

The 2014 Legislative Session

Lisa Ambruster and Debbie Flack, FSBPA



FSBPA's simple, yet quite ambitious goal this Session was to secure significantly more annual state funding for beach nourishment and inlet management projects. FSBPA and its local governments' hard work and dedication paid off with much success. **The final budget** (2014/15 General Appropriations Act, Conference Report on HB 5001) passed by the Legislature on the last day of Session – May 2 – **contains \$47.3 million for beach and inlet management projects.**

FSBPA's strategy going into Session was simple, and its message was clear. The 1998 statutory intent to provide \$30 million annually for the repair of Florida's beaches is no longer adequate; project need and demand will quickly become unmanageable. Just adjusting for inflation, and based on the original 1998 statutory intent, FSBPA's symbolic goal was \$43 million. FSBPA had Dr. Bill Stronge (Florida Atlantic University) provide the most recent return-on-investment economic data linking healthy beaches to tourism and sales tax revenues. Notably, the state revenues significantly improved for this budgeting year. At the same time, FSBPA recognized significant competition from traditional environmental resource protection programs that have recently suffered very lean years, as well as the specific needs for the Indian River Lagoon, Lake Okeechobee Basin, and freshwater springs. The information developed by Dr. Stronge was crucial in illustrating the statewide economic benefits associated with beaches.

Continued on next page

Inside this Edition

Other Governmental Updates

....Page 6

58th FSBPA Annual Conference September 24-26, 2014

**Call for Papers:
Deadline: June 10, 2014**

....Page 8

Coquina Beach Nourishment Project, Manatee County, Florida

....Page 10

USACE

Jacksonville District Marine Design Center helps provide Vessels for Missions

....Page 12

Federal Project Status Updates

- May 2014

....Page 15

FDEP Division of Water Resource Management St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan

....Page 18

Agency Updates

....Page 23

During the first few weeks of Session, some of the major issues that came to light were concern regarding insufficient new construction projects, local funding requests that either had unnecessarily been or needed to be modified by FDEP, and the possibility of leaving potential federal matching dollars on the table. There were also overriding and continued concerns, as in years past, over the ranking criteria and process. FSBPA and its member governments spent time trying to improve upon the priority list without compromising its integrity.

Both chambers passed their individual appropriations bills on April 3rd. The Senate’s version generally followed the project order outlined in the department’s Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) and resulted in 24 projects with a total state cost-share of \$49.2 million. The House version was considerably less at \$27.7 million. However, the House version funded selected projects in more of line-item form, rather than employing the traditional and single “statewide beach projects” appropriation. On top of the challenge of the large difference in funding totals, the House’s line-item form emphasized the concerns with the ranking criteria and process as well as the threat of a veto. While FSBPA’s budget conferencing strategy was quite simple – get as close to the Senate funding position as possible, this precedent of individual vs/ programmatic funding was also an overriding concern.

Over the course of the budget conference meeting process, and sparing the gory details of meetings held both during day and very late at night, the final funding offers of the conference process were exchanged and agreed to at \$43.5 million. However, at the final conference meeting, the Senate’s Supplemental Funding Issues List restored \$3.8 million to beaches, bringing the final figure to \$47.3 million. However, the best news was that the proviso language made it clear that the line-item appropriations approach would not become part of the final budget (as detailed below). This ultimate success can largely be explained by efforts of a number of Legislators to sustain the foundation of Florida’s successful beach management program at a time when project ranking criteria and process is facing serious questions. In order to fund projects on the priority list based on the Legislature’s emphasis on economic benefits and leveraging matching funds, while still taking the priority list itself into consideration, helped a handful of worthy projects receive funding that might not have otherwise prevailed.

Post-construction monitoring funding continues to present challenges. This year, the Legislature eliminated all post-construction monitoring requests for reimbursement and post-construction beyond year three, and no projects receiving new construction dollars received a post-construction monitoring funding allocation. The total allocation for post-construction monitoring was \$1.6 million. Inlet management funding, which in recent years has not received the 10% of the statewide beach program funding allocated for the top three inlet projects, fared very well. The Legislature allocated funding to four inlet management projects with a total budget of \$7.0 million.

The relevant sections of the final budget:

1653 GRANTS AND AIDS TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND NONSTATE ENTITIES - FIXED CAPITAL OUTLAY BEACH PROJECTS - STATEWIDE FROM GENERAL REVENUE FUND	25,436,591
FROM ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION TRUST FUND	19,675,471



Funds in Specific Appropriation 1653 and Section 52 are provided to fund the Department of Environmental Protection's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program (BMFAP) for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Funds shall be provided in the order included in the department's Beach Restoration and Nourishment Projects list to include the specific projects: Duval County Shore Protection Project, Anna Marie Island/Cortez Groin Replacement and Coquina Beach Nourishment (Manatee), Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project, Gasparilla Island-Lee County Shore Protection Project, Jupiter/Carlin Segment-Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project, North Boca Raton Segment-Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project, Ocean Ridge Segment-Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project, Longboat Key Beach Nourishment, Lido Key Beach Nourishment (Sarasota), St. Joe Peninsula Beach Nourishment (Gulf), Ft. Pierce Beach Emergency Truck Haul, Collier County Beach Nourishment, South Amelia Island Beach Nourishment, Pensacola Beach Nourishment, Delray Segment-Palm Beach County Shore Protection Project, Jupiter Island Beach Nourishment, Wabasso Beach Restoration (Indian River County), Bathtub Beach/Sailfish Point Project (Martin), South Marco Island Nourishment, Broward County Shore Protection Segment II, and Mid-Reach/Brevard County Shore Protection Project.



The amounts for certain projects have been adjusted to provide the necessary state matching funds to leverage currently available federal funds, or to maximize opportunities to accelerate project construction with federal funds.

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1653 and Section 52 shall be provided for post-construction monitoring projects identified in the BMFAP for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 in an amount not to exceed \$1,578,216. Such funds shall be allocated in the request for Beach Restoration and Nourishment Post-Construction Monitoring and are provided only for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 post-construction monitoring costs and activities. No funds are provided for post-construction monitoring costs beyond year three or for new construction projects receiving funds in Fiscal Year 2014-2015.

