

Shoreline

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US Army Corps of Engineers

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Jacksonville District, USACE

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Palm Beach County Status Report

Sea Turtle Lighting Compliance: Lighting inspections are conducted in areas where PBC has jurisdictional authority or a current shoreline project. Early season lighting inspections have been conducted in Riviera Beach, Palm Beach Shores, Lake Worth, Jupiter and Ocean ...

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We are at the point in Session when the appropriations process takes over, committees wind down, and it is an endurance race to the finish. The good news is FSBPA's position on behalf of Florida's beaches is ever-improving in a very challenging environment.

The inlet management legislation (HB 1427 by Mayfield and SB 1672 by Jones) has, thus far, enjoyed widespread support and unanimous votes at each committee stop. I imagine this is both surprising to, and I know welcomed by its primary architect, Dr. Bob Dean. Both of our bill sponsors have been fantastic spokespersons and advocates for this initiative to stop the losses of beach-quality sand at our inlets. There is truly an interest and commitment for "inlet sand management" among members, so this exposure can only be good for the image of the entire statewide beach management program. At the halfway point, HB 1427 is already on the Calendar, awaiting Special Order. The Senate companion is at its second committee stop, and I don't anticipate any insurmountable problems ahead.

While stressing caution, I like our chances of having a new state inlet management initiative with far-reaching policy provisions, targeted funding provisions, separate ranking criteria, and a number of incentives to entice local sponsors. It's been 22 years since we first passed inlet management provisions to Chapter 161, F.S. I believe we now have a more viable opportunity and blueprint to get the job done right. We will let you know the fate of this legislation after session ends on May 2.

I am apprehensive to even mention beach funding for the coming year (FY 08-09). We were critical of the Governor's recommendation in January reducing beach project funding to \$20 million, and adding to our funding woes the entire cost of the Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems at \$5.9 million. The Governor's Office got FSBPA's further attention with a proposed conforming bill statutorily reducing the doc stamp allocation "to repair beaches" from \$30 million to \$25 million in (s. 201.15(11)). This would be a permanent change versus our fall-back position (if less than a \$30 million total) it be considered as a one-time only emergency response. With the help of the Florida Association of Counties (FAC), supportive environmental groups, and so many of your county general government folks, we launched a counter-attack. It proved to be premature, and as conditions worsened, we seriously wondered if we could even get back to the Governor's reduced recommendations.

Least we forget the revenue source for beaches - - doc stamps - - is obviously a fee on real estate transactions. No state revenue source has experienced a greater proportional loss recently. Two weeks ago, the Revenue Estimating Conference provided doc stamp allocations to each recipient program. The short story is after taking care of the debt service on Florida Forever, the Everglades, funding the transportation package and affordable housing, they got to "beaches", according to Ch. 201, and there was virtually nothing left - - a whole \$1.1 million, a far cry from \$30 million. Just real numbers, not even a face or name to target the disappointment.

FSBPA, through BeachWatch, has worked extremely hard to save Florida's beach management program for FY 08-09. Success this session must be measured by survival to fight another day. And, indeed, we are doing that thanks to the active support of our member governments. House and Senate budget positions thus far come from totally different directions, but I am hopeful they will meet in the middle during Conference. We may get there - - the best scenario is DEP's project priority list of \$20 million, and perhaps, a project or two on the alternate list. It may not be pretty, but whatever dollars secured beyond the base Bureau costs will go to specific local government projects. We must get this program and its dedicated funding refocused on its core mission, putting sand on the beach. We believe the 2008 legislative session is the first but certainly not last, opportunity to do just that.

One more month and we should have the answers.

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Coastal Archives Integration into UF Libraries Collections

By Vernon N. Kisling, Jr.
Sr. Associate Librarian
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida

The Civil and Coastal Engineering Department established the University of Florida Coastal Engineering Archives in 1974 with funding from the State of Florida and the National Sea Grant Program. Support has also come from the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District and numerous other donors who have provided copies of their publications to the Archives.

