

Shoreline

August 2010

news from the Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

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Engineering, Inc.
Okaloosa County Oil
Response Program**

**The Oil Spill-Related
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Sea Turtle Conservancy**

**FDEP Bureau of Beaches and
Coastal Systems
Response to the Oil Spill in
the Gulf: Month Three**

Join us
**September 22-24, 2010
54th Annual Conference**

Hotel Information
Reservation deadline is August 18, 2010

Conference Registration
Early Registration ends August 25, 2010

Exhibit Information

The Annual Conference promises to be an exceptional event. We are meeting at the new Hyatt Regency, an all-suites hotel, on beautiful Clearwater Beach, Florida



Join us on Wednesday night, September 22, for an evening of Night Glow Volleyball on the beach.

DON'T DELAY, make your conference and hotel reservations today. For more details, visit www.fsbpa.com/annual.htm.

The conference program is available on the following pages.

Palm Beach County DERM Monthly Report



Calendar of Events

About Shoreline

Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association

54th FSBPA Annual Conference Speaker Program

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

1:00 p.m.

Welcome

Mayor Frank Hibbard (invited), City of Clearwater, and Brian Flynn, Chair, FSBPA and Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL

1:15 p.m.

Opening Keynote Address: Reason to Celebrate!

The U.S. Supreme Court Decision: Stop the Beach Renourishment v. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Walton County, and the City of Destin

Gary K. Oldehoff, Esq., Lewis Stroud & Deutsch, P.L., Boca Raton, FL

1:50 p.m.

The "Real" Hometown Hero: The Pinellas County Shore-Protection Project

Jackie Keiser, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, Jacksonville, FL

2:15 p.m.

Is the Rate of Sea Level Rise Increasing? An Analysis based on U.S. Tide Gauges

James R. Houston, Director Emeritus, Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Corps of Engineers, Vicksburg, MS, and Robert G. Dean, Professor Emeritus, Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2:40 p.m.

Stump Pass: the Top Ten List

Michael Poff, P.E., Coastal Engineering Consultants, Inc., Naples, FL

3:00 p.m.

Professional Exchange Break

3:35 p.m.

A Two-Part Presentation on the Indian River Sector 3 Beach Restoration Project

Policy, Politics and the Challenges of Using Upland Sand Sources

Michael Walther, P.E., President, Coastal Technology Corporation, Vero Beach, FL

Design and Construction of a Truck-Haul Project Using Multiple Upland Borrow Areas

Tem Fontaine, E.I., M.S., Coastal Technology Corporation, Vero Beach, FL

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54th FSBPA Annual Conference Speaker Program

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

4:15 p.m.

A Panel Discussion: The Increasing Costs and Decreasing Support for Post Construction Monitoring of Beach Nourishment Projects

Michael Barnett, P.E., Bureau Chief, Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL,

Tom Campbell, P.E., President, Coastal Planning and Engineering, Boca Raton, FL

Steve Boutelle, Chair of the Beach Management Working Group and Lee County Division of Natural Resources, Fort Myers, FL

Lisa Armbruster, Governmental Affairs Director, FSBPA, Tallahassee, FL

5:15 p.m.

Adjourn

6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception

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54th FSBPA Annual Conference Speaker Program

Thursday, September 23, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

8:30 a.m.

Keynote: The State of Florida's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Response – Current Assessment to Long-Term Prognosis

Michael W. Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL

9:00 a.m.

The Economic Impact of the Oil Spill on Tourism: Perceptions and Realities

Dan Rowe, President and CEO of Panama City Beach, Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Executive Director, Bay County Tourist Development Council, Panama City Beach, FL

9:25 a.m.

Marine Spatial Planning

Laura Geselbracht, Senior Marine Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

9:50 a.m.

Northeast Florida FEMA Surge Analysis

Kenneth Craig, P.E., Associate Vice-President, Taylor Engineering, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

10:15 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

10:45 a.m.

Florida's Beach Management Program: Critically-Ill or Growing Pains

*A roundtable discussion moderated by **Senator Dennis Jones (District 13, Pinellas)** with the following participants:*

Michael W. Sole, Secretary, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL

Diana Ferguson, Esq., Legislative Attorney, Florida Association of Counties, Tallahassee, FL

Erik Olsen, P.E., President, Olsen Associates, Inc., Jacksonville, FL

William H. Hanson, Vice-President, Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Chicago, IL

Don G. Donaldson, P.E., FSBPA (Past Chair), and Martin County, Stuart, FL

12:30 p.m.

FSBPA Annual General Membership Meeting

6:00 p.m.

Cash Bar

6:30 p.m.

Annual Awards Banquet

"Hometown Heroes and FSBPA Stars for 2010"

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54th FSBPA Annual Conference Speaker Program

Friday, September 24, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

8:30 a.m.

FY 2011 and Beyond: Florida's Federally-Authorized Beach Projects and Funding Outlook

Colonel Al Pantano, District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville, FL

9:05 a.m.

The Juno Beach Shore Protection Project and Oyster Reef Restoration in the Loxahatchee River (or Making Lemonade out of Lemon-Sized Rocks)

Leanne Welch, Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, West Palm Beach, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County Engineering Department, Stuart, FL, and Bud Howard, Loxahatchee River District, Jupiter, FL

9:25 a.m.

Post-Spill: The Future of Florida's Beach Birds and the Partnership between Local Governments and Audubon to Save Them

Julie Wraithmell, Wildlife Policy Coordinator, Audubon of Florida, Tallahassee, FL

9:45 a.m.

Raising an Issue of Concern: The Panama Canal and Florida's Beaches

Gary Appelson, Policy Coordinator, Sea Turtle Conservancy (formerly the Caribbean Conservation Corp.), Gainesville, FL

10:00 a.m.

Professional Exchange Break

10:30 a.m.

Oil Spill Recovery Activities: "Lessons Learned – what went right, what went wrong, and what we still don't know"

To insure real-time and relevant discussion, this panel will evolve right up until the time of the conference. The Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, DEP, will lead off and be followed by design and governmental representatives of a number of Panhandle counties. This geographic emphasis may be expanded or modified according to timing and areas of impact.

12:15 p.m.

Conference Adjourns

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We hope you agree that the program for September's Annual Conference speaks for itself. We celebrate a unanimous United States Supreme Court decision that exceeded our shared expectations and reinforced the statutory foundation of Florida's beach management program. However, other conference presentations also suggest there is considerable room for improvement within various aspects of this statewide program. Considerable attention will be directed to increased costs and regulatory requirements associated with post-construction monitoring of beach nourishment projects, and the apparent shift in the cost burden to local governments. We have the opportunity to reverse this trend as part of a review process of a legislatively-required report on the subject by state agencies due to the Legislature February 1, 2011. Let's use this conference setting to start the dialogue!

Oil spill impact and recovery will be a repeated conference theme and focus, but not limited to a "show and tell" format. Other local governments and interests not impacted by the oil spill will benefit from lessons learned, and their transferability to other communities and emergencies. Especially relevant are the direct and indirect economic costs, and response and recovery procedures and requirements that need careful examination, especially in light of the likely legislative consideration of tolling permitting requirements in emergencies, and possible legislatively-proposed tax relief options that may ultimately affect governmental funding for beaches.

Something new and different -- anticipated but uncertain -- is a major policy roundtable chaired by Senator Dennis Jones, from our host district, Pinellas County. At the table will be the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection, legislative attorney for the Florida Association of Counties, and representatives from local government, the coastal engineering community, and the dredging industry.