Funds in Specific Appropriation 1653 and Section 52 shall be provided for the four highest ranked inlet management projects in the BMFAP and include the following specific projects: Port Canaveral Inlet Management Plan (IMP) Implementation, Lake Worth IMP Implementation, St. Lucie Inlet IMP, and East Pass IMP Update.

Notably, the reference in proviso to Section 52 is the back of the bill reversions (not detailed here) totaling an additional \$2,159,475. **In short, the above budget language combined with the Legislature's budget worksheets related to beaches is summarized as follows: Beach Projects: \$38,634,071, Post-construction monitoring: \$1,578,216, and Inlet Management: \$7,059,250. This brings the grand total for beach and inlet management projects to \$47,271,537. Additionally, and on top of these figures, the Legislature funded one inlet project – St. Andrews State Park IMP Implementation – elsewhere in the budget at \$2.2 million.**

FSBPA's success in securing beaches funding may best be summarized by Senator Alan Hays (District 11, Umatilla), Chair of General Government Appropriations, in the closing hours of the 2014

Legislative Session, as he opened his final budget summary presentation to the Senate: “**Our committee budget totals \$5.4 billion which indicates an 8.3 % increase. We were able to assign \$47.3 million as the state share to the beach nourishment program. This will provide an additional \$137 million in local and federal funds. The 825 miles of beaches that Florida has been blessed with, will certainly realize some nice replenishment from that.**”

While challenging and difficult to secure, this truly was an incredible year for beaches, especially when taken on top of last year’s storm recovery funding and unprecedented federal share match. **Notably, the General Appropriations Act still has to be acted upon by the Governor. The Governor received the budget on May 20th and has until June 4th to act on it.**

While references to veto are a reasonable concern, Governor Scott has historically been very supportive of beach projects and has recognized their return on investment. He’s even highlighted beaches in his budget messages.

Substantive Legislation

While funding was certainly the focus of this Session, FSBPA monitored a handful of bills for various reasons; brief details are provided below (by Diana Ferguson, Rutledge Ecenia).

- **Coastal Management/Department of Environmental Protection**

- **HB 791 by Representative Renuart; SB 956 by Senator Bean**

This is DEP legislation. These bills contained several provisions related to aquatic preserves. Additionally, they expanded the activities that qualify for an area-wide CCCL permit to include minor structures and added dune restoration to the list of specific activities that are considered minor structures. Further, they authorized DEP to grant a general permit for swimming pools that do not advance the line of existing construction and satisfy all siting and design requirements. They also authorized DEP to grant a general permit for the maintenance of existing coastal armoring structures. SB 956 was laid on the table in favor of HB 791 and HB 791 died in House returning messages. However, the substance of these bills was amended onto must-pass legislation relating to Rehabilitation of Petroleum Contamination Sites, but included an amendment restricting park concessions the Department opposed in committee. HB 7093 was one of the last bills to pass on the final day of session.

- **Permit Extension**

- **HB 7023 by the Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and Representative Hutson; SB 1634 by the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee**

These bills contained economic development provisions. SB 1634 was laid on the table in favor of HB 7023 and HB 7023 passed both chambers. It goes next to the Governor for final action. As passed, HB 7023 includes a permit extension provision similar to the one passed last year. It provides that any building permit and any permit issued under part IV of chapter 373 that expires between January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2016 is extended and renewed for a period of two years after its previously scheduled date of expiration. The holder of a valid permit or other authorization that is eligible for the two-year extension must notify the authorizing agency in writing by December 31, 2014 that it intends to utilize the extension. Since joint coastal permits are issued under chapter 161 and part IV of chapter 373, this permit extension should be applicable.

- **Aquatic Preserves**

- **SB 1094 by Senator Dean; HB 1123 by Representative Porter**

These bills would have designated the coastal regions of Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus Counties as the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve. They also would have identified authorized and prohibited activities within the preserve. Under the proposed legislation, dredging or filling of submerged lands within the aquatic preserve could have been approved only under certain circumstances. The bills also would have prohibited the Board of Trustees (BOT) from approving the seaward relocation of bulkhead lines, or further establishment of bulkhead lines, except when located at the mean high water line. The BOT could only have approved the construction, replacement, or relocation of a seawall within the preserve through a letter of consent. SB 1094 died in its last committee. HB 1123 died on the House calendar on second reading.

- **RESTORE**

- **SB 1610 by Senator Evers; HB 1375 by Representative Moskowitz**

These bills would have clarified that the process created by a county, or an entity formed around the state or a county, for appropriating funds received through the RESTORE Act is subject to the open government requirements of Florida law. It also would have required a county receiving RESTORE Act funds to post each proposed appropriation of funds received under the act as a line item on its website. As reported, neither bill received a hearing.

- **Environmental Regulation**

- **HB 703 by Representative Patronis; SB 1464 by Senator Simpson**

These bills were the annual environmental regulation package that Representative Patronis has filed for several years in a row. FSBPA monitors this legislation each year for amendments to chapter 161. This year's package contained some controversial items, although none related to chapter 161. Although Representative Patronis held several stakeholder meetings and the bills were significantly amended, both died in committee.

[Back to Main Page](#)

OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UPDATES

by L. Armbruster

WRRDA Update – Yes, Movement!

The U.S. House and Senate negotiators reached an agreement on a final conference report for a Water Resources Reform and Development Act in mid-May. The last WRDA occurred in 2007. The House favorably passed the conference report on May 20th by a vote of 412-4, with many House members speaking favorably for the conference report including Florida Representatives Lois Frankel and Corrine Brown. While the Senate still needs to vote on the conference report (expected in the next couple weeks), there is reason to celebrate!

The report contains a provision (Section 1037, Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction) in the legislation to **establish a procedure to determine if there is a federal interest in extending authorizations for coastal storm damage reduction projects that are coming to the end of their authorization by 15 years. In addition, existing project authorizations that are set to expire within the next 5 years are extended by 3 years to allow time for a government study to determine if they ought to be extended for an additional 15 years.** And finally, the conference report authorizes (Section 7002) a **new federal shore protection project for Florida – welcome Walton County!** You can find the WRRDA Conference Report information here: <http://transportation.house.gov/wrrda/conference.htm>.

