



## Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC)

Tuesday, February 3, 2026  
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)  
605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

### Call-in Information:

Join by Microsoft Teams meeting

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2549327106278?p=9ErVcGbnDiKsxMwG83>

Meeting ID: 254 493 271 062 78

Passcode: 7Rk2XD7y

Dial in by phone:

+1 850-739-5589, 608390872# United States, Tallahassee  
Phone conference ID: 608 390 872#

Join on a video conferencing device:

Tenant key: 11384774@t.plcm.vc  
Video ID: 113 278 089 5

# **TAB 1**

## **Call to Order, Welcome from Chair Hope**



## 2026 Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC) Agenda

**Date:** February 3, 2026

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**Location:** FDOT Burns Building, 605 Suwannee St, Tallahassee, FL

1. Call to Order, Welcome from Chair Hope
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of August 26, 2025 SEMC Meeting Minutes
4. FSTED Update from Chair Revord
5. Agency Updates
  - a. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
  - b. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
  - c. Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce)
  - d. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works and Regulatory Divisions
  - e. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
  - f. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
6. Partner Updates
  - a. American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)
  - b. Florida Ocean Alliance
  - c. Florida Recycling Partnership (FRP)
7. Guest Speaker – Bill Hanson, Great Lakes Dock and Dredge  
“Dredging Industry Update”
8. Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, ESA, etc.)
9. Florida Legislative Session Update
10. Open Discussion
11. Adjournment

### Call in Information:

Join by Microsoft Teams meeting [https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25\\_449327106278?p=9ErVcGbnDiKsxMw\\_G83](https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/25_449327106278?p=9ErVcGbnDiKsxMw_G83)

Meeting ID: 254 493 271 062 78 Passcode:  
7Rk2XD7y

### Dial in by phone:

+1 850-739-5589, 608390872# United States,  
Tallahassee

Phone conference ID: 608 390 872#

Join on a video conferencing device: Tenant key:  
11384774@t.plcm.vc Video ID: 113 278 089 5

**TAB 2**

**Roll Call**



## Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC) Roll Call

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Representative	Organization	Designee
Captain John Murray	Port Canaveral	
Joseph Morris	Port Everglades	
Scott Moore	Port Fernandina	
Hydi Webb	PortMiami	
Becky Hope (Chair)		
Eric Green	JAXPORT	
Steven McAlearney	Port of Key West	
Carlos Buqueras	SeaPort Manatee	
Michael Meekins	Port of Palm Beach	
Alex King	Port Panama City	
Lance Scott	Port of Pensacola	
Sam Sullivan	Port Putnam	
David Wirth	Port St. Pete	
Guerry Magidson	Port St. Pete	
Paul Anderson	Port Tampa Bay	
Lainie Edwards	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	
Alex Reed		
Gregory Garis		
Lauren Rand	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)	
Jerry Scott		
Jason Mahon	FloridaCommerce	
Shawn Zinszer	U.S. Army Commerce of Engineers	
Angela Dunn		
Gretchen Ehlinger		
Jamie Howard		
Janet Zimmerman	Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	
Josh Cucinella	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	
Jeff Littlejohn	Adams and Reese, LLP	

**TAB 3**

**Approval of August 26, 2025 SEMC**

**Meeting Minutes**



## MEETING MINUTES

### SEAPORT ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (SEMC)

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

2:00 p.m. EST

Zara North Room, Zota Beach Resort, Longboat Key, FL

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome:** The Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC) meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. EST by Chairman Joshua Revord, Port Director of the Port of Fort Pierce.
- 2. Roll Call:** Chairman Revord recognized Emily Fisher, Vice President of Programs & Government Relations at the Florida Ports Council, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Members and other guests present were as follows:

**Port Canaveral:** Bob Musser, on behalf of Cpt. John W. Murray  
**Port Everglades:** Joseph Morris  
**Port of Fernandina:** Scott Moore  
**Port of Fort Pierce:** Joshua Revord (Chair)  
**JAXPORT:** Nick Primrose, on behalf of Eric Green  
**Port of Key West:** Steven McAlearney  
**SeaPort Manatee:** Daniel Fitz-Patrick, on behalf of Carlos Buqueras  
**PortMiami:** Becky Hope, on behalf of Hydi Webb  
**Port of Palm Beach:** Michael Meekins  
**Port Panama City:** Alex King  
**Port of Pensacola:** Thomas Coggin, on behalf of Lance Scott  
**Port of Port St. Joe:** Guerry Magidson  
**Port Putnam:** Sam Sullivan  
**Port St. Pete:** David Wirth  
**Port Tampa Bay:** Chris Cooley, on behalf of Paul Anderson

