

Regional Biological Assessment

*Sand Placement
Coast of Florida*



U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District



REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

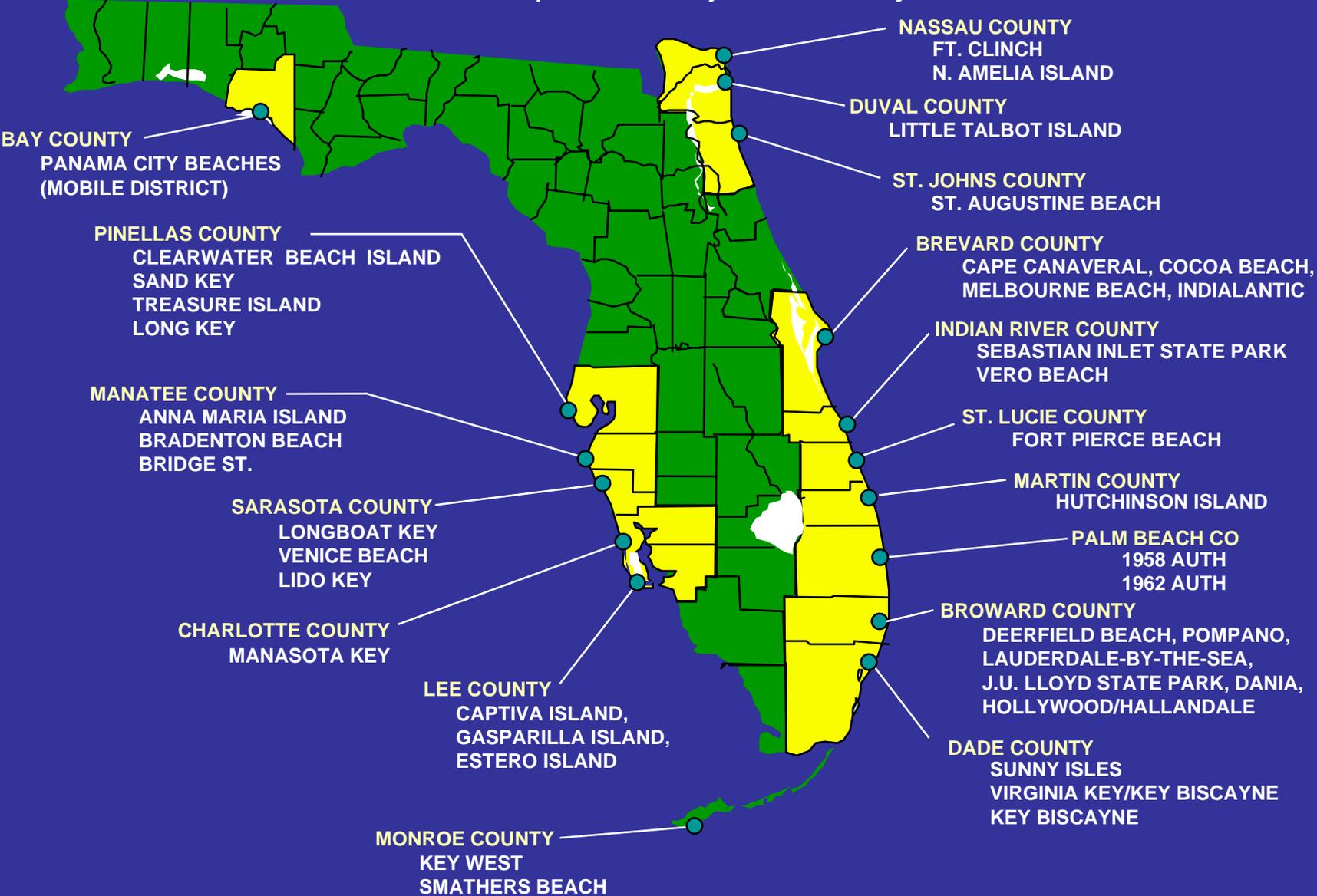
- I. Purpose: To streamline compliance with Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- II. Activities Covered (Regulatory and Corps Civil Works): Beach Nourishment, Navigation Dredging, and other placement of sand on the beach
- III. Authorities Covered: Shore Protection, Navigation, Regulatory, other
- IV. Species Considered: Nesting Sea Turtles (5 species), Piping Plover (and Critical Habitat), Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Beach Mouse (several species), Manatee, other
- V. Geographic Scope: (Coast of Florida where sand is placed on beach)
- VI. Information Requirements: past, present, and “reasonably foreseeable” future sand placement; occurrence of ESA resources; impacts to ESA resources; and Acceptable Means to Minimize Impact (Reasonable and Prudent Measures)
- VII. Status: Met with Fish and Wildlife Service and FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Preparing Biological Assessment to submit to FWS; 2 BA on hold pending resolution of “terms and conditions”.