This collection has been a unique and valuable resource for the study of beach erosion, tidal inlets, near shore oceanography, coastal geomorphology, sediment transport, hurricanes, storm surges, hydrodynamics, estuarine circulation, dredging, coastal vegetation, and coastal zone management. Its emphasis strongly supported Florida, the Southeast, and the Gulf States. Materials were diverse and included books, journals, conference proceedings, technical reports, aerial photographs, maps, charts, hydrographic surveys and field data.



Factors Adversely Affecting the Archives Marston Science Library

The Coastal Archives collection was one of the more unique and comprehensive campus collections outside the Library system; however, it has experienced problems common to all such libraries and reading rooms. Beginning in spring semester 2006, meetings were held between faculty of the Coastal Engineering Department and the Libraries to review the status and problems of the Coastal Archives.

There were limited financial resources for purchasing, organizing, and cataloging the Archives collection. Increasingly there was difficulty in securing the collection, especially in recent times when a full-time librarian was no longer available. A backlog of new material was accumulating. Although some initial work was done to incorporate the Archives catalog information into the Libraries online catalog, little progress had been made. Additionally, the use of the number based Delft classification scheme stymied most new students and faculty in their attempts to find material. And the increase in availability of material via online databases, maps and publications was making the Archives print collection less useful.

Concerns discussed at these meetings led to the idea of integrating the Archives into the Libraries collections, especially those housed at the Marston Science Library. Such decisions do not come easily, especially for senior faculty who had worked hard to develop the collection over the past 30 years. However, in March 2007 an agreement was reached to transfer and integrate the Archives into the Libraries collections. This was accomplished over the summer of 2007.

Integrating the Collections

The Coastal Archives collections were reviewed, packed and moved by a team of UF Libraries faculty and staff from several library units. A summary of the materials transferred include:

Books: 296 titles were transferred to the Libraries. Books made up a small part of the collection and the Libraries had about half of the titles in the Archives. Those titles not needed remain in the Archives. Titles transferred are at the Marston Science Library.

Journals: none of the journal titles, including serial/annual conference proceedings, were needed by the Libraries so none of these were transferred. Out of the 40 journal titles in the Archives, 17 are available through the Libraries online (to some extent – the years of online coverage varies with the title).

Reprints and Videos: none of these were needed by the Libraries so they also remain at the Archives.

Maps, Charts, and Aerial Photographs: 4 atlases, 633 geodetic survey maps, 102 blueprint aerial photo books, and 1,099 aerial photographs were transferred. In addition, some 1,700 items are still being reviewed. These items will be housed in the Map and Imagery Library (located in the Marston Science Library) and includes most of what was in the Archives collection.

Government Documents and Corps of Engineers Reports: 2,159 reports were transferred to the Governments Documents Library collection (located in the Marston Science Library). This includes everything that was in the Archives collection.

Geographic and Technical Reports: 4,361 reports were transferred to the Marston Science Library. This includes everything that was in the Archives collection.

Coastal Engineering Departmental Reports: 161 of these reports have been digitized for online access (as of January 2008). All these reports will eventually be digitized by the Digital Library Center, with the paper copies retained by the Archives.

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Access and Services

All of the material transferred from the Archives into the Libraries collections will be cataloged and listed in the online catalog (<http://uf.catalog.fcla.edu/uf.jsp>). This will benefit not only the Coastal Engineering Department faculty and students, but the global research community as well. Of course, there will be a transition period while this vast amount of material is processed, catalog records created, and the items switched from the Delft cataloging scheme to the LC (Library of Congress) scheme; however, most of this work has now been completed as of January 2008.

The only significant change in service will be for those outside the University community who have depended on the Archives for obtaining copies of publications. Individuals and firms outside the University will need to use interlibrary loan to obtain the materials from the Libraries. If this service is not available to the individual through a university or corporate library, they can use their local public library, which provides this service. The University requires a strict adherence to copyright laws and this does not allow Library staff to copy material in the collection, so all such requests must go through our Interlibrary Loan Office.