**FloridaCommerce:** Jason Mahon, on behalf of J. Alex Kelly  
**Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):** Lauren Rand, on behalf of Jared W. Perdue  
**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP):** Lainie Edwards, Gregory Garis  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE):** Gretchen Ehlinger  
**Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND):** Janet Zimmerman  
**Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):** Josh Cucinella  
**Adams & Reese, LLP:** Jeff Littlejohn  
**Florida House of Representatives:** Bill Conerly  
**Florida Ocean Alliance:** Lenore Alpert  
**Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation:** Keyna Cory  
**Florida Ports Council:** Mike Rubin, Emily Fisher

- 3. Approval of the March 26, 2025, SEMC Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Revord asked for any comments or revisions to the March 26, 2025, SEMC meeting minutes. After no discussion, Chairman Revord

proposed a motion to approve the minutes as stands. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**4. Florida Ports Council Update:** Chairman Revord recognized Mike Rubin, President and CEO of the Florida Ports Council. Mike thanked members for their attendance and stated that the meeting will address federal updates, desires by seaport directors to ensure that their voices are heard regarding any changes under the Trump administration with respect to various programs, as well as further discussion on several topics.

**5. Agency Updates:**

- a. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP):** Chairman Revord recognized both Lainie Edwards, Deputy Director in the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection, and Gregory Garis, Program Administrator in the Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection, to give the update for FDEP. They addressed the following updates:
  - **New leadership and staffing updates:**
    - Edward Bouza was named as the Chief Resilience Officer under the Governor (will continue to lead the Resilient Florida program).
    - Brett Tubbs left the Office of Legislative Affairs for a new opportunity under Florida's Chief Financial Officer. The new Legislative Affairs Director is Alex Cronin, who was previously the Deputy Director.
  - **Resilient Florida:**
    - Application portal is open through 9/1 (Labor Day holiday). Staff is present throughout the week to answer any questions regarding Resilient Florida applications and to assist as needed.
  - **Senate Bill 108:** Senate Bill 108 updates the Administrative Procedure Act in Florida Statutes Chapter 120 to require agencies to include a five-year schedule for reviewing their existing rules in their annual regulatory plans. The review ensures rules align with legislative authority, current statutes, proper form, legislative intent, and may require technical or substantive updates, including updated references. Implementation begins this year, with 20% of agency rules reviewed annually, resulting in recommendations for no change, technical change, substantive change, or repeal. Reports are submitted to the legislature annually, and the cycle applies to all new rules going forward.
  - **Rulemaking:**
    - Update on the Resilience Florida Rule underway.
    - Webinar scheduled for notice of rule development on September 5.
    - CCCL Armoring Rule (62B-33) is under rule development, and a workshop is scheduled for September 11.
    - If a rule goes through, amendments will be posted on the website.
  - **Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area:** An advisory committee, including Lainie Edwards and Gregory Garis, is working to develop and adopt a Management Plan for the Aquatic Preserve. Initial meetings include a virtual session in

early September and an in-person meeting in October, followed by public meetings (two or three, combining in-person and virtual) in early December to gather public comments. Port members can request updates via FDEP communications. While designation as Outstanding Florida Waters (OFW) would trigger stricter water quality standards, no timeline or discussion for that change currently exists; the preserve remains classified as an aquatic preserve while the management plan is implemented.

- **Marine Species Observer Conditions:**

- FDEP is working with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and NOAA to work on marine species observer conditions for permits. The negotiation has been back-and-forth between FDEP, FWC (Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission), National Marine Fisheries Service, the courts, and local sponsors. FWC have developed a standard set of guidelines for their preferred and approved observers but have removed the approval process. This conflicts with the NMFS observation requirements. FDEP is working to address the NMFS observation requirements while being supportive of FWC efforts in implementing the guidelines. Those guidelines are not yet specifically cited in rule on the state's side. As is typically the case, whatever language ends up being agreed upon will likely be implemented for other similar projects going forward.
- **Emergency Bond Order (EBO) Authorization:**
  - Milton is still active until September 26; expirations are extended through the Governor's Executive Order (EO).
  - Nicole and Ian have expired.
  - Debbie and Helene's EBOs remain valid through September 9.
  - EO extensions occur in 60-day increments; updated EO dates are available on the Governor's website and updated EBO dates are available on FDEP's website.
  - SeaPort Manatee has utilized an emergency authorization.

- b. **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):** Chairman Revord recognized Lauren Rand, SeaPort Office Manager, to give the update for FDOT.

- Work continues on the Efficient Transportation Decision Making (ETDM) Process, the electronic document review platform, but integrating seaport projects has been challenging. The team is considering creating a standalone platform modeled on ETDM, specifically for seaports, but it will take about 2.5 years to develop. In the meantime, discussions are ongoing with ports to clarify expectations for reporting outputs and ensure projects have the information needed for construction completion. Ports feel isolated and need a consistent, predictable, and streamlined process, particularly for NEPA reviews and funding decisions. ETDM could provide a unified platform for alternatives analysis, aligning with federal requirements and existing agency participation.

