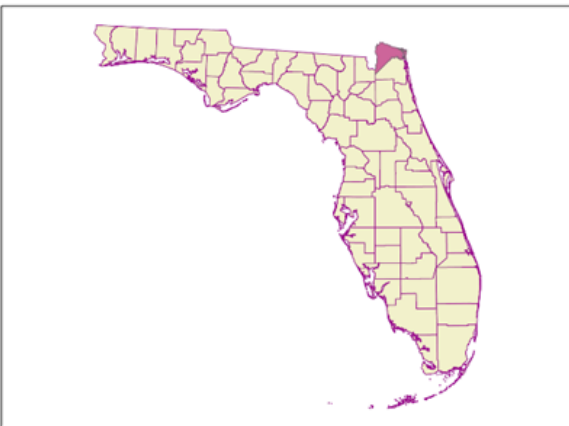


Figure 1: Project is located in Nassau County, Florida.

The area was initially studied in 1986 due to erosion occurring on the northern portion of the Atlantic Ocean shoreline of Amelia Island and along the northern shore of Fort Clinch State Park bordering the Cumberland Sound. Figure 2 shows the areas of interest that were studied. The blue line indicates the area from the south jetty to Sadler Road (Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) R-Monuments R-10 to R-33) that was studied due to the coastal erosion and the red line indicates the area on the northern side of Amelia Island, where erosion was threatening historic Fort Clinch.

The project was originally authorized by Section 3(a)(3) of Public Law 100-676 dated November 17, 1988 (commonly referred to as the 1988 Water Resources Development Act). Section 3(a)(3) authorized a project in accordance with the report of the Chief of Engineers dated May 19, 1986.

The authorized project provided for construction of beach erosion control measures along a 4.3-mile reach of Amelia Island, starting from the south jetty of St. Mary's Inlet south to Sadler Road. The first 0.7 miles (Fort Clinch State Park, R-10 to R-13) were authorized for renourishment only while the remaining 3.6 miles (R-13 to R-33) of the study limits were authorized for a 20 ft wide berm with a slope of 1V:20H (1 ft vertical change for every 20 feet of horizontal change) above the mean low water line (MLWL) and a slope of 1V:50H below the MLWL. This slope mimicked the natural beach profile slope in the project area. The area on the north side of Fort Clinch State Park was not included in the authorization at this time.

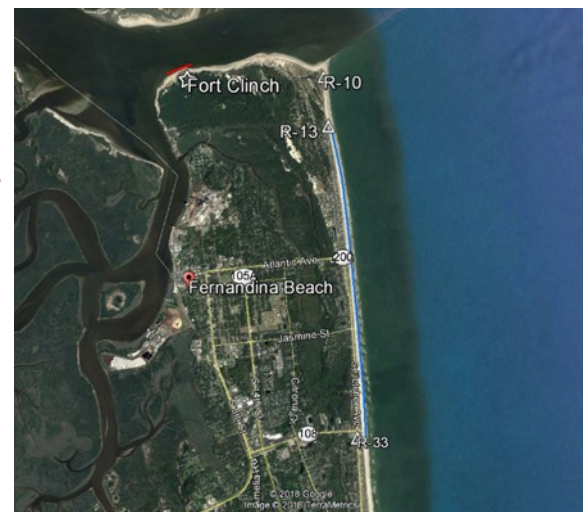


Figure 2: Areas of Interest Studied. The region from R-10 to R-33 was studied. The blue line indicates the current project limits from R-13 to R-33. The red line indicates the area adjacent to Fort Clinch that was studied.

The project was modified by the 1999 Nassau County, Florida Shore Protection Project General Reevaluation Report. The 1999 Reevaluation Report added the Fort Clinch area to the project in order to address the erosion threatening the fort. The Florida Park Service contracted with Olsen Associates, Inc. to design, permit, and manage the construction of the shore protection project along the inlet-facing shoreline of Fort Clinch. A series of T-head groins was constructed to stabilize the shoreline in 1999 and sand received from the annual maintenance dredging of the St. Mary's Entrance navigation channel was placed between the groins in 2001. Due to these developments at Fort Clinch by the Florida Parks Service and Olsen Associates, this project area was removed from the Nassau County, Florida Shore Protection Project in the 2004 General Reevaluation Report.

