



2020 Early Session Update

Pepper Uchino, President

It is abundantly clear that “Resiliency” and sea level rise are hot topics across the state and we are seeing these issues beginning to resonate with the Legislature as well. Senator Tom Lee (District 20, R), Chair of the Infrastructure and Security Committee, oversaw a hearing dealing with infrastructure resiliency and climate change in mid-October. It was the first major hearing at the Legislature that I can remember whose focus was climate change. And, for good reason — Florida has more to lose than any other state from the threat of climate change and its associated sea level rise. Over the next 80 years, trillions of dollars worth of state and private property are at risk. So, if we are battling to preserve Florida, our beaches are the first line defense for our state. I was thrilled to hear this sentiment echoed by Florida’s first Chief Resilience Officer, Dr. Julia Nesheiwat, at a recent meeting of the Florida Section of the Air

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February 5-7, 2020

For complete details, visit www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference.html

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& Waste Management Association, where she was a keynote speaker. Study after study show the benefit of beach and dune systems to the uplands behind them during storm events.

With this in mind, and with all that we accomplished last year – including passage of the Coastal Management Bill (HB 325) and the third consecutive year of \$50 million in programmatic funding – we will once again push to secure \$50 million this year. In addition, we will also try to secure supplemental storm-damage recovery funding for Hurricane Michael, similar to the funds allocated for Hurricanes Matthew and Irma in years past. Ensuring we have properly maintained beaches and a healthy shore environment are the critical first steps necessary to mitigate the growing threat of sea level rise. Again, this message is starting to resonate in the halls of the Capitol. If you visit, you will even see Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez (District 37, D), the sponsor of a multitude of bills aimed at addressing these issues and renewable energy efforts, walking around in calf-high galoshes as part of his regular wardrobe. Even though it is still early in the process, there are several bills we are currently tracking: SB 178 by Sen. Rodriguez, relating to public financing of construction projects that must include a sea level rise impact projection study and a series of bills impacting the Land Acquisition Trust Fund, where our beach money comes from. In addition, we are tracking the rule making for the implementation of last year's Coastal Management bill and the FDEP's triennial water quality review process that has proposed heightened standards for turbidity. Lastly, with regard to budget, it is too early to tell where the House and Senate will end up this year, but the long-term projections offered by Amy Baker, the state's economist, showed reduced revenues in year two and three, so we are expecting, in preparation for this scenario, the Legislature may be conservative in addressing this year's budget.



The next scheduled committee weeks include November 4 and 11, and December 9 before the 2020 Regular Legislative Session kicks off on January 14, 2020. We will continue to keep you updated throughout the committee weeks and session. As always, we hope you continue your own outreach back home to ensure we can continue to make beaches a priority for the Legislature.

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2020 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology February 5-7 ♦ Hyatt Regency Sarasota

FSBPA and the Tech Conference Planning Committee are gearing up for the 2020 Conference in beautiful Sarasota, and we hope you are planning to join us. Sarasota has so much to offer. Not only is it the Host of our conference, but it is also home to some of the [state's most gorgeous beaches](#), including Siesta Beach, named the Nation's #1 Beach in 2017 by Dr. Stephen Leatherman, aka Dr. Beach.



Photo courtesy of Visit Sarasota

A special thanks to everyone who submitted an abstract for the 2020 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology. The Planning Committee is excited about the quality and content of the abstracts received and looks forward to developing another stellar program.

We anticipate releasing the program next month, but conference registration will be open soon. Visit our website at <https://www.fsbpa.com/tech-conference.html> to find more information about the conference and to reserve your hotel room today.

FSBPA is also pleased to announce the [Student Scholarship Program](#) is available again for the 2020 Tech Conference thanks to the support of our long time sponsor, Michael Poff and Coastal Engineering Consultants. This is a special opportunity for us to foster the interests of young professional in coastal sciences and engineering by involving them in this professional setting. Students are encouraged to submit a poster abstract by December 18, 2019, and if selected, students will receive a registration waiver to attend the conference, as well as an opportunity to discuss their work, network with coastal professionals, and compete for a \$500 stipend. This is an incredible opportunity, and we hope you will share the news by forwarding the [application materials](#) to university students or professors who you know!