- c. **FloridaCommerce:**

- No update at this time.

- Deputy Secretary Jason Mahon will provide updates at the FSTED meeting on behalf of Secretary J. Alex Kelly.
- d. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Civil Works and Planning Division:** Chairman Revord recognized Gretchen Ehlinger, the environmental branch chief in the planning division for civil works, to give an update on USACE. Ehlinger gave updates on major projects:
  - **NOAA Fisheries:** Awaiting biological opinion from NOAA Fisheries; anticipating receipt in November timeframe.
  - **Water Quality Certificate Application with FDEP:** Hoping to receive water quality certification in November.
  - **Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement:** Looking to publish in September 2026 and hoping to have a signed Record of Decision in October 2026. We have made a lot of progress in the last several months, with the biological assessment going to National Fisheries, and the substantial progress on water quality certification and all the other things that we need to get to that side.
  - **Miami Harbor:** Feasibility study is moving forward.
  - **Tampa Harbor:** Project was authorized in 2024 and we are working through design. We are coordinating proposed changes to critical habitat for manatees with Fisheries & Wildlife Services.
    - Recent NEPA procedures are being implemented. Changes are mostly procedural, emphasizing timeframes and page limits. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents now count figures/tables and should generally be 75–150 pages, with 300 pages for complex projects. Projects already underway follow the old rules (e.g., Port Everglades EIS will exceed 300 pages). There are also expanded opportunities for categorical exclusions, allowing more projects to qualify. The team is reviewing these new exclusions for upcoming NEPA projects.
- e. **Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND):** Chairman Revord recognized Janet Zimmerman, Executive Director, to give the update for FIND. Zimmerman highlighted FIND's grant program supporting derelict vessel removal, providing a 75% funding match. St. Lucie County has removed 5 vessels, with 3 more pending. The program is available to the 12 counties within the Florida Inland Navigation District along Florida's east coast, from Nassau to Miami-Dade.
- f. **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):** Chairman Revord recognized Josh Cucinella, Land Use Planning Program Administrator, to give the update for FWC. Cucinella covered the revised marine species observer guidelines and clean comprehensive survey and relocation guidelines.
  - **Marine Species Observer Guidelines:** Previously, for activities like dredging and blasting or other major in-water projects, a marine species observer was required, and the permittee would send proposed observers to FWC to approve. That step is no longer required. Permittees pick someone qualified to do the work and FWC does not need to approve the selection.

- **Clean Comprehensive Survey and Relocation Guidelines:** Released in January 2025. Only for minor, routine projects that may happen within boards and other areas, so not for dredging or similar projects. The guidelines are expected to streamline smaller projects. For larger projects, at this time, regular consultations will be required.

## 6. Partner Updates:

- a. **AAPA:** No updates, as no attendees were present.
- b. **Florida Ocean Alliance (FOA):** Chairman Revord recognized Lenore Alpert, Executive Director of the Florida Ocean Alliance, to give the update for FOA. Alpert shared details about the Florida Ocean Alliance event on November 5 in Ft. Lauderdale, supported by Port Everglades and others. The conference will focus on the ocean economy and ocean health, featuring a sea-level expert, two engineering firms (including a permitting specialist), and Ocean Exchange startups showcasing innovative solutions. Interested sponsors should contact FOA, and all are invited to register; questions should go to Alpert.
- c. **Florida Recycling Partnership:** Chairman Revord recognized Keyna Cory, Executive Director of the Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation, to give the update for FRP.
  - **2025 Recycling Champion Award:** Nominations are open for awards recognizing companies, organizations, governments, and individuals contributing to recycling and sustainability, including waste reduction, water reuse, energy efficiency, recycling, and related initiatives. Applications are on the Florida Recycling Partnership website with a September 5 deadline. Past winners include Port Tampa Bay. Other ports and their tenants are encouraged to apply.
  - **Norwegian Cruise Lines & Goodwill South Florida partnership:** On October 30, Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings, Goodwill South Florida, and Waste Management & Recycling Services (WM) are working together to keep valuable items out of landfills while funding life-changing programs for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employees. This is taking place in Miami.
  - **Florida Recycles Day:** The event is on November 13 at Florida Polytechnic University. It is hosted by the Florida Recycling Partnership and FDEP. There will be a variety of different subject matters covered such as an away-from-home recycling study (which might be interesting to see on cruise ships before they enter port terminals), battery disposal, an innovative food waste pilot program by Publix, and a new recycling facility. Goodwill will be speaking about their partnership with Norwegian Cruise Lines and how they are diverting items from landfills.