The panel will have the first opportunity to consider:

- How to reestablish both agency and legislative advocacy for nourishing and maintaining Florida's beaches given that such beach projects are declared by law to be in the public interest.
- Ways for growing program and funding support for the statewide beach management program in the Legislature and local coastal communities.
- Identifying areas within the regulatory/permitting process for beach projects that need reexamination in terms of effectiveness, duplication of effort, cost and time.
- Despite the intent of recent legislation, what is it going to take to revitalize the state's inlet management efforts, especially sand transfer? How can DEP and local government sponsors jumpstart new initiatives and address old problems.
- Despite a long-established agency-driven criteria-based annual project ranking system, it is now subject to criticism as too bureaucratic, not properly weighted, and not terribly useful. Project need, leveraging of matching funds, especially federal, and readiness-to-proceed are virtually all that is currently driving the legislative appropriations process. Is there anything critically wrong with this?
- Final thoughts regarding the impacts of the oil spill on the statewide beach management program. Does the traditional beach program take a back seat to oil spill remediation of beaches? Can Florida's tourism-based economy and eroded beaches afford any redirection of current funding emphasis?

Each panel member will share his or her input – equally important there will be opportunity for considerable audience participation in this roundtable discussion on Thursday morning. Start thinking! We should all benefit.

These are just a few of the scheduled presentations for the Annual Conference. In the September *Shoreline*, other presentations will be highlighted. Hope to see you in Clearwater, September 22-24. It is great conference site and we believe the program deserves equal billing.

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Notice of Proposed FSBPA Bylaws Amendments

By Debbie Flack

You may recall from last year that we went through a fairly detailed bylaws revision exercise based on the 1997 Bylaws. These amendments were favorably voted upon on 9/17/09 by the general membership at the annual meeting. (Existing bylaws must be amended by a two-thirds vote of the general membership at the annual meeting.)

The Board of Directors has recognized a narrowly-defined and targeted need to again revise the Association's bylaws. The reasons for the proposed amendments are:



- To capture and reflect the organizational and structural changes to the Association over the past year
- To implement accounting and financial management changes recommended by our financial and accounting professionals (Ginger Harris of Accounting & Business Financial Solutions, and the CPA firm of Thomas Howell Ferguson)
- To acknowledge recently Board-adopted IRS governance policies to insure accountability and transparency for not-for-profit entities

These subjects were discussed at the February and May board meetings, and specific amendments were discussed in a formal meeting of the Bylaws Committee (Don Donaldson, Chair, Steve Higgins, and Steve Boutelle) on May 13, 2010. Wording was crafted, reviewed, subsequently revised, and forwarded by the Bylaws Committee to the Transition/Executive Committee. They approved the proposed changes and authorized the transmittal of the draft 2010 Bylaws to the entire Board of Directors on June 24.

The following motion was offered by the Vice-Chair, Virginia Barker:

Request Board of Directors approval of the bylaw amendments attached hereto for transmittal to the general membership for a formal vote at the September 23, 2010, annual membership meeting.

Seconded by the Secretary/Treasurer, Steve Higgins

This motion was formally considered and approved unanimously by the entire Board of Directors.

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On the following pages you will find the complete text of FSBPA's existing bylaws (as adopted on September 17, 2009) with proposed amendments color-coded to indicate line-outs and/or additions. Only these proposed changes are subject to consideration. We hope the general membership will support them. I am available, as is the Bylaws Committee, to address any of your questions at debbie@fsbpa.com.

TIME AND LOCATION OF BYLAWS VOTE

2010 FSBPA Annual Conference

Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, September 23, 2010 – 12:30 PM

Aqualea Ballroom

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort

Clearwater, Florida

[Go to Proposed Bylaws Amendments](#)



~~Text Lined Out~~
New Text

BYLAWS

of the

FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established 1957

ARTICLE I

AUTHORIZATION

- 1.1** The Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association is a non-profit corporation established under the Florida Non-Profit Corporation Act. These Bylaws have been adopted in accordance with the applicable provisions of the association's Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

- 2.1** The general purposes and objectives of the Association, stated in the Articles of Incorporation and repeated here, shall be to encourage and develop public and governmental awareness of the need for the preservation of the shores and beaches of the State of Florida; to coordinate and promote public and private efforts to manage Florida's beaches; to aid in informing and otherwise educating the public and various governmental authorities as to the environmental, economic and social impact and importance of Florida's coastal resources; to coordinate with the Florida Legislature and the Executive offices or agencies of the State of Florida to further the preservation of the state's beaches; and to work in unison with other state and national associations toward the common goal of preserving the nation's coastal areas.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

- 3.1** The classes of membership and corresponding annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors.
- 3.2** The membership year shall begin January 1 and end on December 31 of the same calendar year. There shall be no proration of dues for partial year membership.
- 3.3** Honorary Members: From time to time the Board of Directors may bestow Honorary Membership on a member who has made outstanding contributions to the association over a period of years. Honorary Members are exempt from paying annual dues and registration fees to the FSBPA Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV

VOTING

- 4.1** All members in good standing shall have voting privileges in the affairs of the association.
- 4.2** Voting units shall be calculated on the following formula:
 - (a)** Individual Members shall be entitled to one vote.
 - (b)** All other non-governmental members shall be entitled to 3 votes.
 - (c)** Non-county governmental members shall be entitled to 5 votes.
 - (d)** County governmental members shall be entitled to 10 votes.
- 4.3** Members with multiple votes shall appoint one voting delegate who is authorized to cast the ballot of said member.
- 4.4** The current FSBPA dues ledger shall constitute proof of valid membership and the number of voting units to which each member is entitled.

- 4.5** If the Annual Membership Meeting can not take place, all required voting shall be conducted by mail ballot, electronic ballot, or any other legal means, to be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 5.1** The Board of Directors shall conduct the affairs of the Association. The Board shall establish policies and take actions within the framework of the Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and any mandates established at membership meetings. In the absence of any such specific guideline, the Board may act in a manner consistent with the interests and purposes of the Association.
- 5.2** The Board shall determine the eligibility of applicants for membership.
- 5.3** The Board shall control the expenditure of funds and shall carry out the financial policies, as set out in Article XI.
- 5.4** Seven (7) Directors (excluding ex-officio directors) shall constitute a quorum at any Board meeting

ARTICLE VI

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

- 6.1** The Board shall consist of thirteen (13) Directors who shall be elected at the annual membership meeting by voting members in good standing. At least three (3) Directors shall be elected annually, and shall assume office at the close of the meeting at which they were elected. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the following calendar year.
- 6.2** Directors shall be elected by the general membership for terms of three years. The terms shall be staggered so that each year approximately one-third of the Board shall be up for election. Board members may serve no more than two full consecutive terms.

