



FSBPA Unveils 2018 Legislative Focus

By Diana Ferguson, FSBPA Legislative Services, Rutledge-Ecena

The Association was honored to name Senator Jack Latvala Statesman of the Decade at our 60th Anniversary Conference in September in Fort Lauderdale. We were also pleased to have Senator Lauren Book (Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources, Broward County) present the award. Their dedication and leadership on beach funding has been and continues to be outstanding and most appreciated. Before Senator Latvala's conference comments on the upcoming legislative session and beaches, the stage was set with a presentation on beach funding and strategy going forward to make Florida's beaches a major economic and resource management initiative in 2018 and beyond. You can view FSBPA's PowerPoint from that presentation, [click here](#).

We hope this provides good foundational data for discussions with your local elected officials and legislators. We encourage you to use this information, but it is critically important to tailor it to your own local experience. No one can speak to what is going on in your community better than you. And there is no time to waste. Legislators need to be hearing from you now. We must continue to drive the message home that beaches are the first line of defense with our statewide projects proving to be most effective in reducing damage to upland structures and coastal flooding from recent hurricanes. Beaches are also critical to protecting Florida's brand and our tourism economy. We will be working hard to bring that message to the Capitol. But we need all of you to deliver the same message back home. Working together, we can make beaches a top priority for the Legislature in 2018 and beyond.



Senator Jack Latvala with Senator Lauren Book presenting the Statesman of the Decade Award.

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2018 Tech Conference February 7-9

Panama City Beach, Florida



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Reserve your hotel room today!

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2018 Session Update

by Debbie Flack, President
(A Summary from FSBPA BeachWatch service)

Beaches Legislative Initiative (SB 174 and HB 131, Coastal Management)

As Diana discussed in the previous article, FSBPA unveiled its advocacy agenda in Fort Lauderdale at our 60th Anniversary Conference. The advocacy agenda was followed by Senator Jack Latvala's assessment regarding beaches as last year's sponsor of SB 1590, returning Chairman of the full Senate Appropriations Committee, and who early on introduced this same legislation for the upcoming session, SB 174. (House companion: HB 131, Kathleen Peters—identical). SB 174, virtually unchanged from last year's bill, maintains the critical Section on dedicated annual funding of \$50 million from Amendment 1's Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF).

Our legislative initiative continues to be referred to as "Beaches 2017 and Beyond." We are in the fortunate position to be able in 2018 to build upon last session's successes, while appreciating how exceptionally well Florida's beaches fared despite the difficult session. Beaches were finally recognized for their importance to Florida. An unprecedented \$50 million in funding for the traditional program and \$13.3 million for storm damage recovery in a year where there was no increase in the overall budget, doc stamp revenues were less, and there was some very formidable competition for funding. \$30 million of the \$50M in recurring trust funding (LATF) was a monumental accomplishment. Now, we hope it will help to set the stage as we move forward to secure recurring beach funding of \$50M annually among many existing as well new and expanded uses of Amendment 1 dollars. This will not be an easy lift!

During the first scheduled interim committee week on October 9th, Senator Latvala's Coastal Management bill was the very first bill heard and passed unanimously in the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee. SB 174 had the same recognition and unanimous support at its second stop on October 25th in the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources, chaired by Senator Lauren Book. Its last committee stop is chaired by the bill sponsor, so we are not anticipating any problems in the Senate and an early transmittal to the House, where HB 131 has the same three committee stops as last session—Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee, Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, and Government Accountability Committee. Although the Coastal Management Bill

is enjoying wide support in the Senate, we **need the support of all our local governments** and your in-house and contract lobbyists to help reinforce with your local officials and legislative delegation members the importance of SB 174 and HB 131, which will secure a recurring funding source and minimum amount of annual funding for beach preservation, and ensure state funds are used most effectively.