The most recent reevaluation of the shore protection project was the 2006 Nassau Shore Protection Project General Reevaluation Report. The report was prepared in order to investigate the possibility of extending the project farther south but the study showed that extension was not economically feasible at the time. However, a couple of changes to the project did result from the report. The first change was that the area from R-10 to R-13 was removed from the federal project. This stretch was entirely located within a state park and as a result, did not provide any Storm Damage Reduction benefits. The reach could not be incrementally justified and was removed from the project.

The second change was to the project was to the design of the beach itself. Instead of the original 20 foot berm width with 1V:20H and 1V:50H slopes, the reevaluation of the project determined that the optimal project should now consist of a 40 ft width extension of the mean high water line (MHWL) along with slopes of 1V:15H above MLWL and 1V:25H below due to the steepening of the beach over time.



Figure 3: Fernandina Beach circa 1975. A large rock revetment protected the area behind it prior to the Federal Shore Protection Project.

The current Nassau County Shore Protection Project was constructed in 2008. The project area spans from R-13 to R-33 and no longer includes the area north of Fort Clinch. Figure 3 shows the beach prior to the Federal Shore Protection Project and Figure 4 shows a photo from 2012. The Shore Protection Project has widened the beach and facilitated the emergence of dunes which provide habitat and protection to the infrastructure behind. The project has an anticipated renourishment interval of 5 years but also receives maintenance material from dredging of the St. Mary's Inlet which aids in keeping the beach in a healthy state. Federal participation in the project is set to expire in 2058.



Figure 4: Fernandina Beach in 2012 at Sadler Road. The beach is much wider and dunes now provide protection to the infrastructure behind.

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Strategic Beach Management Plan (2018)

by William "Guy" Weeks, Planning Manager, FDEP



In May 2018, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection approved the updated Strategic Beach Management Plan (SBMP). This updated plan provides an extensive inventory of all the beach erosion control project activities around the state, as well as the updated strategies intended to combat critically eroded beaches.

In Sections 161.088, 161.091, 161.101, and 161.161, Florida Statutes (F.S.), the Florida Legislature recognizes that beach erosion is a statewide problem, and that the Department should develop a comprehensive long-term management plan to restore and maintain the state's critically eroded beaches.

“The department shall develop and maintain a comprehensive long-term management plan for the restoration and maintenance of the state’s critically eroded beaches fronting the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Straits of Florida.”

Consistent with statute, DEP develops the comprehensive long-term management plan that has five components to it: the critically eroded beaches report, the SBMP, inlet management plans (IMPs), long-range budget plans and the local government funding requests. These documents are developed in partnership with the local governments and their consultants to make sure the information is accurate and serves the needs of each coastal community to address critically eroded beaches in a cost-effective manner.

So, why have a beach management plan? DEP has a management plan for each state park and aquatic preserve, and each county has an emergency management plan to deal with hurricane season. The state coordinates comprehensive plans, and Florida's Division of Emergency Management encourages individuals to "get a plan" to be prepared for hurricane season. Some folks think the beach can take care of itself and perhaps have never thought about why their local beach looks so beautiful. Perhaps it is meaningful to consider, for example, if one's own yard just takes care of itself, or does it take some basic action plan to keep it maintained? To gain perspective on beach and inlet dynamics, and the need to have an updated SBMP, it is important to understand the history of Florida's ocean economy, prior beach and inlet development in the 1940s and 1950s, and previous storm activity and erosion control activities that are conducted along Florida's sandy beaches in response to critical erosion.

In the late 1950s, both local government officials and university leaders became concerned about the growing problem of beach erosion. Ironically, this problem developed soon after major inlet construction took place for the purposes of navigation and commerce. Most of this information is discussed within the introduction of the SBMP and each sub-region of the plan lists storm history.

Florida depends on its 825 miles of sandy beaches fronting the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and Straits of Florida as a natural resource and for the enjoyment of its residents and visitors. Beaches are Florida’s primary tourist attraction, generating millions of dollars annually for Florida’s economy. Florida has 420 miles of critically eroded beaches and 229 miles of managed beaches (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Locations of Florida's managed beaches and shoreline lengths in statute miles.

Nourished beaches contribute to the expanding federal, state and local tax bases; increase sales, income, and employment opportunities from resident and visitor spending; enhance property values by protecting the developed shorefront from storm surges, preventing loss of upland property; and protect wildlife habitat. Beaches provide habitat for many species, including endangered and threatened marine turtles, birds, and mammals.