- 6.3** The Board of Directors shall have the authority to fill any vacancy on the Board. A Director so appointed shall serve until the end of the un-expired term for which he or she has been appointed and, following completion of the appointment, shall still be eligible to serve two full consecutive three-year terms.
- 6.4** At least nine (9) Directors shall represent municipal or county governments or other governmental agencies.
- 6.5** No member of the Board is permitted to participate in any meeting where official Association business is being conducted unless and until he or she has signed and submitted an acceptance of the Association's Conflict of Interest Policy.
- 6.6** If the Board of Directors finds that any director has misused or otherwise abused his/her position within the Association, or violates the Association's Conflict of Interest Policy, the Board of Directors shall remove that Director from the Board.
- 6.5 7** To foster closer ties between FSBPA and the state and federal agencies responsible for beach preservation, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Jacksonville and Mobile Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may each appoint one representative to serve as non-voting Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Directors. No term limits apply as these appointments are made by agencies outside of the association.
- 6.6 8** The Board of Directors may appoint three additional non-voting Members of the Board, whom they deem will address the association's current needs. Terms of non-voting Members shall be for one year. Non-voting Members may serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive one-year terms.
- 6.7 9** The Board of Directors may, from time to time, confer the title of Chair Emeritus to an outgoing or past Chair of the Board in recognition of outstanding service to the association. It is the intent of these bylaws that such designation not be bestowed routinely but only on rare occasions for exceptional service and accomplishment. A Chair Emeritus shall automatically be a non-voting Member of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII

OFFICERS

- 7.1** The officers of the Association shall consist of a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary-Treasurer and such other officers as the Board of Directors shall deem to be desirable. All officers shall perform the duties usual and appropriate thereto, subject, however, to the direction and control of the Board.
- 7.2** The term of office shall be one year, except for officers selected to fill vacancies, who shall complete the unexpired terms. Officers shall be elected each year by the general membership at the annual business meeting. **Terms for officers shall be for the following calendar year.**
- 7.3** All officers of the association shall be **voting members of the Board** and representatives of local governments or other governmental entities.
- 7.4** **There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the officers of the Association and the immediate past chair. Between regular meetings of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee shall oversee the administrative affairs of the Association, provide guidance to the President, and carry out such additional duties as the Board of Directors shall delegate.**

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS

- 8.1** There shall be an annual meeting of the general membership to elect directors and conduct the general affairs of the Association. This meeting shall take place during the regular annual conference of the association.
- 8.2** Special meetings of the general membership may be called by the Board of Directors, providing that the Board gives the membership at least 30 days written notice and a summary of the agenda.
- 8.3** The Board of Directors shall meet three times annually unless a majority of the board votes to reduce or increase the number of meetings in a particular year.

8.4 Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be held upon the call of the President or Executive Committee. Any such call shall specify the purpose of the meeting and provide an agenda. Formal written notice shall be mailed or e-mailed, and followed by telephone confirmation. Notice shall be given not less than fifteen (15) working days prior to meeting unless critical circumstances, so determined by the President and Executive Committee, warrant a lesser period of time.

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8.4 The conduct of meetings shall comply with the current Robert's Rules of Order (Revised).

ARTICLE IX

COMMITTEES

9.1 ~~The Chair shall appoint members to the standing committees and to such other special committees as may be established by the Board of Directors.~~ Permanent standing committees of the Association are Executive, Nominating and Awards. Except for the Executive Committee as prescribed in Section 7.4, the Chair shall appoint members to the standing committees and to such other special committees as may be established by the Board of Directors.

9.2 The Board of Directors may initiate and establish additional committees as they deem appropriate.

9.3 Committees shall make periodic reports as requested by the Chair or the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

EMPLOYEES

- 10.1 ~~A staff may be employed by the Association to handle administrative, legislative, clerical and other as authorized by the Board of Directors.~~

A President and Chief Executive Officer shall be employed by the Association to perform those duties to the best of his/her abilities and in the best interests of the Association, under the direction of the Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Duties, compensation and terms of employment shall be authorized by the Board of Directors.

- 10.2 ~~The Board may authorize contracting for other services.~~

The President and Chief Executive Officer may authorize contracting for other services, based on funding provided for in the annual budget, as approved by, or subsequently amended by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XI

FISCAL YEAR, FINANCES, NOTICES

- 11.1 The Fiscal Year of the Association shall be the calendar year, from January 1 through December 31.
- 11.2 The Board of Directors shall control all funds of the Association and establish an annual budget. Processing of funds and the method of accounting shall be subject to Board authorization and approval.
- 11.3 Through authorization by the Board of Directors, the Association shall conduct business procedures that are normal and in keeping with the Association's purposes as appropriate for an organization of this nature.
- 11.4 All revenue, profit, income and funds received shall be used solely for the promotion of the purposes of the Association, and no portion thereof shall inure to the benefit of any member of the Association.

11.5 There shall be an annual audit of the finances of the Association by an independent certified public accountant approved by the Board of Directors. Federal tax returns and accountants' review reports in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services shall be prepared annually by an independent certified public accountant approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XII

LOCAL CHAPTERS

12.1 The Board of Directors may charter local Chapters on petition of ten or more voting members of the Association in a given geographic area.

12.2 The Board of Directors may dissolve a Chapter upon thirty (30) days notice to the officers of the Chapter.

12.3 A local Chapter may not act contrary to the best interests of the association as determined by the Board of Directors.

12.4 Bylaws of a Chapter and amendments thereto must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Association to become effective. Each Chapter is responsible for making certain that the Executive Director has a current copy of the Chapter's bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII XII

AMENDMENTS

12

13.1 These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the general membership. Amendments may be approved:

(a) by a vote at the annual membership meeting of the association.

(b) by a mail ballot to the membership of the association.

(c) by any other legal means, as determined by the Board of Directors, including electronic voting.

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13.2 Proposed amendments to Bylaws may be initiated in the either of the following methods:

- (a) a vote of the Board of Directors.
- (b) a petition to the Board signed by at least 30 voting members.

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13.3 In the case of amendments to be considered at the annual membership meeting, members must be given at least 30 days written notice of the proposed amendment. Such notice shall be given either in the official newsletter of the association, or in a letter delivered by U.S. mail.

- (a) In the case of amendments originating from a petition to the Board, the proposers of such amendments shall be required to reimburse FSBPA for 100% of the cost of notifying the general membership of the proposed amendment or amendments.

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13.4 In the case of amendments to be considered by mail ballot, members shall be given 30 days from the date of the mailing to return their ballots to the Association headquarters. Votes shall be tabulated by a Tellers Committee approved by the Board of Directors or by the Board of Directors itself at the next meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE ~~XIV~~ XIII

DISSOLUTION

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14.1 The Corporation may be dissolved, the voting and initiative for which shall be the same as provided for Amendments under Article XIII, except that Dissolution shall require a four-fifths vote of the general membership.

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14.2 In the event of dissolution, the residual assets shall be disposed of as provided in the Articles of Incorporation.

A VERY BRIEF LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Debbie Flack

The title above says quite a bit. A Special Session of the Florida Legislature called by the Governor for July 20-23 to consider a constitutional ban on oil drilling in Florida waters lasted just over two hours. It produced a bit of drama in the Senate, considerable misinformation in the aftermath, and little else.

Despite reports and headlines to the contrary, there was not a vote to place a constitutional amendment on the November ballot – the only votes were to shut down the session. The sine die vote in the Senate was a real cliffhanger (18-16); however, the outcome would have been largely symbolic since the House had already adjourned. Senator Gaetz, Chair of the Select Committee on Florida’s Economy, who coincidentally represents the entire area of Northwest Florida impacted by the oil spill, eloquently stated that while a Senate favorable vote may make “some” feel better, the people of the Panhandle need more than gestures. Their economic survival, environment, and way of life are at stake. There were also a number of concerned individuals, officials and groups fearful of the impact of a constitutional amendment to ban drilling that failed to garner 60% of the vote in November, and the message that would send.



Lots of finger pointing to go around, but no one can argue that the call for last week’s special session was extremely limited, and the result is another, extended special session as early as September.

