

# ***The Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan***



*Florida Fish & Wildlife  
Conservation Commission*

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# Discussion Outline

- *Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan (FBHCP)*
- *CCCL Program and Covered Activities*
- *Motivation for the Plan*
- *FBHCP Process*
- *FBHCP Status*
- *Legislative Changes*
- *Timeline*



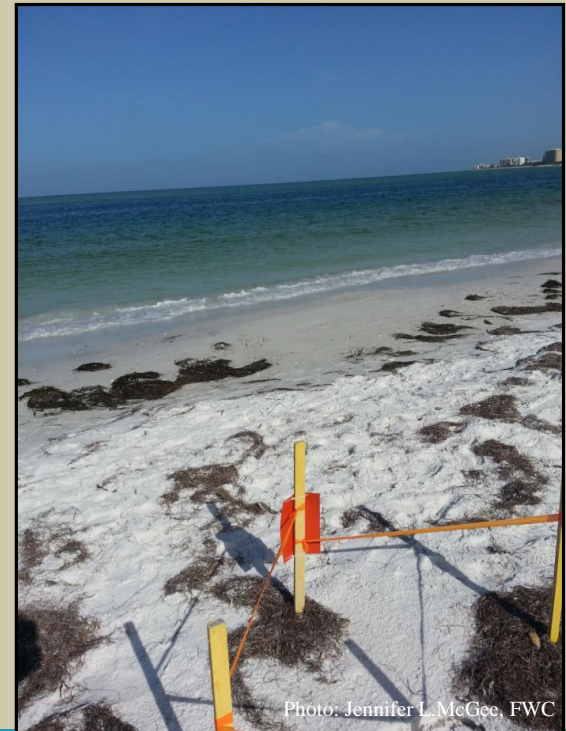
Photo: Jennifer L. McGee, FWC



# Florida Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan

- *Multiagency effort - DEP, FWC, USFWS, & other stakeholders- Annual USFWS grant under Section 6 of ESA*
- *One of the nation's largest & most comprehensive, statewide habitat conservation plans.*
- *Listed species habitat conservation*
- *Initiated in 2007*

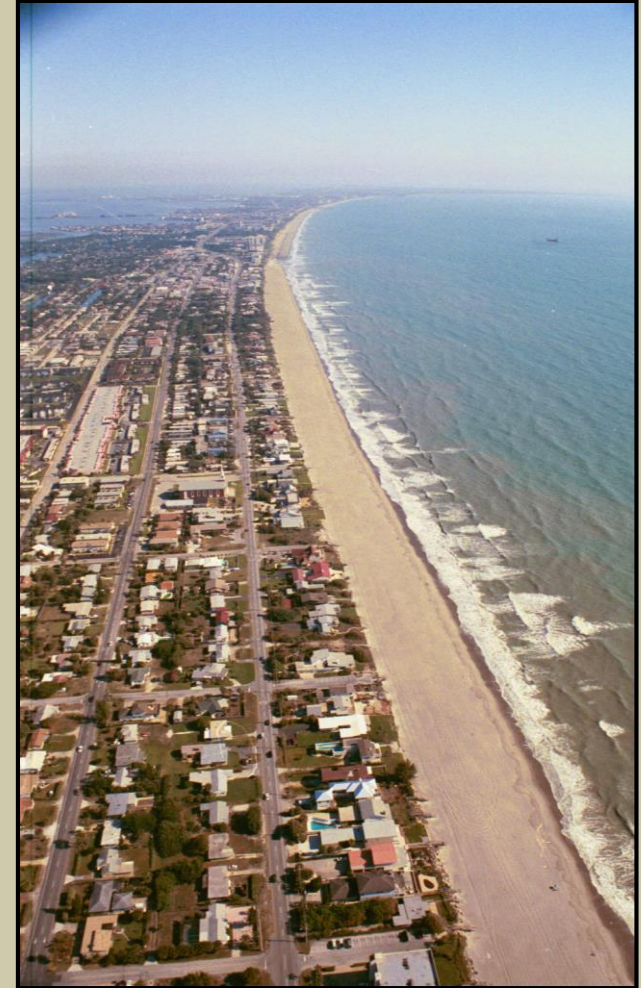
***“To obtain an ITP that will allow FDEP to fulfill its CCCL regulatory responsibilities in a manner that fully complies with the ESA.”***



