Shoreline
FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION
A League of Cities and Counties on Beach and Coastal Issues

About Shoreline

news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association

March 2025

2025 Pre-Session Overview

by Pepper Uchino, President

Normally, the six weeks of committees heading into session follow a familiar pattern: early weeks are dominated by introductions and agency presentations, which give way to more bill-heavy agendas as we lead up to the regular session. Not this year. Due to an astonishing snow-induced cancellation and two other committee weeks essentially erased due to special sessions on immigration, shockingly little regular committee work was accomplished this year. In fact, I cannot remember a single year when less regular work was done.

So, how may this impact us? With a dearth of bills filed that directly or tangentially affect coastal policy, and only a handful heard thus far, we will be closely monitoring the early days of Session to see if any substantive bills affecting our collective interests begin to move. But, with so little out there as of now, and with the focus of leadership on policies that may attempt to more closely align the state with the Trump administration, as well as housing, insurance, and taxes, defense is the name of the game this year. There will not be many bills that affect the coasts, so they may be in high demand as vehicles for amendments as Session progresses. Overall, I expect the beginning of session to be a little more chaotic than usual with members clamoring to get their bills on committee agendas. As a reminder, Session kicks off on March 4th and runs through May 2nd.

The 2025/26 Appropriations Process

Our appropriations strategy this year revolves around securing the $50 million recurring for the statewide beach management program and adding to it as much non-recurring as possible due to a greater request than average of BMFAP applications for FY 2025-26. As always during storms from the previous year, we will also be advocating for supplemental storm damage recovery funds exclusive of programmatic funding.

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Inside this Edition

Speaking of the list, the DEP's final ranking was submitted to the Legislature last month and is now available on the DEP website. There are 28 ranked beach projects and nine ranked inlet projects for a total state request of $122.6M. Beach projects total $63.8M, and inlet projects are $58.8M. Post construction monitoring, which is included in the total, amounts to $4M for both beaches and inlets.

The governor's budget and DEP's agency request included $100M for the beach program, a welcome increase from their usual $50M. It is not clear yet whether the additional $50M will be earmarked for storm damage recovery, but I have heard this may be the intention. We will continue to tout the economic power houses that are Florida's world-class beaches in addition to their role as a natural barrier to blunt storm surge.

Governor's Budget

The governor released his budget on February 3 for FY 2025-26. The $115.6B budget has several bright spots related to beaches and coasts. The proposed budget continues the funding stream for overall coastal infrastructure spending at $361M, **including $100M for beaches**. The budget proposes $35M for an array of programs to combat harmful algal blooms, including $10M for local government emergencies. As part of Florida's Coral Reef Restoration and Recovery Initiative, the budget includes $26.2M for coral recovery and artificial reef monitoring. assistance or planning and coral reef health. Lastly, the budget allots $14.6B to reserves, or 12.5% of the budget. Overall, the governor's proposed budget is favorable for beaches and coastal infrastructure.

Substantive Legislation

As mentioned above, there are scant bills circulating that affect our collective interests. FSBPA will use our tracking matrix to identify and monitor all substantive bills that affect coastal resources. Additionally, we will continue to track any bills seeking direct statutory allocations or limitations of recurring LATF dollars. And as always, we will track any legislation or amendments that open Chapter 161, F.S., and legislation or amendments that substantially impact Chapter 120, F.S., pertaining to agency rulemaking.

We look forward to again serving the needs of Florida's beaches during the 2025 Session.

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Recap: 38th National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology

The 38th National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology was held for the first time in Panama City Beach at the charming Embassy Suites, located across from the City Pier. With perfect weather and a stunning venue, the conference provided an ideal setting for meaningful conversations, collaborations, and unforgettable sunset backdrops.

The FSBPA Board of Directors, staff, and Planning Committee extend their heartfelt appreciation to the 280+ coastal champions who participated in this year's event. A special thank-you goes to our 70 speakers, who dedicated their time to preparing insightful presentations, sharing experiences, and introducing new initiatives. Every session offered valuable takeaways - whether for rising professionals or seasoned beach management practitioners (some of whom proudly admitted to using Fortran!).