Collaboration

- SAJ:
 - Planning Division
 - Environmental Branch (Coastal Section) *
 - Plan Formulation Branch (Coastal/Navigation Section)
 - Regulatory Division
 - Construction and Operations Division (Field Offices)
- SAM (Civil Works Jurisdiction in Panhandle Florida)
- SAW (Brokered Work: Regional Biological Assessment)
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (Field Offices: Vero Beach, Jacksonville, and Panama City)**
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- American Bird Conservancy (Data, GIS)

* Lead Organization

** FWS would issue a Biological Opinion with Incidental Take Statement³



AUTHORIZED SHORE PROTECTION PROJECTS

DEEP DRAFT NAVIGATION

(<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/nav/index.html>)

Atlantic

- Fernandina/Kings Bay
- Jacksonville
- Canaveral
- Fort Pierce
- Palm Beach
- Port Everglades
- Miami

Gulf of Mexico

- Key West
- Charlotte
- Manatee
- Tampa

SHALLOW DRAFT NAVIGATION

(<http://www.saj.usace.army.mil/nav/index.html>)

Atlantic

- Atlantic IWW
- IWW (Jax-Miami)
- St. Augustine
- Ponce de Leon
- St. Lucie Inlet
- other

Gulf of Mexico

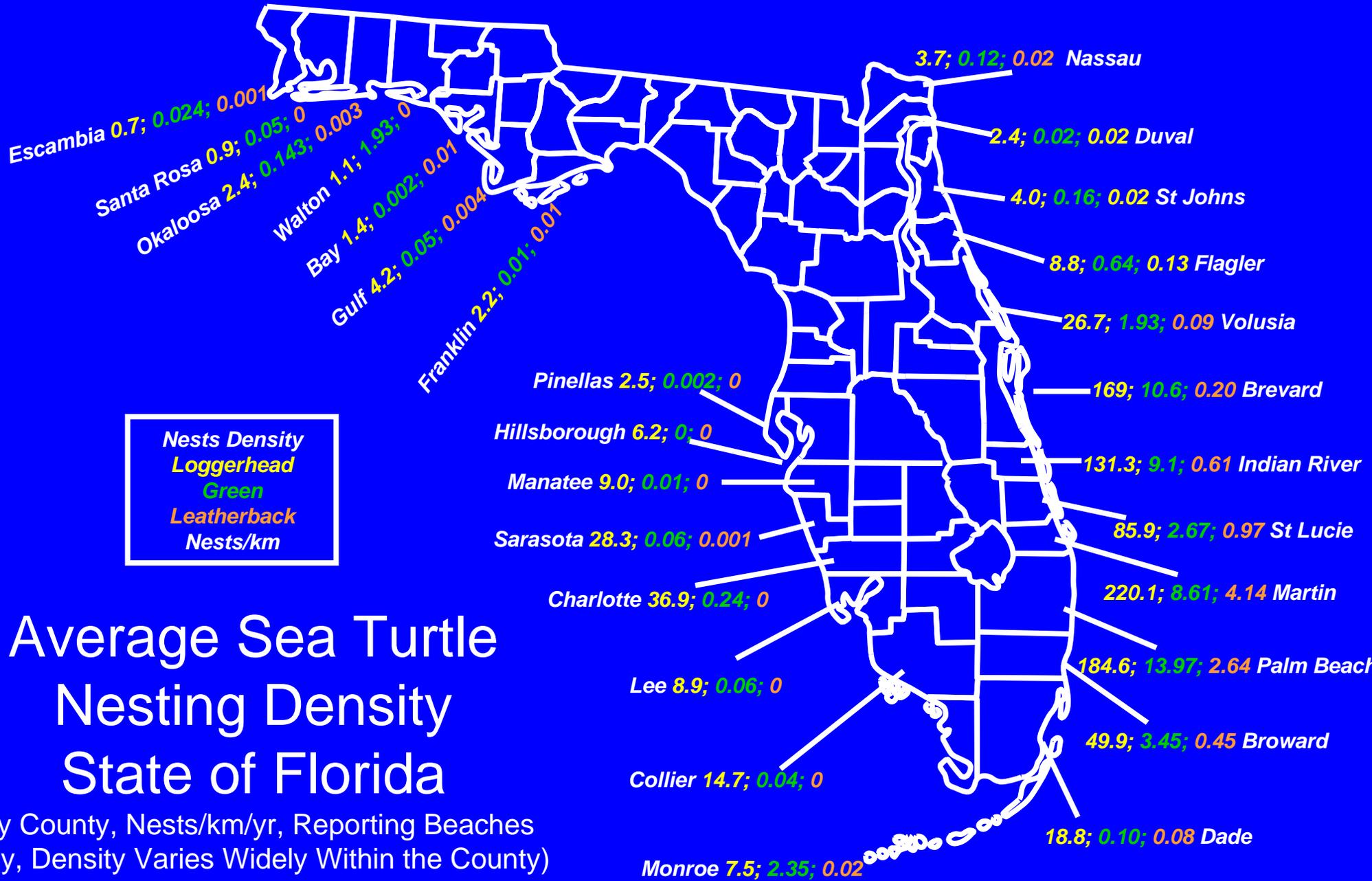
- Naples to Marco
- IWW CR to AR
- New Pass (Sarasota)
- Johns Pass (Pinellas)
- Withlacoochee
- Suwannee
- Steinhatchee
- other

REGULATORY PERMITS

- Data
 - Location
 - Quantity
 - Length
 - Biological Opinion (date, Terms & Conditions)
 - Nests Relocated and Other Impacts?
- Time Frame
 - Since 2000?