Hurricane Irma Response, Preparedness, and Fiscal Considerations

Hurricane Irma received major consideration during the first two weeks of committee meetings. On October 11th at the first Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Environment and Natural Resources meeting, FSBPA was asked by Chair Book to present on preliminary damage assessments and beach recovery needs from Hurricane Irma. While early on in the post-storm assessment period, I was able to begin focusing geographically on specific projects, discussing sand needs, and attempting to identify state funding needs. As the second week of scheduled committee meetings came to an end, Hurricane Irma continued to be a major focus at least with the full Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness. In an already challenging year fiscally and politically, the mounting hurricane costs will likely put it over the top.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee met October 12th and 25th and spent considerable time at each meeting on Hurricane Irma fiscal/budgetary impacts. Presentations and discussions on the scope and costs of hurricane expenses under the Governor's Executive Order, possible expenditures for storm damage recovery - including beaches, and member concerns with a major emphasis on pending Matthew reimbursements from FEMA were given by the Governor's Office, the Office of Economic & Demographic Research, and the Division of Emergency Management, respectively.

The House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness also met twice, most recently on October 26th. Topics for the meeting were emergency management communications, emergency management public information, evacuation, petroleum supplies, and electric utilities. It is too early to know the scope of considerations or direction of the committee, given the breath of Irma impacts; however, we will do our best to monitor, and of course participate or more closely follow if beach impacts are part of specific agendas.

The next scheduled committee weeks include November 6, November 13, and December 4 before the 2018 Session convenes on January 9. We will continue to keep you updated and hope you will help message the importance of beaches back home so together we can make beaches a priority for the Legislature.

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Thank you for joining us in Celebrating 60 years!

By Jackie Larson, Executive Director

Thank you to all the attendees, sponsors and exhibitors who participated in our 60th Annual Conference in Fort Lauderdale and made it a memorable milestone anniversary for the Association. Our conference turned out to be a remarkable occasion with a good mix of speakers and panels, several timely networking opportunities, and an eventful Diamond Anniversary awards banquet. We were fortunate to have Senator Latvala and Commissioner LaMarca deliver important policy addresses. And as tradition holds, Nicole Sharp, with Chris Creed, Olsen Associates, gave the Host County address after a warm welcome from Vice-Mayor Furr. The most impressive part of this event was the remarkable turnout given the timing and challenges facing coastal communities across the state just weeks after Hurricane Irma. FSBPA is most grateful for the understanding and support of those who attended as we finessed, expanded, and revised the program to better capture the time-sensitive needs of the attendees. A very special thank you is also in order for Broward County and all of our sponsors. This conference would not have been possible without your generosity.

During the Awards Banquet, we celebrated the accomplishments of five of our respected colleagues with Annual Awards and recognized two of Florida's noteworthy leaders in beach preservation by presenting them with FSBPA's Diamond Anniversary awards. This year, our Master of Ceremonies was shared between FSBPA President Debbie Flack and Chair Jim Trifilio. Our skillful Chair enjoyed the various duties we volunteered him for, and he agreed that I could share some of his thoughts about the conference with you.

"I hope you all enjoyed FSBPA's 60 Annual Conference as much as I did. I wanted to share a story with you that I think is emblematic of one of the great values of our conferences. I had the pleasure of presenting the Environmental Award to Mr. Thaddeus Hamilton. After the ceremony had concluded, I had the chance to speak with Mr. Hamilton and during the conversation learned that he was a good friend with a person that I had worked with on numerous occasions in his capacity with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Mr. Hamilton had not spoken to his friend for some time and I was able to relay his contact information. I suspect that these types of synergistic events are common during our conferences and are an added value not commonly spoken of."



Be sure to visit the conference and awards banquet [photo album](#).

As for the program, it was filled with informed speakers and interesting, thought-provoking panel discussions from experts on a variety of topics. Many of the presentations will be posted on our website at <http://www.fsbpa.com/publications.html>. Additionally, I am inviting presenters to follow-up or expand on their presentations by contributing to Shoreline. Presenters from the Coastal Engineering panel have already volunteered to provide a synopsis of their panel discussion! (thank you!)

For those who were unable to attend the conference, our invited coastal engineering panel included Kevin Bodge (Olsen Associates), Jim Marino (Taylor Engineering), Brett Moore (Humiston & Moore Engineers), and Tom Pierro (APTIM). At the conference, Tom shared the stage by inviting his colleague Lindino Benedet as a guest speaker to participate.