NOTICE of June 5th FDEP Meeting/Webinar

The Florida Auditor General's Report on the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program "Defining Conflicts of Interest"

FDEP will be holding its second meeting and webinar regarding the Florida Auditor General's audit of the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program on June 5th. This is the second webinar on the subject and will cover the topic of "Defining Conflicts of Interest." FDEP has provided the following information on this meeting/webinar.

Auditor General's Recommendations in Audit Report 2014-064
June 5, 2014, 1-3 PM
Bob Martinez Center, Room 609
Teleconference Line: 1.888.670.3525
Pass code: 590 769 2993 #

A webinar is presented using Lync Meeting...please access through the link provided at the bottom of the page. Webinar will open 15 minutes before the workshop begins.

The agenda will be posted by June 2, 2014 to the program webpage under the workshop date. Link to the webpage: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/becp/ag-rpt.htm>.

If you would like to add items to the agenda, please send topics to: Beaches_funding@dep.state.fl.us for inclusion.

Next Page

SAND MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP



The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) hosted the Florida Sand Management Working Group webinar on May 7, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the exchange of information between Federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as the private sector. BOEM gave presentations on the terms and conditions of the leasing process to obtain Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) sand resources, the process to obtain authorizations for geophysical and geological survey work, the Regional Agreement for sand resources for southeastern Florida, the status of the Hurricane Sandy Cooperative Agreements, and a review of the studies that are proposed for FY 2015 funding. The active participation of a diverse audience of more than 60 individuals facilitated exchange of information and helped make the meeting a success. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled before the end of the year, and meeting materials, including presentations, will be posted to boem.gov/MarineMineralsProgram within the next few weeks.

You may find the webinar presentation for the May 7, 2014, including the audio recording by [clicking here](#).

Back to Main Page

58th ANNUAL CONFERENCE September 24-26, 2014

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point | Bonita Springs, Florida

CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline: June 10, 2014

The deadline for the Annual Conference **Call for Papers** is fast approaching and we hope you will consider submitting an abstract.

This year's conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, a venue new to the Annual Conference. A Thursday afternoon field trip is anticipated; multiple sites are under consideration by our host Lee County and their coastal design experts. Key dates for the conference including, registration and hotel reservations are listed on the following page.



Bonita Beach (photo courtesy of Lee County)

Individual abstracts related to the above subjects and the following related topics are welcomed, but are not limited to:

- Growing political attention and support for Florida's successful beach program with state lawmakers and local elected officials
- What happened to the identifiable "citizen" advocate for new beach and inlet management projects?
- Sand source needs and assessment, and regional sediment management
- Sustaining Florida's beach program: At what point are escalating project construction, monitoring, and mitigation costs too much, or are they simply inevitable and must be accommodated and justified?
- The strategic and cost-effective uses of coastal structures
- Beach nourishment as an adaption policy for addressing sea level rise -- How do we bring it into the conversation?
- Using specific projects to illustrate the intergovernmental success of the post- 2012 storm recovery effort especially in terms of lessons learned and their transferability to the traditional beach program
- The economic impact of beaches— How do we capture it, package it, and also include it in the project ranking for annual state funding?
- Timing federal and state funding requests, recognizing the differences in fiscal years
- The various funding mechanisms, taxing structures, and the amount of revenue generated by these strategies, which local governments employ to cover their share of project costs
- Case studies in project innovations and cost-savings
- Recent state agency rule-making, review and role of federal resource agencies, and the future of federal shore-protection funding

For complete details on submitting your abstract, go to www.fsbpa.com/annual-conference/call.html.

Award Nominations -- Deadline August 8, 2014

The Awards Committee is accepting nominations through **August 8, 2014**. The nomination form and complete details can be found at www.fsbpa.com/annual-conference/awards.html.

Visit www.fsbpa.com/annual.htm for complete details on submitting your abstract or award nomination, as well as conference registration information and hotel reservations.

Key dates to remember:

- **June 10 - Call for Abstracts DEADLINE**
- **August 8 - Awards Nomination DEADLINE**
- **August 29 - last day Hotel Room Reservations guaranteed at \$139**
- **Through August 29 - Early Conference Registration**
- **After August 29 - Regular Registration**
- **September 24 - 26 - Annual Conference**

Back to Main Page



2014 Coquina Beach Nourishment Project, Manatee County, Florida

by Michelle Pfeiffer, P.E. and Thomas Pierro, P.E.,
CB&I Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.

Anna Maria Island is a 7.4 mile Gulf of Mexico barrier island located in Manatee County, Florida immediately south of Tampa Bay. The island has been deemed critically eroded by FDEP. Since 1992, beach nourishment has been the primary means of erosion control along the island, with beach fill projects taking place in 1992-1993, 2002, 2005-2006, 2011 and 2013-2014.

Two projects were constructed on Anna Maria Island in the winter of 2013-2014. The Anna Maria Island Shore Protection Project was constructed in the Federally-authorized Central Project area and was administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District. The Coquina Beach Nourishment Project was constructed by Manatee County at the south end of the island immediately following the Central Project utilizing the same contractor and dredging equipment. Both projects repaired damages from Tropical Storm Debby, which impacted the area in July 2012. In addition to the storm repair, the projects placed sand to re-fill the beach templates to their full capacity.



Coquina Beach Post-Construction

The location of the County's 2014 project, Coquina Beach, is a public park along the southern mile of Anna Maria Island. This area used to be mangrove swamp and was created by sand dredged from Longboat Pass and offshore sources. Since its creation, multiple shore protection efforts have been made to stabilize the area. In 1959, the state road department constructed twenty concrete groins along Coquina Beach to protect the roadway. At the south end of the island, the USACE had periodically dredged sand from the Federal navigation project at Longboat

Pass and placed the sand on Coquina Beach (GDM, 1989). However, this has not occurred for over 15 years and the Coquina Beach Restoration Project constructed in 2011 was the first installation of an engineered beach in this location.

The 2011 Coquina Beach project placed approximately 200,000 cubic yards of sand and included a 600-ft gap, where fill was mechanically placed above mean high water to avoid potential impacts to nearshore hardbottom. To offset anticipated hardbottom impacts, the County also constructed a 5-acre artificial reef comprised of limestone boulders. Post-construction biological monitoring revealed less impact to nearshore hardbottom than the County mitigation for, which provided flexibility to modify the fill template and address impacts from Tropical Storm Debby.

