



About Shoreline

news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

March 2023

2023 Pre-Session Overview

by Pepper Uchino, President

The last committee week of the pre-2023 Session wound down last week, but it seems like we have leapfrogged from one Special Session to the next. Redistricting led us off in April, then insurance twice, in May and December, and capping off the tumultuous “down time” in February was storm recovery and Disney. The Legislature has been busy as we head straight into the 2023 Regular Session starting March 7th. It may seem obvious, but there could be a bit of fatigue this year. Indeed, the hearing of bills during committee weeks was minimal during the six weeks, so expect a torrid pace to start the Session. Our strategy this year revolves around securing \$50 million recurring for the statewide beach management program, supplemental funding for storm-damage recovery, and tracking substantive legislation for impacts to our coasts. The Regular Session convenes on March 7 and ends May 5.

The 2023/24 Appropriations Process

FSBPA’s agenda for the 2023 Legislative Session was easy to craft this year but implementation may be challenging as the state deals with the economic and policy implications of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, as well as the potential hangover from several years of record funding. In fact, the Legislature has provided nearly \$400M for Florida’s beaches over the last three Sessions and the Special Session. But, as we all know, there is much work to be done. Fortunately for the statewide beach program, documentary stamp tax revenues, the program’s source, are still growing despite coming under projections by \$27 million in the most recent month for which there are data. The long-range financial outlook is very positive, with significant general revenue surpluses projected for FY 2023-24. Given this information, our mutual objective and initial starting point is to maintain \$50M for the program in the base budget and advocate for \$106M in supplemental funding for storm-damage recovery from non-recurring sources, most likely general revenue. This is the same number in the governor’s budget and fully



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funds the traditional program and FDEP's hurricane recovery plan. The \$100M allocated during the Special Session was only a down payment on that plan. Even though the funding is in the governor's budget and the state's revenue picture is healthy, we will continue to push for full funding of the governor's budget until sine die.

Governor's Budget

The governor released his budget on February 1 for FY 2023-24. The \$114.8B budget has several bright spots related to beaches and coasts. As mentioned above, it includes recurring and supplemental funding for beaches. In addition, it continues the funding stream for overall environmental spending at \$6.8B. For resilience, the governor allocates \$406M, with \$350M going to projects and the remainder for planning and coral reef health. Furthermore, the governor's budget continues historic funding for Florida's water resources and the Everglades, which includes funding directly linked to near-shore water quality projects such as \$65M for combating harmful algal blooms. Lastly, the budget allots \$15.7B to reserves, or nearly 14% of the budget. Overall, the governor's proposed budget is very favorable for beaches.

Substantive Legislation

Once again, FSBPA will use its Tracking Matrix to identify and monitor all substantive bills that affect coastal resources. We have already seen the Senate's distillation of the Select Committee on Resiliency' recommendations (SB 250), and we expect to see the House release a similar bill based on its select committee work. We are also closely monitoring all bills for any language that addresses siting, construction, or funding of coastal armoring. Additionally, we always track any bills seeking direct statutory allocations of limited recurring LATF dollars. And, of course, we track any filed legislation opening Chapter 161, F.S.—amendments to other bills that open Chapter 161 to unfriendly change—and legislation or amendments that substantially impact Chapter 120, F.S., pertaining to agency rulemaking.



We look forward to again serving the needs of Florida's beaches during the 2023 Session.

Great news was announced this week for Florida's beaches when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers delivered its 2023 Work Plan (Plan) for the Army Civil Works program to Congress. A few highlights are provided here with more information coming soon. The Plan funds new investigations in Florida, including Charlotte County's, and through the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA), the Plan funds Construction of the Okaloosa Hurricane Storm Damage Reduction project. The Plan also provides more than \$325 million in Flood Control & Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) funding for hurricane impacted projects in 10 Florida counties, including funds from DRSAA to address extensive beach and dune erosion in Fort Myers.

This funding is critical for the beneficiaries to repair hurricane damaged federally authorized beach projects, and there is no better time than the present to express our sincere appreciation to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, especially the Jacksonville District, for this level of investment in Florida's coastal storm risk management program. Thank you for your hard work to fully address sand storm losses on Florida's beaches. Additional details are available at <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget/>.