The coastal engineers were asked to discuss the significant changes in their discipline over the past decade and to reflect on areas where they anticipate changes are needed for the next 10 years. So keep in mind, these may be issues you have heard before, and do not reflect a position of FSBPA, but are issues offered from our panelists as those having the most significant influence in coastal engineering and beach and inlet management over the past several years.

The panel organized their top 12 list for discussion in 3 groupings of topics. [Read here](#) to learn more about the observations they have offered to share.

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60th ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARD WINNERS

Presented during the Awards Banquet,
Thursday, September 28, 2017

Congratulations Award Winners!



60th ANNIVERSARY – OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD

“In appreciation of exceptional leadership and unwavering advocacy on behalf of statewide beach preservation and inlet sand management, especially your proven commitment to Broward County’s beaches”

Commissioner Chip LaMarca

Member of the Year Award

“In grateful appreciation of your commitment to the preservation of Florida’s beaches and exemplary leadership and guidance to this Association”

Jim Trifilio



Commissioner LaMarca and Representative Moraitis



Jim Trifilio and Jim Marino

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Doug Mann and Tom Pierro

Per Bruun Distinguished Service Award

"In recognition of 30 years of excellence in all aspects of coastal engineering and for your notable achievements and important contributions to the preservation of Florida's beaches"

Doug Mann



Chris Creed and Nicole Sharp

Local Government Award

"In recognition of outstanding leadership for the preservation of Florida's beaches, especially your involvement with the numerous and complex beach and inlet projects that make up Broward County's comprehensive beach management program"

Nicole Sharp



Al Browder, Juan Florensa and Beau Suthard

Public Service Award

"In honor of your distinguished career in public service, and active involvement and commitment to preserving and protecting the Town of Longboat Key's beaches"

Juan Florensa

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Environmental Award

“For your contributions to beach preservation through implementing successful dune restoration projects in Broward County and laying the groundwork for programs that continue your vision today”

Lt. Colonel Thaddeus Hamilton



Russell Setti, Thaddeus Hamilton and Vice-Mayor Furr



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A Special Thank you to our Diamond and Traditional Sponsors

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Part I: A Decade of Significant Changes in Coastal Engineering

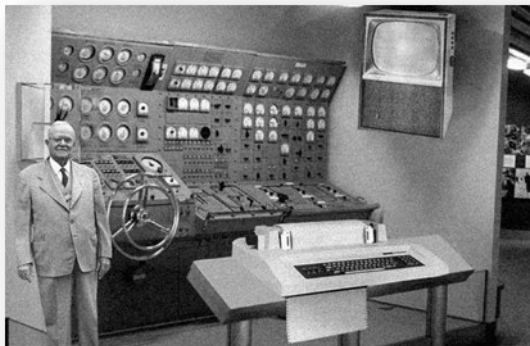
1. USACE Civil Works Policy Guidance (Jim)

In February 2012, the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, USACE established guidance to better align the project development processes at USACE with national priorities to better address the water resources challenges and need of the nation. This process has come to be known as the 3 x 3 x 3 process. The intent is to have all feasibility studies completed in a target goal of 18 months but no more than three years; cost not greater than \$3M; and a reasonable report size (assumed to be no more than 3 inches thick).

Five fundamental concepts were to be implemented:

- a. Uncertainty and Level of Detail. Balancing the level of uncertainty and risk with the level of detail of the study;
- b. Vertical Team Integration. Ensuring early vertical team engagement of decision makers, and as the study process progresses;
- c. Determine Federal Interest. Identifying the Federal interest early in the study, including the level of Federal interest and level of Federal investment looking beyond National Economic Development (NED) and National Ecosystem Restoration (NER);
- d. Alternative Comparison and Selection. Recognizing that there is no single "best" plan, and there are a variety of approaches (quantitative and qualitative) to multi-criteria decision making; and
- e. Funding and Resourcing. Ensuring that all resources needed for the study - funding, human resources, data and information - are identified and available for the duration of the study.

The take-away for local governments and state agencies is to communicate with the vertical team early and often to see the process through. The sponsor must take a hands-on approach that lends a sense of urgency and importance that creates and maintains momentum for their proposed project.