The second Coquina Beach nourishment was constructed in March 2014. The project filled the previous gap and widened the beach to improve project performance and storm protection. The project placed about 260,000 cubic yards along the southern 1.5 miles of the island. The sediment was screened at the outfall to reduce the risk of placing rock on the beach. The operation was successful and the nourishment project resulted in the placement of high quality white sand that closely resembles the existing beach.

With a dredge contractor and equipment mobilized to the area for the Central Project under contract with the USACE, the County was able to negotiate directly with the contractor to construct the 2014 Coquina Beach project immediately following the Central Project. Since the projects overlap along about a 3000-ft section, constructing the projects simultaneously allowed for one continuous construction effort. The single mobilization and demobilization of shore pipeline and equipment for both projects also reduced local impact from construction activity and resulted in millions of dollars saved on dredge mobilization costs.

The 2014 nourishment also replaced storm losses from Tropical Storm Debby which impacted the area in July 2012. Since Coquina Beach is a locally constructed engineered beach, it was eligible for federal assistance under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Category G funding to repair the beach.

Combined, the 2013-2014 projects placed about 1,148,000 cubic yards of sand along about 5 miles of the Anna Maria Island at a combined cost of about \$16.6M. The Central project was supported by USACE Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) funding, while the Coquina Beach project is expected to receive funding from FEMA based on the amount of storm erosion. In addition to the federal cost shares, the State of Florida contributes to the non-federal share on a 50/50 split with Manatee County.

The 2014 Coquina Beach Nourishment project demonstrates the success of regionalizing projects and designing for improvements based on post-storm assessments and project monitoring data. The authors would like to thank Charlie Hunsicker, Director of the Manatee County Parks and Natural Resources Department, for his tireless dedication to the beaches of Anna Maria Island.

[Back to Main Page](#)

Marine Design Center helps provide Vessels for Missions

by John H. Campbell, Corporate Communications Office,
USACE Jacksonville District

This is a reprint from the Jacksonville District newsletter. Readers of SHORELINE might find this particular article interesting, and even though it does not focus on a specific beach project it gives some good insight on some of the behind the scenes efforts to improve the construction, monitoring, and maintenance of our projects.



When thinking about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' work, what may most readily come to mind is massive flood control projects, environmental restoration and shoreline protection. In some areas, inland waterway navigation and harbor dredging for deep-draft ships is prevalent.

However, along with the Corps' roles in port and waterway navigation comes the need for a fleet of ships – vessels that can conduct surveys, move equipment and, on occasion, dredge material to deepen a channel. The fleet numbers in the thousands, but where do Corps districts get help in finding this specialized equipment?

The answer lies in a small suite of offices, located in Philadelphia District, known as the MDC...the Marine Design Center.

The MDC dates back to 1929. It is the Corps' center of expertise for development and application of innovative technologies for naval architecture and marine engineering. The center provides expertise in every realm of boating resources, from the design of vessels to procuring the ships and their equipment.

"We help divisions and districts throughout the Corps with the design, procurement and maintenance of the fleet," said Michael Kelley, senior project manager with the MDC.

The MDC played a significant role in helping Jacksonville District with the design and acquisition of its newest survey vessel, *Florida II*, a 62-foot aluminum catamaran that was delivered in 2013.

"Jacksonville District came to us, we looked at needs and developed options," said Kelley. "As we determine what options were available, we started developing a more specific budget for the project, helped secure the needed funding, and procured the contract necessary to build the boat."

"The MDC was great to work with," said Phil Bates, Jacksonville District plant manager. "They helped with the design specifications and with contract administration. We were very pleased."

The expertise within MDC isn't just limited to designing new boats. Staff has also implemented modifications to existing equipment, which has made dredging operations safer for marine life.

“Jacksonville District and the Engineering Research & Development Center designed a ‘turtle deflector’ in the early 1990s to help keep sea turtles from being hurt by dredging operations,” said Bates. “The MDC developed a prototype from the design and devised a methodology to implement the deflector. It has had a major impact in reducing injuries to turtles in dredging operations from Texas to Delaware.”

The MDC has experience with all of the vessels used by the Corps, including dredges, towboats, floating cranes and survey vessels. They have done work for a number of other federal agencies, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and the Panama Canal Commission.

“The rules and regulations governing boat construction are much different when compared to rules for building construction,” said Kelley. “There are so many things to consider in terms of making the vessel navigable as well as providing an environment where people can get their work done.”

Kelley has been with the MDC for 13 years. He lists the modernization of an 80-year-old boat among his finest accomplishments.

“We worked on the dredge boat *Potter*,” said Kelley. “We had to cut off the top three decks of the boat. It was quite a challenge, trying to meld 1930s workmanship with the 21st century, but we turned out a great product.”

2014 promises to be a busy year for Kelley and his co-workers. They recently hosted survey boat operators in Fernandina Beach to demonstrate the full range of capabilities of *Florida II*.

“We have survey vessels in the works this year for Baltimore, New Orleans, Norfolk, and Philadelphia Districts,” said Kelley. “We are also working on a large barge for Mobile District.”

Since taking delivery of *Florida II* last year, Jacksonville District has turned to the MDC again.

“We bought another boat through them,” said Bates. “They were very helpful in the contracting process; it was really fast, only two months. We are also working with them to design a 120-foot barge that will be used by our South Florida Operations Office to help with maintenance of the dike surrounding Lake Okeechobee and the locks on the Okeechobee Waterway.”



“Ultimately, we want the operators of our boats to be happy,” said Kelley. “Anything the MDC can do to help accomplish their mission we will consider.”

