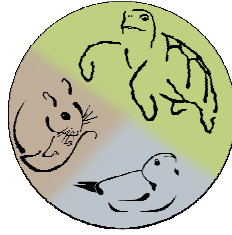


Beaches Habitat Conservation Plan



March 25, 2000

Fl Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC),
Bryant Conference room, Tallahassee, FL

Participants

Blair Witherington, **FFWCC Sea Turtle Biologist**
Diana Grawitch, **Florida Assoc. of Counties Legislative Advocate**
Ericka D'Avanzo, **Surfrider Foundation Florida Regional Manager**
Julie Wraithmell, **Audubon of Florida Wildlife Policy Coordinator**
Kenneth Dugger, **USACOE**
Paul DeMarco, **USACOE**
Terri Jordan, **USACOE**
Lee Killinger, **FLA. Regional Councils Association**
Patty Kelly, **USFWS Biologist**
Sandra Sneckenberger, **USFWS Biologist**
Joseph Donoghue, **Florida State University Coastal Geologist**
Pat Hamilton, **Real Estate Agent, Advocate**
Thomas Ruppert, **University of Florida Attorney**
Robert Ernest, **Ecological Associates, Inc Consultant**
Todd Sumner, **Greenburg Taurig Attorney**
Michael McDonnell, **University of Florida Law Student**
Todd Walton, **Florida State University Beaches and Shores Research Center**
Dana O'Mara, **Mote Marine Policy Institute Program Manager**
Barbara Lausche, **Mote Marine Policy Institute Associate Director**
Stephen Webster, **Florida Marine Contractors Assoc. Executive Director**
John Sprague, **Florida Marine Industries Assoc. Past President**
Frank Herhold, **Marine Industries Assoc. of South Fl. President**
Gordon Connell, **Marine Industries Association of South FL.**
Dr. Robert Deyle, **FSU Dept Urban and Regional Planning Professor, Urban and Regional Planning**
Richard Deadman, **FLDCA Environmental Planner**
Steve Shea, **St. Joe Corporation Director of Ecological Services**
Thomas Estes, **St. Joe Corporation Director of Environmental Permitting**
David Cox, **David Cox Consulting Consultant**

Diana (Grawitch) Ferguson, Florida **Assoc. of Counties Legislative Advocate**
Lori Brinn, UF **Conservation Clinic**
Kelly O'Keefe, Advanced **Coastal Technologies**
Peggy Mathews, Florida **Marine Contractors Assoc.**
Phil Worley, Florida **Department of Emergency Management Deputy State Environmental Officer**

Twenty seven people representing 15 organizations and agencies attended.

Meeting goal

To introduce the HCP project to interested agency and organizational stakeholders and initiate their assistance to build the proposed structure for stakeholder consultation.

Meeting opened at 10.00am

J. Larson, DEP

Welcome and brief overview.

Tom Ostertag, FWC

After an introduction to all participants, Tom Ostertag (FWC) reviewed the FWC Coastal Initiative program which is a large scale, multifaceted and long term project to address wildlife conservation and management in Florida's coastal zone (see PowerPoint presentation). The Coastal Initiative is the larger framework in which the HCP will be a specific component addressing activities; impacts and incidental take of listed species in the jurisdictional area of the Coastal Construction Control Line (CCCL) Program. Wildlife in this zone includes: Beach mice (6 species/5 listed); Sea turtles (5 listed species); shorebirds (about 60 species/6 listed), diamond back terrapins, tiger beetles and others.

Trish Adams, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Presented a detailed account of HCPs and their basis in the Endangered Species Act (ESA) section 10 exceptions and permits for prohibited activities (see PowerPoint presentation). She outlined the utility of HCP as a habitat wide process for directing permitted activity that provides permittees with predictability and flexibility to operate within predetermined conditions to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts on listed species. This project is being coordinated between DEP (the lead agency), FWC (with wildlife jurisdiction and expertise), URS- a consulting company that will draft the HCP proposal and FWS who will issue incidental take permits upon acceptance of the HCP. These sit as the HCP Working Group. This is a long term project and preparation, review and issuance and implementation of the HCP may take 5-10 years.

Questions and comments arising from these presentations and following discussion Included:

- The value of coordination to avoid conflicting regulatory action among and within agencies.
- Will the HCP include listed plants?
- The great complexity of coastal zone issues and impacts.

- The possibility that an HCP will also be a standard for FWS section 7 biological Opinions.
- Inclusion of on-site and off site mitigation for impacts.
- Who will approve the draft HCP? DEP FWC FWS?
- Will the HCP require changes in statute?
- Could mitigation funds raised under the HCP be applied to wildlife habitat acquisition to offset sea level rise and climate change?