# Covered Activities

## CCCL Program Permitted Activities Only

- **Covered Activities**
  - Coastal Development – Major and Minor Structures
  - Beach/Dune Restoration
  - Armoring
  - Dune Walkovers
  - Mechanical Beach Cleaning
  - Sand Fencing
  - Emergency Response
  - Special Events
  - Other
- **Beach nourishment is not covered since permitted under JCP program**



# Demonstration of Need

- *Only sea turtles addressed in Statute (161.053, F.S.)*
- *2004/2005 storm season*
  - *Significant shoreline erosion & increased emergency coastal armoring projects*
  - *Fill placement*
- *FWC & USFWS concerns*
  - *Immediate & long term impacts to nesting marine turtles & nesting habitat*
  - *Cumulative impacts*

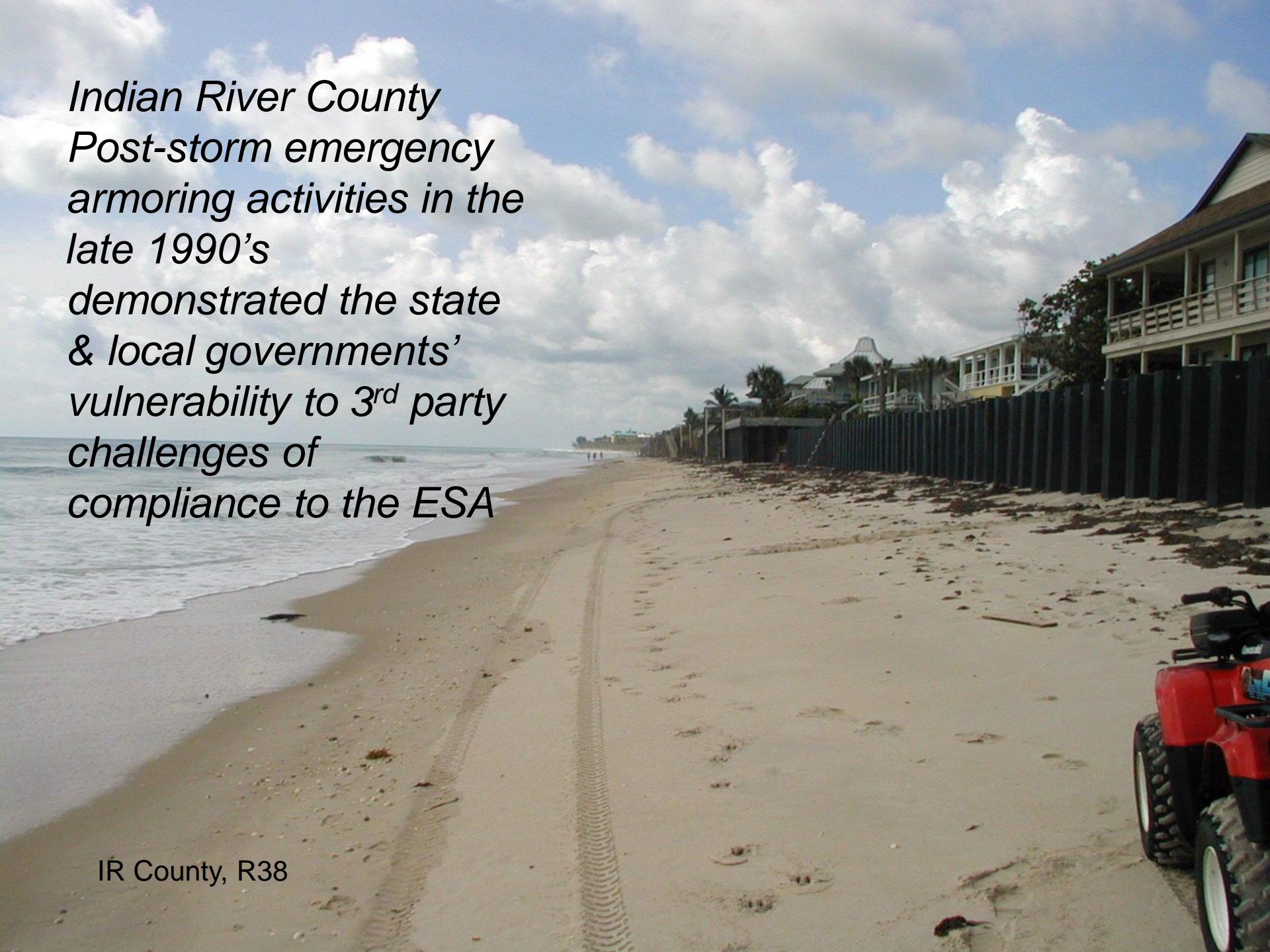


Photo: Jennifer L. McGee, FWC





*Indian River County  
Post-storm emergency  
armoring activities in the  
late 1990's  
demonstrated the state  
& local governments'  
vulnerability to 3<sup>rd</sup> party  
challenges of  
compliance to the ESA*





# Example of Need

- *South St. Lucie County emergency dune restoration project*
- *Authorized under CCCL permit*
- *USFWS concerns over fill suitability*
- *Resolved by removal of unsuitable material*



# The State Takes Action

- *Secretary Sole formally initiated FBHCP the efforts*
- *HCP funded through Section 6, ESA grants*