National Conference
on Beach Preservation
Technology

2023 Tech Conference

A special thanks to everyone who attended the 2023 National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology – FSBPA’s first conference in a year and first in-person only conference since 2020. The 36th Tech Conference was a great event, but should anyone be surprised given the exceptional effort and expertise of the Planning Committee who organized the agenda, and the 60+ outstanding presenters who shared their important work with us. The positive energy was exciting and contagious, likely because of how long it’s been since this group of coastal enthusiasts has had an opportunity to network, discuss projects, and simply converse among colleagues and friends. The beautiful downtown Fort Myers location surely added to the vibrant demeanor in the conference halls. Simply put, it was a job well done by all involved. Thank you to the many hands who helped to make this conference a success, and the sponsors and exhibitors for their generous financial support.

The conference was also bittersweet for many. On opening day, experts shared with attendees their observations, assessments, and lessons learned from the 2022 hurricane season. We were reminded of the devastation and hardships many Floridians and communities endured from Hurricane Ian and its unprecedented storm surge – including reports of inundation 12 to 18 feet above sea level. As Dr. Wang reflected, that despite catastrophic damages, the natural coast appeared to survive the extreme storm surge by going under, and he asked in regard to the developed environment if we can build back to be more resistant, even if that means rebuilding to withstand being under water. The magnitude of impacts from recent storms is extraordinary, but we can be encouraged by the momentum growing around new resilience programs in place to help Florida communities prepare and adapt for future changes to our built and natural environments. FSBPA and Resiliency Florida will continue these important conversations at our next conference in September. Stay tuned for more information. Until then, please take some time to review the Tech Conference [presentations saved to our website](#). They’re great resources – both for information and inspiration.



Chairman Brian Hamman, Lee County Board of County Commissioners, Welcomes us to Fort Myers.

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Ralph Clark, PE, and Ping Wang, PhD, discuss Hurricane Ian impacts to Florida on opening day.



Acquaintances catching up in the exhibit hall and around downtown Fort Myers under a gorgeous sunset.



2023 Student Scholarship Program – Participants and Posters

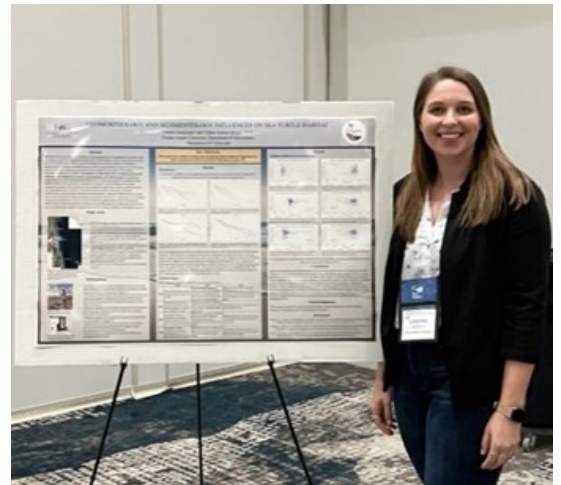
This year, eight students studying in either an engineering or scientific field related to beach and coastal systems were selected to participate in the Student Scholarship Program. This program is an important opportunity for the students to network with potential future employers as well as to participate in the sessions and learn from experts in their field of work. It is an equally important program for FSBPA members to meet our future coastal champions. A special thanks to Michael Poff and Coastal Engineering Consultants for sponsoring this conference highlight!

Now, it is a pleasure to introduce the participating students. They are listed in alphabetical order by school.

Leanne Hauptman, Florida Atlantic University, PhD in Geosciences; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Poster Title: Geomorphology and Sedimentology Influences on Sea Turtle Habitat

Short and long-term goals: Leanne is a PhD student in the Coastal Studies Laboratory with Dr. Tiffany Roberts Briggs at Florida Atlantic University examining coastal geology and geomorphology. Her studies investigate the dynamics of beach sediment and morphology response relating to beach nourishment, storm impact, and marine ecosystems. The intention of her research is to aid in future coastal management and coastal resiliency efforts. Leanne holds a master's degree in Marine Ecosystems from University of Miami and is serving on the board of directors for the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association Students and New Professionals chapter.