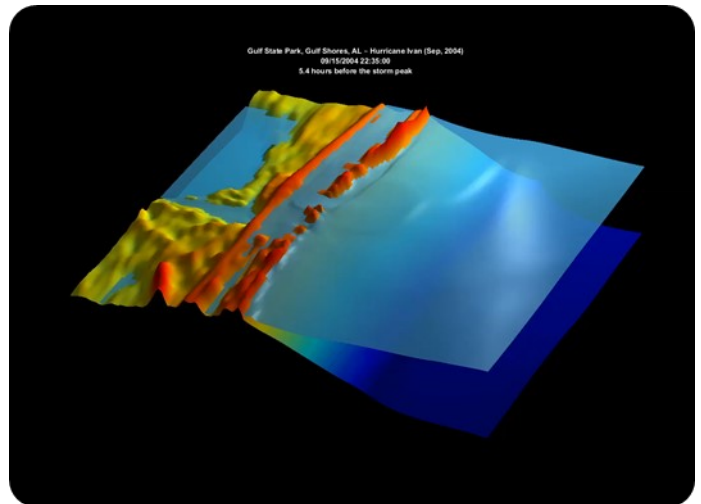
2. Technology & design tools (Kevin)

Over the past decade, aside from the recent and increasingly useful employment of drones – and outside the topic of numerical models (described below) – the fundamental design tools of coastal engineering have not substantially changed. Analysis still depends upon the dune and beach erosion models built in the 1980's – and particularly upon comparative evaluation of beach profiles, by shape and volume change. There are recent advances in survey technology;

but there are still uncertainties in seabed depth accuracy (“closure”) and we still routinely slice dense clouds of survey data into discrete profiles that we can intercompare. The worst new design tools are those that combine many complex physical processes, economics & probabilities into a single opaque model – such as “Beach-Fx”. The best design tool remains the study of a site’s history, beach profiles, seabed and behavior, with informed coastal engineering experience and intuition.

3. Technology & numerical modeling (Tom and Lindino)

We have come a long way from the early days of massive computers and punch cards for engineering calculations with the recent decades bringing us practical technological tools, analytical analyses and fundamental models that perform well in limited applications. In the last 10 years, there have been major developments in numerical modeling, especially 3D morphological modeling, that have evolved into advanced tools for simulating complex interactions to improve our understanding of governing processes and potential effects of



project alternatives. This has revolutionized the way we compare alternatives by giving us the ability to analyze tides, currents, waves, and sediment transport in an integrated model to assess problems and refine solutions under a wide range of conditions. These complex models enable comprehensive evaluation of the benefits and potential impacts of our projects, leading to more informed decisions. Exciting times are still ahead with new developments in morphological modeling that combine long-waves, multiple sediment fractions and non-erodible layers, with better representation of the wet-dry interface to simulate dry beach erosion, overwash and breaching. While numerical models are continuously evolving in their ability to assess complex coastal projects, we must acknowledge that technological advancements do not eliminate uncertainties or replace prudent engineering judgement derived from experience, reliable data, and time-tested coastal engineering theories and applications. As engineers and modelers continue to push the limits of numerical codes, robust data will continue to be required to obtain reliable model results. Responsible coastal engineering practices will always be essential, but complex morphological models are a welcome addition to our toolbox for designing better projects in the dynamic coastal environment.

4. Erosion control structures (Brett)

Over the past two decades and currently, the Coastal Engineering Community has a renewed interest in the strategic use of erosion control structures as part of beach management. Coastal structures such as groins, T-groins and breakwaters have been implemented in areas of chronic erosion for a number of reasons:

- First, there is a better general understanding of littoral processes with more monitoring data and experience. Advancements in sophisticated coastal process modeling tools improve the evaluation of design alternatives and effectiveness of specific designs. In all cases however, there is always the need for experienced engineering judgment.
- Second, the need for sustainable options as sand resources diminish and in cases where continued use of beach fill placement alone proves to be no longer economically and physically feasible in addressing a site specific chronic erosion problem.

In many cases the structures are part of a larger beach restoration project or program. There are no simple “one type fixes all” erosion problems, and when introducing a fixed structure into a dynamic system, strategic siting, and site specific design of the structure are important as well as local education and expectations.



