



2019 PRE-SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**Excerpts from
BeachWatch Update provided
by Debbie Flack on 2/27/19**

After a November organizational session, new member training, and six weeks of committee meetings, finally the 2019 Legislative Session officially convenes on Tuesday, March 5. [click here to read more.](#)



CS²⁰₁₉ TAMPA/ST. PETE

Coastal Sediments 2019 (CS19)

is the 9th Conference in the Coastal Sediments Series. CS19 will be held in Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL, May 27-31 2019, with the theme of "Advancing Science & Engineering for Resilient Coastal Systems." The conference is anticipating nearly 300 oral and poster presentations and accompanying papers by researchers from 27 countries.



2019 Tech Conference

**Thank you Attendees,
Speakers, Sponsors,
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**Guess the Grain Size
Contest Winners -
by AVS**

In Case You Missed It! The Award for the Top Beaches in the U.S. Goes to ~ ~



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Jacksonville District

**Canaveral Harbor
Sand Bypass Project
Ongoing**

2019 PRE-SESSION LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Excerpts from BeachWatch Update provided by Debbie Flack on 2/27/19

After a November organizational session, new member training, and six weeks of committee meetings, finally the 2019 Legislative Session officially convenes on Tuesday, March 5. Despite the number of new members, all new committees, chairs and leadership, and a slow start hearing bills, we know more than usual, and there is increasing clarity in FSBPA's BeachWatch advocacy strategy going forward.



Our Beach Initiative: HB 325 and SB 446, Coastal Management

This is the same exact bill that has passed 8 House and Senate committees without a negative vote or comment, enjoyed the widespread support of our BeachWatch local governments and beach communities, other statewide associations, and supporting coastal interests, and received two unanimous Senate floor votes. The bill sponsors, Senator Debbie Mayfield (Brevard, Indian River) and Representative Chip LaMarca (Broward) are committed to keeping the bill limited to the current three sections of Chapter 161, the Beach and Shore Preservation Act, and limiting amendments. It is important to keep in mind this legislation is a balancing act of sorts taking a very simplistic and ill-defined grouping of ranking considerations from 1996 and attempting with guidance (from an OPPAGA Study based on interviews with local project sponsors and the Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research suggested economic benefits measure) to put into law for the first time legislative intent and priority in allocating limited state dollars to ensure the most "bang for the buck." The Association's involvement has been guided by our member's desire to find the middle ground. Accomplished by what I hope you agree is a measurable result – an increased and weighted number of ranking criteria, greater divergency and range of scores, enhanced emphasis on inlet sand management, and updating the long-term comprehensive beach management plan.

We are off to great start even before the Session convenes. Press coverage on HB 325 and SB 446 has been favorable, although some editorial disappointment that this substantive bill does not provide a Ch. 375, Land Acquisition Trust Fund (LATF), dedicated allocation of \$50M, but instead will separately address recurring trust funds through the annual appropriations process. HB 325 has

already been heard in its committee of reference. Last Thursday, it passed the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Subcommittee with a 10-0 vote. The Committee was most supportive of the legislation in its comments, and the Chair (Representative Clemons) expressed his appreciation for the level of support many of you provided at the meeting and for our Sponsor's commitment and expertise. It could not have gone better! Next stop is the Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee. An early start in the House is a major accomplishment.

We are expecting SB 446 by Senator Mayfield will be heard opening day in the Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee. A separate reminder/alert will be sent as soon as official. Again, we could not be in better hands and an early start is most welcomed.

The 2019/20 Appropriations Process

We started with a simple enough goal, to again secure \$50M for the statewide beach program for next fiscal year—the third time is a charm. Most importantly, is the protection of our existing recurring LATF appropriation of \$29.5 M in the base budget.



The first piece of the puzzle was the Governor's release of his Recommended Budget, specifically "A Bold Vision – For a Brighter Future – Protecting Environmental Resources." The second subject following rapid improvement of water quality, was "protection of our valuable and vulnerable coastlines." It began with Governor DeSantis' recommendation of "\$50 million in beach renourishment funding to continue to address Florida's critically eroded shorelines" and his commitment to work with stakeholders and the Legislature to address additional beach damages from Hurricane Michael. The recommendation for \$50M includes \$29.5M in recurring LATF and \$20.5M in non-recurring GR (rather than the current year allocation of the same amount in non-recurring LATF, for whatever that is worth). Additional funding was also provided for coastal resiliency grants to protect coral reefs and to support emergency sand placement to help fortify coastal areas ahead of storms.