## 7. Open Discussion:

Chairman Revord recognized Jeff Littlejohn, Senior Policy Advisor with Adams & Reese.

- a. **FDEP Stormwater Rule:** Stricter water quality criteria take effect at the end of December 2025, unless activities are grandfathered. Seaports benefit from approved port master plans completed before January 2025, with activities consistent with those plans exempt until 2034. Questions can be directed to Littlejohn, and consultants should reference the grandfathering provisions in their planning. Port representatives discussed how master plan documentation affects grandfathering under new DEP stormwater rules. Key points include:

- **Project specificity:** Projects don't need to be listed individually in the master plan; high-level descriptions (e.g., "retain cargo terminals") are sufficient if consistent with the approved plan.
- **Grandfathering:** Activities consistent with master plans adopted or incorporated by reference before 2024 are generally exempt from the new stormwater criteria. Local adoption by county or planning commission typically satisfies DEP requirements.
- **Updating master plans:** Updating a master plan does not negate grandfathering for existing consistent activities, but new or redesigned areas may not be grandfathered.
- **Stormwater rules:** New criteria are 10% stricter for redevelopment and 100% stricter for new development, focusing on nutrient removal (95% for OFWs, 55–80% for standard waters). Non-grandfathered projects are already feeling these impacts. Ports should document consistency with pre-2024 plans to maintain exemptions, while ensuring new projects or updates consider the stricter rules.

b. **Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, etc.):**

- **NEPA:** The Corps is now using the DOT-wide enterprise NEPA procedures (June), which provide uniform standards, streamlined timelines, and narrower scopes, leading to faster and more concise EA (Environmental Assessment)/EIS reviews. Projects already in NEPA prior to June continue under the old process; only new projects will follow the updated procedures. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has limited authority over federal NEPA, effectively placing the Corps in charge of NEPA compliance.
- **WOTUS:** Most port areas remain fully under federal jurisdiction, but interior waters, ditches, and discrete features (like culverts or salinity control structures) may now sever federal jurisdiction, following the Sackett Supreme Court decision. This limits how far inland federal regulation extends. A simplified WOTUS rule is expected in late 2025 to clarify these changes.
- **Endangered Species Act (ESA):** The blanket 4(d) rule for threatened species has been removed. Agencies are narrowing the definition of "harm" to exclude habitat modification, meaning ESA restrictions now focus on direct harm to species rather than all habitat impacts. This could reduce permitting constraints but may be legally challenged.
- **South Atlantic Regional Biological Opinion (SARBO):** The Corps is working to allow reliance on SARBO for streamlined project authorization in critical habitats, avoiding project-by-project consultations. Ports are encouraged to submit comments and issues now, even before rules are finalized, to influence agency decisions and ensure congressional and administration attention on port priorities.

c. **Other Issues:**

- **VW Mitigation Trust Fund:** There are leftover funds from the Volkswagen settlement in Florida, originally used for electric school buses. The DEP is currently accepting public comments through September 19 on reallocating remaining funds to new eligible mitigation projects. Potential uses include port electrification, EV infrastructure, charging stations, and heavy-duty vehicle upgrades. Ports could submit a joint

proposal or update prior project submittals to compete for these funds once the total amount available is confirmed.

- **Noise Abatement using Bubble Curtains:** Ports have used bubble curtains for noise abatement during construction, notably on the Carver North project with contractor Orion. The system involved placing a PPC apparatus over pipe piles with the curtain surrounding it. While effective, it was challenging to move between piles. Bubble curtains are innovative, emerging technology with multiple potential applications beyond noise control, including trash containment, oil spill management, and interactive marine programs, though they are not widely commercially available.
- **Sand Bypass Project:** The recent sand bypass project at Port Canaveral, completed in May, moved 1.5 million cubic yards of sand from the north side of the port to beaches on the south, achieving nearly 10 miles of beach renourishment. The project, coordinated by the Corps and contractor Great Lakes, demonstrated successful large-scale sand transfer and was recognized by the American Shore & Beach Preservation Association as one of the four best restored beaches in the country.

8. **Adjourn:** Chairman Revord opened the floor for discussion; hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

## **TAB 4**

### FSTED Update from Chair Revord

## **TAB 5**

### **Agency Updates**

- a. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
- b. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
- c. Florida Department of Commerce (FloridaCommerce)
  - d. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers- Civil Works and Regulatory Divisions
- e. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
- f. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

## Observer Guidelines for Protected Species Monitoring Programs in Florida State Waters



Imperiled Species Management Section  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 South Meridian Street – 6A  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

July 25, 2024

## *Table Of Contents*

### **Background**

### **Acronyms**

### **Types Of Projects**

- In-Water Construction / Demolition Projects
- High-Speed Boat Races / Beach Spectator Events
- Other In-Water Marine Events