The SBMP describes beach and inlet management strategies for seven coastal regions and 32 sub-regions. An inventory of the beach restoration/beach nourishment projects are listed in the

project management overview section of the introduction along with the listing of Florida's inlets. A description of inlets, storms, and critically eroded shoreline, as well as beach/inlet projects, is provided in each region. For ease of reference, the SBMP describes critically eroded shoreline segments using DEP range or reference (R) monuments in the title. A description of the geographical area, the proposed or constructed projects, a project history table and the specific project boundary is also provided. Sand placement volumes listed in the project paragraph or project tables use the "placement volume" instead of the pay volume. Strategies that the state recommends for management of the critically eroded shoreline, to mitigate critical erosion and the activities that would be considered eligible are listed for state cost sharing under Sections 161.101 and 161.161, F.S.

There are several elements required for beach management activities to be eligible for state cost sharing: proposed work must be consistent with Chapter 161, F.S., be located within a critical erosion area designated by the state, be consistent with the strategies listed in the state adopted SBMP and/or IMPs, monitoring must be required by state or federal permit, and the proposed work must have a DEP-approved scope of work. To be consistent with Chapter 161, F.S., beach quality bypass material must be placed on the beach to be considered eligible for cost sharing. State cost-sharing is provided through Legislative appropriations based on proposed activities listed in the annual local government funding request, processed through DEP's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program.

The 2018 SBMP has several new strategies: nine major revisions to strategies that have occurred primarily due to the development of new or updated IMPs, and 28 minor revisions that involved editorial updates. The new or updated IMPs and associated strategies included St. Lucie Inlet, Stump Pass, Blind Pass, John's Pass, Wiggins Pass, and Port Everglades. Additional major revisions for strategies in the plan included Honeymoon Island State Park, Ponte Vedra (brand new strategy), and the Town of Jupiter Island. The Ponte Vedra strategy was added to the SBMP after a segment of beach was designated critically eroded in December 2017 by DEP due to recent erosion and Hurricane Irma.

Before strategies are revised within the SBMP, there are several internal meetings that are held collectively with each beach program to determine the performance of projects based upon the monitoring data and the merits of the proposed strategies or project information. Project information is gathered from the notices of completion, post construction reports, local government funding requests, and/or joint coastal permits. Additional input is received or gathered from local governments, coastal engineering consultants, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Once a consensus is established on a final draft for the plan, it is posted on the DEP ftp site for the public to review, and a public webinar is held with the stakeholders to go over the plan. Any further input is collected and assessed in order to finalize the document.

The end goal of the SBMP is to have strategies that improve habitat for wildlife, enhance local community beaches, improve recreational opportunities, and stimulate the local economy. (Figures 2, 3 and 4). The SBMP is located on DEP's website at: <https://floridadep.gov/water/beaches-inlets-ports/content/strategic-planning-and-coordination>.



Figure 2. Construction of the Pinellas County Shore Protection Project on Treasure Island in May 2018, near R139.5. Photo by Guy Weeks.

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Figure 3. Construction of the rock groins at Upham Beach – Pinellas County in May 2018 adjacent to Blind Pass, between R144 and R145. Photo by Guy Weeks.



Figure 4. Fernandina Beach after the 2008 Nassau County Shore Protection Project at Main Beach Park, near R21. Photo by Guy Weeks.

References

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2018. [Critically Eroded Beaches Report](#), Division of Water Resource Management, 89 p.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, [Inlet Management Plans](#), Division of Water Resource Management.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2018. [Strategic Beach Management Plan](#), Division of Water Resource Management.

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In Memoriam
Dr. Muthuswamy Subbuswamy
1938-2018

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Southwest Florida's coastal communities said goodbye to a dear colleague and friend on July 9th. Dr. Subbuswamy, fondly known as Dr. Swamy, worked in the Coastal Construction Control Line Program for the past 24 years and anyone who had the pleasure of working with him knew that he was a kind, thoughtful and caring person whose greatest joy in life was helping others in their time of need. Our thoughts are with Dr. Swamy's family and close friends. He will be sincerely missed.

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Shoreline

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PO Box 13146, Tallahassee FL 32317

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