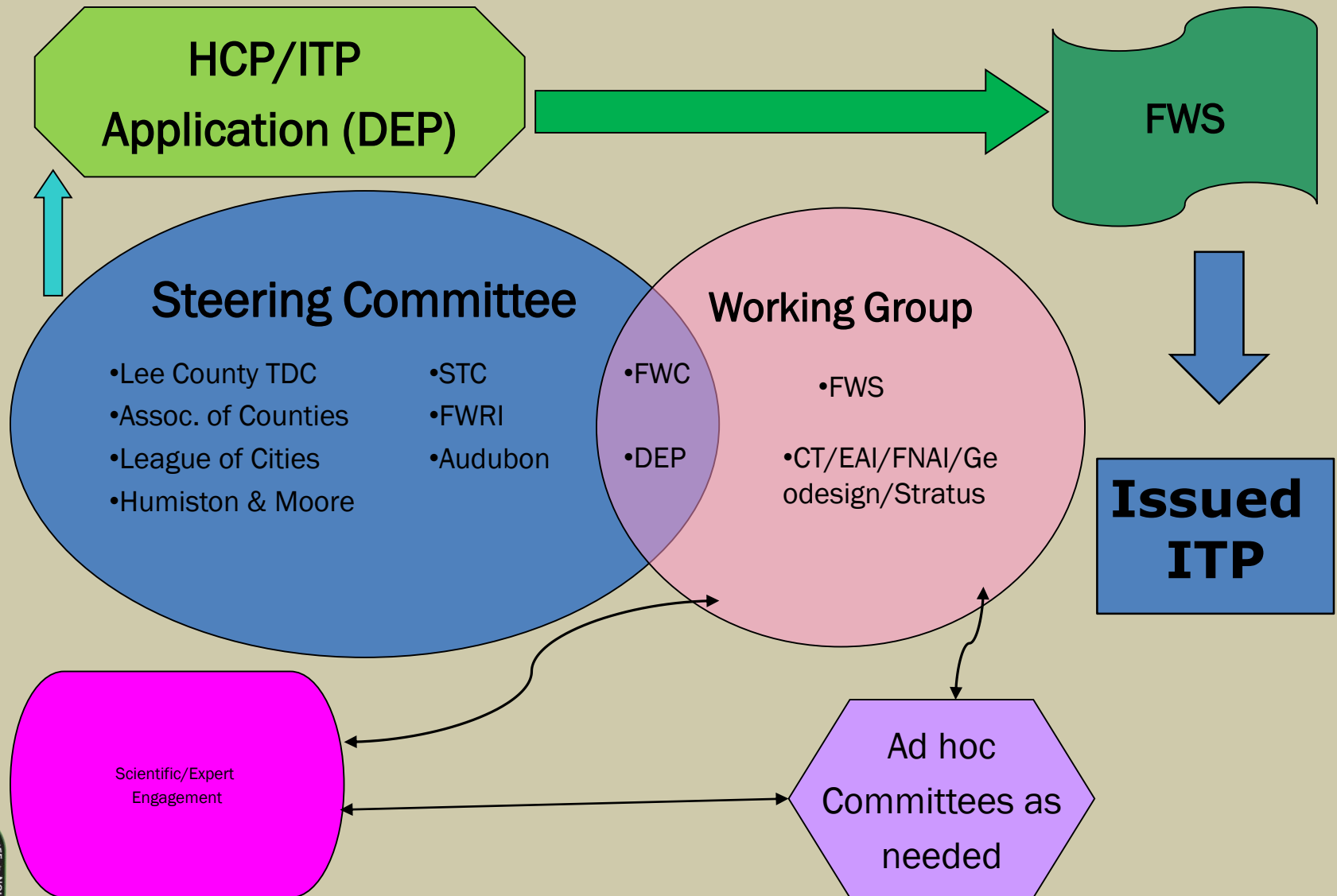


Photo: Jennifer L. McGee, FWC





# Organizational Process



# Plan Area

800+ Miles of Sandy  
Beaches

\*25 Coastal Counties

## *Panhandle*

Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay,  
