

LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Debbie Flack (3/3/16)



My apologies for following the January Shoreline session overview with this “sprint to the finish line” update rather than the traditional midpoint session summary. The early legislative session start and the Association's staffing obligations to the Tech

Conference have us off schedule. Be assured you will receive a complete Session Update in the next edition of Shoreline.

The 2016 session began with the early (Week 2) passage of last year's key environmental initiative, the Omnibus Water bill, queuing up what has been a good year for Florida's water resources. Passage of the landmark bill Legacy Florida (SB 1168, Negron and HB 1321, Harrell) happened yesterday on House Floor with a vote of 117-1. It dedicates funds in the amount of \$200 million to implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Long-Term Plan, Okeechobee Basin Management Plan and Estuaries Protection Plan. It was heard this morning in a specially scheduled Senate full Appropriations meeting, passed with debate, and is headed for the Floor. The House version provides \$200M per year or 25 % of the Amendment 1, whichever is less for just activities noted. SB 1168 was amended reducing this number to \$145M with a set-aside of \$50M for springs. We are anticipating resolution of the funding difference and passage and will provide final details in April's Shoreline.

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Mark Your Calendar

2017 Tech Conference

February 8-10, 2017

Hutchinson Island Marriott

Stuart, Florida

One other bill we have monitored is the State Lands bill (HB 1075, SB 1290). Our focus and concern was on the policy shift in a bill that would open up "pipes and pumps" expenditures under Florida Forever for Amendment 1 dollars without knowing its impact on projected funding. We have witnessed far too often the billion dollar number associated with annual member water project requests and the resulting \$50M yearly allocation and list unveiling the last night of conference. Currently both state lands bills have deleted this provision of concern. Our interest in this bill arises from FSBPA's obligation to assess any legislation that impacts dwindling uncommitted revenue sources available to the statewide beach management program, while recognizing our members have other important resource protection priorities. Tracking substantive legislation simply reinforces our primary focus on beach funding, growing trust funding, including making some portion recurring, and promoting the economic benefits of healthy beaches to ensure continued supplemental program funding from General Revenue (GR).

Now to the major purpose of this update—status of statewide beach funding in the 2016-17 Budget. The overriding goal of FSBPA, as identified by our local government members as part of our governmental BeachWatch program, is to secure dependable annual state funding. In response, our corresponding 2016 objectives are straightforward and simple:

Increase program funding including trust funds from the Amendment 1 Land Acquisition Trust Fund, make some portion of this doc stamp allocation recurring which was not the case for the current fiscal year, and supplement with non-recurring General Revenue which was \$7M for 2015/16. DEP's and Governor's recommendations as well as the 2016-17 base starting point were \$25M in total funding.

On February 10, the individual budgets of the House and Senate for FY 2016/17 were passed.



HB 5001, the **House appropriations bill included \$30M** (\$19.9 in General Revenue, \$10.1 in non-recurring LATF) for statewide beach projects -- there was no project listing in the House budget or partial project funding unlike the past few years.



SB 2500 made an unexpected and significant step forward with **\$20M of the Senate's LATF allocation recurring**, hopefully a harbinger of good times to come. It is definitely not too early to get beaches in the mix, regardless of the amount. The Senate's budget provided a total statewide beach management project allocation of **\$28,140,270, all trust funded**. Senate proviso excluded project number 10 with a state cost-share of almost \$6M. Therefore, the funding available according to the cumulative state total on the Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) lists was **\$34.1M**.

The budget conference process began late last Friday (2/26) afternoon with an organizational meeting of House and Senate conferees Chaired by Representative Corcoran (House is 2016 host)

and Vice-Chair, Senator Tom Lee, with both presiding officers present, Speaker Crisafulli and President Gardner.

We had a conference side-by-side spreadsheet ready to go for briefing purposes. It was clear what could and could not be included at various scenarios of available funding. It referenced individual beach projects as numbered in the DEP's LGFR, with or without Project 10, inlet management funding, and post-construction monitoring parameters. The eight projects receiving only partial funding in 2015-16 were duly noted, as were those projects leveraging federal matching funds. Yes, it might have influenced positions of support but real intent was to try to follow the LGFR and amounts you requested so the Legislature had the option of not listing projects individually, and instead relying upon the historical practice of a single statewide appropriation vs. the appearance of member projects and ease in vetoing.