In preparation, the House has created 6 Deepwater Horizon Response and Recovery Workgroups. Assignments and members, noting leaders, are as follows:

| Workgroup Assignment | | Members |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Evaluate response to current disaster and prepare for future disasters | Rep. T. Williams, Lead Representatives: Bembry, Braynon, Fresen, Legg, Roberson, K. |
| 2 | Assess programs and resources to meet immediate needs of impacted areas | Rep. O’Toole, Lead Representatives: Clarke-Reed, Drake, Jenne, Nelson, Plakon |
| 3 | Review the scope of private sector damages and processes for compensation | Rep. Crisafulli, Lead Representatives: Ford, Grady, Long, Rouson, Wood |
| 4 | Develop strategies for public sector recovery of damages | Rep. Hudson, Lead Representatives: Jones, Patronis, Stargel, Waldman, Workman |
| 5 | Identify regional long-term economic recovery opportunities | Rep. Kreegel, Lead Representatives: Chestnut, Coley, Hays, Heller, Ray |
| 6 | Examine adequacy of criminal and civil penalties to address offenses causing or arising out of environmental disasters | Rep. Dorworth, Lead Representatives: Adkins, Boyd, Fetterman, Frishe, Weinstein |

Thus far, on behalf of FSBPA, I have been asked to attend the first meeting of the criminal and civil penalties group on August 9. These groups will have extremely accelerated schedules, having a goal of a September Special Session with specific legislative proposals to consider. We will be closely following the working group that is charged with developing strategies for public sector recovery of damages, of particular interest to our member local governments and tourist development councils. The work plans and schedules for all groups were just posted.....so where did the summer go?

The Senate gave us some indication of their focus over the next several weeks. At the only committee meeting held during the July 21 Special Session, the Senate Select Committee on Florida's Economy presented a number of proposals that will likely enjoy interim attention, including:

- State submerged land lease fee relief
- Options for tolling permit requirements during an emergency
- Civil compensation remedies and criminal prosecution
- Reduction in unemployment compensation liability for affected businesses
- Creation of a state claims advocacy office
- Congressional memorials related to financial assistance and tax relief
- Property tax relief

This will not be the last time *Shoreline* highlights legislative actions and remedies in response to the oil spill. This will be the subject of at least one more special session and considerable attention during the 2011 Legislative Session.

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Federal Project Status Update prepared by the Jacksonville District



US Army Corps
of Engineers

FEASIBILITY STUDIES:

- **St. Johns County** – Jacksonville District received Federal Stimulus funding to facilitate this study. Funding was utilized to perform Geotechnical Investigations and to calibrate the shoreline change model, GENESIS. Agency Technical Review (ATR) of chapters 1-5 of the feasibility report has been completed and was submitted to South Atlantic Division of the Corps for their review on 18 May. Economic modeling work with Beach-fx has been completed for the without project conditions. These conditions, along with preliminary alternatives for hurricane and storm damage reduction, are anticipated to be presented to SAD and Headquarters during a Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) in late summer/fall of 2010.
- **Flagler County** – Economic modeling work with Beach-fx to identify the without project future conditions is currently completed and undergoing Agency Technical Review. ATR will conclude by 6 August and then the first five chapters of the Feasibility Report will be submitted to South Atlantic Division for their Quality Assurance review. The without project conditions, along with preliminary alternatives for hurricane and storm damage reduction, are anticipated to be presented to the SAD and Headquarters during a Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) in November 2010. Geotechnical investigations conducted earlier this year were inconclusive and new investigations will be initiated.
- **St. Lucie County** – Jacksonville District is continuing data collection within the study area (R77 to R115). Economic modeling setup in Beach-fx is currently being done, which will identify the without project future conditions. First Floor Elevation data is nearly complete for the study reach and Structure valuation is currently in progress and scheduled to be completed in early August. SBEACH has also been calibrated; all of this data will be used to set up Beach fx for model runs that will commence in September and likely run through December. Documentation of existing and future without project conditions in the study area is ongoing. The Team is working towards a Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM) date of May 2011, for South Atlantic Division (SAD) and Headquarters review of existing and future without project conditions and the first 5 chapters of the feasibility report. The Sponsor is moving ahead with planning for a more immediate non-Federal initial nourishment project. The Federal feasibility study is separate and will investigate feasibility of many alternatives, including initial and periodic nourishment. The non-Federal Sponsor is conducting environmental surveys and initiating an environmental impact assessment.



St. Lucie County Study Area

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OTHER MAJOR PLANNING REPORTS:

- The **Brevard County Mid-Reach General Reevaluation Report (GRR)** team has recently completed the ATR of the Final Report. Once the final revisions have been made the final report will be submitted to SAD and Headquarters prior to submission to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for final approval.
- **Jupiter/Carlin Shore Protection Project** - Palm Beach County has started a 934 report/NEPA document for Jupiter/Carlin Segment to extend Federal participation for the next renourishment. The Sponsor will be running the Beach-fx model. Federal participation has expired and congressional funds have not been appropriated on this project, to date. Therefore, Corps involvement has ceased until congressional funding can be attained.
- The **Draft Ft. Pierce Shore Protection Project GRR** seeks an additional 50 years of Federal participation in the project as well as the inclusion of groins to the project area. The sponsor is currently running Beach-fx, and the GRR is undergoing further evaluation to establish the tentative plan. A Draft GRR is expected to be completed by the Sponsor in May 2011, and then will begin undergoing reviews by Jacksonville District.
- **Broward County Shore Protection Project - Segment I** (north county line to Hillsboro Inlet) – Integrated GRR and NEPA document – Preparation of the GRR and NEPA document for initial construction of this segment has been initiated by the Jacksonville District. SAJ has initiated Beach-fx data collection and shoreline biological surveys. **Segment II** – GRR Addendum and NEPA document – Sponsor has initiated their GRR Addendum for the upcoming renourishment. **Segment III** – A Draft Detailed Design Report (DDR) has been completed to address the subsidence/erosion of the beach fill at the northern end of Segment III under the authority for the Shore Protection Project.
- In **Dade County**, work was funded for a **Section 227 Project** at 63rd Street in Miami and was reinitiated in August 2008. A design and build contract is being evaluated in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and Reef Innovation, Inc. Genesis modeling is underway to determine the minimum structural footprint and the exact project location. NEPA documentation and WQC are underway, with the Joint Coastal Permit to be submitted upon completion.

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- The **Martin County Draft Limited Reevaluation Report (LRR) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)** evaluates impacts to the Benefit/Cost ratio of the approved Shore Protection Project due to the use of a new borrow area. Turtle-friendly beach construction templates are also being evaluated for use on this project. The document is awaiting approval for public release from South Atlantic Division (SAD).

REGIONAL SEDIMENT MANAGEMENT:

- The revised **Dade County Letter Report** is being reviewed at the Headquarters level. The report was revised with findings of the **Southeast Atlantic Regional Sediment Management Plan for Florida**.

CONSTRUCTION:

- Beginning August 2nd, Southwind Construction will be nourishing the Treasure Island and Long Key segments of the **Pinellas County Shore Protection Project**. In Treasure Island 150,000 cubic yards (cy) are to be placed on Sunshine Beach and 125,000 cy on Sunset Beach. The borrow area for the Treasure Island segment is Johns Pass and vicinity. The Upham Beach portion of Long Key will be getting 160,000 cubic yards of sand from Blind Pass. The total construction cost is \$5.2 million.