We are also incredibly grateful to our conference sponsors, whose generous support helped provide amenities, luncheons, networking breaks, and evening receptions. Your contributions were instrumental in making this event a success! A big thank-you to our exhibitors as well -we hope the Bingo game encouraged plenty of engagement and foot traffic throughout the conference halls.

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Finally, we want to recognize the 12 students from five different universities who received a sponsorship from Coastal Engineering Consultants and the Sebastian Inlet District to attend the conference. Their poster titles can be found on the next page. Additionally, our student scholarship sponsors awarded five students with further scholarships (pictured below). We received numerous compliments on the students' poise and professionalism—a testament to their professors and mentors. The future of coastal science is bright!

Thank you to everyone who made this conference an outstanding success. We look forward to seeing you next year for the 39th National Tech Conference at the Embassy Suites in St. Augustine Beach!

2025 Tech Conference Student Scholarship Winners

Pictured from left to right:

Sponsor, James Gray, Sebastian Inlet District

🥇 1st Place: Ian Day, “Beach-Dune Design Template Adjustments for Sea Level Rise: A Data-Driven, Risk-Based Approach” | Advisor: Jon Miller, Ph.D., Stevens Institute of Technology

🥈 2nd Place: Teagan Duenkel, “Elevating Accuracy: Can UAVs Outperform Traditional RTK Methods in Coastal Surveys?” | Advisor: Pete Adams, Ph.D., University of Florida

🥉 3rd Place: Sydney Scott, “Morphodynamics of the Reopened Midnight Pass by Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024 and Its History” | Advisor: Ping Wang, Ph.D., University of South Florida

🏅 4th Place: Katie Simi, “Wave Energy Transformation Induced by Gyroid Lattice and Hexagonal “Seahive” Structures to be used as a Base for Coral Outplanting” | Advisor: Brian Haus, Ph.D., University of Miami

🏅 5th Place: Halaina Hahn, “Microplastics in Coastal Sediments” | Advisor: Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University

Sponsor, Michael Poff, Coastal Engineering Consultants

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2025 Tech Conference Student Poster Presenters

Dayana Castillo & Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D.
Florida Atlantic University, Environmental Sciences Department
Evaluating Ecological and Shoreline Resilience of Peanut Island: Impacts of Breakwaters on Coral Reefs and Sedimentation

Copeland Cromwell & Peter Adams, Ph.D.
University of Florida, Department of Geological Sciences
Exploring Couplings between Post-storm Resilience and Aeolian Recovery Models at Anastasia Island, FL

Ian Day & Jon Miller, Ph.D.
Stevens Institute of Technology, Department of Ocean Engineering
Beach-Dune Design Template Adjustments for Sea Level Rise: A Data-Driven, Risk-Based Approach

Matheus de Assis Bose & Peter Adams, Ph.D.
University of Florida, Department of Geological Sciences
Investigating the Morphological Evolution and Shoal Migration of Ebb Tidal Deltas at New Pass Inlet, Florida

Teagan Duenkel & Peter Adams, Ph.D.
University of Florida, Department of Geological Sciences
Elevating Accuracy: Can UAVs Outperform Traditional RTK Methods in Coastal Surveys?

Halaina Hahn & Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D.
Florida Atlantic University, Environmental Sciences Department
Microplastics in Coastal Sediments

Jinhyung Lee & Donald Slinn, Ph.D.
University of Florida, Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering
Effect of Retreat Distance of Dyke and Marsh Morphology on Wave and Surge Maxima

Lara Novalvos Hernandez & Ping Wang, Ph.D.
University of South Florida, Department of Geosciences-Geology
Turtle Nesting on Nourished Beach with Different Designs: A Case Study in Southeast Florida, USA

Kayla O'Brien & Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D.
Florida Atlantic University, Department of Geosciences
Storm Induced Microplastic Distribution on Florida's Barrier Islands

Sydney Scott & Ping Wang, Ph.D.
University of South Florida, Department of Geosciences-Geology
Morphodynamics of the Reopened Midnight Pass By Hurricanes Helene and Milton in 2024 and Its History