W. Mathew McCormick, Florida Atlantic University, Master of Science in Geosciences; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Poster Title: Characterizing the Sedimentological Signature of Hurricane Ian in Fort Myers Beach, FL;

1st Place Winner - Congratulations

Short and long-term goals: Once finished with an M.S. in Geosciences at Florida Atlantic University, Mathew aspires to continue his graduate studies and complete a PhD where he can continue to conduct research on storms and their influence on coastal environments.



Kayla O'Brien, Florida Atlantic University, Master of Science in Environmental Science; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Poster Title: Microplastics in Mangrove and Beach Sediments on Southeast Florida Barrier Islands

2nd Place Winner - Congratulations

Short and long-term goals: Kayla received her B.S. degree from Palm Beach Atlantic University, where she majored in Biology concentrated in Botany, Field Biology, and Environmental Science. She is currently working on receiving her M.S. degree in Environmental Science from Florida Atlantic University. She is planning to graduate in fall 2023. Kayla is particularly passionate about microplastics, sustainability, restoration, resources management, and coastal ecology. She believes receiving a master's degree will provide her with skills and knowledge that will support her moving forward into a career in environmental resources management. In the future, she hopes to continue researching microplastics and contribute to the conservation and enhancement of Florida's natural systems.



Jyothirmayi Palaparthi, Florida Atlantic University, PhD in Geosciences; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Poster Title: Influences on National Beach Nourishment Trends

Short and long-term goals: Jyothirmayi is seeking employment as a Coastal Geologist with focus in GIS and data analysis. Best of luck to you!



Raquel Valdes, Florida Atlantic University, Master of Science in Marine Science & Oceanography; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Poster Title: Examining Sediment Properties of Various Borrow Sources and the Potential Influences on Sea Turtle Nesting and Hatching Success

Short and long-term goals: Raquel is working to successfully defend her master's thesis this semester, before she hopes to begin working with coastal managers to protect Florida's coastal communities. When asked about her recent work, Rachel said, "Working with both Palm Beach County and their sea turtle program has made me aware of the many intricacies of coastal management, and I am excited to use my experiences to aid in protecting Florida's coast for this generation and many more to come." Good luck, Raquel!



Summer Manestar (not shown here), Florida Atlantic University, Master of Science in Marine Science & Oceanography; Advisor – Tiffany Roberts Briggs, PhD

Title of poster: Using Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Surveys and Traditional Methods to Examine Influences on Loggerhead Sea Turtle Nest Site Selection

Sophia Gutierrez, University of South Florida, Master of Science in Geology with a focus in Coastal Geology. Advisor – Ping Wang, PhD

Poster Title: Assessing the performance of three consecutive cycles of beach nourishment on two west-central Florida barrier islands

Short and long-term goals: Sophia is working to earn her M.S. in Geology and her first priority is to finish her thesis focused on evaluating beach nourishment as a long-term resiliency strategy. As for her future goals, she would like to work in a position that is focused on mitigating coastal issues and is centered around coastal communities and their resiliency.



Elizabeth Royer, University of South Florida, School of Geosciences, PhD in Geology with a focus in Coastal Geology. Advisor – Ping Wang, PhD

Title of poster: Coastal and Beach Processes at Kingston Harbor and Port Royal, Jamaica

3rd Place Winner - Congratulations

Short and long-term goals: Elizabeth's short-term goal is to complete her dissertation work which is focused on modeling using CMS for coastal resiliency and living shoreline projects in the Tampa Bay area. Her longer-term goals are extremely broad, but she would like to help improve the coastal resiliency of the Tampa Bay area and other communities using modeling whether that be through consulting or through government work. The emphasis on community is what drew Elizabeth to coastal geology initially, and she would love to continue that in her career.



Thank you Lisa Armbruster, James Gray, & Michael Poff for judging these extraordinary young professionals.