Gulf, Franklin

## *Gulf*

Pinellas, Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee,  
Collier, \*(Monroe)

## *Southeast*

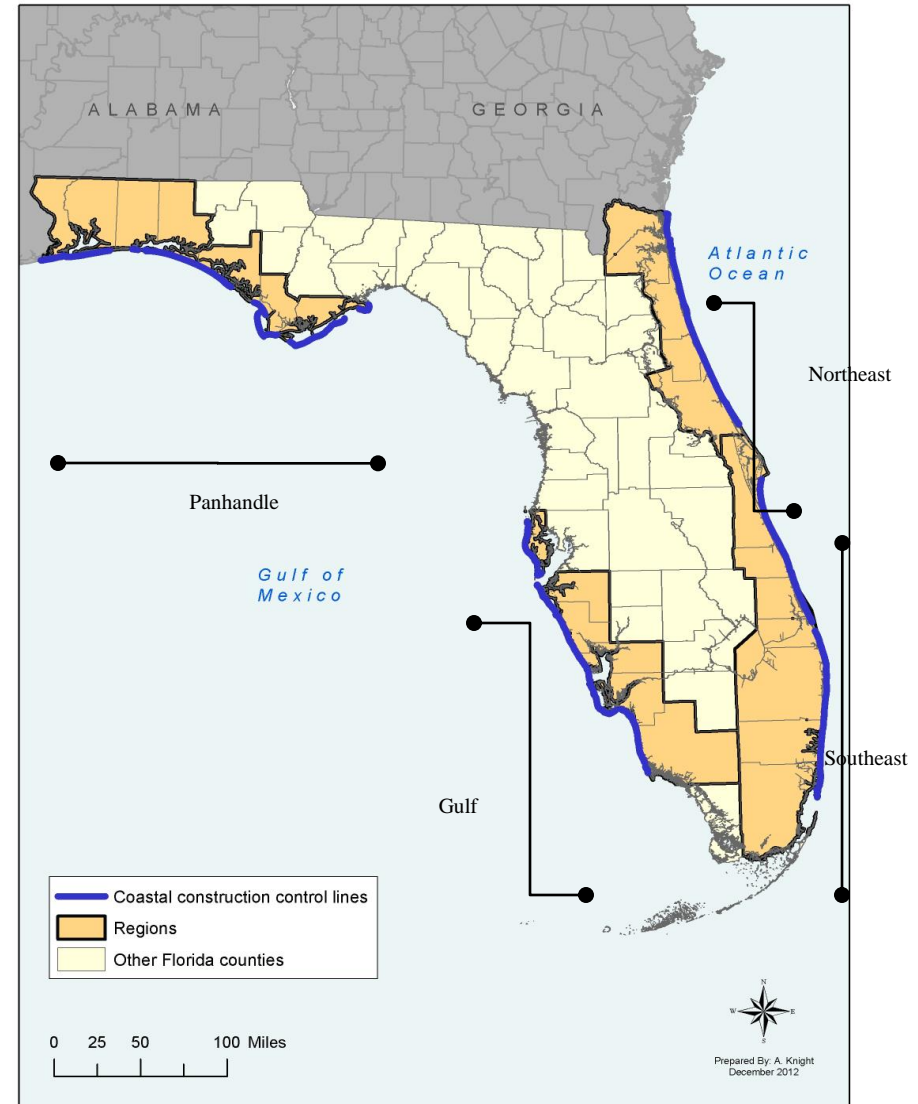
Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Palm  
Beach, Broward, Miami-Dade