Upham Beach, April 2009

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Okaloosa County Oil Response Program

By Tom Campbell, P.E., President

Coastal Planning & Engineering, Inc.

Introduction

On April 20, 2010, the platform and wellhead of the BP Deepwater Horizon operation exploded and started spewing oil into the Gulf of Mexico directly east of Louisiana at a depth of around 5,000 feet. The well was losing 50- 100,000 barrels of oil per day which is the equivalent of an Exxon Valdez oil spill every 26 hours. The spill created a huge oil slick that moved onshore in Louisiana in early May and threatened beaches in the Panhandle from Mississippi through Panama City.

Tom Campbell, P.E., was contacted by County Manager Jim Curry on May 06, 2010, and joined him the next morning at an EOC meeting where the response to the oil spill was discussed. Mr. Curry wished to engage CPE to assist the County in oil response planning because of their experience in developing an inlet study for East Pass that included a model study of inlet currents. Samantha Danchuck, Ph.D., coastal engineer with CPE was tasked with preparing a County response plan which would address offshore, nearshore, beach, inlet, and bay protection programs. Sam's Doctoral dissertation was on oil spill tracking, collection and clean-up methods as part of her studies at LSU.

BP directly funded the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) which was last updated by Coast Guard in 1995. The ACP was quickly adapted to the current crisis but remained largely schematic in nature. The ACP was administered by Unified Command (Coast Guard, Florida DEP, USACE, BP, and Federal and State Agencies). The ACP included a number of boom deployments in East Pass and Choctawhatchee Bay with regional response for intercepting oil offshore, nearshore, and along the beaches.

The County determined that the ACP plan should be enhanced and with help of CPE and H2O (a fast water boom contractor) developed a Local Action Plan (LAP). The plan supplemented the ACP plan with 36,500 ft. of additional boom to protect sensitive habitats within Choctawhatchee Bay. A chevron (spearhead shaped) boom configuration was a key feature of the plan was that was to be deployed inside East Pass to keep oil out of the Bay. The use of barges to reinforce boom deployment, installation of an air curtain inside East Pass, and a public information program were incorporated into the LAP.

Florida DEP received funding from BP to help pay for local plans and agreed to fund the LAP supplemental boom installations. All other aspects of the plan were rejected by the State as being redundant to the ACP. A State contract was developed with CPE to supervise the construction of the approved boom with the use of two subcontractors: H2O and DRC. The LAP boom was staged on June 3, 2010, and placed in the water over the following few days. The LAP included 25,000 ft. of boom in Choctawhatchee bay to protect environmentally-sensitive areas and marinas, and 11,500 ft. of boom in East Pass which was the first line of defense from oil intrusion and the most highly visible aspect of the plan.

In the early days the ACP and the LAP seemed to be working at cross purposes and the County was blocked on every initiative to protect the pass. Frustration with the lack of coordination with Unified Command on the ACP and LAP implementation led to joint meeting of Okaloosa County Commissions and the City of Destin in which commissioners suggested moving forward with local plans without approvals. They directed Dino Villani to move forward with a barge and air curtain as soon as possible and without approvals if necessary.

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CPE immediately began a public information program that monitored the health of the beach and summarized the information from web sites (NOAA, SERT GATOR, Destin Log, etc.) as it related to Okaloosa County beaches. The report was published daily by 9:30 AM to enable all parties working on Okaloosa's oil response to know the current conditions.

History and Sequence of Inlet Actions

The following evolution of the protection program for the pass led to an effective and well-designed final solution that could not have been proposed or accepted at the start of the program. Coast Guard oil response expert Chief Warrant Officer Stanley Cain first suggested a redundant collection system north of the bridge in early May, and CPE engineers discussed concepts of collection boom in lower current areas north of the bridge with the Coast Guard on a number of occasions and with DEP Secretary Mike Sole who favored the idea. It was only after the protection schemes in the inlet were thoroughly vetted that the concept of the lower current intercepts north of the bridge was ready for prime time. In the end, Petty Officer Nathan Hatfield working with BP consultant Raymond Butler proposed the concept, that was refined by Sam and her design team, to prevent oil entrainment and to provide a comprehensive and reliable system that would collect most if not all the oil entering the pass. As can be seen from the following discussion the first instinct was to block the oil from entering the pass and there was even discussion of filling the pass with sand which was vetoed early by the DEP.

Initial Inlet Boom Plan

H2O developed the original inlet chevron boom plan and attempted to place and anchor the boom inside East Pass (Figure 1). H2O is an experienced high current boom contractor that has developed oil collection boom for rivers. Given the high currents of East Pass, H2O immediately ran into problems as the small boats selected to operate in the pass were not sufficient. A few hundred feet of boom were installed around the rip rap but the crews would find that they could not deploy the boom within the pass.



Figure 1. Chevron boom configuration developed by H2O.

Despite approval by Unified Command, the Coast Guard had issues with ropes and anchors securing the boom and closing the inlet with boom. The Coast Guard stopped H2O from implementing the chevron portion of the plan. H2O then proposed a series of shoreline boom emplacements that required wood pile to secure the ends.

The inlet shoreline boom consisted of 10 angled booms near the shoreline that terminated in a wood pile anchoring system (Figure 2). After piles were installed by the City of Destin, H2O continued to have problems connecting boom to the pile and their offer to quit the job was accepted by the engineer. Using larger and more seaworthy boats, a combination of CPE and DRC forces were able to install the inlet shoreline boom.



Figure 2. Approved LAP boom with pile.

The Barge Plan

The barge plan was designed to fortify the boom in helping block oil from entering Choctawhatchee Bay. The concept was based on the use of barges in Magnolia Springs, Alabama, where an estuary off of Magnolia River and Weeks Bay had been blocked off by barges to prevent oil intrusion. Several concepts were evaluated within the inlet and were rejected by the engineer, the Coast Guard, and/or the State as being unsafe and potentially damaging to the bridge if the barges became unsecured.

An updated barge plan was proposed outside the inlet that would have created three collection areas along the ebb shoal (Figure 3). Each collection area would consist of two 220 ft. long barges connected by a series of interconnected smaller pin barges that would serve as the floatation for specially fabricated ocean boom. Each collection unit would have skimmers and oil storage containers on the barges.

The plan was permitted and approved by Unified Command for funding. The Coast Guard was concerned about barge anchoring methods and rejected the contractor's proposal to sink the larger barges onto the ebb shoal. The contractor could not produce an alternate anchoring scheme that could be employed with confidence. The engineer recommended against the construction of the barges.