W. Mathew
McCormick

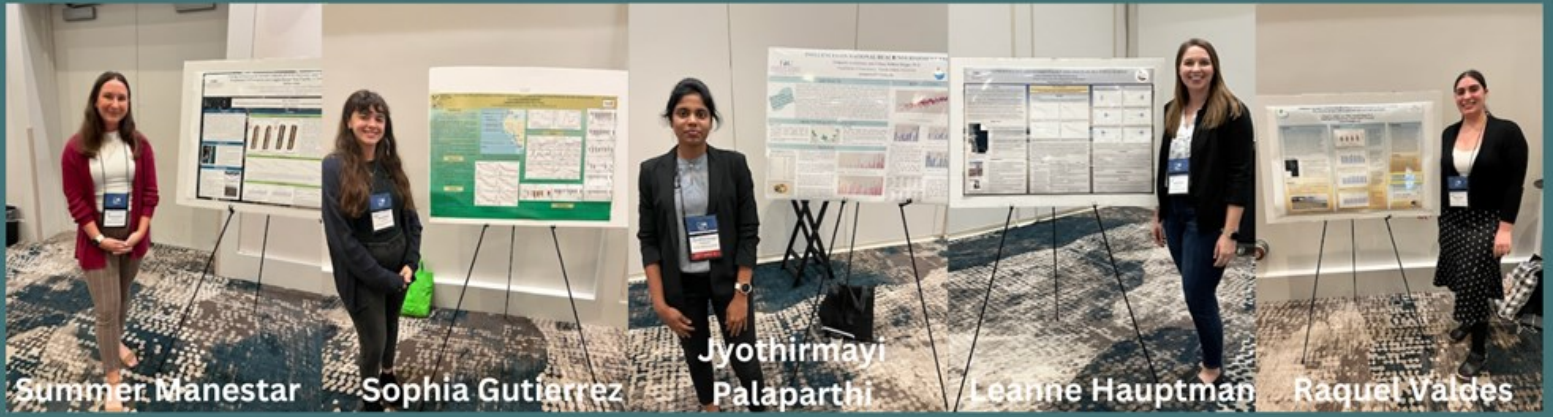


Kayla O'Brien



Elizabeth Royer

with Michael
and James



Summer Manestar

Sophia Gutierrez

Jyothirmayi
Palaparthi

Leanne Hauptman

Raquel Valdes

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CHARACTERIZING THE SEDIMENTOLOGICAL SIGNATURES OF HURRICANE IAN IN FORT MYERS BEACH, FL

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Introduction

On September 28th, 2022, the large Category 4 Hurricane Ian made landfall in the Charlotte Harbor area in southwest Florida with sustained winds of up to 150 mph (67 m/s) and storm surges measuring up to 4 meters (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2022). The elevated energy associated with Hurricane Ian caused extensive coastal erosion and catastrophic damage along the densely populated coast of southwest Florida (Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 2022). With most barrier islands near Estero Bay reaching the inundation and overwash regimes on the Sallenger Impact Scale, extensive barrier island overwash occurred resulting in the deposition of sediment within back barrier and estuarine environments (Sallenger, 2000).

Numerous studies have documented the sedimentological characteristics of storm-induced deposits resulting from past hurricanes within Florida (e.g., Sedgwick and Davis, 2003; Wang and Horwitz, 2008; Wang et al., 2020). The recent landfall of Hurricane Ian presents a unique opportunity to build upon this work by determining the characteristics of undisturbed storm deposits associated with a large storm event. This study aims to characterize the sedimentological signature of storm deposits resulting from Hurricane Ian along developed and undeveloped barrier islands within Southwest Florida (Fig. 1).