Florida II captain Rory Riker (right) demonstrates the navigation systems aboard Jacksonville District's newest survey vessel to visitors during an event this winter near Fernandina Beach. The Corps' Marine Design Center, based in Philadelphia District, invited visitors from four other districts who want to upgrade their fleets, to see what options are available for consideration. (Photo by John Campbell)



Jacksonville District surveyor Robert Jenkins observes data as it pops up on computer screens while running surveys near Fernandina Beach. Jenkins was demonstrating the state-of-the-art equipment aboard the Florida II as part of a Marine Design Center demonstration on the vessel's capabilities. (Photo by John Campbell)



The Florida II sits dockside at Fernandina Beach after returning from a demonstration of its capabilities. The event was coordinated by the Corps' Marine Design Center, which helps districts develop and apply innovative technologies in naval architecture and marine engineering. (Photo by John Campbell)



The St. Louis District's Dredge Potter was modernized by the Marine Design Center (MDC) in 2011. MDC senior project manager Michael Kelley, a 13-year veteran of the center, listed the project among his finest accomplishments with the Corps. (Photo courtesy of Marine Design Center)

[Back to Main Page](#)

FEDERAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES – May 2014

PROGRAMMATIC INFORMATION

The Jacksonville District completed work on the Lake Worth Inlet and Jacksonville Harbor studies, including a successful presentation to the civil works review board and signing of the Chief of Engineer's Report. The reports will then be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army's office and the Office of Management and Budget and concurrently await the passage of the WRDA Bill. Continuing along a similar path are studies for Flagler County hurricane storm damage reduction project and Port Everglades Harbor. The Fiscal Year 2014 budget was finally released and some additional funding was made available for some of our other coastal studies. St. Johns County and St. Lucie County studies that had been put on hold due to lack of funds will be restarting this summer. A new study was also funded for Indian River County. This new funding is much anticipated to bring these studies along and make progress in the coming year. First efforts will focus on aligning the older studies with the new planning process for a 3 year and under \$3 Million completion of the study.



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FEDERAL PROJECT STATUS UPDATES – May 2014

FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

- **Flagler County** – The Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) was held in December 2013, which included a briefing of the tentatively selected plan (TSP) to HQ and request for approval to release the draft report for public review. The public review period was held from January 17th through March 15th, 2014. The report is currently being revised based on public and agency comments along with comments from SAD and HQ. Following revisions, the report will be submitted for final review in anticipation of a Chief of Engineer's Report in December 2014.
- **St. Johns County** – St. Johns County feasibility study includes shoreline areas in South Ponte Vedra Beach, Vilano Beach, and Summerhaven. Prior study efforts completed scoping, alternative formulation, and model development before funding issues caused the study to halt. Limited Federal funding in FY-14 will provide for verification of the Peer Review Plan and re-scoping meeting to modify the study to current Corps feasibility study 3x3x3 standards.
- **St. Lucie County** – St. Lucie County continues to move ahead with planning for an initial nourishment project in the southern part of the County. Limited Federal funding in FY-14 will provide for verification of the Peer Review Plan and re-scoping meeting to modify the study to current Corps feasibility study 3x3x3 standards.

OTHER MAJOR PLANNING REPORTS:

- **Brevard County Mid-Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR)** - The GRR report has been submitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASA (CW)) for review and final approval. Additional information has been provided, as an addendum, at the request of the ASA(CW).
- **Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project** - Palm Beach County has submitted a draft Section 934 report and NEPA document for the Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment and out to 50 years of Federal participation. Federal participation has expired under the existing cost sharing agreement and congressional funds were not appropriated for this project segment. Corps' involvement continues to be to support the sponsor in their preparation of the Section 934 report.

Ocean Ridge Shore Protection Project (Section 206 of WRDA 1992): The Ocean Ridge Segment Section 408 package was approved by the Jacksonville District, with the intent to allow the Sponsor (Palm Beach County) to make small adjustments to the existing Federal project (T-head groins) for improved sediment transport. The Section 408 package will be submitted to SAD for review and approval.

Next Page

- The **Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project GRR** seeks an additional 50 years of Federal participation in the project. Alternative analysis is ongoing by the sponsor and consultants. Once complete, findings will be incorporated into a draft GRR, which will undergo review by Jacksonville District.
- **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment II 2nd Renourishment** – Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) – The draft LRR/EA was reviewed and comments provided by SAD in December 2013. Jacksonville District provided responses to comments in March 2014. The Jacksonville District is proceeding to release the NEPA document for public review, while the comments on the LRR are coordinated.
- The **Dade County, Section 227 Project** at 63rd Street in Miami. A design and build contract is being evaluated in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and Reef Innovation, Inc. The project is designed, plans and specs completed, and the FDEP permit was issued. Issues involving authorizing language are being reviewed. Contract actions have been put on hold until the authorization issues are resolved.
- The **Dade County Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA)** will evaluate the use of a new sand source for the Dade County Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection Project. The LRR/EA is in its initial stages and coordination with the FDEP and other counties is ongoing to locate an offshore borrow source outside of Miami-Dade County. Upland borrow sites and other alternative sources will also be evaluated in the document.
- **Sarasota County, Venice** – A Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) are underway to evaluate economic and environmental changes to the approved Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction Project due to the use of a new offshore borrow area. The draft report has completed a second agency technical review and has just been updated for costs and benefits. The next step is submittal to SAD for review. The Jacksonville District is proceeding with release of the EA for public review, which will occur at the same time as the SAD review.
- **Lee County, Gasparilla** – A Section 934 report has been initiated to determine the Federal interest in extension of Federal participation in cost-sharing from the current 10 years to a 50-year period of Federal participation, or an additional 40 years (2057).
- **Indian River County** – Limited Federal funding in FY-14 will provide for initial scoping of the study effort, completion of a Peer Review Plan and scoping meeting to meet the current Corps feasibility study 3x3x3 standards. This project was authorized and detailed in a Chief of Engineers report but was constructed by the County without Federal participation. Economic verification will be needed to support a project partnership agreement for future cost-shared work.

REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT (RSM):

- The **Nassau and Duval Counties RSM** effort will continue into FY14. This effort has received 100% Federal funding from the Corps' national RSM program. A focus of the FY14 effort will be the feasibility of bypassing sand around the St. Johns River entrance to the Duval County Shore Protection Project. Other tasks included in the effort include RSM strategies for Nassau and Duval Counties with a focus on Federal beach nourishment and deep draft navigation projects.
- Jacksonville District's "**Ship to Shore: Fate of Fines in the Dredging and Placement Process**" proposal also received Federal funding from the Corps' national RSM and Dredging Operations and Environmental Research (DOER) programs. This effort will gather data from upcoming navigation O&M and beach nourishment FCCE dredging and beach placement events in order to quantify the loss of fine sand as material is dredged and transported from dredge sites to placement areas. The first round of samples was collected from three dredging projects in southeast Florida from the 25th to 28th of February. These projects used various mechanical and cutterhead

dredging methods. It is anticipated that another round of sampling will occur and will include intensive process sampling of the dredging process aboard the hopper dredge "Atchafalaya."