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FOA Leads the Development of a Strategic Plan for Florida's Oceans and Coasts

The state of Florida awarded the Florida Ocean Alliance a grant to develop a much-needed Strategic Plan for Florida's Oceans and Coasts that will tackle issues and recommend actions to help protect these resources for the future. Senate President Bill Galvano championed the project during the 2019 Legislative Session as part of the Legislature's focus on Florida's ever-growing water issues. The project will provide a roadmap for the state to address the conservation and management of the state's estuaries, bays, and oceans in order to preserve them for future generations. There are six public stakeholder workshops scheduled for anyone who would like to engage and provide input into the process. See the following press release regarding the first workshop for more information and the list of other workshops scheduled around the state.

* * *

UPCOMING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP: PUBLIC INVITED TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR FLORIDA'S OCEANS AND COASTS

Panama City, FL – Nearly 80% of Florida's GDP is produced in its coastal counties and more than a million jobs are associated with ocean-oriented industries in the state. But growing environmental and anthropogenic pressures put Florida's valuable coastal resources at risk as evidenced by recent algal blooms, storm inundation, rising sea level, and more. At the direction of the Florida Legislature and working closely with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA) is drafting a strategic plan to address Florida's critical ocean and coastal issues and recommend actions to help protect its resources for the future.

"A smart and actionable plan to address the pressing issues facing our coastal waters is of paramount importance to the continued stability, security, and economic welfare of Florida and its citizens," stated President Bill Galvano, Senate President who championed the strategic plan.

The FOA is hosting public hearings across Florida to obtain input from the state's wide diversity of stakeholders, interests, and everyday citizens. On **November 5th from 6 to 8 PM** a stakeholder workshop will be held at **Gulf Coast State College, Student Union East (SUE) 232**. We invite all interested parties to attend to learn about the project and provide input into what the priority issues should be and what actions are needed.

"Water is truly the lifeblood of fragile coastal ecosystems that face many challenges as well as opportunities. We need to inform and engage those who live, work and play in this region on the importance of protecting and sustaining these estuaries." stated Jim Muller, Bay County Restore Act Coordinator. Katie McCurdy, Gulf Coast State College Executive Director of Community Engagement, offered, *"There is no better time than today to recommit and strive to do a better job at protecting our coastal ecosystems and natural habitats through focused efforts. To be able to continue to enjoy the beautiful resources we have been given for many years to come we must work together to conserve them."*

For those who cannot attend, but would like to learn more or provide input, please visit www.floridaoceanalliance.org.

The Florida Ocean Alliance (www.floridaoceanalliance.org) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, private-public partnership of private industry, trade, academic and environmental organizations promoting awareness and understanding of the ocean's importance to the economy and environment of Florida.

**Media Contacts: FOA, Dr. Ellen Prager, 305.720.7070
Gulf Coast State College, Katie McCurdy, 850.872.3812**

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**Florida Ocean Alliance
Stakeholder Workshops
All meetings are 6:00-8:00 pm**

Date and Location

November 5th:

Gulf Coast State College
Student Union East, 2d floor Conference Room 232
5230 West Hwy 98, Panama City, FL 32401

November 6th:

Jacksonville University
Marine Science Research Institute Rooms 243/244
2800 University Blvd., N., Jacksonville, FL 32211

November 13th:

Marine Industries Association of South Florida
221 SW 3rd Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

November 14th:

Miami Dade College, Eduardo J. Padron Campus
Earth Ethics Institute, Multi-purpose Room 3103
627 SW 27th Ave, Miami, FL 33135

November 19th:

Mote Marine Laboratory
Keating Education Building, New Pass Room
1599 Ken Thompson Pkwy, Sarasota, FL 34236

November 20th:

Port Canaveral
Exploration Tower, 4th Floor Conference Room
670 Dave Nisbett Drive, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920





US Army Corps
of Engineers®

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District

Material from Dredging of Intracoastal Waterway to be placed on Summer Haven Beach

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Jacksonville District has begun dredging portions of the Intracoastal Waterway (IWW), in partnership with the Florida Inland Navigation District.