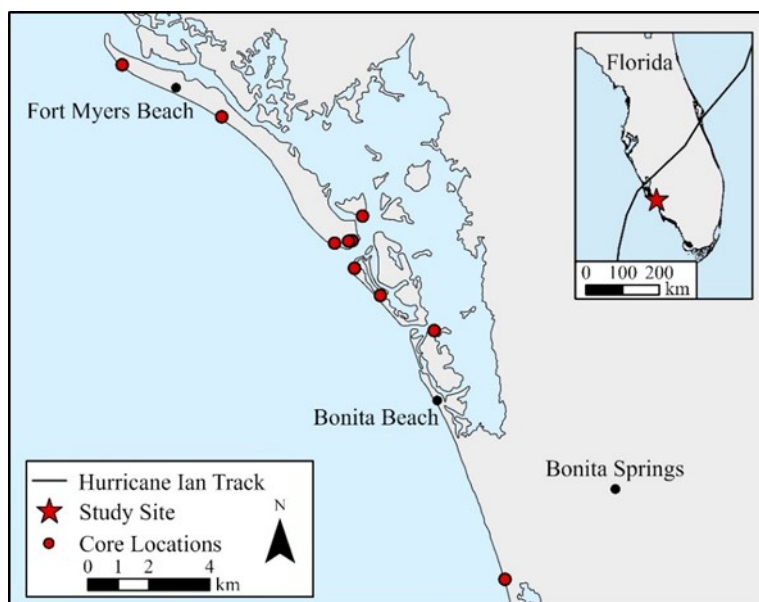


Figure 1. Map showing coring locations for this study. Cores were taken from developed and undeveloped barrier islands impacted by Hurricane Ian within Southwest Florida.

Objectives

In order to characterize the sedimentological signature of Hurricane Ian, there are two objectives for this study:

Objective 1: Determine the physical characteristics (grain size, composition, sedimentary structures, sorting, and organic material) of the storm-deposited sediment resulting from Hurricane Ian within multiple coastal environments.

Objective 2: Determine the cross-shore and alongshore spatial extent of the overwash deposits created by Hurricane Ian.

Methods

A total of 32 sediment cores were collected along shore-perpendicular transects from 10 locations between Fort Myers Beach and Bonita Springs (Fig. 1). Coring locations include beaches, back-barrier shorelines, estuarine mangrove islands, and tidal inlet margins to characterize overwash deposits and other sedimentological signatures within multiple different environments. Once collected, the cores were split, photographed and logged describing grain size, sorting, composition, sedimentary structures, and organic material present (Fig. 2a-c).

To determine the cross-shore extent of storm-induced overwash deposits along back-barrier environments, individual cores were correlated within shore perpendicular transects. These cores were supplemented with trenches and field observations to determine the maximum cross-shore penetration distance of overwash deposits. To determine the alongshore extent of overwash deposits, pre- and post-storm LiDAR datasets provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers were compared to identify locations of net accretion and erosion along both developed and undeveloped shorelines within the study area.

Preliminary Results

Initial analyses reveal extensive storm deposits within the beach, back-barrier and estuarine mangrove island environments caused by Hurricane Ian. Sediment cores taken from the beach reveal alternating laminations of fine sand and shell fragments with incidences of heavy mineral laminations, reverse graded bedding and buried organic material (Fig. 2a). Sediment cores taken from the back-barrier reveal thick laminated deposits of reversely graded fine sand and shell fragments overlying non-decayed organic materials and algal mats (Fig. 2b). Cores taken from estuarine mangrove islands indicate alternating laminations of fine sand and mud overlying well-developed soil horizons extending up to 30 meters within the dense mangroves (Fig. 2c).