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN:

- **Sarasota County, Lido Key** – Vibracore drilling in Big Sarasota Pass has been completed for potential borrow material for the beach construction. A Design Agreement was executed with the sponsor for cost-sharing of the project. Field work for beach profile surveys, hydrographic and hard bottom surveys of the borrow areas have been completed. Cultural survey field work is to start this week. A modeling report is currently being finalized that is needed to begin the permit application.

CONSTRUCTION:

- **Brevard County, North and South Reach** – Post-Sandy emergency rehabilitation under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) program was approved for both reaches, plus supplemental funding for the North Reach for full construction. The North Reach was estimated at 1,055,000 cubic yards (cy) and the South Reach volume at 585,000 cy. Contractor initiated construction in November 2013. In January 2014, Contractor completed beach fill operations in the South Reach segment with a total placement of approximately 692,000 cy. Construction progress continues in North Reach segment with a total placement to date of approximately 480,000 cy. Completion of the contract is still anticipated prior by April 30, 2014.

- **Palm Beach County, Jupiter/Carlin, Delray Beach, Ocean Ridge, and North Boca Raton** –The Jupiter/Carlin project contract was awarded and the pre-construction meeting was held on 12 Nov 2013. Approximately 87,000 cy of emergency rehabilitation material will be placed between R-15 to R-19. Work is currently ongoing and needs to be completed before May 1, 2014 in order to comply with the turtle nesting window. Delray Beach, Ocean Ridge, and North Boca Raton projects were awarded in one contract. The contractor completed Ocean Ridge and Delray Beach segments and is continuing operations at North Boca, approximately 615,000 cy will be placed on the beach. Completion date for the contract is 30 Apr 2014.

- **Broward County, Segment II** – Post-Sandy emergency rehabilitation under the Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) program has been completed The Contractor commenced physical construction of beach fill in November and completed in February 2014. An upland sand source and truck haul operation was used for the fill of approximately 130,000 cubic yards of material. This work restored the beach to pre-storm conditions, but does not include the cost-shared volume to bring the project to the full construction template.

- **Dade County, Contract G** – Construction has been completed.

- **Lee County, Gasparilla** – Emergency rehabilitation funded and construction funded combined renourishment has been completed.

- **Manatee County** – Construction of the Federal project on Anna Maria Island has been completed.

- **Pinellas County, Long Key & Treasure Island** – Emergency rehabilitation FCCE funds and cost-shared funds were provided to restore the project to the full construction template. Work is expected to begin this month with completion currently slated for July 2014.



[Back to Main Page](#)

St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan

By Ralph Clark, Coastal Engineer, FDEP

On January 17, 2014, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection adopted a new inlet management plan for St. Augustine Inlet in St. Johns County. This plan updates an earlier plan for St. Augustine Inlet making the plan consistent with current statutes and observed erosion conditions.



In 2008, the Florida Legislature amended Section 161.142, Florida Statutes, finding:

“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, 1998), adopted August 31, 1998, established a sand bypassing protocol based upon a sediment budget developed in the original inlet management study calling for all inlet dredge material to be bypassed to the south of the inlet (Taylor Engineering, Inc., 1996). Bypassing material only to the south did not provide for balancing the inlet sediment budget; however, it did achieve the need to extend the life of the beach restoration project along Anastasia State Park and St. Augustine Beach.

The sand bypassing objectives of the 1998 inlet management plan were accomplished by placement of inlet maintenance dredging material on the beaches south of the inlet and by use of the inlet ebb tidal shoal as a sand source for the beach restoration project at Anastasia State Park (Conch Island) and St. Augustine Beach (Figure 1). However, the volume of sediment removed from the inlet shoals exceeded the established bypassing objective and led to concern about potential erosion impacts to the beaches adjacent to the inlet. Consequently, the Department initiated a new study of St. Augustine Inlet to revalidate the sediment budget and to adopt an updated inlet management plan. This new study was conducted by the Beaches and Shores Resource Center (BSRC), Florida State University, and compiled new and historical data and information regarding coastal processes and inlet and shoreline dynamics, as reported in *Inlet Management Restudy for St. Augustine Inlet, St. Johns County, Florida* (Walton et al, 2011).

Additionally, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District) analyzed volume changes using the Regional Morphology Analysis Program and developed a regional sediment budget for St. Augustine Inlet and St. Johns County for the 11-year period between 1998/99 and 2010 (USACE, 2012). The sand fill placement volumes for 2000 through 2005 were accounted for, and Figure 2 presents the volume changes with and without the beach nourishment volumes.

Next Page

The Corps also conducted an Inlet Sink Analysis by evaluating the historic shoreline changes and the littoral sediment entrapment effect of the inlet. This analysis first assesses the inlet's littoral



Figure 1. St. Augustine Inlet with Federal Project Dredging Areas

impact within the inlet, and identifies the shoreline lengths of inlet impact. Results of this analysis determined that north of the inlet a maximum erosion rate of -98,800 cubic yards per year occurred between the inlet and R83, whereas south of the inlet a maximum erosion rate of -179,300 cubic yards per year occurred between the inlet and R152. The total inlet sink effect was observed to be about 278,100 cubic yards per year.

A future sediment budget is dependent upon meteorological conditions and the resulting wave climate, which cannot be predicted with any reasonable accuracy. The most practical means of determining a sand placement protocol is to utilize the most recent volumetric change data for the beaches adjacent to the inlet. The Inlet Sink Analysis (USACE, 2012) provides this data and is the basis for the adopted sediment budget. The updated sand placement protocol is based upon this adopted sediment budget, which includes the two-thirds to the south and the one-third to the north split in inlet dredge material placement on the adjacent beaches.