The following Monday (2/4), DEP's Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) for FY 2019/20 was officially transmitted to the Legislature. The big picture is the beach project priority list includes 27 restoration and nourishment projects totaling \$68.6M ranging from \$12.66M for Charlotte County to \$25,650 for Palm Beach County-Ocean Ridge, also including \$1.4M for 21 separate post-construction monitoring projects. Inlet requests are for 9 projects totaling \$6.9 million. The total dollar request in DEP's LGFR for 19/20 is \$75.5M.

Our goal of securing \$50M again next fiscal year will leave a number of deserving beach projects without funding, but final allocations may be far worse. **There is no indication thus far from**

members or staff that beaches will again secure \$50M, and no chance with the scarcity of recurring LATF that the \$29.5M will be increased. The Governors' initiative for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources is consuming. Hurricane Michael \$2.7B initial cost estimates noted by Senator Bradley (Appropriations Committee Chair) must come into the equation. Amendment 1 litigation is unresolved, and the forecast is cloudy.

To come close to \$50M for the 19/20 statewide beach program (\$45M for beach nourishment/ \$5M for inlet management) will require some creative and cooperative manipulations. The Legislature may revisit reverting and reappropriating existing beach dollars, which was a frequent practice in the recent past. The easy targets are surplus funds, old dollars, and hopefully 18/19 appropriated state dollar shares that the last year's Congressional Hurricane Supplemental, especially unprecedented and predictable FCCE dollars, should be able to be reduced measurably. Cooperation and transparency need to prevail or don't be surprised if the capability to spend within the 18-month period especially for big-ticket projects is questioned, or the Legislature chooses to partially fund projects, or picks projects out of order that was the nightmarish reality just a few years ago.

The easy answer, without guarantee, is for each of us at the local government and individual level to work very hard to again get to \$50M even if it involves selectively releasing appropriated funds, but even more importantly to work the legislative process to remind lawmakers how very important beaches are to our economy in terms of tourism, storm damage reduction, and environmental protection. It's a simple message—maintain annual beach funding of \$50M-- and it needs to be delivered clearly at every opportunity beginning March 5.

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2019 Tech Conference

Thank you Attendees, Speakers, Sponsors, Exhibitors and Volunteers

What do 300 people in St. Augustine Beach have in common...The 32nd Annual Tech Conference.

The 2019 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology took place on February 6th through the 8th, and it was a big success. If you missed this conference you missed an extraordinary event; but, if you were one of more than 300 fortunate participants who attended, then you know just how amazing it was. (At least we hope you all agree!) More than once, it was said, "This is one of the best conferences that I've attended – definitely in the top three." It was certainly in the top three for the most well attended Tech Conferences with the highest attendee turnout in 25 years. Pulling together the pieces for a conference is never as predictable as one would like. There were a few nail biting deadlines– including the completion of a brand new beach fronting hotel, but in the end, this was one of the most exciting conferences FSBPA has had the pleasure of hosting.

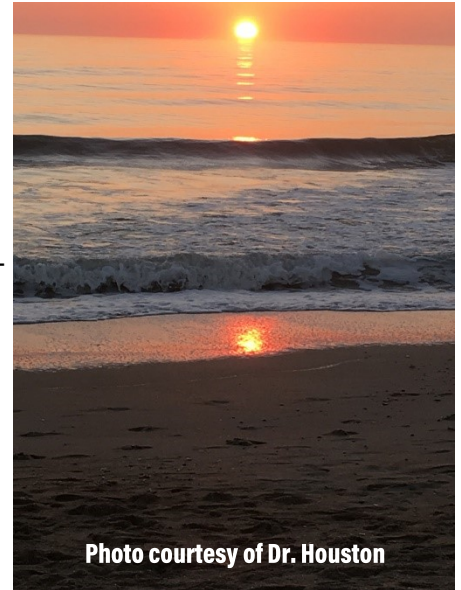


Photo courtesy of Dr. Houston

Contributing to the success of this conference included a suite of new and talented speakers and a program that attracted numerous 1st time conference attendees. The strikingly beautiful new hotel located in an iconic City was a bonus. Credit is also due to the Planning Committee led by Lisa Armbruster and their work to develop the program and recruit speakers to fill the sessions. What's more, the conference experience would not have been possible without the support of our [generous sponsors](#). Their financial help truly made event more enjoyable for attendees by providing food, beverages, and other amenities. One particularly memorable moment, courtesy of the Sebastian Inlet District's Commissioners and staff, ATM, ESA, and Gray Robinson, was the champagne toast for our colleague Marty Smithson. Marty, congratulations on an amazing career.