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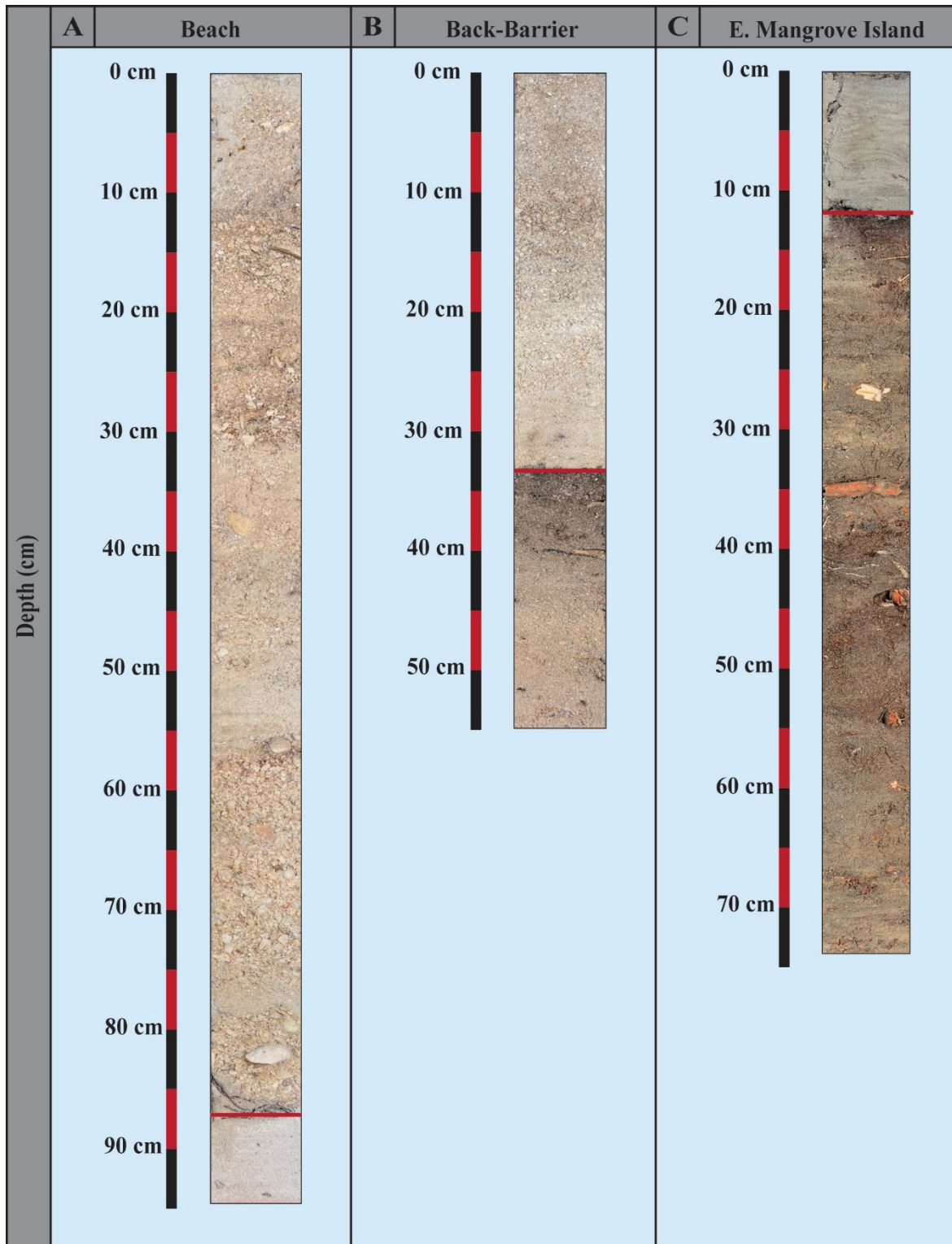


Figure 2. Images of documented cores taken from the beach (A), back-barrier (B) and estuarine mangrove island (C) environments. Horizontal red lines indicate the original land surface and base of the storm-induced overwash deposit resulting from Hurricane Ian.

Cross-shore extents of overwash deposits within back-barrier environments were influenced primarily by the density of vegetation along the barrier islands. In areas with thick stands of dense mangroves, overwash deposits did not extend into the estuarine environment, lending evidence for the role of vegetation in trapping sediment as it is transported in the landward direction. Overwash deposits are laterally discontinuous in the alongshore direction with deposits being incised by erosional surfaces resulting from both the landward storm surge and seaward ebb surge (Fig. 3). Surge incision appears to coincide with locations between pre-existing natural and anthropogenic structures such as dune vegetation or concrete foundations where water was channelized during the landfall and retreat of Hurricane Ian. The ebb surge channels correlate with extensive accretion in the nearshore likely resulting from the deposition of entrained sediment within the ebb surge (Fig. 3).