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Part II: A Decade of Significant Changes relating to State agencies and the beach management program

5. Dissolution of DCA (Jim)

Over the past decade the supporting state-level partners in the shore and beach management process have been decimated.

- a. Dissolution of DCA (2009)
- b. Dissolution of Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems (BBCS) (FDEP, 2009, 2011)

While the relationship between the federal, local, and private partners vis-à-vis the state agencies was not always Camelot, they were necessary players in the effective management of our State's shore and beach resources. For years, the State of Florida set the standard and was the envy of many other states for effective shore and beach management. Unified comprehensive planning is integral to the growth and economic health of our State. Since the dissolution of the DCA, the planning process has suffered. The integrated science, engineering and management function of the former BBCS is sorely missed as it provided, at a minimum, a consolidated clearing house to vet the process in the State of Florida for all of partners at the local, federal, and private sector.

6. Continuing thoughts on the dissolution of BBCS and the JCP Process (Brett)

Over the past decade there have been a number of changes to the state and federal regulatory programs for Coastal Engineering projects. Previously, the State DEP BBCS which served to regulate the Coastal Engineering Community with specific technical based reviews and input for beach and inlet projects as well as funding coordination. The BBCS is no longer a separate entity and is now part of two Divisions - Water Resource Management and Water Restoration Assistance. The intent of the change in structure at DEP was to join like disciplines so as to encourage internal growth and sharing of similar backgrounds to develop better responses and technical reviews. Unfortunately this has resulted in some unintentional consequences. There has been a decline in engineering support on staff and within the DEP. Technical support for the engineering staff has diminished through the elimination of the Beaches and Shores Resource Center and the loss of Dr. Dean. This has impacted internal technical support on funding, as well as the permit process coordination between biological review and engineering review.



On the federal side, the Corps of Engineers permitting process has moved from Jacksonville District to the local regional offices. Problems arise with varying levels of understanding of the technical aspects of the coastal environment within each office. The timeline for processing of the federal permit creates difficult scheduling concerns for the coastal communities which impact ability to schedule local, state and federal participation for funding and project implementation. This is an unfortunate consequence of an effort which has increased in intensity to ensure protection to Endangered Species and natural resources. Accelerated development of comprehensive Programmatic Biological Opinions and amendments are a solution. Also redundancy in the review process that has developed between the state and federal processes needs to be addressed.

7. Inlet management – funding and future (Tom)

The need to evaluate the significance of erosion related to “improved, modified, or altered”



inlets in Florida is well described in the Florida Statutes. In the early 1990s, the Department of Environmental Protection (Department of Natural Resources at that time) set forth an initiative to develop and adopt Inlet Management Plans for numerous inlets around the state, which are still used as key references today. The importance of these plans was fortified by the state legislature with the passing of Florida Bill 1427 in 2008 to direct and commit efforts toward managing inlets with a goal of funding at least 10 inlets every year with the top three set to receive at least 10% of the annual appropriation. Over the last decade since that legislation passed, the funding program has become bifurcated with inlets being increasingly overlooked, which is the opposite result that the bill was intended for. Although FDEP has been successful in funding some inlet projects and recent signals from legislature are much more positive, the FY 2015-16 appropriation for inlets was \$0. Future funding for inlet management is critical to the health of

Florida’s beaches as a sustainable source of beach quality sand in a time when offshore borrow areas are becoming more challenging to identify, permit and dredge. Likewise, upland sand sources are being sought more frequently at potentially higher costs. While the effects of modified inlets can be bilateral and widespread along adjacent beaches, inlet sand sources are limited and can only bypass the sand they receive from the natural drift. This causes the evaluations to be highly complex, both technically and politically, but appropriate inlet management can be achieved with prudent objectives toward long-term planning that strives

to balance the sediment budget and meet the intent of the statutes. Adaptive management will always be needed as the science advances and our understanding evolves.