The turnout of students participating in the scholarship program is another fitting story to share. There were seven students from four universities who attended the conference and presented their research courtesy of a sponsorship granted by Michael Poff and CEC. The competition was strong, but in the end three students were awarded scholarships. The top award was given to Mr. Stan Borrell with the University of Delaware who added about his experience, "Attending the 2019 FSBPA Technology conference as a graduate student provided an excellent

opportunity to learn about current or recent coastal engineering projects that are happening in industry. The conference was also great for networking with industry professionals and I would highly encourage any students to attend in the future!" Thank you Mr. Borrell and to all the students who took time out of their busy school schedules to share more about your research. We look forward to tracking your promising careers.

If you are reading this and were not able to attend the conference, there is good news. The Tech Conference will return to the Embassy Suites St. Augustine Beach Oceanfront Resort in February 2021! We are still working on the date and location of the 2020 conference. Details about this conference will be sent soon.

Please enjoy photos from the conference, and be sure to visit our Publications page on our website later this month for a copy of the presentations.



A fun night with friends!



Welcome by St. Johns County Commissioner Henry Dean



Loafers



Bob Brantly, FDEP



Kevin Bodge, Olsen Associates



Marty Smithson, Sebastian Inlet District



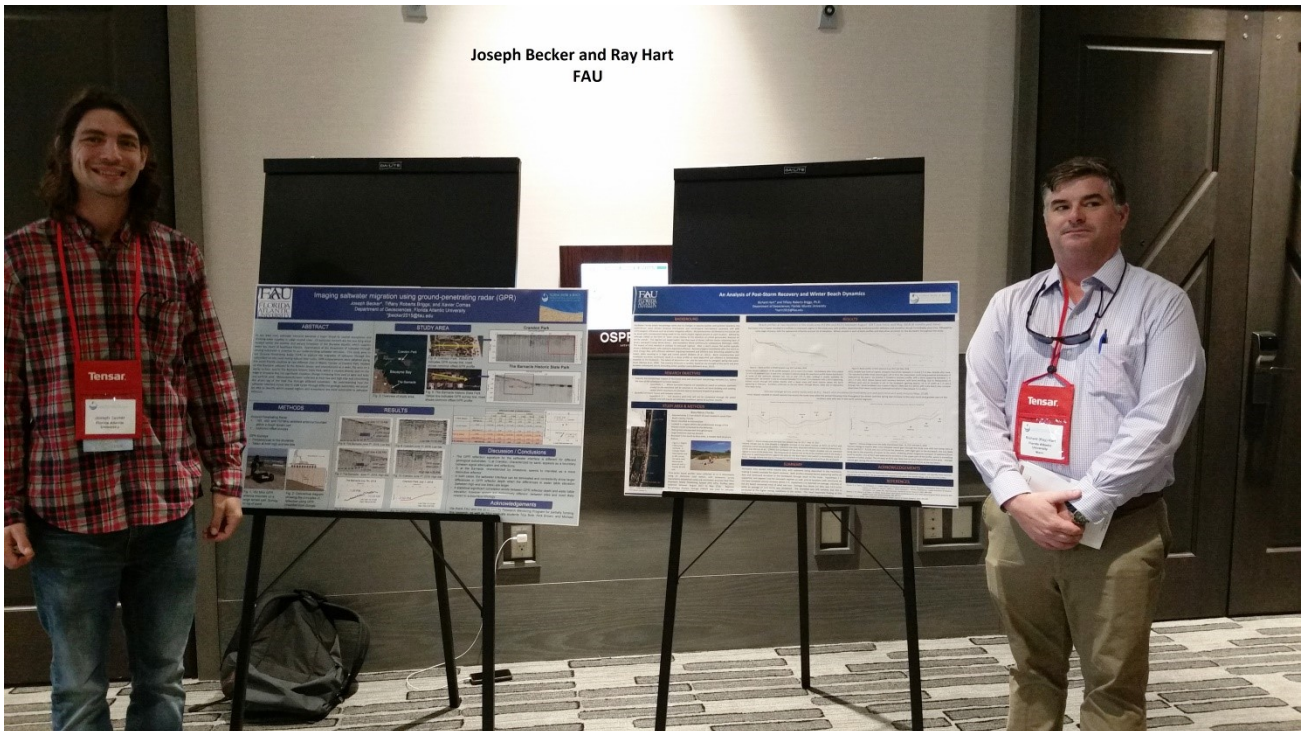


Danielle's Birthday Dinner



Tony McNeal, FDEP

Student Pictures



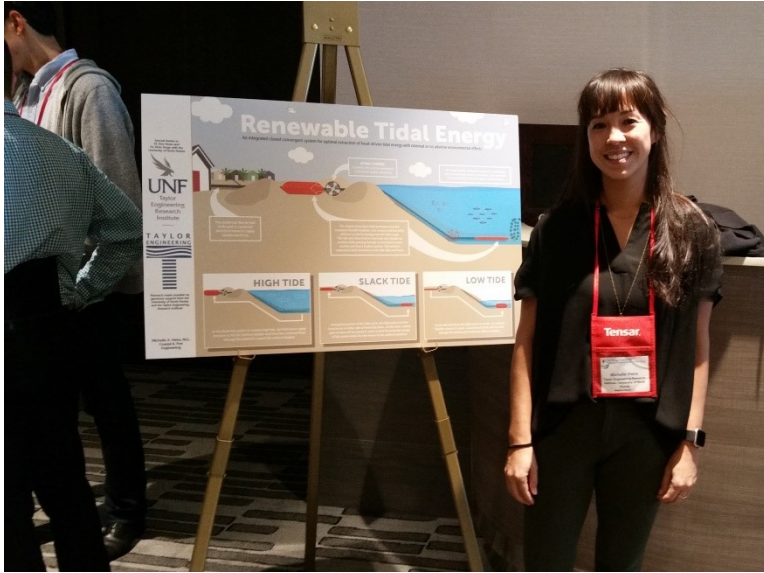
**Joseph Becker and Ray Hart
FAU**



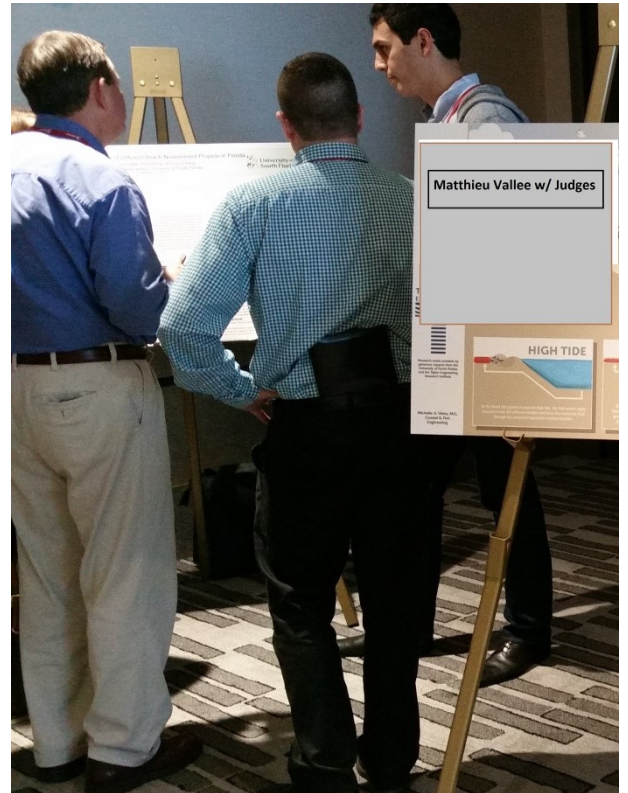
Jyothirmayi Palaparathi, FAU, and Stan Borrell, Univ. of Delaware



Judges: Lisa Armbruster, Michael Poff and James Gray. Also shown in a supporting role, Will Reilly (2nd from right)



Michelle Vieira, University of North Florida



Mathieu Vallee with Judges



Stan Borrell and Ben Gross, University of Delaware, and Jyothirmayi Palaparathi, FAU, with Michael Poff, CEC

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Guess the Grain Size Contest Winners - by AVS

For our Guess the Grain Size contest, a sample from St. Augustine Beach was used with an average mean size of .277 mm.

Congratulations, here are the rankings!