The Conference Committee on House Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations / Senate General Government Appropriations, Chaired by Representative Ben Albritton with Senator Alan Hays the Vice-Chair, first meeting on Saturday was a great start. We were expecting the House Offer #1 to merely be a reiteration of their budget number of \$30M, with \$19.9 in GR and 10.1 in non-recurring LATF. Instead it went to \$40M, \$29.9M in GR and the \$10.1M in LATF went to **recurring**. There was no mention of projects and of course too early for proviso.



Despite expectations there were no further noticed meeting Saturday or Sunday, despite a preannouncement that all items would be finalized or bumped by COB on Monday (February 29). At the first conference committee meeting on Monday, the Senate didn't accept the House Offer #1, only came up to \$30M (from \$28.1M), took away over \$10M in trust funds, reduced recurring LATF, and added \$12.2M in GR. As time was running out, concern grew that the House might accept the Senate offer, and we still had no proviso for guidance. The only remaining positive scenario was for the House to counter with Offer #2 and get together some combination of DRAFT proviso language. Fortunately, with progress being made the presiding officers extended the process last Monday for this and a few other committees. At 8:30 our Conference Committee met. The House made another offer (#2), and they held at \$40M and greatly increased reliance on trust funding, reducing GR to \$10.8M, increasing LATF to \$29,180,722, and sustaining the +\$10M in recurring. As time ran out, statewide beach funding was in a better position to be in for our "bump" to the full chairs. **However, clearly not in the best position which would have been Senate acceptance of the House Offer #2, or even Offer #1.**

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The Chairs have yet to announce when they will begin meeting or in what order they will tackle the “bump issues” in the various areas of the budget. However, since there was notice last night that they might schedule a meeting, it is imminent.

Nothing is secured at this point. We are beyond the “split the difference stage” and there are no guarantees—beaches will have to be a priority of key appropriators and leadership to secure increased funding above the base or last year as well as to secure for the first time any recurring trust funds. It is in the hands of the two Appropriations Chairs with very limited, if any, opportunity to influence the result.

Good point to stop, especially with the assurance of a complete Session Wrap-up in the next edition of *Shoreline*.

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March Message from FSBPA's Executive Director

Jackie Larson

Greetings!

I was thrilled to attend the National Tech Conference on my sixth week as FSBPA's Executive Director. The timing was perfect to meet or catch up with so many of you at one time. The program and speakers were outstanding starting with Leanne's opening remarks and concluding with the innovative work on turtle exclusion devices being investigated by Manson's engineers. There was an assorted mix of presentations including the progression of several long-standing Florida projects; new voices from Australia, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, and Virginia; federal and state agency updates; four spirited students presenting graduate work on coastal engineering or geology; and lastly, many courageous student volunteers who received applause for presenting skills of negotiation by navigating through audio visual technology. Thank you to all the speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, students and volunteers for contributing to a successful professional conference.

Florida is fortunate to have bright, young achievers in coastal sciences. This year Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc. sponsored two awards for technical posters - Nikole Ward from the University of North Florida accepted the top billing, and William Warren from Florida Atlantic University was a close runner-up. The student scholarship program is an opportunity for students to showcase their work to attendees and a panel of judges during the professional exchange breaks.



William wrote about his experiences with us, which I'm sharing on the next page.

Follow us on



Please email Jackie (jackielarson@fsbpa.com) updates and photos about your projects to share with our followers.

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“My name is William Warren and I am currently a first year master’s student studying geology at Florida Atlantic University. Growing up on Pensacola Beach, Florida, a barrier island in the northern Gulf of Mexico, is what ultimately sparked my interest in coastal processes and storms.

My current research is focused on Norte-induced nearshore dynamics in Sisal, Mexico. Sisal is a small coastal town located on a barrier island in the Northern Yucatan Peninsula on the Gulf of Mexico. Cold fronts in this region are called Nortes for the strong northerly winds associated with the passing of each front. The goal of this research is to compare nearshore sediment transport under normal conditions and during the Norte cold fronts, and to then see how differences between the two relate to and drive morphologic change in the region.