Katie Simi & Brian Haus, Ph.D.
University of Miami, School of Marine Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Wave Energy Transformation Induced by Gyroid Lattice and Hexagonal "Seahive" Structures to be used as a Base for Coral Outplanting

Ryan Sloan & Tiffany Roberts Briggs, Ph.D.
Florida Atlantic University, Department of Environmental Science
Coastal Erosion in North Palm Beach County: The Impacts from Hurricanes in 2022 and 2024

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Palm Beach County – Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) Nourishments in 2026

By Christopher Ren, Senior Project Manager, Jacksonville District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

US Army Corps of Engineers®

Introduction

Palm Beach County (PBC) is located in the southeast portion of the State of Florida. The Atlantic Ocean abuts its eastern boundary while Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades make up its northwestern and western portions, respectively (Figure 1). PBC has four Federally authorized shore protection projects (SPPs) identified as Jupiter/Carlin (JC), Ocean Ridge (OR), Delray Beach (DB), and North Boca Raton (NBR) and one coastal storm risk management (CSRM) project identified as Mid-Town.

Figure 1: Palm Beach County, FL Source: Wikipedia

On November 10, 2022, Hurricane Nicole, a Category 1 hurricane, made landfall on Florida's east coast just south of Vero Beach. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District (SAJ) initiated emergency site visits to Federally authorized shore protection and coastal storm risk management projects across Florida in mid-November 2022. For each authorized PBC project, each segment's non-Federal sponsor also evaluated impacts to their project. Rehabilitation assistance was requested from the applicable non-Federal sponsor for PBC DB, OR, and MT segments in December 2022. The USACE SAJ began its assessment of the storm's reported impacts in December 2022 and concluded its findings within a Project Information Report (PIR) dated May 2023 for each segment. A significant storm had impacted each project and there was sufficient justification for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies (FCCE) rehabilitation of each project under Public Law (PL) 84-99. The USACE South Atlantic Division (SAD) received approval of each segment's PIR from USACE Headquarters (USACE) in a memorandum dated July 10, 2023. FCCE rehabilitation (or beach nourishment) events are currently being planned and designed for PBC DB, OR, and MT segments. Construction contracts for each segment are currently scheduled to be awarded for DB, OR, and MT in September, October, and November 2025, respectively, so as to complete each project's construction activities within the environmental window of November 1, 2025, and April 30, 2026.

Background – Federal Authorization

Delray Beach and Ocean Ridge – A beach erosion control study of Palm Beach County, Florida, from the Martin County Line to Lake Worth Inlet and from South Lake Worth Inlet to the Broward County line, was prepared by USACE SAJ under the provisions of Section 2 of the River and Harbor Act approved July 3, 1930, as amended and supplemented. The study was conducted in cooperation with Palm Beach County per an agreement approved by the USACE Chief of Engineers in August 1956. The study area included the JC, OR, DB, and NBR segments. The study was completed and submitted through SAD to the Chief of Engineers in June 1959. The Chief of Engineers Report dated December 27, 1960, for the beach erosion control study was submitted to the Secretary of the Army for subsequent transmission to Congress on May 8, 1961. Construction of the four shore protection projects was authorized in Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962 (PL 87-874).

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Mid-Town - A beach erosion control study of Palm Beach County from Lake Worth Inlet to South Lake Worth Inlet, Florida, was prepared by USACE SAJ under the provisions of Section 2 of the River and Harbor Act approved July 3, 1930, as amended and supplemented. The study was conducted in cooperation with Palm Beach County per an agreement approved by the Chief of Engineers in May 1955. The study area included the MT segment. The study was completed and submitted through SAD to the Chief of Engineers in November 1956. The Chief of Engineers Report dated December 11, 1957, for the beach erosion control study was submitted to the Secretary of the Army for subsequent transmission to Congress on February 14, 1958. Construction of the Mid-Town CSRM project was authorized in Section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (PL 85-500).