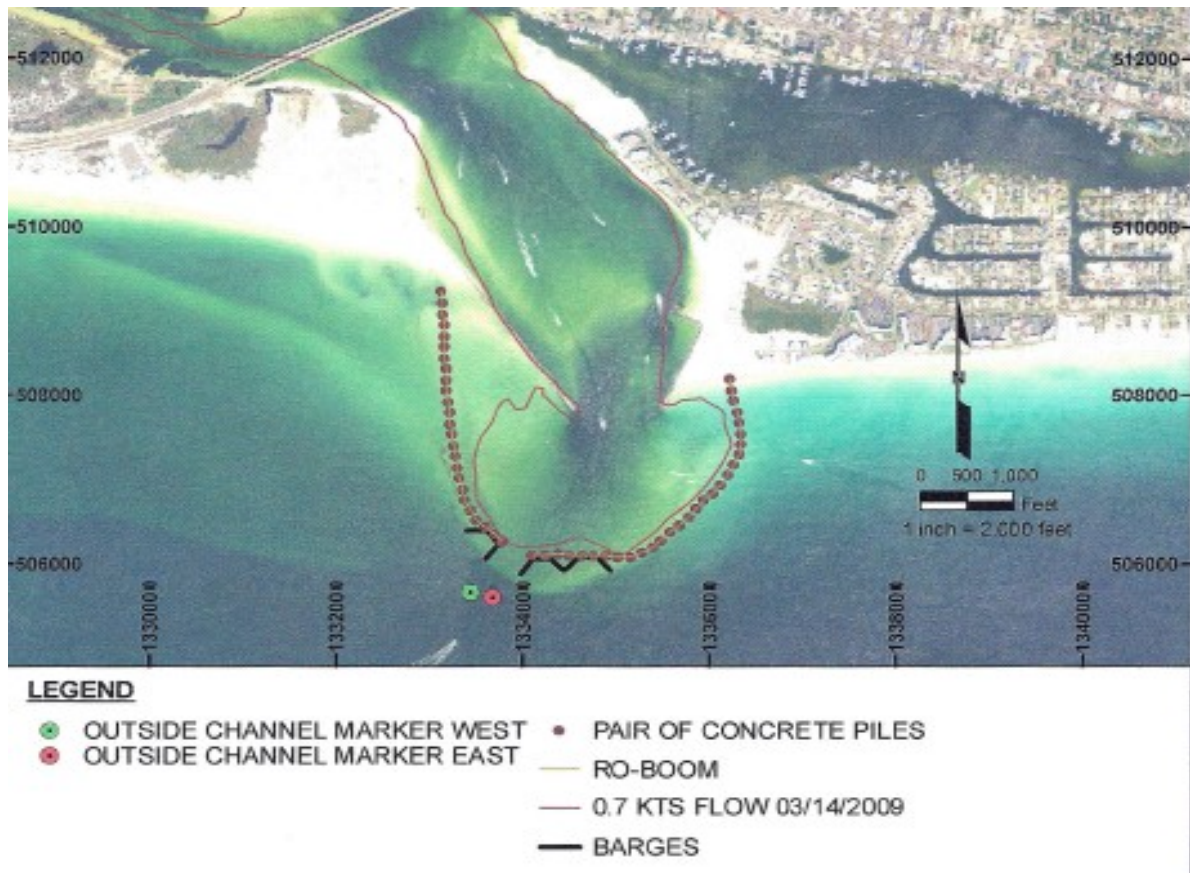


Figure 3. Barge and pile supported Ro boom plan outside of East Pass.

Ro-Boom Outside the Inlet

CPE met with Coast Guard Captain Poulin and DEP Secretary Sole to discuss the barge plan and it was suggested that Ro-Boom be considered as an alternate or supplement to the barge plan. Ro-Boom is a rubber ocean boom that has been used with success in high current and high wave environments. BP had purchased 7,500 ft. of Ro-Boom that was not being used and potentially available for East Pass.

Immediately following the meeting a design was developed to encircle the inlet with the available Ro-Boom to prevent oil from entering the inlet (Figure 3). The boom was to be placed at the 0.5 knot contour on the incoming tide to prevent oil entrainment under the boom. The boom would be supported by concrete pile spaced at 100 meter intervals.

The Ro-Boom plan outside the inlet was rejected by Coast Guard and Secretary Sole because of navigation and safety concerns, but they encouraged the County to propose a Ro-Boom solution inside the pass.

Ro-Boom Open Chevron in the Inlet

A design was developed to use Ro-Boom inside the inlet in an open chevron configuration (Figure 4). The east and west sections of the chevron were positioned at an angle to the currents so that no section of boom would encounter perpendicular currents greater than 0.7 knots to prevent entrainment of the oil under the boom. The channel remained open and a boom pulled by tugboats would be used to intercept the oil that approached the channel. The tugboat pulling boom program was initiated while the open chevron was being reviewed by Unified Command.

The open chevron was approved by Unified Command but was intercepted by the BP engineer who showed concern about the tide slide connections to the pile. A standard tide slide connection was subsequently developed to address these concerns.

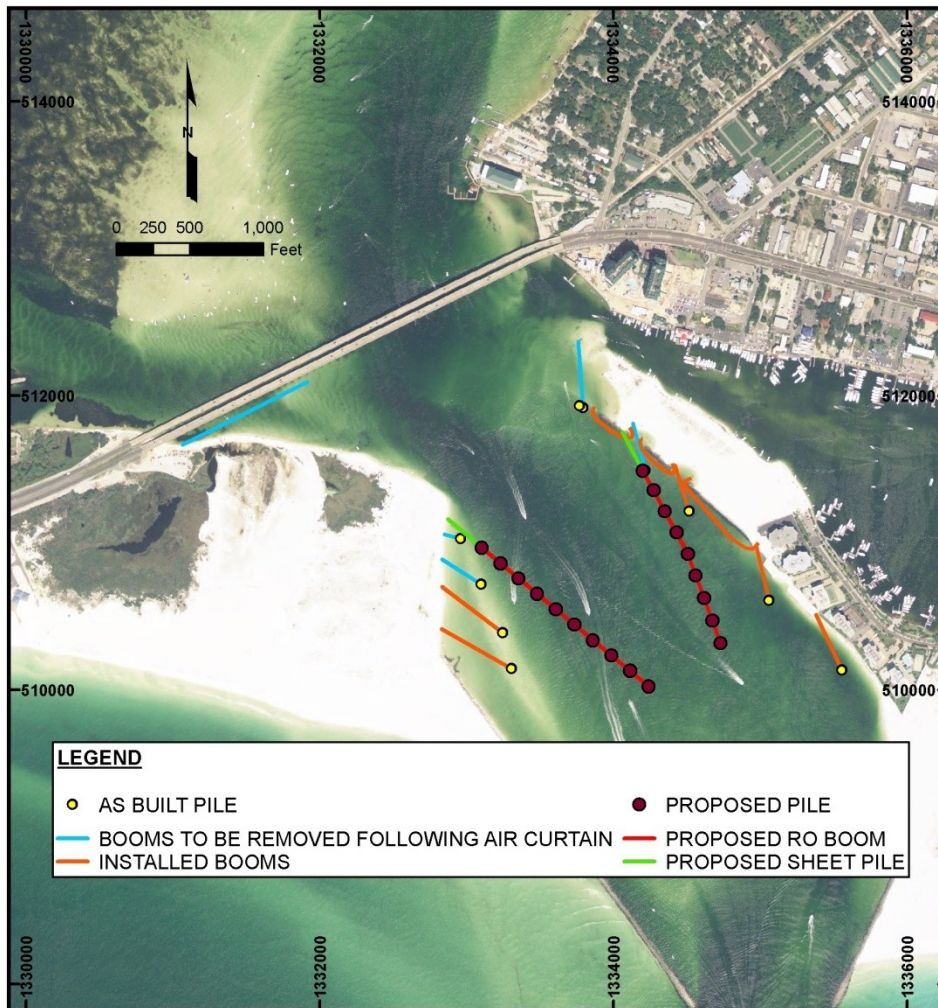


Figure 4. Proposed open chevron Ro-Boom plan for inside East Pass.

The BP engineer and the Coast Guard worked behind the scenes in the development of an alternate boom concept north of the bridge which came with pre-approved BP funding. This plan took the place of the Ro-Boom open chevron in the inlet.