I was fortunate enough to present a poster on my initial research at the recent FSBPA sponsored Tech Conference. Attending presentations by some of the best in the field helped me to better understand the real world applications of my studies. Through my research I hope to gain a better understanding of coastal storms and processes and use my knowledge to protect and restore coastal regions. I look forward to continuing my research and hope to present my future work at upcoming FSBPA sponsored conferences.”



Project study area Sisal, Mexico, 2014

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2016 Tech Conference

Thank you Attendees, Speakers, Sponsors, Exhibitors and Volunteers



Another successful Tech Conference was held February 3-5, 2016 at the Omni Hotel in downtown Jacksonville, Florida. FSBPA as organizer and sponsor was extremely pleased with the conference. As always, the Executive Committee, Planning Committee, and Conference Program Coordinator, Lisa Armbruster, did an outstanding job in organizing the program for the 29th annual conference.

Thank you to all who attended the conference. Your attendance and support of the conference are very much appreciated. We would also like to thank the speakers who contributed to the program's success. **The conference presentations are now available on the website for those speakers who gave permission to post their presentation in a pdf format.**

FSBPA is grateful for the involvement of the Sponsors and Exhibitors who support the Tech Conference each year. Attendees enjoy and appreciate the professional breaks, the welcome reception and luncheon buffet. Networking is an essential part of the tech conference, and the professional exchange breaks offer a venue for attendees to interact with colleagues while also providing an opportunity to learn about available services and products exhibitors have to offer.

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and

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FSBPA

Once again, to our planning committee, speakers, attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, and volunteers who assist us, thank you for making the annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology a great success! FSBPA's Board of Directors and staff greatly appreciate your continued support.

Mark your calendar now for the 2017 Annual Tech Conference, **February 8-10, 2017, at the Hutchinson Island Marriott in Stuart, Florida.**

A few candid shots ...



A special thank you to Pat Pacitti for taking the pictures!

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Thank you to our Sponsors

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Briefs Around Florida

Did you hear?

Trip Advisor, a popular on-line travel forum, recently announced the 2016 Travelers' Choice Top 25 Beaches in the United States, and Florida's beaches topped the rankings. Ten Florida beaches were ranked in the top 25 and six beaches were in the top ten! This news reinforces the message reported by the Office of Economic and Demographic Research – beaches are Florida's brand! Most of these beaches are restored or adjacent to a restored beach and benefitting from the project. Let's keep strengthening our message to protect and preserve beaches, our natural treasures.

Congratulations to the beaches of Clearwater, Siesta Key, St. Petersburg, Pensacola, St. Augustine, Panama City, Henderson Beach State Park (Destin), Ft. Myers, Las Olas (Ft. Lauderdale), and Navarre for reaching the top 25 ranked beaches.

For a complete listing of the Travel's Choice top beaches go to: www.tripadvisor.com/TravelersChoice-Beaches-cTop-g191



Pensacola Beach

Photo courtesy of Al Browder, Olsen Associates



Clearwater Beach

Photo courtesy Of VisitStPeteClearwater.com



St. Pete Beach

Photo courtesy Of VisitStPeteClearwater.com

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ASBPA Coastal Summit

Lisa Armbruster

Along with some of our member local government and coastal consultants, I attended the ASBPA Coastal Summit in Washington, DC at the end of February. In addition to attending the summit, several of our member governments were busy visiting and educating their congressmen in their DC offices regarding their specific shore protection project needs. At the Summit, we were pleased to meet and hear from the new ASBPA Executive Director, Derek Brockbank. We also heard national panel presentations on coastal resilience including Samantha Dunchuk with Broward County, and regional sediment management including Jackie Keiser with the USACE, Jacksonville and Jeff Littlejohn with Littlejohn, Mann & Associates.

As part of the Summit, ASBPA organized a handful of advocacy visits with the USACE, FEMA, USFWS, and NOAA/NMFS. I attended the NOAA/NMFS meeting at their headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland with a small group of ASBPA members. One of our main meeting topics was the delay many local governments are experiencing with their NMFS consultations. The meeting was productive, and we were encouraged that NMFS is working to make the consultation process more efficient by using letters of concurrence for minimally impactful, routine projects as well as developing and using regional programmatic authorizations.

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St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan

By William “Guy” Weeks, Planning Manager, FDEP



On January 8, 2016, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted a new updated inlet management plan for St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. This plan updates an earlier plan making the plan consistent with current statutes and observed erosion conditions. The Florida Legislature amended Florida Statute 161.142 in 2008, to improve the management activities for inlets and the adjacent eroding beaches by requiring a balanced sediment budget for each managed inlet.