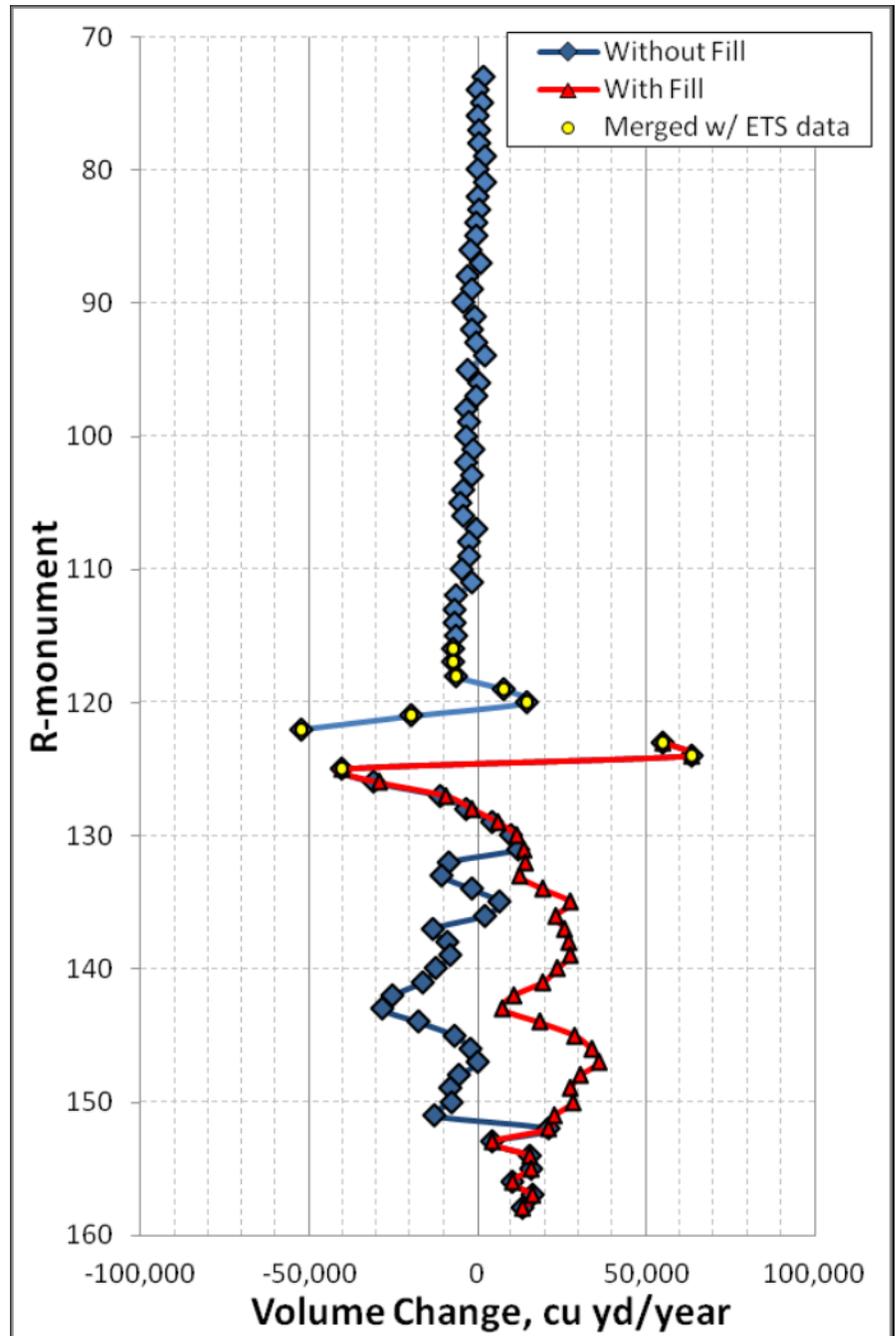


Figure 2. Beach profile volume rate of change between 1999 and 2010 with and without beach fill (USACE, 2012).

These studies, as well as other analyses, were evaluated by the staff of the Department as it relates to statutory responsibilities and program objectives. As a result of that evaluation, the Department developed a recommended inlet management plan. The Department also conducted two technical workshops that were attended by representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Jacksonville District), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Florida Inland Navigation District, the Florida Park Service (Anastasia State Park), St. Johns County, the St. Augustine Port, Waterway, and Beach District, the South Ponte Vedra – Vilano Beach Restoration Association, and other interested parties.

With adoption of the new inlet management plan, all future inlet management activities shall be consistent with the following eight strategies:

- 1) Continue to transfer sediment from the inlet system to the adjacent beaches meeting an annualized bypassing objective of 278,000 cubic yards per year as determined by the Inlet Sink Analysis provided in the document, *Regional Sediment Budget for St. Augustine Inlet and St. Johns County, FL, 1998/1999-2010* (USACE, 2012). The material obtained from the inlet system shall be distributed to the adjacent Atlantic Ocean fronting beaches with a placement ratio of approximately one-third of material placement to the north and two-thirds of material placement to the south.
- 2) Inlet sand transfer material shall be placed in designated critically eroded areas to the north or south of the inlet between R84 and R152, St. Johns County, in accordance with Implementation Strategy #1.
- 3) Inlet dredge material may be obtained from the federal navigation channel, the intracoastal waterway channel, the south lobe of the ebb shoal and flood shoals adjacent to the federal channel, including the Porpoise Point borrow area, for placement in accordance with Implementation Strategies #1 and #2.
- 4) The south lobe of the ebb shoal and the federal navigation channel, including below the authorized project depth may be used as the primary sources of sand for the St. Johns County Shore Protection Project in an amount not to exceed 179,000 cubic yards per year times the number of years between beach nourishment events. However, additional material may be removed from the authorized navigation channel when necessary for required interim navigation channel maintenance dredging.
- 5) Engineering and geotechnical investigations shall be conducted of additional borrow areas to meet the inlet bypassing objective. These investigations shall identify the beach quality and quantity of material available, as well as any potential dredging impact on the inlet system or adjacent beaches.
- 6) Feasibility investigations may be conducted of the north jetty to determine the beach management benefits and impacts of possible jetty modifications, including but not limited to sand tightening, lengthening, and raising elevations. The impact evaluation shall specifically identify any physical impact to the inlet system or adjacent beaches including Anastasia State Park.
- 7) A comprehensive beach and inlet hydrographic monitoring program shall be implemented to evaluate performance and impact of existing projects and to update the inlet sediment budget. The monitoring program shall include topographic and bathymetric profile surveys at each of the Department's reference monuments between R80 and R157, and along the Porpoise Point spit. Monitoring shall also include bathymetric surveys of the inlet system, including the inlet flood shoal complex and the entire ebb shoal between not less than R116 and R132, as well as the navigation channels and the navigation easement adjacent to and including the shoreline of the Porpoise Point spit.
- 8) The inlet sand bypassing objective in Implementation Strategy #1 may be updated following a review and analysis of additional monitoring data collected over at least a five (5) year period. The updated inlet sand bypassing objective shall not become effective less than two (2) years prior to a scheduled beach nourishment of the shore-protection project in order to allow adequate time for project planning and design.

