

FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE¹

Grant Abstracts, FY 2015-2016

PROJECT: *Coastal Partnerships: Southwest Florida's Coastal Adaptation in the Context of Future Storm Impacts and Sea-Level Rise: A Case Study Investigation of Ft. Myers Beach*

RECIPIENT: Town of Ft. Myers Beach and Florida Gulf Coast University

FCMP FUNDS: \$14,817

ABSTRACT: The [Town of Ft. Myers Beach](#), in partnership with [Florida Gulf Coast University \(FGCU\)](#), will perform a comprehensive case study of Lee and Collier County's barrier islands. This study will provide managers with a sediment budget of the Island's critical erosional regions located within the divergent regions of littoral longshore cells for the last 10-15 years beginning with pre-Hurricane Charley conditions to the present. The work will quantify the dynamics of longshore sediments deposition and erosion for the central reach of Ft. Myers Beach from 2000 to 2015

PROJECT: *Volunteer Oyster Habitat Monitoring*

RECIPIENT: Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program and the City of Punta Gorda

FCMP FUNDS: \$15,000

ABSTRACT: [Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program \(CHNEP\)](#) and the City of Punta Gorda is implementing a volunteer monitoring program for the Trabue Harborwalk Oyster Reef Creation Project. This is a small pilot project in the Peace River that tests the efficacy of three different methods of oyster reef restoration. This project will train citizens to participate in research and restoration project data collection and entry within the Charlotte Harbor estuary, provide opportunities for the technical community and public to access the collected data for analyses and supply a venue for feedback from volunteers to use in improving future oyster monitoring programs.

PROJECT: *St. Lucie Village Heritage Preserve Boardwalk*

RECIPIENT: St. Lucie County

FCMP FUNDS: \$30,000

ABSTRACT: [St. Lucie County](#) will construct a 310-foot long boardwalk, two small footbridges, a picnic rest area along the Indian River Lagoon paddling trail, and an educational kiosk providing information about the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem. The boardwalk and footbridges will provide visitors with safe access through the interpretive trail system that ultimately leads to a newly constructed observation tower overlooking the Indian River Lagoon and the proposed picnic area/paddling trail rest area.

¹ The [Coastal Partnership Initiative](#) makes federal funds from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration available to local governments of Florida's 35 coastal counties and municipalities that are required to include a coastal element in their comprehensive plan. Florida public colleges and universities, regional planning councils, national estuary programs and nonprofit organizations may also apply if an eligible local government agrees to participate as a partner.

STATE AGENCY AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROJECTS²

PROJECT: *Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise, Year 5*
AGENCY: Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
CONTACT: Sean Reiss
FCMP FUNDS: \$190,000

ABSTRACT: Projected sea level rise (SLR) impacts threaten to greatly exacerbate the vulnerability of Florida's at-risk coastal resources. The [Florida Department of Economic Opportunity](#) (DEO) is working to reduce this vulnerability by integrating SLR adaptation into all levels of hazard mitigation and land use planning, and identifying appropriate models for mapping SLR impacts along Florida's coast. In year 5 of the funding, DEO will (1) prepare plain-language education materials targeting community-based audiences to promote more awareness of hazard mitigation planning processes, funding sources, and best practices how they can be used for both hazard mitigation and sea level rise adaptation projects; (2) work with pilot communities on a more targeted basis to identify strategies for implementing sea level rise adaptation plans; (3) revise recommendations for integrating sea level rise into local comprehensive plans, special area management plans, local post disaster redevelopment plans, regional strategic policy plans, and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan; and (4) disseminate lessons learned through a range of information technologies and media

PROJECT: *Coral Reef and Hardbottom Mapping & Monitoring, Year 5*
AGENCY: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
CONTACT: Richard Flamm
FCMP FUNDS: \$179,654.62

ABSTRACT: In its fifth year of funding, the [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will include the finalization of the Unified Reef Map product, specifically spatial and thematic integration of best available maps based on the findings of related 309 Special Merit work and new map data created to address information gaps. New data areas include Boca Grande Channel, Hawk Channel, parts of the northern Backcountry, and patch reefs. This project will also support the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) Our Florida Reefs community working group management recommendations effort as well as the Florida Keys Sanctuary Advisory Council efforts to re-evaluate zones and management in the Keys.

PROJECT: *Marine Debris and Aquaculture Use Zones, Year 3*
AGENCY: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
CONTACT: Portia Sapp
FCMP FUNDS: \$25,981

ABSTRACT: Severe weather events may dislodge shellfish production materials (polyester or polyethylene netting, polyester nursery and grow-out bags, and miscellaneous gear) and redistribute the gear in and around Aquaculture Use Zones (i.e., State of Florida identified blocks of sovereign submerged lands that can be leased for shellfish culture). In its third year of funding, the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services \(FDACS\) – Division of Aquaculture](#) seeks to continue maintenance of dumpsters at seven (7) locations throughout Cedar Key to promote the proper disposal of shellfish gear and to involve the community to obtain long term adoption of proper marine debris collection. The prior years of this project educated the community on the need to properly dispose of shellfish gear

² Program enhancement projects identified in the FCMP's [Section 309 Assessment and Strategies, FY 2011-2015](#).

PROJECT: *Aquatic Preserve Management Plan Update Support Services, Year 5*

AGENCY: DEP/Florida Coastal Office

CONTACT: Penny Isom

FCMP FUNDS: \$89.786

ABSTRACT: The [Florida Coastal Office \(FCO\)](#) will use FCMP funds to support development of management plan updates for the state's Aquatic Preserve (AP) system. FCO is responsible for the state's 41 AP's, and with almost two million acres of submerged lands to manage, effective and efficient oversight is critical for the long-term protection of these valuable coastal resources. AP plans define specific key issues (e.g., ecosystem health, land use, water resources, human activities and geophysical conditions) and identify goals, objectives and strategies on how to address these issues through active management. In FY15-16, FCO will pursue final approval by the Acquisition Restoration Council and Board of Trustees on six (6) AP management plans. FCO will also develop and receive field staff input on AP site resources, public uses, natural communities, planned uses, frame of issues, maps and other data, and will revise and receive public input on the draft plan(s).