“It is in the public interest to replicate the natural drift of sand which is interrupted or altered by inlets to be replaced and for each level of government to undertake all reasonable efforts to maximize inlet sand bypassing to ensure that beach-quality sand is placed on adjacent eroding beaches. Such activities cannot make up for the historical sand deficits caused by inlets but shall be designed to balance the sediment budget of the inlet and adjacent beaches and extend the life of proximate beach-restoration projects so that periodic nourishment is needed less frequently.”

The earlier plan (FDEP, 1995), adopted August 7, 1995, was based upon a study conducted in 1993 by Applied Technology and Management, Inc. and finalized in 1995, (ATM, 1995). The 1993 inlet management study was initiated by Martin County in cooperation with the Department to ultimately develop the 1995 inlet management study implementation plan for St. Lucie Inlet. The Plan had strategies to mitigate the inlet impacts through inlet improvements and bypassing but did not address balancing the sediment budget and ensuring beach quality sand is placed on adjacent beaches to both the south side of the inlet and north side of the inlet. Bypassing objectives included placement of inlet dredged material south of the inlet, on Jupiter Island beaches. In 2008, section 161.142 (7), Florida Statutes was amended to emphasize the need for balancing sediment budgets of the inlets and adjacent beaches.

In April of 2014, Martin County and the Department began discussions on updating the St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan (IMP), to balance the sediment budget in a way that will address erosion on adjacent beaches. The geography both to the north and south of St. Lucie Inlet presented many challenges (Figure 1). The primary stakeholders were Martin County, the Town of Jupiter Island and the Sailfish Point Property Owners Association; these groups successfully worked together towards common solutions on the inlet sediment budget and the inlet management strategies. A spin-off of the IMP process was an interlocal agreement that was developed between Martin County and the Town of Jupiter Island in October 2014 early in the IMP process. The purpose of the 2014 agreement was for the two parties to work collaboratively with each other on common goals of an updated IMP and participate on joint projects. The parties agreed that by doing so they would achieve economic savings on mobilization and other costs associated with dredging the inlet and bypassing sand to the beaches north and south of the inlet. In addition, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was created by both Martin County and the Town of Jupiter Island in August 2015 to achieve common goals for the better management of an adjacent eroding beach, located south of the inlet. This MOA was more specific towards cooperation and achievement of shared regional sediment management goals, and was accomplished in part by the County's contribution of funds to the Town to increase the amount of sand placed on the Town's local beaches.