## *Northeast*

Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, Flagler, Volusia



Coastal Construction Control Lines for Florida



# Sea Turtles

*Currently addressed in Statute (161.053, F.S.  
– limited minimization & mitigation conditions).*

*The FBHCP will address:*

- Expansion of authority to include impact/mitigation*
- Post construction activities*
- Long term indirect effects (e.g., lighting, sea walls, landscaping, etc.)*
- Exempt activities*





# Beach Mice & Shorebirds

## *The FBHCP will:*

- *Amend 161.053(4)(c) to allow for minimization of impacts to beach mice & shore birds*
- *Expansion of authority to include impact/mitigation*
- *Post construction activities*
- *Long term indirect effects (e.g., lighting, sea walls, landscaping, etc.)*
- *Exempt activities*



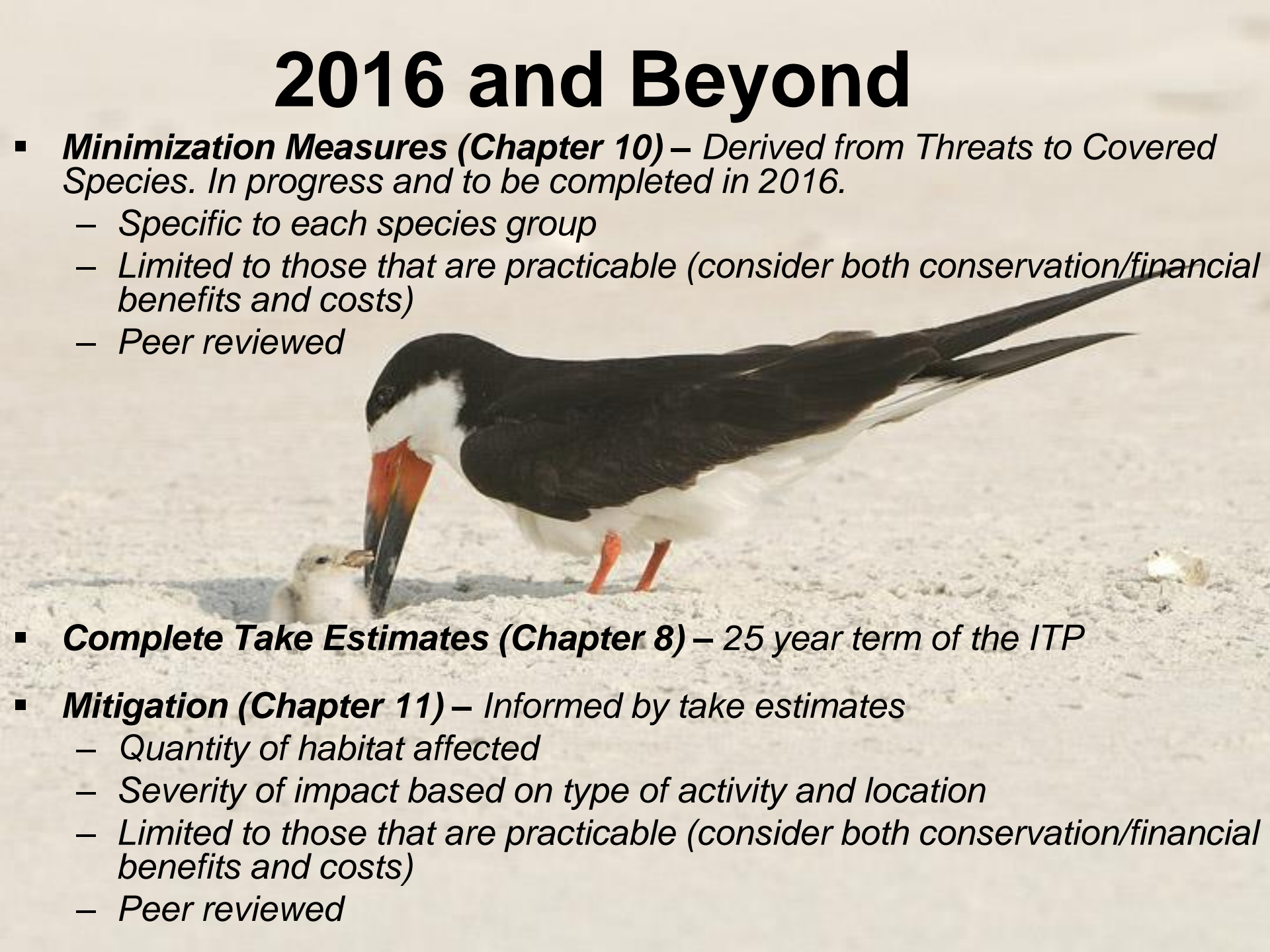
# Legislative Changes

- *Add listed species not currently covered - 161.053(4)(c)*
- *Impact and mitigation measures – 161.053(4)(f)*
- *Operational phase to CCCL permits – 161Part I*



# 2016 and Beyond

- **Minimization Measures (Chapter 10)** – *Derived from Threats to Covered Species. In progress and to be completed in 2016.*
  - *Specific to each species group*
  - *Limited to those that are practicable (consider both conservation/financial benefits and costs)*
  - *Peer reviewed*
- **Complete Take Estimates (Chapter 8)** – *25 year term of the ITP*
- **Mitigation (Chapter 11)** – *Informed by take estimates*
  - *Quantity of habitat affected*
  - *Severity of impact based on type of activity and location*
  - *Limited to those that are practicable (consider both conservation/financial benefits and costs)*
  - *Peer reviewed*






# MINIMIZATION MEASURES

A photograph of a man in a blue shirt and khaki shorts walking a golden retriever on a leash along a sandy beach. To the left is a long, low wall made of stacked stone blocks. The ocean is to the right, with waves breaking on the shore. The sky is overcast.