### **Agencies Involved**

### **Species Involved**

- Manatees
- Sea Turtles
- Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins
- North Atlantic Right Whale
- Other Marine Species

### **Protected Species Observers**

- Basic Observer Qualifications
- Advanced Observer Qualifications
- Additional Personnel (Trainees)
- Basic Observer Primary Responsibilities
- Advanced Observer Primary Responsibilities

### **Monitoring Protocols**

- Observer Logs
- Grid Maps
- Equipment Checklists

### **Attachments**

## Background

Protected Species Monitoring Programs in Florida are specifically developed for permitted in-water or over-water activities and events that have been documented and determined to pose an increased risk of injury or death to a protected marine species. These activities include, but are not limited to, marine construction and dredging operations, marine demolition projects, high-speed marine events, in-water demonstrations and performances, special organized events involving large numbers of vessels, and other on-water or near-water activities which may potentially place a protected marine species at risk. A Protected Species Monitoring Program (PSMP) is typically conducted by individuals who are experienced in identifying and monitoring Florida coastal marine and estuarine species that may be present at the work or event location. These species include the Florida manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*), Atlantic bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*), and all marine turtle species. In some cases, other protected species including the North Atlantic right whale, (*Eubalaena glacialis*), Gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi*), and the smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*), may be included in a monitoring program. All activities under a PSMP are directed through a permitting process, as required by state and federal law, and event organizers and protected species observers should be aware that there are significant civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing any of these listed species (Attachment 1).



A large dredging project in Tampa Bay, Florida

The guidelines in this document should be considered as the minimum protocols needed to ensure that observers and subcontractors are educated on appropriate techniques for protecting marine species during typical in-water work. Projects that pose greater risks to marine species may require

more rigorous and intensive monitoring protocols. The issued state or federal authorization for work should address the level of monitoring that is required for a project, with some projects requiring state- and/or federal-approved watch plans. Projects with greater risks to listed species require observers to have a significant amount of previous experience with similar project types or environmental circumstances. Examples of these projects include, but are not limited to, night-time dredging, blasting, or project locations near known animal aggregation sites, including warm water refuges (manatees) or nesting areas (sea turtles). The protocols that may be required for high-risk projects are not covered in this document and are typically developed and implemented on a case-by-case basis.

## Basic Observer Qualifications

Minimum qualifications for protected species observers may vary from project to project, however considerations frequently include the following. Some regulatory permits, project consultations, and/or agency oversight may require some or all these qualifications.

- An undergraduate or graduate degree in biology, zoology, ecology, marine science, or related fields. This may also include individuals who may be working on such a degree.
- Previous experience in conducting field research and field data collection specifically related to marine mammal and/or sea turtle biology and ecology.
- Previous experience as a dedicated observer or trainee for one or more similar projects.
- Ability to understand and effectively implement all permit requirements and Watch Plan protocols.
- Participation in an FWC-approved training program specifically related to protected species monitoring.

There is a FWC video resource entitled “An Introduction to Manatees” created for observers participating in permitted in-water activities that involve the monitoring and protection of manatees. The video includes basic information about manatees and manatee presence in Florida, along with techniques for manatee identification in Florida waters [Video Link: [youtube.com/watch?v=Xs7zLRtZVOQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=Xs7zLRtZVOQ)]

## Advanced Observer Qualifications

Along with basic observer qualifications, advanced qualifications may include:

- Extensive experience as a dedicated observer for similar projects, including past experience as the Project Lead or Watch Program Coordinator.
- Experience in conducting marine mammal and/or sea turtle population surveys, including aerial survey experience.
- Familiarity with protocols associated with the management of all protected species that may be encountered during a specific project.
- Experience in implementing specific watch protocols, including establishing work schedules, positioning of observers, data collection, incident response and management, work stoppages, regulatory agency coordination, project mobilization and demobilization, and report preparation.

Documentation supporting past experience of any approved protected species observers may be required to fulfill permit conditions. *Observers shall not have been found in violation of previous permit conditions relating to the observation of protected marine species or found providing inaccurate or false information on any supporting documentation used for verification of previous experience.*

#### **Additional Personnel (Trainees):**

Additional personnel with limited or no experience, identified as “Trainees”, may also be utilized in a limited capacity. While training does not substitute for on-the-job experience, the use of trainees can provide practical experience in spotting animals as well as opportunities to learn and implement various watch protocols. Depending on permit requirements, availability of other project personnel, and specific project needs, trainees may be included as part of the required Protected Species Watch Team, and logged time as an active observer may be considered as relevant experience for future projects. Trainees may be positioned at additional locations along the project site or paired with a regular observer.