As previously mentioned, digital copies and full text searching of the technical report series written by staff, faculty and students of the Coastal Engineering program are being made available online (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/ufdc/?s=coast>). In addition, many of the journals, maps, government documents and other materials are now available online as well.

Moving Forward

What is left at the Archives – primarily all the journals, some books and all the departmental reports – will form a reading room collection that will be arranged and managed by the Coastal Engineering faculty. While some long time users of the Archives will lament the loss of their in-house collection, it is now more easily accessible to a broader range of researchers while still serving the needs of the Coastal Engineering faculty and students. Many in-house library collections across campus are finding the economics and management of these small library collections more difficult than they anticipated. The UF Libraries faculty and staff have worked with several of these collections

over the past year and have helped however we can. Maintaining access to the increasingly large amount of information published in print and online is becoming a challenge for both the academic faculty and the Libraries. Sometimes consolidation of resources is necessary to meet this challenge. We will endeavor to make this change a worthwhile and beneficial one.

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The screenshot shows the website for the George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida Digital Collections. The page features a header with the library name and a navigation bar. Below the header is a banner image with the text "Coastal Engineering". A search bar is present with a "Go" button and links for "Home", "Advanced Search", and "Help". Below the search bar are links for "All Items" and "New Items". A paragraph of text describes the field of coastal engineering and the focus of the department's research. At the bottom, there is a footer with copyright information and the University of Florida logo.

George A. Smathers Libraries University of Florida Digital Collections
Library Catalog

Coastal Engineering

Search Collection: Go
Home | Advanced Search | Help

Browse: All Items | New Items

Coastal engineering is the study of the processes ongoing at the shoreline and construction within the coastal zone. The field involves aspects of oceanography, marine geology, hydrology, and civil engineering. Historically, at the University of Florida, the research of the faculty, staff, and students of the Coastal Engineering Department has focused on: 1) basic research into the causes of beach erosion and other coastal problems: waves, currents, sediment transport, hurricanes, saltwater intrusion; 2) information on shore protection: beach nourishment, coastal structures, dune stabilization, coastal construction methods; and 3) documentation of historical beach conditions. The collections here include the report series written by the faculty, staff, and students of the Coastal and Oceanographic Program of the Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering.

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The Foundation for The Center Nation

WRDA 2007 Impacts to Florida's Beaches

By Candida Bronson
Jacksonville District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (H.R. 1495) was enacted into law on November 8, 2007 and since that time the Jacksonville District has been poring over the language to determine how the beaches of Florida will be impacted. WRDA is instrumental in authorizing new projects for study or construction and sets down new policy for how projects are done. As this is the first WRDA since 2000, the Act contains a long list of projects and has been the object of intense interest.

WRDA authorization is important at two key steps in a Corps project. Authorization of a study allows the Corps to study the project, collect data, evaluate alternatives, and recommend a project for construction. Authorization of construction is then required for the project to be built. Equally important, both authorizations are required to move a project from concept to construction.

However, having the authority for the project is only part of the Federal process. Each project must also have an appropriation to fund the work. Inclusion in WRDA does not mean all the projects are included in the current fiscal year budget. Many of these projects await funding from future budgets.

Below is a synopsis of the Florida projects included in WRDA 2007 and some of the policy items that may affect beach projects. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continues to evaluate how WRDA 2007 will be implemented, including how broad provisions may be applied to coastal projects. The link at the bottom of the page provides a searchable PDF version of the Act.