8. State funding, ranking, and rules (Kevin)

Over the past decade, the number and cost of Florida's beach & inlet management projects have increased while State funding levels have remained mostly flat. This has meant increased attention to, and some dissatisfaction with, the ranking system by which projects compete for funds. One or more things are needed to address State-wide beach management and project funding: (1) Increase the total available State funds, (2) Cap the amount available to any one project or component thereof, and/or decrease the cost-share, (3) Revise the ranking criteria to more accurately reflect project value and to differentiate among project point scores, (4) Ensure diverse regional representation among the top-ranked projects, (5) Rotate projects through the list to ensure all worthy projects have a chance for funding, and (6) Practice adaptive management. The State's projects are far too varied to fit into a single mathematical ranking formula. Flexibility and 'big-picture' executive planning is needed to manage the State funding priorities each year.



Part III: What's in Store for the Next Decade?

9. Sea level rise & climate change (Brett)

Sea Level Rise (SLR): Sea level rise is a popular topic of concern with many varying levels of interpretation. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a scientific body set up at the request of member governments including the U.S. to provide the international community with an objective, scientific view of climate change and SLR. The IPCC current average projections are not linear and in 50 to 60 years the amount of sea level rise is projected to be on the order of 1 foot or more with accelerated increase after that. Policy makers need to consider projected impacts on public and private property, public infrastructure, species habitat, recreational and protective beaches.

The relatively slow rate of sea level rise over the next 30 - 50 years provides a practical time frame to plan and implement responses for different segments of the shoreline. It is important that each of the possible responses be considered in establishing a decision-making policy for dealing with sea level rise. From a coastal engineering perspective, the present response includes design resiliency through building incrementally higher berm elevations and structural crest elevations and monitoring the effects. Over time, required fill intervals of nourishment projects are expected to decrease, and the need for introduction of

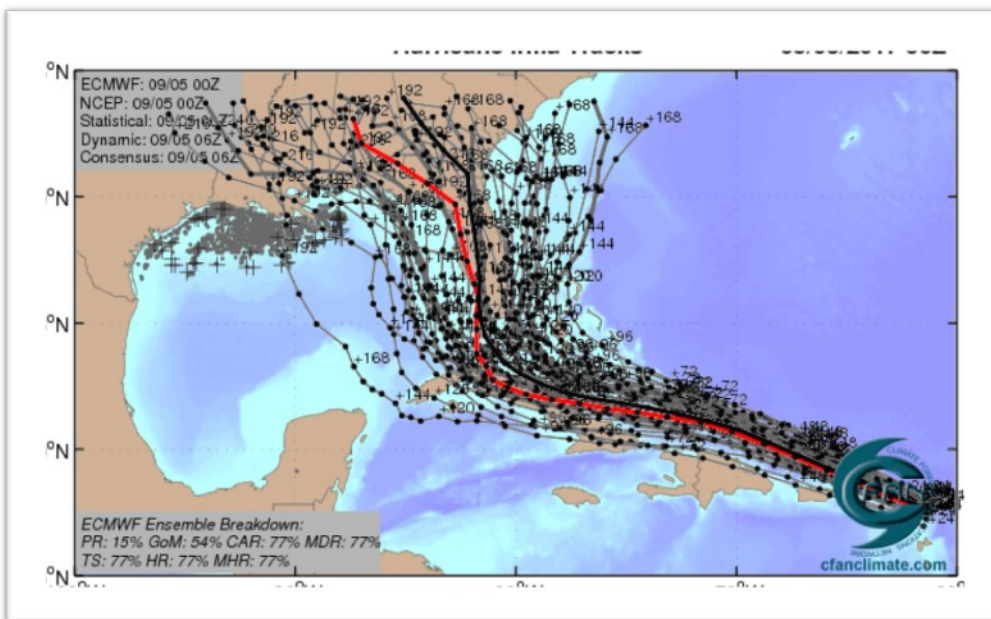
strategic erosion control design is anticipated. Addressing the gulf and ocean shorelines is only part of the consideration. Adaptive measures along inlets shorelines with potential flooding inland need to be considered as well. To effectively address this issue long term, collective compromise between regulatory agencies, governmental entities, private citizens, and local interest groups will be necessary.