1st Place: .276 mm - Tara Brenner, APTIM

2nd Place Tie: .275 mm - Al Browder, Olsen Associates

2nd Place Tie: .275 mm - Amy Parker, Weeks Marine

3rd Place: .280 mm - Penny Cutt, Edgewater Resources

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In Case You Missed It! The Award for the Top Beaches in the U.S. Goes to ~~

The [Trip Advisor's Top 25 Beaches in the U.S.](#) were released last month and Florida beaches were recognized in seven of the top 10 rankings, with [Clearwater Beach](#) receiving the top ranking. Site of our 2018 Annual Conference, FSBPA members know firsthand what an outstanding beach this is. With such spectacular beaches on display, it is no surprise that Florida continues to break records for tourism. Visit Florida announced Wednesday that the state had 126.1 million visitors in 2018, up 6% from the record set in 2017! #LoveFL

For more information: <https://bit.ly/1plxJ1H>



2019 Traveler's Choice Top 10 Beaches - U.S.

1. Clearwater Beach (FL)
2. Ka'anapali Beach (HI)
3. Panama City Beach (FL)
4. St. Pete Beach (FL)
5. Pensacola Beach (FL)
6. Siesta Beach (FL)
7. Hapuna Beach State Rec. Area (HI)
8. St. Augustine Beach (FL)
9. Fort Lauderdale Beach (FL)
10. Driftwood Beach (GA)

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USACE Jacksonville District



US Army Corps of Engineers®

Canaveral Harbor Sand Bypass Project Ongoing

By Gabriel Todaro, Intern, EN-WC, USACE Jacksonville District

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District awarded a construction contract on September 26, 2018 for the Canaveral Harbor Sand Bypass Project in Brevard County, Florida. The Borrow Area for the project stretches approximately 1.5 miles north of the inlet (Figure 1). The first mile north of the inlet is incorporated in the Base of the project while the last 0.5 mile is broken up into Option A (approximately 1,500 ft) and Option B (approximately 1,000 ft). The disposal area for the project is also broken up into options. The Base disposal area ranges from Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Range Monuments R-1-T (at the south jetty) to R-4A and R-8A to R-20. If Option A is exercised then that material will be placed from R-6T to R-8A and if Option B is exercised it will be from R-4A to R-6T.