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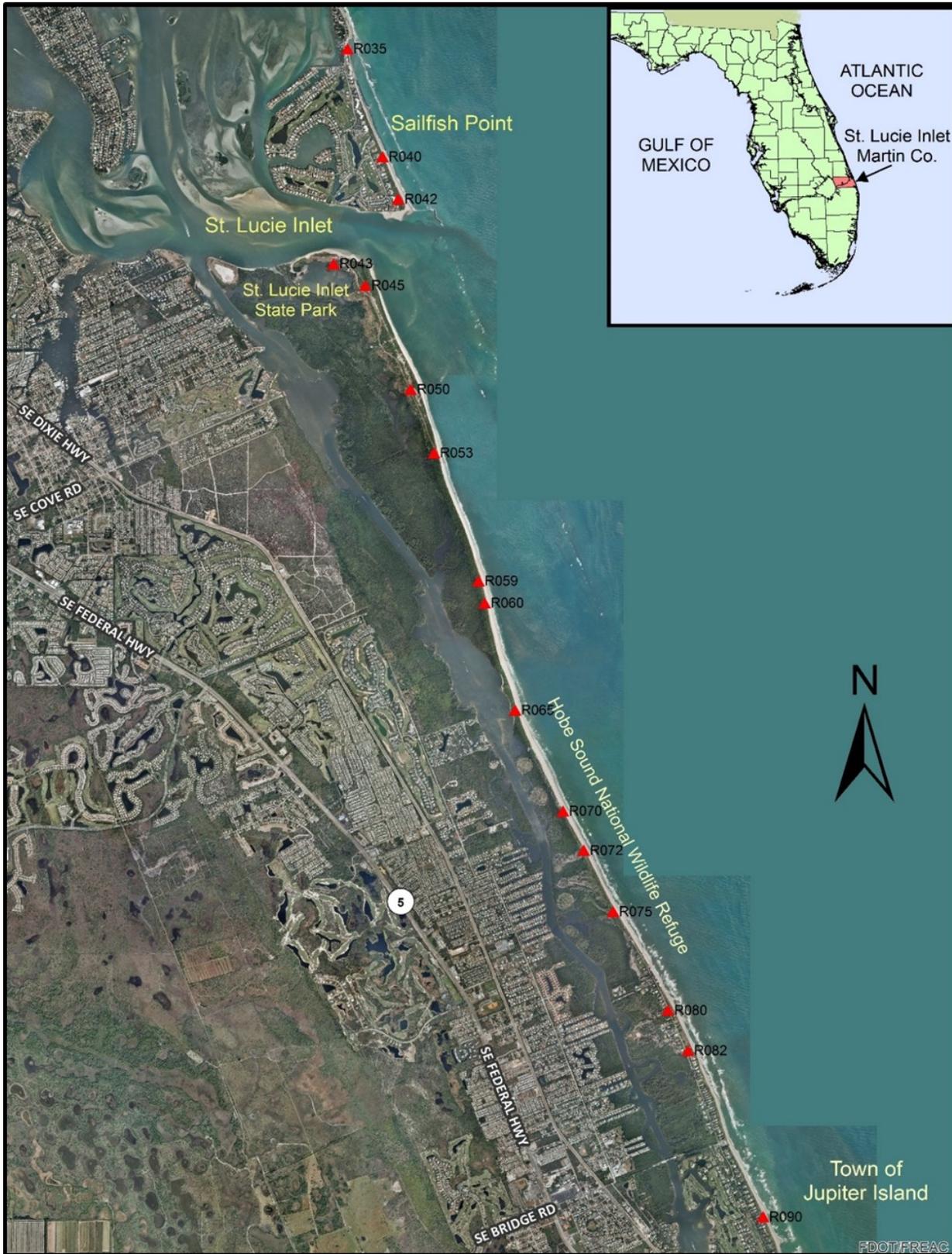


Figure 1. St. Lucie Inlet, Sailfish Point and northern Jupiter Island (2009 aerial photo from Florida Department of Transportation).