10. What's in Store for the Next Decade? Storms – Observations from Irma (Tom and Lindino)

In advance of a tropical system, it is only natural to gain interest and become more aware as the storm approaches and the “spaghetti models” start to converge on your state, county, and maybe even your neighborhood. We know from coastal engineering experience that modeling water is difficult, but it is likely that atmospheric modeling is even harder. However, the public expects both the atmospheric and oceanographic models to be accurate, and relies on the forecasts to make decisions as a matter of health and safety. While the models are improving, older models are still incorporated in the ensemble simulations, which adds to the uncertainty in track and intensity forecasts and can lead to mixed messages on wind, wave, and surge estimates. For example, no matter how good the storm surge model is, the reliability of output is limited by the atmospheric track/intensity forecasts used as input, and the atmospheric

models still carry a great uncertainty, especially when the storm is greater than three days away. In the short term (single storm event), this can cause panic in some cases and false comfort in others; whereas, in the long term (subsequent storm seasons), it can result in decreased trust in forecasts and complacency about the severity of potential impacts. Despite these uncertainties, coastal managers and engineers



have to use the model simulations and forecasts to stay informed and make decisions. As we observed in recent cases such as Hurricane Irma, the newest atmospheric models are getting better, but there is room for improvement in storm surge forecasts by adopting state of the art hydrodynamic modeling systems that are fed real time data from the best performing meteorological models. Regardless of model performance and improvements in forecast skill, coastal managers, engineers and regulators must keep in touch both before and after the storm to complete assessments, collect surveys, and compile documentation to facilitate recovery. The coordination between local governments, the State of Florida, the Army Corps of Engineers, and FEMA has been improving with each storm season, which is especially encouraging in cases of direct impact such as Hurricane Irma. As we look toward the future at a possible scenario of increased storminess in the presence of climate change, we need to maintain our beaches and dunes in a healthy state to buffer the storm and cope with uncertainties so we can recover in a more resilient manner.

11. University education (Kevin)

It appears that the number and practical preparedness of coastal engineering students – particularly at the graduate-school level – has declined over the past decade; and this is likely to continue if actions are not taken. Excepting practitioners, university professors teach what they are paid to research (via grants), and their research & experience is increasingly tangential to real coastal engineering problems. It is often focused upon, say, estuarial hydrology and numerical models that have little relevance to littoral processes and beach design. This is due to the decline (absence) of academic research grants and opportunities related to real coastal engineering problems. Private sector consultants and the Corps of Engineers work to fill education gaps – but this does not address the needs of graduates emerging to municipal, regulatory or academic endeavors. The coming decade must find a way to reverse this trend and restore educational experience that is germane to real beaches, shores and coastal engineering.



12. Importance (or not) of “mega” projects relative to resiliency / risk (Jim)

Multiple efforts have been started over the past decade recognizing the larger regional scale needed to properly address the needs of the nation as the costs of protecting our beaches and shores escalates with each succeeding storm season.

- a. NACCS/SACCS – both studies recognize the regional scale needed at the federal level to effectively manage the North Atlantic and South Atlantic regions respectively. The NACCS was funded at the federal level following Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The SACCS was recently authorized at the federal level. The details of both programs are available on USACE websites.
- b. Louisiana CPRA Coastal Master Plan – the State of Louisiana began, in earnest, a comprehensive coastal master planning process following the destruction of

Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The first iteration of the Plan was in 2007 with subsequent updates over the past decade. Details available on the LA CPRA website.

- c. Texas GLO Coastal Resiliency Master Plan – the State of Texas has begun a similar effort as Louisiana following the Hurricane Ike and other storms over the past decade.
- d. RESTORE – as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and follow-on litigation, the federal government will administer upwards of \$20B of fines and penalties levied against BP and other litigants to the five Gulf States. This scale of effort to provide for the protection and mitigation of future catastrophic shore and beach events is unprecedented. How this program plays out over the next 20 years remains to be seen.
- e. Nature based resiliency efforts – the past decade has seen an increased level of cooperation between the environmental and engineering communities with respect to seeking nature-based solutions in the shore and beach environment. A genuine dialogue has been achieved to incorporate design with nature concepts where merited to preserve both the beauty and storm damage effectiveness of our coastal regions.