Federal Project Description

Delray Beach – The DB segment is 2.65 miles of shoreline in Delray Beach located between Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Range (R) monuments R-175 to R-188a (Figure 2). The project has a design berm width of 100 feet from the ECL with an elevation of +9 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). The project's most recent decision document is the Palm Beach County, Florida Shore Protection Project Limited Reevaluation Report for Delray Beach Fourth Periodic Nourishment, July 2001. The project's renourishment interval is every 8 years.

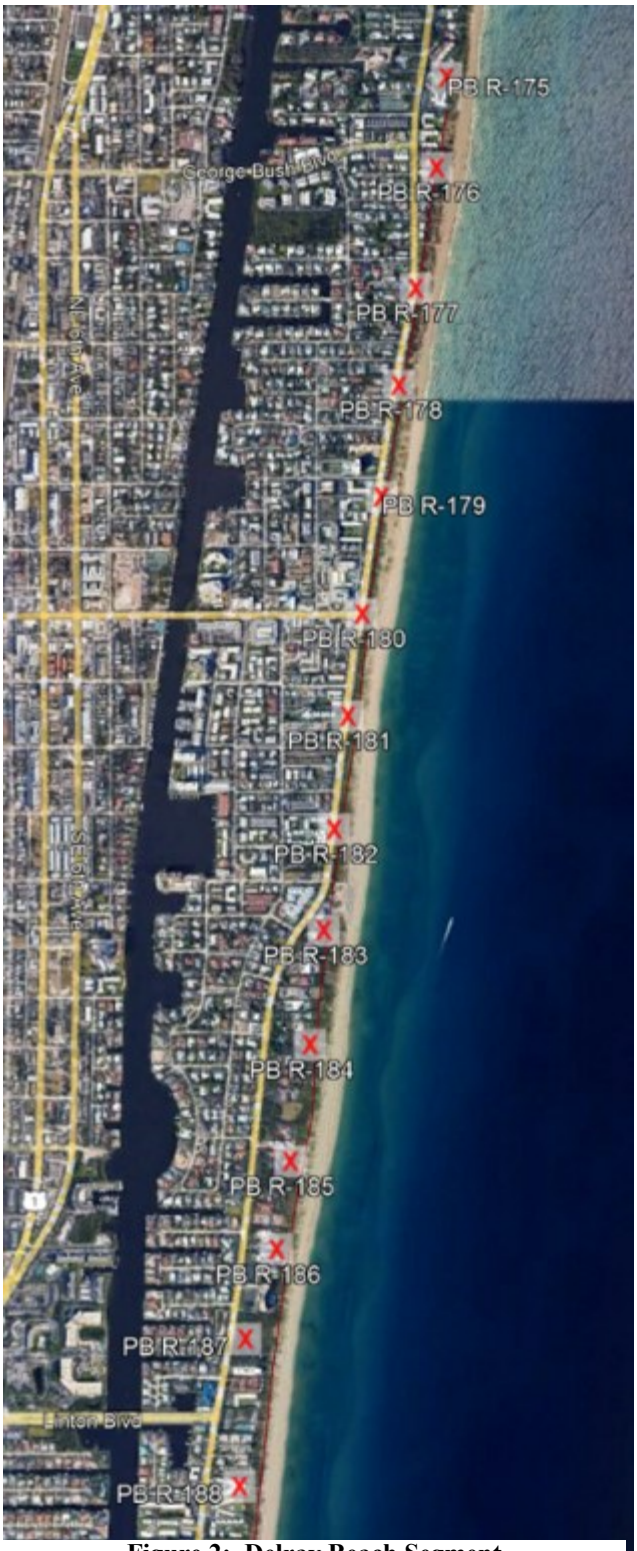

Figure 2: Delray Beach Segment Aerial Imagery - Source: Google Earth

Ocean Ridge – The OR segment is 1.42 miles of shoreline in Ocean Ridge located between FDEP R-monuments R-152 to R-159 (Figure 3). The design berm width is the minimum width of beach, seaward of the erosion control line (ECL), which shall be maintained for the life of the project. The project will establish the +9 feet NGVD design berm at the ECL; this is defined as the 0-foot design berm. The mean high water shoreline will be extended approximately 50 feet, on average. The project's most recent decision document is the General Design Memorandum Addendum for Ocean Ridge Segment with Final Supplement to the Environmental Impact Statement, dated January 1994 (Revised April 1995, September 1995, October 1995, and August 1996). The project's renourishment interval is every 6 years.