#### **Basic Observer Primary Responsibilities:**

- Conduct a continuous protected species watch as outlined in the project watch plan.
- Maintain continuous communication with other observers during the project or event.
- Immediately notify project personnel when any listed protected species are sighted within the designated work or event area.
- Photo-document any protected species that are sighted during the project.
- Assist in locating any injured or dead protected marine species that are reported in the vicinity of the event site.
- Assist with systematic data collection on protected species observed, as needed.
- Maintain a protected species watch log of all relevant activity associated with the project or event.

#### **Advanced Observer Primary Responsibilities:**

Participation in all duties conducted by a Basic Observer, plus:

- Organization and coordination of all aspects of the watch plan, including mobilization and demobilization, of all pre- and post-event de-briefings and meetings.
- Direct communication, coordination, and placement of all watch personnel.
- Coordination and direct communication with project or event personnel directly responsible for the startup and stoppage of the project or event.
- Coordination of the response, rescue, and/or recovery of any injured or dead protected marine species that are identified during the event.

- Directly reporting to regulatory agencies if it is determined that the permitted activity is placing protected species at risk, including compliance-related issues.
- Preparation of a post-event summary report that will be submitted to all relevant regulatory agencies.

**All active protected species observers are considered to be dedicated observers. They are required to be in their pre-determined survey location during any in-water activity and must not perform any other duties while actively observing.** For construction projects, in-water activity includes, but is not limited to, movement or operation of dredging equipment, work barges, tugboats, workboats, and crew boats, pile driving, as well as mobilization and demobilization of pipelines, etc. Observation for protected marine animals must occur whenever any of these types of movements or operations take place. For high-speed marine events, in-water activity includes all aspects of the event, including vessel movement in and around the wet pit areas, travel corridors to and from the active racecourse, any secondary “demonstration” events, and any high-speed pre-event practices or training.

For projects of longer duration, protected species watch observers should be managed to work in shifts to reduce fatigue and increase the likelihood that marine species will be sighted. For longer duration activities such as dredging projects, six-to-eight-hour shifts are typical. To avoid a lapse in monitoring, new observers at a shift change must be in place before the current observers leave their station. While all project personnel are responsible for watching for protected species, designated observers must be dedicated only to their observation task and may not perform any other duties that may interfere with animal observation.

Observers must notify all appropriate personnel to shut down in-water or over-water operations, including dredging or vessel movement, if any protected species is observed within 50 feet of the activity. If the animal has been seen again and is clear of the 50-foot radius or has not been seen for a minimum of 30 minutes, the observer may notify all appropriate personnel that work, or vessel movement can resume. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving (be aware that feeding or watering is also considered harassment\*). **The 50 foot and 30-minute standard should apply unless permit conditions have other specifications.**

**\*Harassment (Marine Mammal Protection Act 1972), is defined as follows:**

Level A harassment: any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance that has the potential to injure a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.

Level B harassment: acts that have the potential to disturb (but not injure) a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild by disrupting behavioral patterns, including, but not limited to, migration, breathing, nursing, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

## *Monitoring Protocols*

Along with standard construction conditions, additional event-specific protocols associated with a PSMP may include, but are not limited to the following:

A pre-event coordination meeting to review the protocols and responsibilities of all parties should be held prior to any in-water activity. All staff working on a project including subcontractors, vessel operators, consultants and observers should attend. The anticipated timetable of events related to the work, observer positions during project activities, and watch protocols should be discussed. All workers and observers should be given a copy of all permit conditions.

All project participants must be advised of the civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing any of the listed protected species of concern for a particular event.

Construction personnel, vessel operators, and/or event organizers are liable for any violations of these protective measures.

Observers should be present and actively surveying for animals prior to and during the deployment of any equipment used during the permitted activity.

All vessels participating in the permitted activity must adhere to all designated speed zones or permitted speed restrictions.

Monitoring must be conducted by a pre-determined number of qualified observers from pre-determined positions. Observers will position themselves so that they have optimum view of the construction area (given safety constraints), while still being able to communicate effectively with the construction personnel. Depending on the project, aerial surveillance may be required. Along with dedicated observers, a designated communications coordinator may also be required.

Each observer should be equipped with communication equipment and frequencies dedicated exclusively to the PSMP.

Observers must conduct monitoring in good faith and to the best of their abilities. Observers must remain in close communication at all times. In most instances, the determination to halt an event will be confirmed and executed through the project coordinator, however any designated observer has the authority to stop the event / activity if a protected species is observed within the designated boundaries of the event site.

A project or event must be halted immediately if an animal is sighted within the established safety perimeter of the event. Any vessel traffic will also be halted or directed away from the sighting location. Activities must not resume until the animal has moved away from the event area under its own volition. No attempt will be made to herd, chase or "escort" animals from the area. No attractants or deterrents can be used unless they are specifically outlined in the permit conditions. If the observer loses sight of an animal observed in or near the event area, the event must not resume for at least 30 minutes following the last sighting, provided that the animal is not observed again.