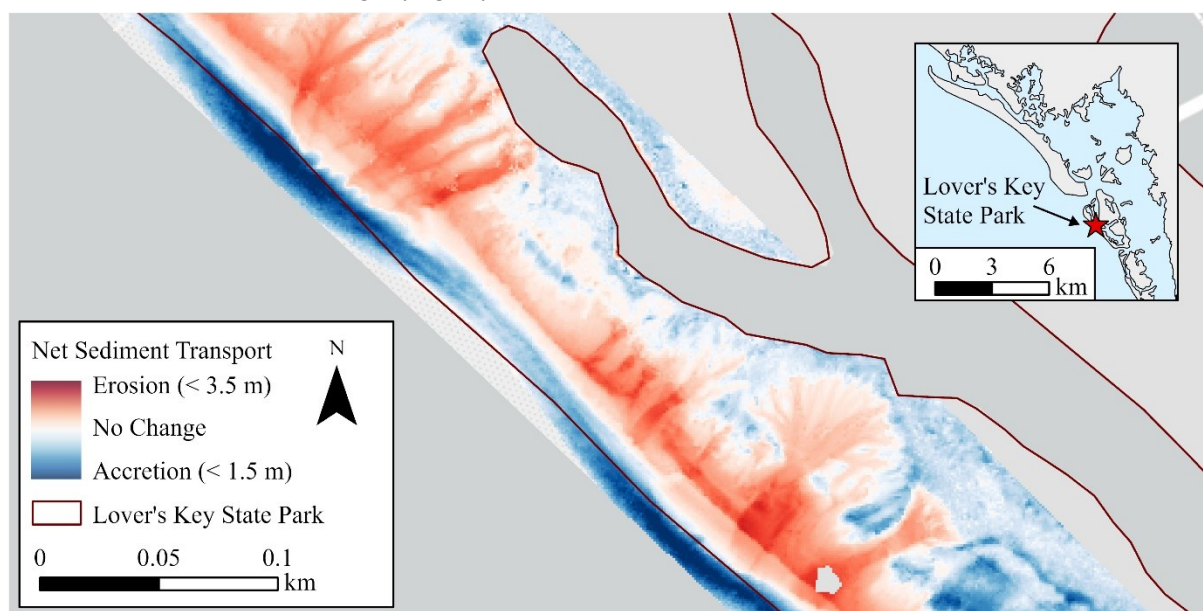


Figure 3. Map showing the locations of erosion and accretion resulting from Hurricane Ian along Lover's Key State Park. Volumetric differences were determined by comparing pre- and post-storm digital elevation models. Overwash deposits are laterally discontinuous in the alongshore direction due to channelization of storm surge and ebb surge. Extensive deposition occurred within the nearshore seaward of the ebb surge channels due to wave energy decreasing as the storm surge receded.

Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the Nearshore Extreme Events Reconnaissance (NEER) organization for partial funding of this project. We would also like to thank Kendal Jackson, Elizabeth Royer, Sophia Gutierrez, James Gammack-Clark, and Ryan Sloan for their assistance with fieldwork and data collection.

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FDEP Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection Updates - March 2023



Hurricane Response and Recovery

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is prioritizing permit reviews for all vulnerable coastal structures. All emergency orders and permitting guidance are posted on the Beaches "Hurricanes and Tropical Storms" webpage. The hurricane damage assessment reports and Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System (Plan or Recovery Plan) are posted to DEP's [Coastal Engineering publication page](#).

The department sent emails to local sponsors and agents on Feb. 8 requesting any updated information beyond what was initially submitted to the department in support of producing the Hurricanes Ian and Nicole Recovery Plan for Florida's Beach and Dune System. The department requested this information to support refining the plan in preparation for the 2023 Florida Legislative Session, which begins March 7. The updated information was requested by Feb. 22. The department is completing its review of the supplemental information and anticipates finalizing the recovery plan very soon. The plan will be posted to the [Coastal Engineering publication page](#).

Interim updates will also be made to the Critical Erosion report as a result of assessments following the hurricanes last year.

Emergency Coastal Construction Control Line permitting demand remains high. DEP continues to coordinate with impacted areas and offers outreach and local assistance as needed.