Mid-Town – The MT segment is 3.4 miles of shoreline in the Town of Palm Beach with a northern boundary of Wells Road at FDEP R-monument R-91 to a southern boundary of Southern Boulevard at FDEP R-monument R-106.5 (Figure 4). The project has a design berm width of 25 feet relative to the 1979 condition

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at +9 feet NGVD elevation. The project's most recent decision document is the Beach Erosion Control Projects for Palm Beach County, Florida General Design Memorandum with Environmental Impact Statement, May 1987. The project's renourishment interval is every 8 years.

FCCE Rehabilitation for DB, OR and MT

The funding for each segment's rehabilitation event is being provided under the Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA) of 2023 (PL 117-328). Within DRSAA 2023, the law states that, "funding provided under this heading in the Act and utilized for authorized shore protection projects shall restore such projects to the full project profile at full Federal expense." Similar language was in DRSAA 2022, and the guidance received for DRSAA 2022 indicated that the full project profile was defined as the authorized beach profile of the project in a fully renourished state. Therefore, USACE SAJ prepared each segment's PIR based on a fully renourished project.

Delray Beach – Based on the May 2023 PIR, USACE SAJ calculated an estimated 302,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand would be needed to fully restore the project's construction template. Observations during the November 16, 2022, post-storm inspection indicated the storm caused dune scarping of approximately 2-3 feet in the vicinity of FDEP R-monuments R-185 to R-186 and caused a loss of sand in this area on average of 10-20 feet at the mean high water (MHW) contour. The segment also experienced overall berm deflation of approximately 3-5 feet.

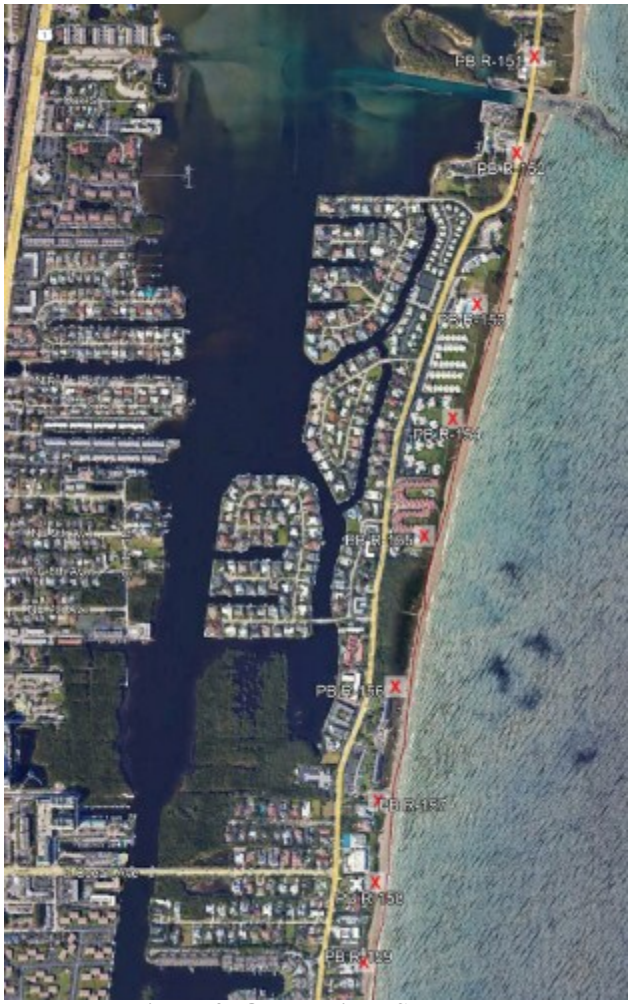

Figure 3: Ocean Ridge Segment
Aerial Imagery - Source: Google Earth

Ocean Ridge – Based on the May 2023 PIR, USACE SAJ calculated an estimated 348,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand would be needed to fully restore the project's construction template. Observations during the November 16, 2022, post-storm inspection indicated the storm caused impacts to the dune system near R-152 to R-153 and R-158 to R-159, and overwash of the dune but no breach was visible near R-154. Approximately 10-20 feet of retreat at the MHW line was observed, and berm deflation of approximately 0.5-1 foot occurred across the segment.