- Sec. 1007 – a study for shore protection at Sanibel Island, Florida
- Sec. 2004 – compilation of laws relating to beach and shoreline erosion, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and others
- Sec. 2018 – policy on shore protection projects
- Sec. 2034 – independent peer review
- Sec. 2037 – regional sediment management project in Egmont Key, Florida
- Sec. 2038 – national shoreline erosion control development program
- Sec. 3045 – modification to authorization to include mid-reach and credit towards non-Federal share of cost for Brevard County, Florida
- Sec. 3046 – modification to credit towards non-Federal share of cost for Broward County and Hillsboro Inlet, Florida
- Sec. 3047 – authorization for construction of a sediment trap at Canaveral Harbor, Florida
- Sec. 3048 – modification to credit towards non-Federal share of cost for Gasparilla and Estero Islands, Florida
- Sec. 3049 – modification to authorize construction for shore protection at Lido Key Beach, Sarasota, Florida
- Sec. 4033 – a study at Collier County Beaches, Florida
- Sec. 5007 – expedited completion of reports and construction for Daytona Beach, Flagler Beach, and St. Johns County shore protection projects, Florida
- Sec. 5008 – expedited completion of reports for shoreline stabilization at Egmont Key, Florida
- Sec. 5063 – authorization for repair for bulkhead replacement project, Lake Worth, Florida

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h1495enr.txt.pdf

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Application of Beach-fx: Walton County, Florida Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project (A Synopsis)



Pre-Hurricane Ivan photo of Miramar Beach Regional Beach Access restroom in western Walton County

The beaches of Walton County, FL, have experienced extensive erosion resulting from hurricane and storm conditions that have impacted the shoreline in recent years. The beaches encompass approximately 26 miles of shoreline along the northern Gulf of Mexico. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has designated 11.9 of shoreline in Walton County as critically eroding areas. The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mobile District, is conducting a Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction (H&SDR) Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives and determine the most suitable plan of protection in Walton County. Because Federal participation requires a favorable economic justification a suitable economic analysis must take into account the probabilistic nature of storm-associated damage to structures. This damage is a function of structure location and character, storm intensity, and the degree of protection provided by the natural or constructed beach. Thus, meteorological and coastal processes are significant in determining the damages. The study is a test-bed application for the Beach-fx model, recently developed through collaborative research between The U.S. Army ERDC-CHL (Engineer Research and Development Center, Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory) and IWR (Institute for Water Resources).

Beach-fx is an engineering-economic Monte Carlo simulation model that relates beach profile change to storms, coastal processes, and nourishment programs. The model relies on external coastal process models to predict the morphologic response of the beach profile to storm events and shoreline response to long-term processes. A pre-computed database of beach profile responses to storms for a range of storms and profiles was generated utilizing the Storm-Induced BEAch CHange Model (SBEACH), (Larson and Kraus 1989). SBEACH provided estimates of the short-term cross-shore response to a suite of plausible tropical storm events derived from the historical record of tropical storms.

The Generalized Model for Simulating Shoreline Change (GENESIS) (Hanson and Kraus 1989) provided estimates of long-term shoreline response to existing and without project conditions. The SBEACH and GENESIS models were developed by the ERDC-CHL. Beach-fx is run for multiple project life cycles and provides statistics on probable benefits and costs of the evaluated shore protection design alternatives, which is used for the economic justification of the project. Beach-fx represents an improvement on previous models in this arena by being strongly based on representation of the coastal and engineering processes, incorporating the impact of multiple storms, and incorporating uncertainty in damage functions, physical characteristics of structures, and economic valuations.

Beach-fx simulations have been completed for existing, future without project conditions, and with project alternatives. Analysis of results assisted in identifying potential construction reaches, optimization of project alternatives, and identification of the recommended plan.



Miramar Beach Regional Beach Access restroom following Hurricane Ivan

Habitat Conservation Plan for Coastal Wildlife under Development

By Gary Appelson
Policy Coordinator
Caribbean Conservation Corporation

On March 25, a few dozen people representing 15 organizations and state and federal agencies met at the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) office in Tallahassee to begin developing a statewide Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for coastal wildlife. The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for "take" of threatened and endangered species that is "likely to occur" as a result of permitted construction and other activities on the beach. Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) authorizes the Federal Government to issue an ITP for non-federal activities likely to cause take that is incidental to otherwise lawful activities. The permit authorizes or allows some level of harm to listed species and protects the applicant from liability under the ESA. To get the permit the applicant must develop a federally approved HCP. The HCP will describe the amount of anticipated harm to listed plants and animals and the actions that will be taken to minimize impacts and mitigate for the harm likely to occur. These minimization and mitigation measures are the foundation of the HCP and will address impacts to 5 species of sea turtles, a number of subspecies of beach mice, several species of shorebirds, listed plants, and their habitats.