- *Minimize impacts to the maximum extent practicable*
- *Feasibility*
- *Cost*
- *Interference with proposed action*
- *Options – design, timing, size/scope, siting, methods*



# MITIGATION MEASURES

- 
- *Mitigate unavoidable impacts to the maximum extent practicable*
    - *Negotiated with Service*
    - *Adequately offset impacts*
    - *Result in net conservation benefit*

# Mitigation Measures

## ➤ *Improve The Quantity of Available Habitat in Public Ownership*

- *Land Acquisition*
- *Conservation Banks*
- *Conservation Easements*
- *Habitat Creation/Expansion*
- *Post-Disaster Relocation*



Photo: Jennifer L. McGee, FWC





# Mitigation Measures

## ➤ *Improve the Quality/Function of Existing Habitat*

- *Habitat Restoration*
- *Light Management Initiative*
- *Beach Furniture/Recreational Equipment Initiative*
- *Fireworks/Flashlights/Bonfires Initiative*
- *Free-Roaming Pet Initiative*



# 2016 and Beyond

- ***Implementation Strategy/Plan Management (Chapter 12)***
  - *Legislative changes needed for implementation*
  - *Funding*
  - *Schedule*
  - *Implementation responsibilities (FDEP, FWC, local partners)*
  - *NEPA*
- ***Adaptive Management (Chapter 13)***
  - *Describes specific steps (alternative strategies) to be taken if monitoring data indicate that proposed minimization and mitigation measures are not achieving the biological objectives set forth in the FBHCP – seeking net conservation benefit to covered species*



# 2016 and Beyond

- ***Compliance Monitoring and Reporting (Chapter 15)***
  - *Compliance monitoring plan*
  - *Reporting procedures*
- ***Outreach*** with local governments and stakeholders will increase and public meetings will be conducted
- ***Legislative Changes***  
*2017 and 2018*
- ***Submission*** late 2017, early 2018

