



## About Shoreline

*news from the Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association*

**July-August 2024**

## 2024 Florida Resilience Conference featuring the 67th FSBPA Annual Meeting

Dear FSBPA Members,

We are excited to announce that the highly anticipated 2024 Florida Resilience Conference is now just six weeks away! After months of dedicated effort and invaluable input from our planning committee, we are proud to unveil this year's dynamic and comprehensive [agenda](#).

Located at the beautiful Hyatt Coconut Point in Bonita Springs, the conference offers a unique opportunity to explore the latest in coastal and environmental resilience and to also reflect on the local governments' recovery efforts following the devastating impacts of Hurricane Ian. Our program includes nearly 33 hours of insightful presentations, four hours of networking, and additional time to connect with both new and familiar faces.

*Continued on next page*



*Lover's Key  
Photo courtesy of Visit Fort Myers*

### Inside this Edition



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

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**FDEP Office of Resilience  
and Coastal Protection  
August 2024**

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**38TH ANNUAL TECH CONFERENCE**  
February 5-7, 2025 | Embassy Suites Panama City Beach

**2025 Tech Conference  
Call for Abstracts  
is now Open**

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The conference will be structured around four concurrent tracks, each focusing on a critical aspect of resilience:

- **Beach Management:** Dive into the latest policies for preserving and enhancing our coastlines, emergency repair strategies, environmental updates, and innovations for beneficial use of sand resources.
- **Energy:** Explore energy management applications, sustainable energy solutions, and their impact on resilience.
- **Gray and Green Infrastructure:** Learn about innovative approaches to funding resilience projects and to integrating resilience into the built and natural environments.
- **Smart Planning:** Hear about risk reduction and resilient planning strategies from every level of government, and about the role of Data and Technology advancements in long-term resilience.



## Conference Hotel Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Bonita Springs, Florida



In addition to these sessions, our conference will feature both an Opening and a Closing Plenary Session. These discussions will provide a broad perspective on statewide resilience initiatives, offering valuable insights and fostering motivating dialogue.

Now is the perfect time to make your plans to attend. This conference is not only an ideal opportunity to stay informed about the latest policies and funding for Florida's beach management program but also a chance to connect with peers and strengthen our collective voice on the benefits of preserving our coastlines and communities.

Don't forget to visit our conference website to view the full program and secure your registration and accommodations at the stunning Hyatt Coconut Point Beach Resort. We encourage you to extend an invitation to your colleagues in other sectors to join in on these important discussions about resilience. We look forward to seeing you in Bonita Springs for what promises to be an inspiring and impactful conference!

## Conference Highlights

- USACE Jacksonville District Commander's Update by [Colonel Brandon Bowman](#)
- A Legislative Keynote by Representative Bobby Payne, District 20, Chair of the Infrastructure Strategies Committee
- A panel discussion of resilience leaders led by Dr. Wesley Brooks, Florida's Chief Resilience Officer, about their collective roles in Creating a More Resilient Florida
- Panel discussions on
  - ◊ Managing Byproducts of Screened Sand on Beach Nourishment Projects
  - ◊ Effective Use of Sand Resources at Florida Inlets
  - ◊ Emergency Repair and Funding Strategies for Florida's Beaches
  - ◊ Perpetual Easements in Federal Projects
  - ◊ Customary Use of Florida's Beaches
- The FSBPA Awards Banquet – a time-honored tradition to recognize this year's beach champions for their outstanding achievements

Col. Brandon L. Bowman assumed command of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, on July 26, during a [Change of Command](#) ceremony, and it will be an honor to meet him at the conference. We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude for Col. James Booth's leadership and dedication to Florida's coastal communities. His support of shore protection and coastal storm risk management projects will leave a lasting impact in Florida.