A project or event must be halted immediately if a protected species is injured or killed during permitted activities, or an injured or dead protected species is discovered in the event area and the circumstances are unknown. The injury or death must be reported immediately to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline Number (1-888-404-3922, or #FWC/\*FWC from a mobile device) and to all relevant regulatory agencies. Activities may not resume until and unless the regulatory agencies have reviewed the incident and provided written approval to resume.

If night operations are involved (associated with some marine construction activities), adequate lighting must be installed to effectively perform protected species monitoring.

If it is determined survey conditions are poor or deteriorate and become poor so as not to allow for effective sighting of animals within the event area (i.e., numerous white caps and streaks created by high winds, lack of daylight), the project coordinator must immediately halt the event. If survey conditions improve to allow for proper sighting of animals, the event may resume.

If permit conditions and protocols do not appear to effectively protect the listed species during the project, the project coordinator must immediately notify all appropriate personnel, and as soon as practical, any regulatory agencies involved with permitting the project.

The event area must be thoroughly surveyed immediately after each day's activity to ensure that no listed species were killed or injured. Project personnel must report any protected species injuries or deaths immediately to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline Number (see above) and to the appropriate regulatory agencies. Information should include the species involved, date and time of the incident, location and circumstances of the incident, condition of the species involved (live, dead, injured), size, behavior, identifying features, and any photos taken.

Within 30 days after completion of the event, the PSMP Coordinator must submit a report to all regulatory agencies overseeing the event. This report must include all relevant information regarding the event, including the names of all observers and their responsibilities during the event. This report must include the types, numbers, and locations of all protected species sighted, the circumstances in which the sighting occurred, and any problems encountered during the event, along with possible solutions.

The guidelines in this document should be viewed as the minimum protocols needed to ensure that observers and subcontractors are educated on appropriate techniques for protecting these marine species during typical in-water work. Projects that pose greater risks may require more intensive and rigorous protocols. The issued state or federal authorization for work should address the level of observation that is required for a project. Projects with greater risks for listed species require observers to have a significant amount of previous experience and examples of these projects include, but are not limited to, nighttime dredging, blasting, locations near warm water refuges or other critical habitat, etc. The protocols that may be required for high-risk projects are not covered in this document and are typically developed on a case-by-case basis.

### Observer Logs

Permits for in-water activities typically require that observer logs be maintained, and that summary reports be submitted to the appropriate regulatory and wildlife agencies. If logs are required, all observers must maintain a daily log that details the sightings of any listed species, as well as project-specific information such as work schedule, names of observers on duty, locations of observers, communication between observers, time of shift changes, weather conditions, etc. For construction or demolition projects, information may include work stoppages or delays, repositioning of mechanical equipment, times of blasting, etc. For high-speed marine events, information may include the start/end time of any race heats, wet pit activity, stoppages, restarts, etc.

Within 30 days following the completion of each project, a final report summarizing all incidents, sightings, and activities must be submitted to all relevant regulatory agencies. When appropriate, the report should include photographs of project activities and any animals observed.

Examples of log sheets and watch log summaries are provided in Attachments 4, 5, and 6. Note that they are examples of watch logs for short duration events. Watch logs for longer events (dredging projects or offshore grand prix boat races) may be multiple pages long. While the format of logs may vary, these examples demonstrate the typical information that is included.

### Grid Maps

A site-specific grid map of the project or event area may be created in order to more accurately locate and track animals that have been sighted. This is particularly useful when coordinating the precise location of sighted animals between a survey aircraft and either land-based or boat-based observers (note the numerous references to grid sectors in the observer logs). Grid maps are project-specific and may be created in a variety of ways. An example of a grid map for a protected species monitoring event is provided in Attachment 7.

### Equipment Checklists

The following is a list of equipment items that are typically required for all observers. Equipment requirements are event-specific and may vary among different projects. Some items may be provided by the watch program (i.e., marine VHF radios, logbooks), while others may be provided by project staff or event organizers (i.e., safety equipment).

#### Basic Equipment:

- Two forms of communication (typically marine VHF radio & cell phone)
- Binoculars
- Polarized sunglasses

- Logbook
- Sighting datasheets
- Camera (preferably with date/time stamp)
- Backup batteries for all electronics
- Wristwatch or another timekeeping device
- Contact information for all other watch program staff (location, cell phone #, etc.)
- Personal gear (water, sun protection, etc.)
- Flags (these may be required for some construction and blasting projects)

Additional project-specific items that may also be required for certain projects:

- PFD / Lifejacket\*
- Hardhat\*
- Safety eyewear / goggles\*
- Ear plugs\*
- Long pants
- Close-toed shoes (Safety shoes)

\*- may be provided by project operations staff

**All observers should also retain the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline Number:**

**1-888-404-3922**

*(or #FWC/\*FWC from a mobile device)*

**Observers should directly report any incidents involving injured or dead manatees, dolphins, sea turtles or any other listed species, to the Hotline, if needed.**

Attachment 2. Standard Manatee Conditions For In-Water Work (2011).

