

For COTF Recommendations.

Shoreline and Beach Protection:

Coastal Municipalities should develop holistic goals to preserve coastal shores, water resources and reefs. The well-being of the Tourism economy in Florida, depends on a healthy coastal environment and is tied to economic growth.

Policy Making:

Consider the interests and values of all citizens by using scientific information to guide management policy making, along the coasts, using Conservation as a primary goal for decision making. Establish policies guidelines and standards for the protection and conservation of our natural resources to protect scenic vistas, water use, and fish and wildlife, all areas of significant natural value.

Dredging:

No projects should be permitted to continue during Sea Turtle nesting season. Dredging projects that harm the turtles or any sea life including the reefs and create extensive turbidity should not be permitted, particularly at night when turbidity levels cannot be monitored.

All dredging projects should be monitored by independent monitors, not employees of the Dredging company. Those projects that are found to violate the boundaries and sediment levels of their permits should be shut down.

Sea Walls:

Sea walls eventually damage most beaches they are built on. New sea walls should not be permitted to be built on beaches, by the removal of any dunes. Erosion of the beaches worsens at the end of the seawalls, eventually causing the eroding beach to disappear. It is known that artificial beaches erode faster than natural beaches. The natural feedback between the beaches and the dunes is essential to maintain a healthy beach system, and the reasons why Tourists look for them.

Dunes:

1. Dunes are a critical source of sand that sustain beaches during storms. They can also be an important part of bird migration, thus an added attraction for Tourists, as well as an important habitat for animals. Maintain and repair damage to structures caused by the elements and prevent damage to threatened structures, by the creation of, or the restoration of protective sand dunes. Natural dune settings should be stabilized by native vegetation associated with plant zones. Removal of existing natural dunes should not be permitted for any reason including the protection of any condo amenities. Trampling through dunes grasses should not be permitted .

2. No construction or building or work shall be allowed to involve the alteration of any sand dune by dredging or filling except for improvement of the dunes. Native plants should be involved in replantings during dune restoration.

Reefs:

To save guard the reefs, no floating structures ,abandoned or otherwise, used for habitation or commerce, or for all recreational pursuits during coastal events, should be allowed to rest off the coast for any length of time, in any one location.

Native Planting:

Protect natural resource values by maintaining biological diversity. Removal of plants, (other than invasive species,) animals, archeological, or cultural resources should be prohibited. The primary coastal management goals should be the conservation and restoration of the ecosystem function and the native habitat. All beach projects should involve the planting of native plants.

Sand:

Beach sand used in projects should match the proper characteristics of the beach when sand is imported to rebuild beaches. Dredging of off shore sand should be discouraged.

Submitted by The South East Florida Sierra Marine and Water Quality Team