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## **Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Bonita Springs, Florida**

**Reserve your hotel room today!**

***\$199 single/double room , plus \$5 resort fee per day, plus tax.***

***Deadline is August 12, 2024***

# **Register today!**

**The 2024 Annual  
Membership meeting will be  
held on-site at the  
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point  
on September 12 at 12:05 pm**

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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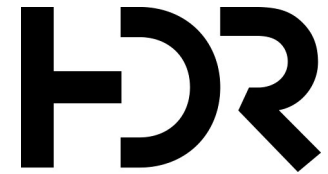


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## Listing of Queen Conch as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Impacts to Corps Projects

By Stephen Meyer, PE, Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®

After several years of consideration, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) published a final rule (89 FR 11208) on February 14, 2024 that listed the Queen Conch, *Aliger gigas*, as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ruling became effective on March 15, 2024. A summary of the listing from the agencies’ website is below:

“We, NOAA [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration] Fisheries, are listing the queen conch as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). We have completed a review of the status of queen conch, including efforts being made to protect the species, and considered public comments submitted on the proposed listing rule as well as new information received since the publication of the proposed rule. Based on all of this information, we have determined that the queen conch is not currently in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range but is likely to become so within the foreseeable future. Thus, we are listing the queen conch as a threatened species under the ESA. At this time, we conclude that critical habitat is not yet determinable because data sufficient to perform the required analysis are lacking; any critical habitat designation would be proposed in a separate, future rulemaking.” (reference - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/final-rule-list-queen-conch-threatened-under-endangered-species-act> )

The final rule states that the Queen Conch is distributed throughout the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and around Bermuda. It identifies the “United States (Florida)” as one of the areas where Queen Conch can be found.



Figure 1: Researcher holding juvenile queen conch. Shown is the spiral-shaped shell with a glossy pink/orange interior, part of the soft interior body, and large eyes on the end of stalks. Credit: Jennifer Doerr, NOAA SEFSC Galveston. (reference - <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/queen-conch>)

The listing of Queen Conch has had an immediate effect on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District's (Corps) Civil Works program, specifically with respect to projects proposing work within Queen Conch habitat. The most immediate impact to Corps' projects is the need for the Corps to determine if the project will have an effect to Queen Conch. This determination is made by first evaluating the best available information (i.e., sufficient existing benthic surveys and/or other information already available); however, if a determination cannot be made based on existing information, then the Corps must conduct a survey to look for Queen Conch within the project's anticipated impact areas. As of May 2024, NMFS continues to be in the process of developing a survey protocol for the species. A second potential impact to Corps' projects is the need to consult with NMFS if Queen Conch is determined to be present in the project's anticipated area of impact (dredge or placement footprint). Depending on the potential impacts, ESA consultation with NMFS can be informal or formal and can range in duration from a few months to over a year to complete.

Some of the Corps' Civil Works projects that were evaluated for potential impacts to their schedule following the listing of the Queen Conch are noted below:

1. Palm Beach Harbor Operation and Maintenance (O&M). Beneficial use beach placement. Awarded before Queen Conch listing.
2. St. Lucie Inlet O&M. Beneficial use beach placement. Awarded after Queen Conch listing.
3. Port Everglades Deepening. Biological Assessment transmitted to NMFS on May 31, 2024.
4. Intracoastal Waterway (IWW) O&M in the Vicinity of Bakers Haulover. Beneficial use beach placement. Anticipated award in 2025.
5. IWW O&M in the vicinity of Jupiter Inlet. Beneficial use beach placement. Anticipated award in 2025.

Although the full impact to these projects is still unknown, the Corps is committed to executing these critical projects for the Nation, while also meeting the strictest adherence to environmental standards and laws. The Corps continues to partner with project sponsors as well as the NMFS to obtain relevant benthic surveys and other information which can help inform the Corps' effect determinations for upcoming projects. For this year's Palm Beach Harbor maintenance dredging project, the Corps determined the project would have no effect to Queen Conch based on the following two factors: (1) a literature review indicating that the spatial distribution of Queen Conch in Florida is primarily located in Monroe County with the northernmost aggregation documented as occurring in the Fort Lauderdale area and (2) no sightings of Queen Conch during the existing diver-based hardbottom and coral surveys which have been conducted for more than 20 years along the Palm Beach County shoreline within the vicinity of Palm Beach Harbor. St. Lucie Inlet O&M Project will be conducting Queen Conch surveys this summer. The need for Queen Conch surveys for the upcoming IWW O&M events listed above, is still being evaluated. For the Port Everglades Deepening and Widening project, NMFS' Southeast Fisheries Science Center conducted a Queen Conch survey of the project area. The Queen Conch survey confirmed the presence of the species in the project vicinity and the information from the surveys will be used to inform ESA consultation with the NMFS.