Boom Plan North of Destin Bridge, East Pass Inlet Model

In early 2010, prior to the Deepwater Horizon incident, CPE completed an inlet management study of East Pass for the City of Destin and the State of Florida. The study utilized the advanced numerical model Delft3D to simulate currents and sediment movement in and around East Pass, Destin Harbor, Choctawhatchee Bay, and nearshore Gulf of Mexico waters. The results of this study proved to be critical in conceptualizing the many designs for boom installation, particularly for East Pass.

In currents above 0.7 knots, the turbulence generated by water flowing under the boom would result in oil entrainment under the boom (COE, 1999). Therefore, the proper boom deflection angle and overall layout is dependent upon current speed and direction at the boom location. With the results of the East Pass modeling study, CPE engineers developed a post-processing algorithm to assess boom layouts against the current field within the inlet (Figure 5). This allowed conceptual designs to be tested and refined prior to physical deployment of the boom. Throughout the process, the configurations were modified based on feedback from various approval entities and the model allowed for rapid analysis and expedited approvals.

The boom plan north of Destin Bridge has been staged and will be deployed if and when oil comes in the inlet.



Figure 5. Boom plan north of Destin Bridge. Boom is placed and aligned so that relative currents are less than 0.7 knots.

The Air Curtain

Okaloosa County requested CPE to secure permits and manage the installation of an air curtain within East Pass. The purpose of the air curtain was to raise submerged oil and possibly hold oil, tar balls, mousse and other oil related products that move into East Pass to facilitate skimming of the material. Per Okaloosa instructions, CPE worked with Destin Offshore Services to configure the air curtain in a manner that could accomplish the purpose of its deployment.

The air curtain design and permitting went through several daily revisions over the course of about a month. Simply stated, the air curtain was designed using a pipe with orifices that allowed compressed air to emit bubbles stretched across the narrowest location inside East Pass which totaled approximately 1,300 ft. The pipe was to be secured to the bottom of the Pass using anchors, and the design allowed for 24 hour access to boat traffic inside the Pass. Eglin Air Force Base along with permitting requirements guided the deployed design of the compressors and fueling needs to alternate between beach and barge installations.

Following multiple revisions and budget estimations, Okaloosa County concluded that a proof of concept for the air curtain that spanned the smaller opening of Destin Harbor (approximately 300 ft) would be best. CPE secured a USACE permit via modification of the existing boom plan for all of East Pass to include the air curtain design.

Once permits and final designs were secured, the cap containing the outflow of oil was operating successfully and tar balls were more infrequent on Okaloosa beaches. Thus deployment of the air curtain was delayed until surface/submerged oil was considered imminent.

The Storm and Reduced Oil Threat

On July 19th the Deepwater Horizon well was capped. On July 20, 2010, the State ordered all boom in Florida waters to be removed because of Tropical Storm Bonnie. All boom in Okaloosa County has been removed and dry staged. No decision has been made yet as to when or if the boom will be redeployed and it depends on the level of threat that is experienced in the near future.

Summary and Recommendations

It is important for local governments to take an active role in the protection of their communities from disasters. No one knows your community better than you do. It is also important to stay with the program through frustrating changes and approvals. Effective solutions are often the result of multiple iterations.

For Okaloosa County, the final solution for East Pass was actually the best one and would not have been conceived of if not for the iterations of multiple plans that tested the system and uncovered concerns from all agencies. It was through the learning process that approvals and funding were available for the best solution.

Although the final solution for East Pass (boom north of the bridge) may not be deployed, it has become the accepted ACP plan for future oil threats. We would encourage communities to work with the Coast Guard now to update your vintage 1995 ACP plan so you can take advantage of the efforts and findings of the communities that have lived through the oil threat.

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BP has committed to staying engaged for the long term so do not be shy about requesting funds to meet your planning and implementation needs. Sometimes it will take political pressure to get BP to listen and you should not hesitate to use it as your representatives are anxious to help where they can.

Finally, all ACP plans should place emphasis on intercepting oil in the bays just inside the inlet where currents have slowed enough to maximize the capture of oil products. Model studies such as DELFT 3D or ADCIRC are invaluable in determining where to place boom that will successfully catch oil for collection.

It is important to keep the public informed and a daily update that details the condition of the beach and offshore conditions can keep public support strong through many twists and turns of the program.

Credits

I would like to recognize Emergency Operations Officer, Dino Villani, for his untiring and diligent efforts day in and day out in the face of public pressure and the imminent threat of oil. Dino and I often exchanged emails in the wee hours of the morning to address critical issues and approvals. Dino was the heart and soul of the emergency response.

I would like to thank County Manager Jim Curry for his leadership and confidence in our team. Destin City Manager Greg Kisela was always there for us in providing staging area for boom and driving pile to support inlet shoreline boom. Finally, it was the joint commitment of the County Commission and City Council that set the program in motion and kept the pressure on when times got tough.

Our contractor DRC was very responsive and professional and helped us construct boom in very difficult conditions.

I would also like to mention the CPE Oil Response Team who did a remarkable job and spent many long days to accomplish the program. The team was led by Samantha Danchuck, Ph.D. who developed the oil response program in association with the County staff and H2O. Sam led the actions of the team throughout the entire program development and performed calculations on the fly to refine designs and secure approvals.

Tom Pierro tracked and administered all of the contracts for the boom, barge and tugs, and along with Michelle Rees who provided technical support to evaluate currents and boom placement.

Steve Miller was our field inspector who together with Jim and Kent McMillan pulled and connected the first two inlet boom to demonstrate that it could be done (Figure 6).

John Campbell developed the web site and public information program that kept the public informed. Quin Robertson tracked the air curtain program and developed the daily summaries.

Peter and Michael Campbell performed daily inspections of the beach to assess oil conditions and prepared the oil map by 7:30 AM each day. Maureen O'Neil helped develop the beach inspection program and along with Cathy Campbell did an excellent job as Clerk of the Works.

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Figure 6. First boom successfully installed in the pass by CPE team.

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The Oil Spill-Related Activities of the Sea Turtle Conservancy

To everyone who cares about sea turtles and the marine environment, the ongoing oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is painfully heartbreaking. This disaster is especially discouraging to all of us at the Sea Turtle Conservancy (formally the Caribbean Conservation Corporation) who have worked tirelessly to protect sea turtles and their habitats. We are very concerned that progress made in recovering these species could be undone as a result of this one terrible incident.



David Godfrey describing event to CNN Reporters and dignitaries.

Of immediate concern is the fate of hundreds of sea turtle nests that are being deposited now by nesting loggerhead turtles along the north Gulf coast of Florida. Under normal circumstances, hatchlings from this coast would begin emerging from their nests after incubating for about 60 days and immediately swim out into the Gulf in search of floating mats of sargassum seaweed, where they find shelter and food for the first few years of life. Unfortunately, oil from the spill, pushed by currents and winds, is accumulating in the same areas where the hatchlings would be heading. Conditions are so bad off shore that there is a strong likelihood that most of this year's hatchlings from the Panhandle would not survive. In response to this dire situation, federal and state officials have made a bold decision to relocate all of the nests from this part of the Gulf Coast to an incubation facility set up at the Kennedy Space Center on Florida's east coast. The idea is to release the hatchlings into the Atlantic, where they have a far greater chance of surviving.