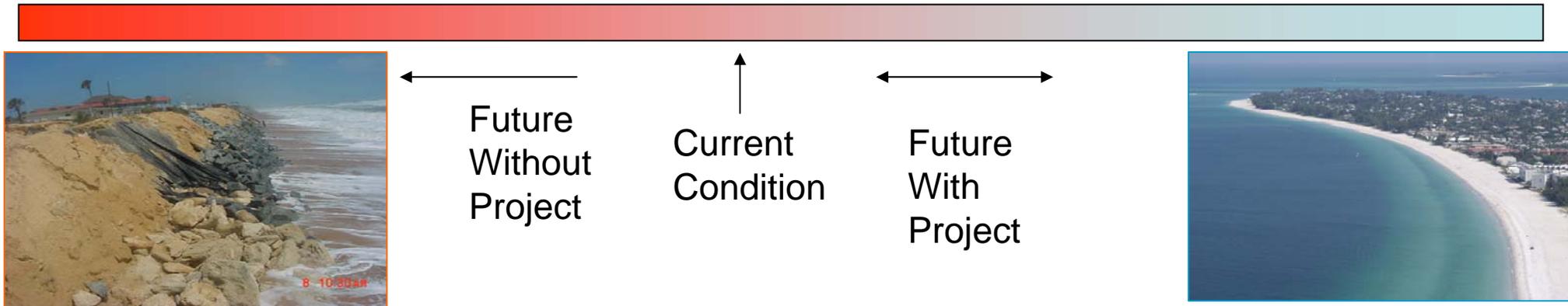
Schedule

- Scoping, Biological Assessment
 - Teleconference, 24 January 2006
 - Meeting, 7-8 March 2006 (FWS, FWC, SAM, SAJ, SAW)
- Prepare, Biological Assessment (March '06 – November '07)
 - Draft BA (March – September 2006)
 - Gather and Compile Data (FWS, FWC, SAM, SAJ(RD+PD), SAW)
 - In-Progress Review Meeting (All) 13 July '06
 - Evaluate Impacts
 - Determine Measures
 - Coordination and Review (All) (September '06 – September '07)
 - Interagency Workshop on “Terms and Conditions” 18-19 Sept '07
 - Final BA (SAJ) (November '07)
- SAJ/SAM Submit BA to FWS (December '07)
- FWS Prepare BO (December '07 – March '08)
- Submit BO to Corps (April 2008)



Shore Protection Project Impacts on Shoreline Erosion

Shoreline Hardened Eminent Threat to Structures Critically Eroded * Moderate Erosion Relatively Stable



* Note: Shore protection activities typically occur on critically eroded shoreline in which “upland development, recreational interests, wildlife habitat, or important cultural resources are threatened”.

RBA / RBO Workshop

- Purpose: Discuss “Terms and Conditions”
- Day 1: 18 Sept. '07
 - Beach Mice. Morning
 - Sea turtles, Morning
 - Manatees, Afternoon (protection measures, no incidental take)
- Day 2: 19 Sept. '07
 - Piping Plovers
 - Red Knots
 - Snowy Plovers
- Participants:
 - FWS
 - FL FWC and DEP
 - SAM
 - SAJ (regulatory, environmental branch, field offices)
 - SAW
 - American Bird Conservancy

“Reasonable and Prudent”

- Is it a new or different Term & Condition?
- How does it benefit the species?
- Is it technically and engineeringly practicable?
- Is it within the authority and control of the Corps?
- Does it address the impacts of the project?
- Does it addresses the actions of the Corps (not the action or inaction of others)?

Beach Mice

- Distribution
 - Habitat (Anastasia and Southeastern)
 - Critical Habitat (Panhandle Species)
 - Perdido Key
 - Choctawhatchee
 - St. Andrew
- 8 Terms and Conditions
- 5 Conservation Recommendations

Sea Turtles, Nesting Species

- SE Florida, Brevard through Broward vs Other
- Nesting Seasons by Location/Region
- Sand Placement
 - Beach Lighting
 - Beach Slope / Profile
 - Monitoring, Relocation, and Reporting
- Dune Planting
- Sand Fencing
- Groin or Jetty Work
- 26 Terms and Conditions
- 5 Conservation Recommendations

MANATEE

- Standard Manatee Construction Conditions.
- Additional Conditions
 - Dredging Adjacent to Shore, Inlets, In Shore Areas (3 Conditions)
 - Dredging Activities in Important Manatee Areas
 - Warm Water Refugia (5 Conditions)
 - Other Important Manatee Areas (Location? Conditions?)