Issues that emerged as significant or major and widespread concern were noted as follows:

- The time frame for the HCP and its embedded actions, coastal planning and regulatory frameworks needs to recognize the very dynamic nature of the coastal zone and time scale of change in this zone, particularly climate change and associated sea level and weather changes. The large uncertainty of sea level and climate changes imposes a need for an adaptive process within HCP and unusually long time frames.
- The success of an HCP in providing suitable protection to listed species depends upon the very specific and detailed requirements and recommendations that the HCP mandates. The input of diverse stakeholders is needed to find the balance of actions that maintains species protection.
- The HCP needs to address both regular and ongoing beach activities and impacts and the occasional catastrophic impacts of storms and the subsequent shoreline protection and restoration. The HCP could potentially provide standard direction and regulatory limits during post storm emergencies that presently lack cohesive responses.

Break for lunch

Gene Chaleki, DEP

Provided a detailed description of the activities of DEP Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, and specifically the Coastal Construction Control Line Program. (see PowerPoint presentation).

Questions arising from this presentation included:

- The seaward limits of DEP jurisdiction under CCCL?
- The landward regulatory influence inland of the CCCL?
- The effect of human occupancy/density in areas inland of the CCCL that drive impacts within the CCCL.
- The great importance of coordinating with local jurisdictions(counties and municipalities) who can affect planning inland of the CCCL.

Kat Diersen, FWC

Summarized that the challenge for producing an effective HCP was to tap into the right expertise and coordinate among the numerous interested agencies and organizations to draft an HCP that had the required elements and flexibility to balance human and wildlife needs. She presented a draft advisory body structure for discussion by the group. Perran

Ross briefly described FWC policy for structuring advisory bodies and some general considerations for effective group dynamics and operation. From discussion the group determined that:

- A Steering committee will advise and assist the HCP working group- once formed it will define own mission, but is expected to coordinate inputs from several technical advisory groups (see following). The Steering Committee is best restricted to 8-10 people representing each of the technical groups, the working group and other major interests. The Steering Committee is the forum for coordination between technical inputs- lead agencies, the consultant and stakeholders. Steering Committee members will ideally be at an appropriate level in their respective organizations to have the time to commit to the activity and the authority to represent their agency or group.
 - Four technical advisory groups are proposed to provide subject matter expertise in specific areas:
 - o Policy advisory Committee
 - o Science advisory committee
 - o Stakeholder advisory committee
 - o Local jurisdictions (counties) advisory committee
- Direct communication laterally among the technical groups is encouraged.
- Methods to enable coordination between committees were proposed:
 - o Electronically- with a website FTP site etc.
 - o Cross populate committees with representatives from other committees
 - o Electronic distribution list would make everyone aware of issues/meetings
 - o Develop an HCP project Newsletter
 - Committees should use alternatives to travel and physical meetings where feasible including existing electronic meeting, conference calling, Polycom and other methods. However, it is advisable to initiate technical and steering committee with a face-to-face meeting. We anticipate the steering committee holding no more than 8 physical meetings/year and technical committees on an as-needed basis possibly more intense but less prolonged.
 - Standard materials to communicate the projects activities will be developed:
 - o A FTP site depository for documents and meeting reports (URS to develop/Kat to advise participants next week).
 - o An information sheet/FAQ
 - o Draft goals and scopes for each committee (1 page).
 - Kat Diersen is the project overall coordinator and point of contact for committees and committee function.

The group then quickly brainstormed a list of potential interested groups (see *Attachment 1*). This list being unselective and impractically long, staff undertook to sort and group this list and then send to participants with a request for them to provide contacts for suitable real people who could be approached to populate these committees. Participants were also asked to provide Kat/Jackie with names/contacts for any known 'willing partners' already engaged or likely interested in the HCP process. The group suggested that staff initiate the formation of the technical committees and then this ad-hoc advisory

body could convene again to assist in the further development of the steering committee-suggested May 2008.

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Attachment 1.

Preliminary list of interested agencies, groups and interests for consideration in populating advisory bodies. Groups already attending are excluded. Some items below are somewhat vague; if you have specific suggestions, please provide details!

Federal agencies

NOAA

Federal highway authority

EPA

USGS

Military /Dept of Defense (note military bases excluded from CCCL)

National Parks

NASA

State Agencies

Water management districts

FL EMS- DEM

FL Park Service (DEP)

Local Jurisdictions

Association of Counties

Regional planning councils

Individual Counties, Cities, Municipalities

Conservation groups

Sierra Club

Defenders of Wildlife

FL Wildlife Fed

Reef Relief

Others?

Human Use Interests

Florida Condominium and Homeowners' Association

Florida Chamber of Commerce

Beach vendors???

Beach recreation groups???

Hotels (beach front)

Utility companies

Universities

Regional Tourist Development Councils

Local activists (individuals)

Florida Marine Contractors Association

Anglers Associations?