Mid-Town – Based on the May 2023 PIR, USACE SAJ calculated an estimated 599,000 cubic yards (CY) of sand would be needed to fully restore the project's construction template. Observations during the November 16, 2022, post-storm inspection indicated there was no apparent dune loss. The segment lost an average of one quarter to one foot of beach from the MHW contour and experienced approximately a one-foot deflation across the segment.

Plans & Specifications Preparation

USACE SAJ is currently preparing the plans and specifications for the FCCE rehabilitation efforts of DB, OR, and MT. Based on beach profile surveys from 2024, USACE SAJ re-evaluated the volumes of sand needed to fully restore each project since the PIRs and estimated volumes of approximately 450,000 CY for DB, approximately 500,000 CY for OR, and approximately 550,000 CY for MT. USACE SAJ will complete

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new beach profile surveys in early- to mid-2025 for each project to have a better snapshot of volumes needed prior to soliciting each project's contract. Additionally, Palm Beach County Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and the City of Delray Beach have asked the USACE to provide Additional Work on Delray Beach at 100% non-Federal expense. The Additional Work will include placing an extra 750,000 CY in Delray Beach's permitted template.

As part of any construction project, coordination with environmental resource agencies will be conducted, and all environmental requirements will be met prior to construction. Certified lands from the non-Federal sponsors will be provided to construct the project; these lands will include the required easements for placement of sand and identification of areas for access/egress and staging. Cooperation Agreements between the Department of the Army and the applicable non-Federal sponsor will be executed for each FCCE rehabilitation effort.

Delray Beach – the current schedule for advertisement and contract award is July 18, 2025, and September 18, 2025, respectively.

Ocean Ridge – the current schedule for advertisement and contract award is August 12, 2025, and October 14, 2025, respectively.

Mid-Town – the current schedule for advertisement and contract award is September 19, 2025, and November 20, 2025, respectively.

Figure 4: Mid-Town Segment
Aerial Imagery - Source: Google Earth

Construction

In accordance with applicable environmental permits, each segment's construction is anticipated to occur within the environmental window between November 1, 2025, and April 30, 2026.

Delray Beach – Previous nourishments for Delray Beach, including the last FCCE rehabilitation effort in 2020, used Borrow Areas I and II. The City of Delray Beach permitted two new borrow sources, IV and V, in 2022. The recently permitted Borrows Areas IV and V will be the borrow sources for the FCCE effort.

Ocean Ridge – The permitted Borrow Areas I and II will be the borrow sources for the FCCE effort.

Mid-Town – Initial construction of Mid-Town used the permitted borrow area Northern Borrow Area I (NBA-1). Recent surveys of NBA-1 indicated the volume of sand needed to complete the FCCE effort were inadequate. USACE SAJ is currently permitting a new borrow area identified as Northern Borrow Area 2 (NBA-2). Additionally, dredge material from Palm Beach Harbor will be used to supplement the volume needed for the FCCE effort.

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Following construction activities, permit-required post-construction physical and environmental monitoring will occur in the out years.

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Save the Date for Ocean's Day and Reception

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FSBPA Events

September 17-19, 2025
4th Annual Florida Resilience Conference
Sunseeker Resort, Charlotte Harbor, FL

Other Events

March 4, 2025
2025 Florida Legislative Session convenes
Tallahassee, FL

March 25-27, 2025
2025 ASBPA Coastal Summit
Washington, DC

March 31 - April 1, 2025
Florida's Oceans Day
Tallahassee, FL

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