For additional information regarding the Queen Conch, including a species overview, ESA Conservation and Management, and Fishery Management, it is recommended to visit the NMFS website species directory at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/queen-conch>.

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## Queen Conch

*Aliger gigas*



### Also Known As

*Strombus gigas*, *Lobatus gigas*, Conch, Pink conch, Carrucho, Caracol reina

### Protected Status

ESA THREATENED

*Throughout Its Range*

CITES APPENDIX II

*Throughout Its Range*

SPAW ANNEX III

*Throughout the Wider Caribbean Region*

### Quick Facts

WEIGHT Up to 5 pounds

LENGTH Up to 12 inches

LIFESPAN 30 years

THREATS Overharvest, Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing

REGION Southeast

Figure 2: Facts about Queen Conch (*Aliger gigas*) (reference- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/queen-conch>)

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# The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) August 2024 Updates



## Updates to the Hurricane Restoration Reimbursement Grant Program (HRRGP) for Local Governments.

Beginning July 1, 2024, local governments in the 16 named impacted counties for Hurricanes Ian or Nicole can apply for funding large scale sand placement projects that protect multiple upland structures.

There is no match required. There will be between \$35-36 million available to governments as of July 1, 2024. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Local governments can apply through the HRRGP portal as early as July 1, 2024, to provide project details and information to the department (this will not constitute a grant or complete application). Local governments should enter the portal through the "Government Grants" tab rather than the "Hurricane Restoration" tab, which is for private homeowners. The local entity may submit invoices for reimbursement once the sand construction project has begun.

Eligible work for reimbursement can be construction itself and anything required for the construction of the work (design, construction, monitoring, etc.) that occurs from July 1, 2024, until July 1, 2025. Once submitted, invoices will be reviewed for eligibility and, if grant money is available, the reimbursement amount requested or available will be provided to the local entity through a grant agreement.

Please see the link below for more information and to access the online portal.

<https://floridadep.gov/HRRGP>.

## Quarterly Resilience Forum

The next forum will be Aug. 7, 2024, 9-11 a.m. EDT

Please register to attend at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2776858836477445722>

The presentations will include:

- Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative (FSMI) Region 3 Acquisition and Products - Rick Householder, Woolpert.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Special Projects and Silver Jackets - Warner Buchman and Stephanie Verhulst, USACE South Atlantic Division.
- Vallisneria Americana as a nature-based solution for stormwater systems - Carter Henne, Sea & Shoreline LLC.

## Resilient Florida (RF) Program Assistance and Announcements

The 2024 RF application portal opened July 1, 2024. This includes applications for planning grants and for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Statewide Resilience Plan. The deadline for submission is Sept. 1, 2024.

Pre-application and application assistance is available through August 2024. Staff will help with any necessary application support. Assistance cannot be guaranteed after Aug. 15, 2024, as volume may be high and the portal closes on Sept. 1, 2024.

Virtual office hours are Tuesday mornings 9:30-11:30 a.m. EDT and Thursday afternoons 2-4 p.m. EDT. The RF staff will be available to answer questions related to your current RF application process, current RF grant progress reporting, deliverables submissions and payment requests.

**Tuesday Office Hours Meeting Link:** 9:30-11:30 a.m. EDT

**Thursday Office Hours Meeting Link:** 2-4 p.m. EDT

## Beach Management Funding Assistance

As a reminder the deadline to submit applications is today, July 31, 2024.