Following the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, and the extensive beach erosion and property damage that resulted, there was a need to expedite beach recovery efforts while protecting wildlife. The USFWS and state agencies became concerned that recovery efforts were likely to result in unauthorized, and therefore, illegal take of listed species. It was clear that seeking an ITP on a county by county and storm by storm basis would be extremely cumbersome, time consuming and prohibitively costly. The decision was made to seek a statewide ITP for all listed species impacted by activities permitted under the Coastal Construction Control Line permitting program. The ITP will cover activities such as coastal construction, coastal armoring, dune crossovers, dune restoration, and beach scraping. (An ITP is not being sought, nor is one needed, for activities permitted under the Joint Coastal Permit. These activities and likely impacts to wildlife are governed by a different section of the ESA).

The DEP is the permit applicant, and it is partnering with the FWC to develop the HCP. A consulting company will draft the HCP with input and guidance from state agencies and interested stakeholders. The USFWS must ultimately approve the HCP prior to issuing the ITP. The state has applied for and received federal funding or commitments to cover the first two years of costs for the development of the HCP, a process that will likely take five years or longer. The "kickoff" meeting in Tallahassee was to explain the process, establish a working group and steering committee, identify stakeholders, and discuss the future meeting schedule. FSBPA and the Caribbean Conservation Corporation (CCC) have been invited to be on the steering committee.

Through the HCP's long-term advanced planning process, the State, future CCCL permit applicants (such as individuals and local governments) and conservation organizations, will know at the front end of the permitting process what actions will be required to protect wildlife resources. The HCP also will help reduce conflicts and expedite the permit review process.

The CCC has advocated for a statewide HCP for a number of years. The HCP process will require all parties to address cumulative impacts. Currently wildlife impacts are considered on an individual permit basis. A permit for an individual seawall might result in limited or no discernable impact to nesting sea turtles. However, that is not the case when seawalls line a nesting beach. In addition, the HCP will provide for a thoughtful review of all the potential wildlife impacts resulting from permitted activities seaward of the CCCL.

We are looking forward to working with FSBPA, DEP and others to address these issues. As Debbie Flack is fond of saying, "stand by."

(The Gainesville-based Caribbean Conservation Corporation is the oldest sea turtle research and conservation organization in the world.)

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Green Turtle on the Near Shore Reef in St. Lucie County



Green Turtle on Brevard County beach at dawn

Job Opportunities

Coastal Engineering Consultants, Naples, FL is seeking Senior Coastal Engineer/Scientist for Branch Office Manager Position in Louisiana. Unique opportunity to manage projects of national significance in restoring and protecting Louisiana's fragile coastal system. Plus the chargrilled oysters are the finest in the world. Send Resume in confidence to: mpoff@cecifl.com

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Calendar of Events

March 4—May 2, 2008

Regular Session of the Florida Legislature

June 26 — 27, 2008

Florida Coastal Law Conference

Miami, FL

<http://www.cle.com/miacost>

August 31—September 5, 2008

International Conference on Coastal Engineering

Hamburg, Germany

<http://icce2008.hamburg.baw.de/>

September 10—12, 2008

FSBPA Annual Meeting

South Seas Plantation

<http://www.fsbpa.com/annual.htm>

October 15—17, 2008

ASBPA Fall Conference

Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza

www.asbpa.org

February 16—18, 2009

10th Annual CIRP Workshop

TradeWinds Island Resorts

St. Petersburg Beach, FL

February 18—20, 2009

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

TradeWinds Island Resorts

St. Petersburg Beach, FL

September 16—18, 2009

FSBPA Annual Meeting

Amelia Island Plantation

Amelia Island, FL

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