To help with short-term recovery efforts, DEP has provided \$20 million for emergency sand placement to help Collier, Lee, Volusia, and Flagler counties immediately address erosion concerns while other assessments are ongoing to help inform long-term opportunities for assistance.

Governor Ron DeSantis also awarded \$100 million to support beach nourishment projects within 16 coastal counties impacted by Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole. This funding was allocated during the legislative special session in December 2022 and was divided among the entities that had requested non-federal funding through the Recovery Plan at approximately 48% of estimated costs. These grant agreements are being drafted and will be distributed soon. Contact your grant manager for additional updates.

Additionally, Governor Ron DeSantis' FY 2023-24 [Framework for Freedom Budget](#) recommends \$106 million for beach recovery efforts, which fulfills the funding requested through the Recovery Plan. These recovery funds are in addition to the \$50 million recurring funds through the Local Government Funding Request program, which is in final review and includes 21 beach projects, 9 inlet projects, and all monitoring requests.



*St. Augustine Shore Protection Project at early stages of construction near R141 in February 2018
photo by W.G. Weeks.*

To help Floridians offset costs associated with addressing coastal beach erosion from Hurricane Ian or Hurricane Nicole, the Legislature also directed the department to create the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program. The \$50 million program allows for grants of up to \$150,000 to be issued for each eligible applicant for eligible projects on eligible properties and requires an equal match of the costs.

The department adopted an emergency rule, developed guidance, and created an online portal application process. The application period is currently open and ends July 1, 2023. Further information is available on the [DEP website](#).

Staff Updates

Beaches, Inlets and Ports

Rachael Thomas, Ph.D., and Maria Gudnitz, Ph.D., have joined the resources review team. Vladimir Kosmynin has retired. Blakely Logsdon and David CareyKearney have joined the compliance section.

Coastal Engineering and Geology

Shamim Murshid, Ph.D., has been promoted to environmental manager and will oversee the surveyors as well as assist in other engineering reviews. Bob Brantly will retire at the end of July.

Strategic Beach Management Plan 2023 Update

The department released the draft Strategic Beach Management Plan (SBMP) update in January to be reviewed by local governments, coastal engineering consultants and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A meeting with project sponsors is scheduled for Wednesday, March 8, at 9 a.m. If you wish to have the invitation sent to you, please contact Guy Weeks at William.Weeks@FloridaDEP.gov. The [draft 2023 SBMP](#) is available online.

This updated plan provides an extensive inventory of all beach erosion control activities around the state and updated strategies to address critically eroded beaches. The tentative goal is to have the final plan on the department's webpage in March 2023.

The DRAFT 2023 SBMP includes several updated strategies (a total of 39) from the 2020 edition, which are summarized below:

- Northeast Atlantic Region: 15 revisions to update the strategies.
- Central Atlantic Region: 3 revisions to update the strategies.
- Southeast Atlantic Region: 5 revisions to update the strategies.
- Florida Keys Region: 1 revision to update a strategy.
- Southwest Gulf Coast Region: 10 revisions to update the strategies.
- Big Bend Gulf Coast Region: 2 revisions to update the strategies.
- Panhandle Gulf Coast Region: 3 revisions to update the strategies.

There have been five new or updated inlet management plans since 2020 and are revised within the SBMP as well:

- Ponce de Leon Inlet.
- Bakers Haulover Inlet.
- Fort Pierce Inlet.
- Redfish Pass.
- South Lake Worth Inlet.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS**FSBPA Events**

September 27-29, 2023

**2nd Annual Florida Resilience Conference
Featuring the 66th FSBPA Annual Conference**

**Marriott Harbor Beach Resort
Fort Lauderdale, FL**

February 7-9, 2024

**37th Annual National Conference on
Beach Preservation Technology**

**Embassy Suites
St. Augustine, FL**

Other Events

March 7-May 5, 2023

2023 Legislative Session

March 21-23, 2023

ASBPA 2023 Coastal Summit

**National Association of Counties Building
Washington, DC**

April 11-15, 2023

Coastal Sediments Conference

New Orleans, LA

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