**Submission instructions:** Completed applications, attachments and survey data can be submitted by email to [Beaches\\_Funding@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Beaches_Funding@FloridaDEP.gov) or by uploading the documents to the program's secure FTP website. Follow the link below and enter the password "Beachfunding" to upload the documents to the respective county folder.

**Secure FTP website:**

<https://ftpportal.dep.state.fl.us/public/folder/sozk0fhr-UuIPs9G1ztsRw/LGFR%20FY2526>.

**Local sponsors submitting a funding request that only includes post-construction monitoring do not need to submit a full application as those requests are not evaluated and ranked.**

Post-construction monitoring beach projects only need to complete the application through Section 7: Schedule and Budget. Post-construction monitoring inlet projects only need to complete the application through Section 6: Schedule and Budget.

### FY 2025-26 Local Government Funding Request (LGFR) Schedule:

Entity	Task	Days	Rule	Due Date
DEP	Call for applications			6/1/2024
Sponsor	Application deadline	60	Yes	7/31/2024
DEP	Draft project assessments released	34	No	9/3/2024
Sponsor	Local sponsor comments due	21	Yes	9/24/2024
Sponsor	Signed Resolution due	21	No	9/24/2024
DEP	Final project assessments released	14	No	10/8/2024
DEP	Draft LGFR released for external review team	14	No	10/22/2024
DEP	External review team comments due	14	No	11/5/2024

Additionally, the department's Beach Management Funding Assistance Program maintains a statewide Long-Range Budget Plan for all beach and inlet management projects. We are in the process of updating the current 2024-2029 Plan for the upcoming year. In order to keep this plan up to date with changing project timelines and budgets, the department requests that local government sponsors submit a funding plan for the next five years for each of their beach and inlet management projects. Please insert this data into the Schedule and Budget section of the attached beach and inlet applications and send to [Beaches\\_Funding@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:Beaches_Funding@FloridaDEP.gov) by Oct. 29, 2024.

**If you are submitting an application for funding in FY 2025-26 LGFR, then we will already have your schedule and budget table on file.**

### **Florida Coastal Management Program (FCMP) Releases New Guidance for Marine Debris Removal**

The FCMP has made a new guide available that provides operational Best Management Practices (BMP) for marine debris removal (non-storm related) to minimize adverse environmental impacts. The Florida Marine Debris Removal Guidance document provides general guidance, specific BMPs for debris removal in sensitive habitats and near protected wildlife, specific debris removal techniques and a regulatory consideration matrix. An online interactive map is provided to help identify sensitive habitats, managed wildlife areas and protected species locations.

The guide was developed, utilizing federal Coastal Zone Management Act funding, to aid contractors, local citizens and governments in the removal of marine debris and advance marine debris planning for Florida.

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## The 38<sup>th</sup> Tech Conference Call for Abstracts is Open



FSBPA is excited to announce the opening of the call for abstracts for the 38<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology. This year's conference will be at the elegant Embassy Suites Hotel, located across from the reimaged Pier Park in the vibrant heart of Panama City Beach.

Building on our tradition of excellence, the Tech Conference will feature expert discussions on the latest management strategies and technologies for protecting and preserving our nation's beaches. We are especially pleased to host this event in Bay County, recognizing the County and their partners' remarkable efforts in repairing and restoring beaches impacted by Hurricane Michael.

We invite you to submit an abstract for consideration in the program. For a list of recommended topics and additional conference details, please visit our [website](#).

We look forward to your contributions and to another outstanding conference!



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## Shoreline

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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### FSBPA Events

**September 11-13, 2024**

**3rd Annual Florida Resilience Conference**  
*featuring the 67th FSBPA Annual Meeting*

**Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, Bonita Springs, FL**



**February 5-7, 2025**

**38th Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology**

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Panama City Beach, FL**



### Other Events

**August 26-29, 2024**

**ASBPA National Coastal Conference**

**"Wrangling the Waves of Change: Adapting to Coastal Dynamics"**

**Galveston, Texas**

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