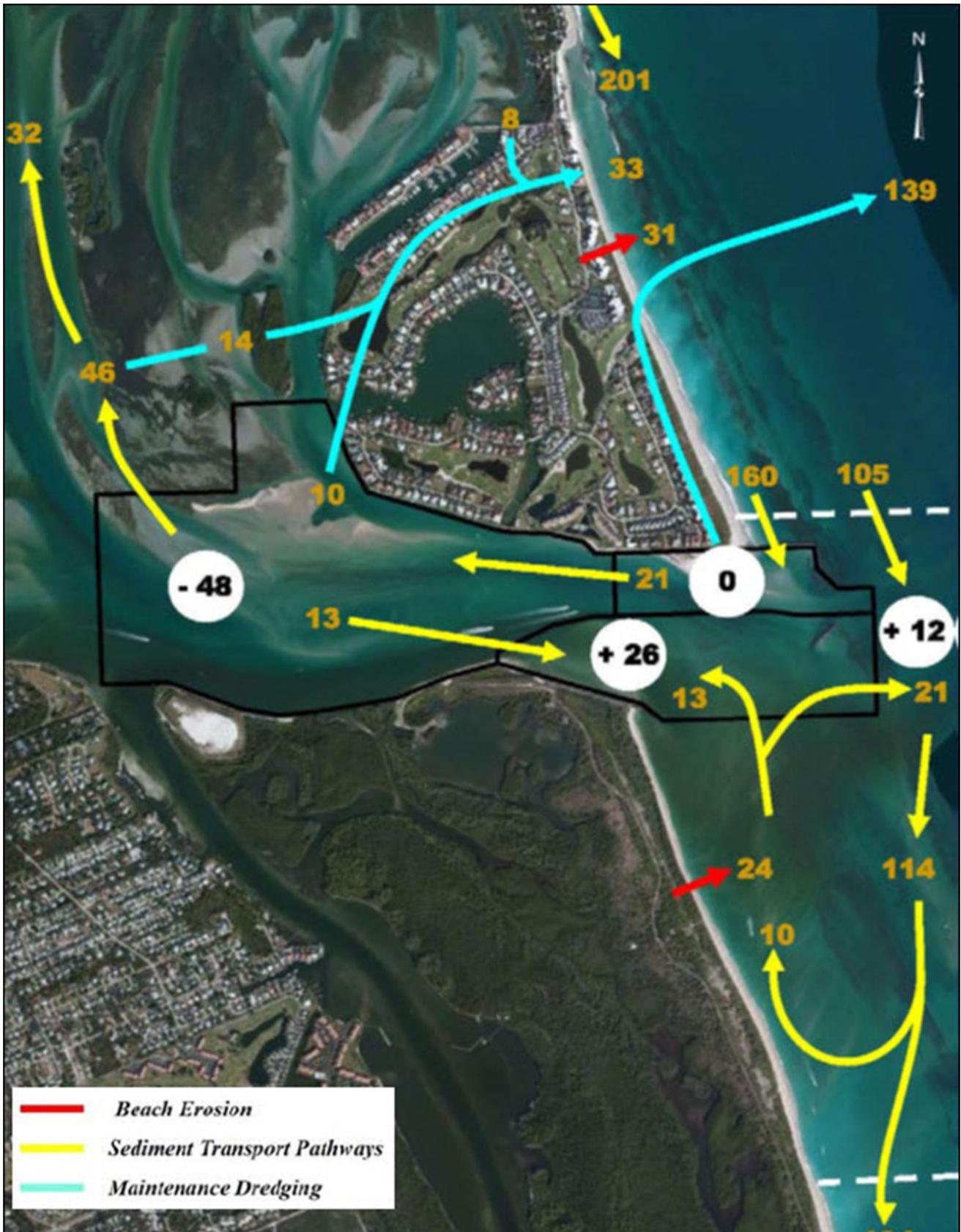


Figure 2. Updated 2014 sediment budget for St. Lucie Inlet (Ramsey et al, 2014)

These agreements were crucial during the process and the development of management strategies. Both Martin County and the Town of Jupiter Island are commended for working together to achieve common goals in managing St. Lucie Inlet.

The resulting sediment budget was developed through iterations of several budgets utilizing different methodologies and assumptions which were reviewed by the Department and various stakeholders throughout the process. The adopted sediment bypassing strategy sets forth target placement quantities based on the updated sediment budget found in Figure 2 (Ramsey 2014).

The new strategies in the 2016 inlet management plan will provide more efficient bypass objectives to replicate the natural flow of sand and implement best management practices that will benefit all of the adjacent beaches and local communities of St. Lucie Inlet.

The five strategies are to continue a comprehensive beach and inlet monitoring program so important planning decisions can be made regarding future sediment budgets, to monitor inlet dynamics for the purpose of making sure current strategies are effective and to update the plan in the future when necessary, based upon the monitoring data. Also, the inlet sand transfer will be both to the north and south of the inlet onto adjacent eroding beaches with target bypassing quantities being an average annual placement of 161,000 cubic yards to the south and 34,000 cubic yards to the north. The source of the bypass material will be the sediment impoundment basin located just south of the north jetty, the federal navigation channel, Sailfish Point marina channel and the inlet shoals. Nearshore placement of bypass material along the adjacent beaches from the inlet will not be allowed unless it is an emergency.

With the adoption of this new inlet management plan, all future inlet management activities are to be consistent with the five strategies located in the updated plan found at the following link:

[Updated St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan, January 2016](#)

References

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1995. *St. Lucie Inlet Management Study Implementation Plan*, August, 1995, 8 p.

Applied Technology and Management, Inc., 1995. *St. Lucie Inlet Management Plan*, 260 p.

Ramsey, J. et al, 2014. *2014 Updated St. Lucie Inlet Sediment Budget*, Applied Coastal Research and Engineering, Inc., 21 p.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Conferences**

September 14-16, 2016

2016 FSBPA Annual Conference

Naples Grande, Naples, Florida

February 8 - 10, 2017

2017 Tech Conference

Hutchinson Island Marriott, Stuart, Florida

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

Last Day of Legislative Session

March 11, 2016

October 25-28, 2016

ASBPA 2015 National Coastal Conference

Long Branch, NJ

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