The new inlet plan for St. Augustine Inlet may be found on the Department's web site at – <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/publications/pdf/IMPlans/StAugustineIMP.pdf>.

References

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 1998. *St. Augustine Inlet Management Study Implementation Plan*, August, 1998, 9 p.

Srinivas, R., Schropp, S.J., and Taylor, R.B., 1996. *St. Augustine Inlet Management Plan – Part 2*, Taylor Engineering, Inc.

United States Army Corps of Engineers, 2012. *Regional Sediment Budget for St. Augustine Inlet and St. Johns County, FL, 1998/1999-2010*, Jacksonville District (CESAJ/ERDC/CHL), Letter Report, 21 p.

Walton, T.L., Jr., Dean, R.G., Gay, J., Manausa, M., Wang, R., 2011. *Inlet Management Restudy for St. Augustine Inlet, St. Johns County, Florida*, Florida State University, Beaches and Shores Resource Center, 112 p.

[Back to Main Page](#)

FDEP Division of Water Resource Management Updates

JOINT COASTAL PERMITS

Hurricane Sandy and Tropical Storm Debby Storm Recovery Projects

Completed Projects:

Martin County Beach Nourishment-Hutchinson Island – completed April 22, 2013
St. Lucie County-Ft. Pierce Beach Nourishment – completed May 24, 2013
Lee County-Captiva - completed December 26, 2013
Lee County-Gasparilla – completed December 13, 2013
St. Johns County-St. Augustine Inlet- completed October 29, 2013
South St. Lucie Dune Restoration – completed with scheduled restoration October 29, 2013
Palm Beach County-Coral Cove – completed December, 2013; dune project completed February, 2014
Palm Beach County-Singer Island – completed February 15, 2013
Manatee County-Anna Maria Island – completed March 15, 2014
Broward County-Segment II –completed February 21, 2014
Brevard County Shore Protection Project-North and South Reaches – completed April 29, 2014
St. Lucie Inlet – completed April, 2014
Miami-Dade County-Bakers Haulover Inlet – Completed February 17, 2014
Brevard County-Mid-Reach and Southern Beaches - dune construction completed February 28, 2014
Palm Beach County-Ocean Ridge – completed February 9, 2014
Palm Beach County-Delray Beach –completed March 12, 2014
Palm Beach County-Jupiter Inlet – completed March 18, 2014
Palm Beach County-North Boca Raton – completed partial project April 29, 2014
Palm Beach County-Jupiter Carlin Segment – contract terminated by the Corps April 25, 2014

Projects In Construction:

Ft. Pierce Inlet - placement of maintenance dredged material from the inlet on the beach. The project commenced on May 2, 2014.

Scheduled Projects:

Pinellas County Shore Protection Project-Treasure Island-Long Key -construction is planned for July of 2014.

Projects in Planning:

Sarasota County-City of Venice - the Corps and the City jointly applied for a permit on May 8, 2013. A Notice of Intent and Draft Permit was issued March 3, 2014.

Indian River Sector III and Sebastian State Park – a permit modification was issued February 14, 2014.



Broward County- Deerfield Beach - the dune in Deerfield Beach was constructed as part of the Hillsboro-Deerfield project. The Town of Hillsboro Beach holds a permit valid until December 15, 2015. A request to modify the permit was received May 5, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Turbidity Monitoring Work Group

Achieving compliance with turbidity monitoring requirements for beach projects has been a challenge. We have had a number of citizen complaints this last year. This has been primarily associated with accessing the right monitoring location, when the plume is hugging the shoreline, and other concerns related to timing. The Beaches, Inlets and Ports Program Area has established a working group to discuss ways to improve the monitoring process. The members of the group include representation from DEP, USACE, coastal environmental firms, and interested parties.

Beach Management Funding Assistance

This Program Area will once again report to Danielle Irwin rather than the Shared Services Branch of the Division.

Auditor General's report regarding the Beach Management Funding Assistance Program

A web page has been established for information and comments on the Auditor General's report; <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/programs/becp/ag-rpt.htm>. The first workshop presentation and comments are posted there. A second workshop will be held June 5, 2014, from 1 to 3 pm. The topic will be "defining conflicts of interest."

Rule 62B-49, Joint Coastal Permits and Concurrent Processing of Proprietary Authorizations

The Department held a rule hearing on March 3, 2014. Staff are evaluating the comments, and modifying the rule. The proposed rule and application are available on the Department's rule development web site at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/beaches/rule-dev.htm>.

Southeast Florida Regional Sediment Management

The Department continues to participate with the Corps and the five southeastern counties on locating sand for the Miami-Dade Shore Protection Project. The Corps has narrowed the proposed offshore sites to three sites for further investigation. Monthly calls have been established with the Corps, BOEM, the Department and the five counties. Staff also participated in the BOEM Florida Sand Working Group webinar on May 7, 2014.

Port Expansions

The Department has been extensively involved with the Corps and other agencies on planning for the expansions of Jacksonville Harbor, Port Everglades, and the Port of Palm Beach. These projects are all controversial and we have had numerous correspondence and meetings.

Back to Main Page

Shoreline

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Conferences

September 24-26, 2014
2014 FSBPA Annual Conference
 Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL

February 4-6, 2015
2015 Tech Conference
 Clearwater Beach Marriott Suites on Sand Key

Join us

September 24-26
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[Call for Papers](#)
Deadline June 10, 2014

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OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

October 14-17, 2014
ASBPA National Coastal Conference
 Virginia Beach, VA

Back to Main Page