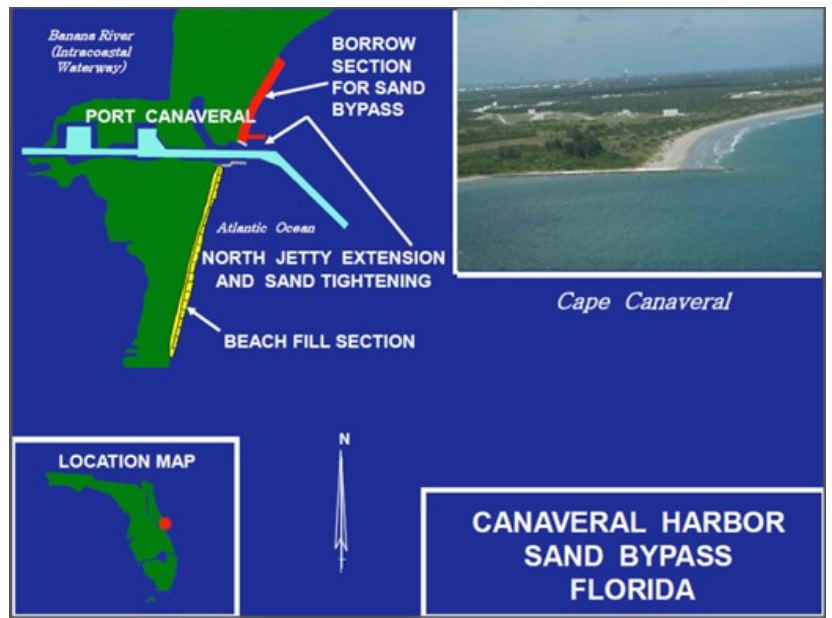


Figure 1: Canaveral Sand Bypass Project Area

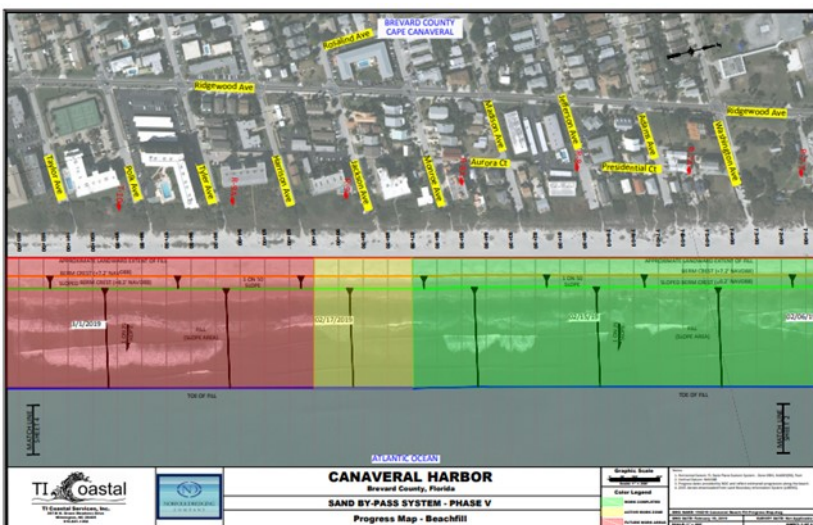


Figure 2: Progress Map pt 1

The Corps awarded the contract to Norfolk Dredging Company of Chesapeake, VA for \$18 million. The dredging will involve removing approximately 1.34 million cubic yards of material from north of the inlet and placing it south of the inlet. Construction for the project began in early December with the excavation of a trench across the Port Canaveral entrance channel for a temporary pipeline. The 24-inch wide pipeline was placed below the authorized

depth of the channel and will not impact regular port activities. Material will be pumped through the pipe from north to south. This process is expected to take about 5 months.

This is the fifth instance of the Canaveral Sand Bypassing project. The initial sand-bypass was completed in May 1995 and the subsequent bypasses were awarded in January 1998, February 2007, December 2009, and the current project awarded in September 2018.

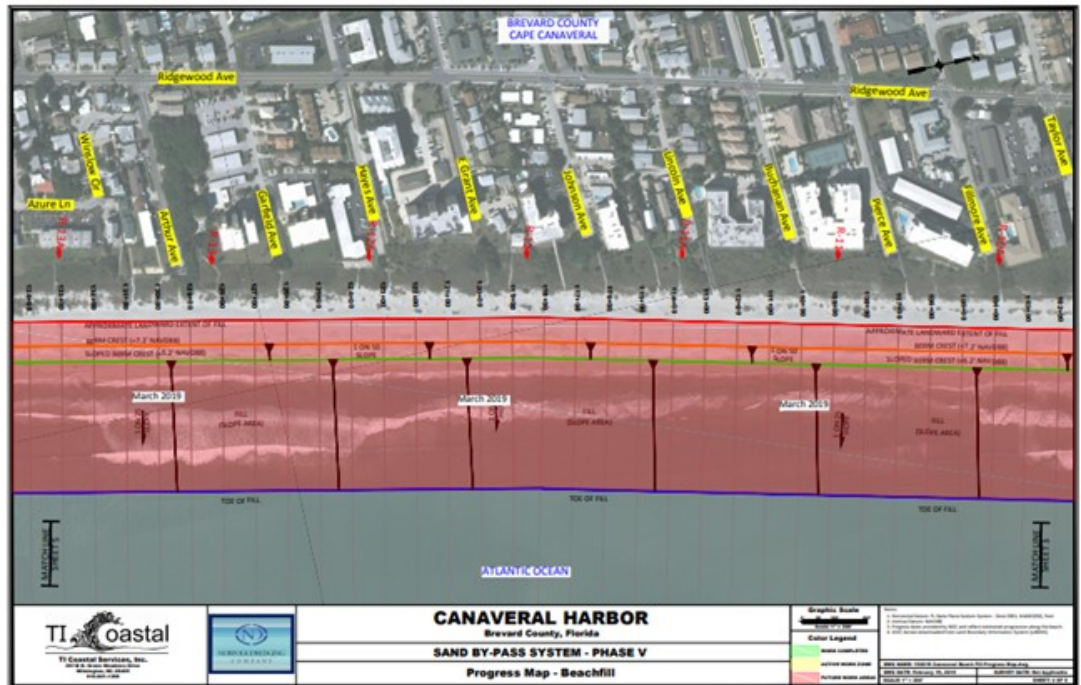


Figure 3: Progress Map pt 2

Project maps in Figure 2 and Figure 3 show the current and project progress from the construction site. For more up to date updates for the Canaveral Harbor Sand Bypass Project please visit the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/JacksonvilleDistrict/>

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Conferences**

September 18-20, 2019

62nd Annual Conference

**Hutchinson Shores Resort & Spa
 Hutchinson Island, Florida**

Other Dates of Interest

March 5-May 3, 2019

2019 Legislative Session

March 12-14, 2019

**ASBPA Coastal Summit
 Washington, DC**

May 27-31, 2019

**Coastal Sediments 2019
 Tampa/St. Pete, Florida**



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