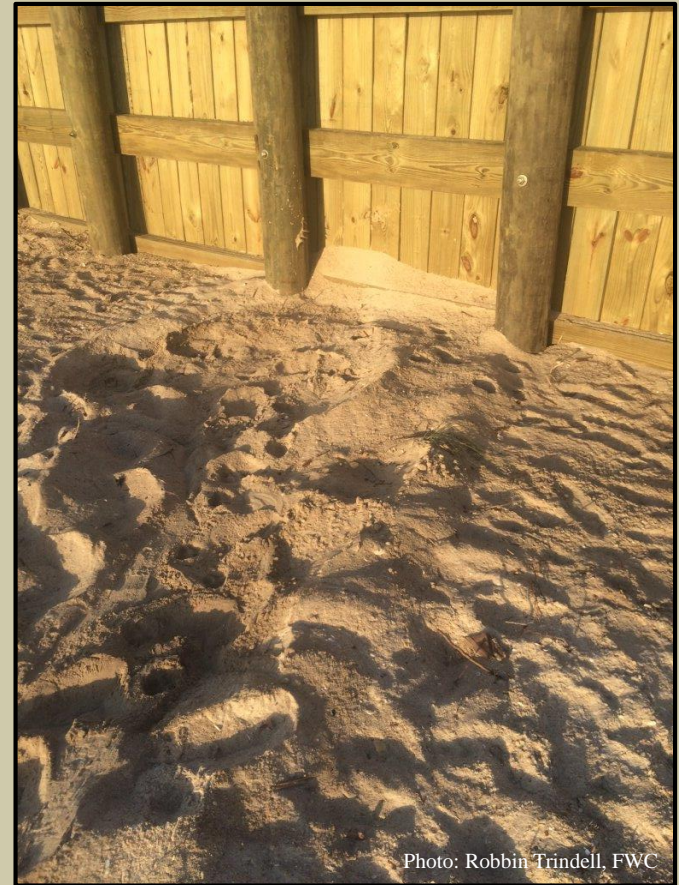


Photo: Robbin Trindell, FWC

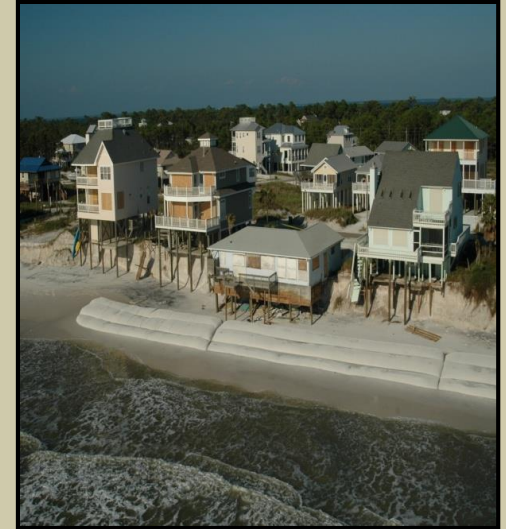




# Status of HCP Chapter Development

(Completed, In Progress, Up-Coming)

- *Executive Summary*
- *Introduction (1)*
- ***Biological Goals, Objectives & Benefits (2)***
- *Plan Preparation Process (3)*
- ***Covered Activities (4)***
- ***Covered Species with Accounts (5)***
- *Plan Area (6)*
- ***Threats to Covered Species in Plan Area from CCCL Activities (7)***



# Project Status (Completed, In Progress, Up-Coming)

- Assessment of Anticipated Take (8)
- **Alternatives Analysis (9)**
- Minimization Measures (10)
- Mitigation Measures (11)
- Implementation Strategy, Plan Management, Funding & Schedule (12)
- *Adaptive Management Plan (13)*
- **Changed/Unforeseen Circumstances (14)**
- *Compliance Monitoring & Reporting (15)*



# Benefits

- *Ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA)*
- *Minimize risk from potential 3<sup>rd</sup> party lawsuits*
- *Reduce risk of unauthorized take*
- *Removes temporal limitations*
- *Develop standard environmental protection measures*
  - *Self-certification*
  - *Standard BMPs*
  - *Streamline permitting process*





# Benefits (cont.)

- *Streamline the permitting process & reduce the application processing time*
- *Promote & improve healthy beaches for wildlife*
- *Address impacts to listed species & their habitats comprehensively, rather than parcel by parcel*



# Summary

*Process has been complex and time-consuming with broad participation and some delays*

*Data collected and depicted in some cases for the first time*

*Only HCP Program to cover an entire coastline*

*Rewards for species protection, permitting efficiency and agency compliance*

*Public process-Next Steering Committee Meeting  
March 31st*



# *Questions?*

<http://flbeacheshcp.com>

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Photo: Jennifer L. McGee, FWC