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USACE Jacksonville District

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Conducts Preliminary Damage Assessments of Florida Beaches after Hurricane Irma



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

By Gabriel Todaro
Intern, EN-WC
USACE
Jacksonville District

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers South Atlantic Division Jacksonville District (USACE SAJ) began conducting preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) of the Florida Beaches on September 13th. The goal of the inspections was to assess the conditions of the beach, immediately after the storm passed. The inspection involved taking measurements of the beach, drawing sketches of the new shape of the beach, talking to local beachgoers about how the beach changed after the storm, taking photographs of the beach conditions, and doing rough estimates of volume losses at cross-sections of the beach.



Figure 1: USACE employees assess the damage from Hurricane Irma at the beach at Lido Key in Sarasota County (left) and Coquina Beach in Manatee County (right).

Federal beach projects in Florida were assessed by the USACE as part of the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency Act (FCCE). The FCCE Act establishes an emergency fund for emergency response to natural disasters. Under the authority, an eligible flood protection system (in this case, beaches) can be rehabilitated if damaged by a flood event. The flood system would be restored to its pre-disaster status at no cost to the Federal system owner, and at 20% cost to the eligible non-Federal system owner. Only federal projects that have been constructed are eligible for the FCCE funds.

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For non-federal projects the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide assistance for projects that are eligible. According to FEMA, a beach may be eligible for disaster assistance when:

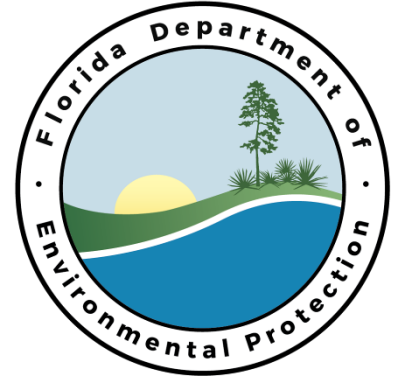
- The beach was constructed by the placement of imported sand (of proper grain size) to a designed elevation, width, and slope;
- A maintenance program involving periodic renourishment with imported sand has been established and adhered to by the applicant; and
- The maintenance program preserves the original design.

The preliminary damage assessments that the USACE conducted play a role in collecting information to determine the eligibility of projects for FCCE and FEMA funding. In Florida, approximately 90 beaches were assessed (40 federal, 50 non-federal). These beaches can be found in the following Florida counties:

- **Citrus**
- **Pinellas**
- **Manatee**
- **Sarasota**
- **Charlotte**
- **Lee**
- **Collier**
- **Monroe**
- **Nassau**
- **Duval**
- **St. Johns**
- **Flagler Brevard**
- **Indian River**
- **St. Lucie**
- **Martin**
- **Palm Beach**
- **Broward**
- **Miami-Dade**

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FDEP Division of Water Restoration Assistance Agency Updates



The Beach Management Funding Assistance Program received 64 applications for the FY18/19 Local Government Funding Request. Final project assessments have not been completed due to additional work assigned as a result of Hurricane Irma. It is premature to issue the FY18/19 funding requests at this time as these costs have not been submitted for review to the Secretary. The Program is preparing the final assessments and should be able to make the requests available for public review by December 2017.

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2018 Tech Conference February 7 - 9 Edgewater Beach Resort * Panama City Beach, Florida



Conference Registration

Register Online

For details on registration fees, go to

www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference/registration.html

Hotel Reservations

Hotel reservations should be made directly with the conference hotel, the Edgewater Beach Resort. The hotel will honor the group rates as long as rooms remain in FSBPA's block or until January 12, 2018, whichever occurs first. For complete details on group room rates which start at \$116 plus tax, visit, www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference/hotel.html.



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Shoreline

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Conferences

February 7-9, 2018

2018 Tech Conference

**Edgewater Beach & Golf Resort
 Panama City Beach, Florida**

September 19-21, 2018

61st Annual Conference

**Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort
 Clearwater Beach, Florida**

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

November 15-16, 2017

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association Annual Conference
Blockade Runner Beach Resort
Wrightsville Beach, NC

February 2-4, 2018

21st Annual Florida Marine Turtle Permit Holder Meeting
World Renaissance Renaissance
St. Augustine, Florida

March 20-22, 2018

ASBPA Coastal Summit
Washington, DC



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