On average, about 700 nests are laid by turtles in this region each summer. Considering there are about 100 eggs in each nest, this adds up to an estimated 70,000 eggs that will be need to be carefully excavated, stored in special containers and transported to the east coast. As the hatchlings emerge inside their containers, they will be allowed to crawl down the beach and into the sea at a variety of locations on the east coast.

The operation is being coordinated by staff with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service and Florida's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. They are being assisted by a well-trained network of local sea turtle monitors from the Panhandle, as well as the Sea Turtle Conservancy and other contractors with years of experience working with sea turtles in Florida. All of the agencies, organizations and people working on this relocation strategy are very dedicated to getting it right, and the relocation program has a high probability of success.

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Each nest will be allowed to incubate in place until about the 50-day point, and then they will be carefully excavated and placed in specialized incubation containers. FedEx has stepped up to provide their expertise in shipping sensitive cargo in order to transport all of the eggs to the incubation site at the Space Center. FedEx has dedicated climate-controlled trucks and full-time drivers who will continually pick up and transport containers of eggs that are ready to be shipped. The transfer process will continue for two or more months as all of the nests gradually reach the 50-day mark.



David Godfrey and Gary Appelson drilling air holes

The Sea Turtle Conservancy is providing its expertise to the operation as needed. We have been assisting with construction of the modified coolers that will be used to hold and incubate the eggs. And in the coming weeks and months, we expect to be assisting with nest excavations and hatchling releases. The Sea Turtle Conservancy normally opposes to the relocation of sea turtle nests, but this is a highly unique situation. Given the conditions in the Gulf, we are supporting the relocation plan and think the protocol now in place will minimize the potential risks associated with moving the nests – giving tens of thousands of sea turtle hatchlings a fighting chance at survival.

The STC also has formulated a plan to begin mitigating for the impacts of the oil spill on sea turtles. Because the oil disaster is still unfolding, the first phase of the plan is to reduce or eliminate as many other causes of sea turtle mortality as possible. Of course, most of the damage caused by the spill can never be undone, but BP and other entities are looking to contribute immediately to sea turtle conservation in other ways. Our plan was accepted by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which is handling some of the money being earmarked to begin addressing environmental impacts. Sea Turtle Conservancy is organizing a major effort to identify and fix problem lights around Florida that have been disorienting hatchlings. Bright beachfront lights that directly illuminate the beach can lead hatchlings away from the water or cause them to wonder aimlessly. In the past, we could only ask homeowners and businesses to turn off or fix their lights. Now, we will actually design lighting fixes appropriate to specific location and assist with funding to carry out the installation. STC also is helping expand the capacity of sea turtle rehabilitation facilities in Florida to care for and treat sea turtles. There are several other aspects to the plan, including significant public outreach activities and predator control measures.

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The challenge of confronting issues impacting sea turtles and their habitats as a result of the Gulf oil spill will be complex and long-lasting. Nevertheless, considerable federal, state and private resources are being dedicated to sea turtle conservation and recovery of their critical marine and coastal habitats. In saving sea turtles and their habitats, we are protecting vital components of Florida's economy, its coastal communities and what makes it special to be a Floridian.



The Sea Turtle Conservancy, formally the Caribbean Conservation Corporation, is based in Gainesville, Florida. Article and photos by David Godfrey, Executive Director.

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Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems

Response to the Oil Spill in the Gulf: Month Three

By **Roxane R. Dow, Environmental Specialist III**

Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems
Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Oil hasn't been released from the damaged Deepwater Horizon well since July 15, but the Florida Emergency Operations Center [EOC] remains at Level One Activation (7 days a week, 12 hours a day), and will remain so until the well is permanently plugged. This is a longer period of Level One activation than the 2004 hurricanes. The Bureau will continue to staff "The Beaches" desk and support the "battle rhythm" at the EOC, where every day "is a Monday" until the activation level is lowered. We now have nine staff serving two or three days at a time, mostly from the Beach Management Section. We coordinate with a lot of folks who are not experts on Florida beaches and inlets, but are doing their best to protect them.

There are now four Branch Offices set up across the Panhandle staffed by Coast Guard, BP, DEP and Division of Emergency Management people in an effort to work more closely with the County EOC's. They direct the available "assets" to priority locations for cleanup, be they be beach clean-up crews, skimmers, or boom maintenance. This organizational and command structure went into place in early July and has certainly improved operations. Their locations can be found on the Department's Deepwater Horizon website: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/default.htm>

The Coastal Construction Control Line Program has now issued 10 emergency permits, and several modifications. Emergency permits are also located on the DEP's website. The Coastal Engineering section has reviewed boom plans, worked on groups considering cleanup endpoints, reviewed innovative technologies and worked with the Beach Management Section and BP contractors to refine a system to account for sand removed from the beach during clean-up. The Joint Coastal Permitting Section has participated with the NOAA Natural Resource Damage Assessment workgroups on Florida-specific considerations for shoreline and nearshore habitats. The Coastal Data Acquisition Section has worked with the GIS team to post aerial photography and reconnaissance photography in almost real time. Our survey crew has finally been relieved from the reconnaissance mission by the Florida National Guard. Tim Besse has never had such a deep tan! Everyone in the Bureau has pitched in to keep the daily operations as normal as possible.

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See <http://map.floridadisaster.org/gator/> for the latest reconnaissance reports and <http://floridadisaster.org/gis/kml/viewer.htm> for aerial photography.



Closed outfall of Lake Powell, Bay County taken by Civil Air Patrol on reconnaissance flight.

An effort is now being made to “rightsize” the response. There were too many vehicles on the beach, not all of them in the right place or going the right speed. Turtle nests and shorebirds were being disturbed. There was placement of unnecessary boom, or the wrong size boom. There are not enough vessel decontamination sites. The cleanup crews cannot get all the oil off the beach. Some of the sand cleaning machines get the big tar mats, but not the little tar balls. Some of the protective sand berming caved over and buried oil. The daytime heat was melting the oil on the beach, so nighttime cleaning was instigated (better on the workers too.) I think we will all scream if we hear one more person remark that “beaches are easy to clean.”

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Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team training, Escambia County. Picture by Fritz Wettstein, BBCS.

Everyone is doing the best they can in this extraordinary situation. The Secretary reminds us to stay the course of the marathon and make adjustments as we learn from the mistakes. The Bureau remains concerned about suspended oil, buried oil on the beach, the potential of oil residing in borrow sites and navigation channels, and the impact when we get our annual series of tropical storms. The nation is learning as we continue to fight this menace to our environment.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FSBPA Conferences

September 22-24, 2010

FSBPA Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort
Clearwater Beach, FL

February 9-11, 2011

National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, FL

Call for Presentations: Abstracts due October 8, 2010

Join us

September 22-24, 2010
54th Annual Conference
Florida Shore and Beach
Preservation Association

Conference Registration

Early Registration Deadline: August 25, 2010

Hotel Information

Reservation Deadline: August 18, 2010

Exhibit Information

OTHER DATES OF INTEREST

September 7-10, 2010

California and the World Ocean 2010 Conference

Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, CA

October 13-15, 2010

ASBPA National Coastal Conference

Charleston Marriott
Charleston, SC

November 13-17, 2010

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE)

"Preparing for Climate Change: Science, Practice, and Policy"
Galveston, TX

February 7-9, 2011

12th annual CIRP Workshop

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront
Jacksonville, FL

March 1-3, 2011

ASBPA Coastal Summit

Reagan Center, Washington, DC

May 2 - 6, 2011

Coastal Sediments '11

Miami Regency Hyatt
Miami, Florida

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