Southwind Construction Corporation, from Evansville Indiana, is conducting the dredging work in conjunction with Turnbull Construction, who was contracted to repair the breaches caused by Hurricane Dorian. USACE awarded a contract worth \$5.8 million for the maintenance dredging of the IWW in St. Johns and Flagler Counties. The dredging work is expected to remove 400,000 cubic yards (cy) from the channel. All of the material from the channel dredging will be placed on Summer Haven Beach, near Marineland.



Figure 1: Location of Breach

Breaches have occurred in this area since a series of tropical storms caused damage to the dunes in 2008 (Figure 1). The dunes were breached in 2016 during Hurricane Matthew and again in 2019 during Hurricane Dorian (Figure 2, next page), sending ocean water into the Summer Haven River.

For more information on the USACE Jacksonville District, visit our website at www.saj.usace.army.mil.

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[Figure 2](#): Summer Beach Haven Breach

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FDEP Agency Updates

from the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection



Big Moves for DEP Beach Programs

Along with water quality protection and restoration, DEP continues to focus on aligning critical personnel, programs and resources to address resiliency.

To foster continuity in reaching our resiliency goals throughout our agency, as of November 1, 2019, the Department is moving the Beaches programs currently housed within the Division of Water Resource Management (DWRM) to join the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP). As a result, RCP, which oversees 4.9 million acres of submerged and coastal lands, including aquatic preserves and coral reefs, will also manage beach project funding and permitting activities. This transfer will enable a larger array of researchers, field staff, technical experts and policymakers to collaborate more often.

Former DWRM Director Alex Reed has accepted the role of Director of the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, also effective November 1, 2019. Alex has been with the agency since 2009 and is currently serving as the Director of DWRM. Her experience in natural resource programs focused on wetlands, submerged lands, minerals regulation, and the state's beaches and coastal system will greatly benefit the merger of these programs and help support the agency's resiliency and coastal protection goals.

Under RCP Director Alex Reed, all of the current DWRM beaches programs will continue to report directly to new RCP Deputy Director Lainie Edwards – including Engineering, Hydrology, and Geology under Bob Brantly, Coastal Construction Control Line under Tony McNeal, Beaches, Inlets, and Ports under Greg Garis, Beaches Field Services under Jim Martinello, and Beaches and Mines Funding Assistance under Dena VanLandingham. These programs will be folded in organizationally with DEP's other coastal functions in RCP, such as resiliency, aquatic preserve management, coral protection and coastal zone management. Exciting!

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CCCL Program Additions

DEP recently welcomed back Fritz Wettstein as a Senior Program Analyst, after his recent stint at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Fritz will use his 32 years of state government experience to assist with training and applications requiring a more complex environmental review, which often pertain to large multi-family developments and coastal dune protection, alteration, and restoration projects. In addition, Fritz will be a part of DEP's Disaster Response Team.

Nathan Bonanno is a new Engineering Specialist II handling permitting for Palm Beach and Broward counties. Nathan holds degrees in Ocean Engineering and Coastal Zone Management from Florida Institute of Technology.

In Other News...

The Local Government Funding Request has been drafted and is currently being routed for internal approval. This year's request includes 30 beach projects included, totaling approximately \$71 million in state share; eight inlet projects totaling approximately \$11 million in state share; and about \$1 million in requested state monitoring funds.

The 2019 update to the Strategic Beach Management Plan is in the final stages of development. Thirty-five comments were received after the workshop from local sponsors, consultants, and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Thank you to everyone who participated.

On October 14, 2019, the Department published a Notice of Proposed Rule Development for Chapter 62B-36, F.A.C., in the Florida Administrative Register. Staff is planning a workshop to discuss options for the new criteria for ranking funding requests for beach and inlet projects as provided by Chapter No. 2019-122, Laws of Florida (2019 HB 325). The workshop is tentatively planned for early December 2019.

On October 22, 2019, the Department published a Notice of Proposed Rule Development for Chapter 62B-33, F.A.C., in the Florida Administrative Register. This proposed change updates the definition of the term "vulnerable" to clarify that in order to qualify for coastal armoring, the eligible structure to be protected must be located wholly or partially seaward of the applicable Coastal

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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 5-7, 2020

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology
Hyatt Regency Sarasota, FL

September 16-18, 2020

FSBPA Annual Conference
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL

Other Dates of Interest

November 21-22, 2019

Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway Association Annual Conference
The DeSoto Savannah Hotel
Savannah, GA

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