The permittee shall comply with the following conditions intended to protect manatees from direct project effects:

- a. All personnel associated with the project shall be instructed about the presence of manatees and manatee speed zones, and the need to avoid collisions with and injury to manatees. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing manatees which are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act.
- b. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" at all times while in the immediate area and while in water where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will follow routes of deep water whenever possible.
- c. Siltation or turbidity barriers shall be made of material in which manatees cannot become entangled, shall be properly secured, and shall be regularly monitored to avoid manatee entanglement or entrapment. Barriers must not impede manatee movement.
- d. All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of manatee(s). All in-water operations, including vessels, must be shut down if a manatee(s) comes within 50 feet of the operation. Activities will not resume until the manatee(s) has moved beyond the 50-foot radius of the project operation, or until 30 minutes elapses if the manatee(s) has not reappeared within 50 feet of the operation. Animals must not be herded away or harassed into leaving.
- e. Any collision with or injury to a manatee shall be reported immediately to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Hotline at 1-888-404-3922. Collision and/or injury should also be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Jacksonville (1-904-731-3336) for north Florida or Vero Beach (1-772-562-3909) for south Florida, and to FWC at [ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com](mailto:ImperiledSpecies@myFWC.com).
- f. Temporary signs concerning manatees shall be posted prior to and during all in-water project activities. All signs are to be removed by the permittee upon completion of the project. Temporary signs that have already been approved for this use by the FWC must be used. One sign which reads Caution: Boaters must be posted. A second sign measuring at least 8 ½" by 11" explaining the requirements for "Idle Speed/No Wake" and the shutdown of in-water operations must be posted in a location prominently visible to all personnel engaged in water-related activities. These signs can be viewed at MyFWC.com/manatee. Questions concerning these signs can be sent to the email address listed above.

Projects which have been determined to pose a significant potential threat to certain wildlife species may require additional project-specific permit conditions, including the addition of a Protected Species Monitoring Program in order to offset potential adverse impacts.

Web version: [myfwc.com/media/7246/manatee\\_stdcondin\\_waterwork.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/7246/manatee_stdcondin_waterwork.pdf)

Attachment 3. Standard Construction Conditions - Sea Turtles and Smalltooth Sawfish.

**The permittee shall comply with the following protected species construction conditions:**

- a. The permittee shall instruct all personnel associated with the project of the potential presence of these species and the need to avoid collisions with sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. All construction personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of these species.
- b. The permittee shall advise all construction personnel that there are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing sea turtles or smalltooth sawfish, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
- c. Siltation barriers shall be made of material in which a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish cannot become entangled, be properly secured, and be regularly monitored to avoid protected species entrapment. Barriers may not block sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior agreement from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.
- d. All vessels associated with the construction project shall operate at "no wake/idle" speeds at all times while in the construction area and while in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom. All vessels will preferentially follow deep-water routes (e.g., marked channels) whenever possible.
- e. If a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within 100 yards of the active daily construction/dredging operation or vessel movement, all appropriate precautions shall be implemented to ensure its protection. These precautions shall include cessation of operation of any moving equipment closer than 50 feet of a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish. Operation of any mechanical construction equipment shall cease immediately if a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish is seen within a 50-ft radius of the equipment. Activities may not resume until the protected species has departed the project area of its own volition.
- f. Any collision with and/or injury to a sea turtle or smalltooth sawfish shall be reported immediately to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division (727-824- 5312) and the local authorized sea turtle stranding/rescue organization.
- g. Any special construction conditions, required of your specific project, outside these general conditions, if applicable, will be addressed in the primary consultation.

**Revised: March 23, 2006**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Southeast Regional Office 263,  
13th Avenue South,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701



## **TAB 6**

### **Partner Updates**

- a. American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)
- b. Florida Ocean Alliance
- c. Florida Recycling Partnership (FRP)

## **TAB 7**

**Guest Speaker – Bill Hanson, Great Lakes Dock and  
Dredge**  
**“Dredging Industry Update”**

## **TAB 8**

### **Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, ESA, etc.)**

# **TAB 9**

## **Florida Legislative Session Update**



## 1/29/2026 Seaport Environmental Mgmt Comm Bill Report

Ordered by Last Action

### HB 0441 **Conservation Lands** by Kendall

Conservation Lands: Requires Division of State Lands to publish certain information on its website before Acquisition & Restoration Council or Board of Trustees of Internal Improvement Trust Fund meets to review proposed sale of conservation lands; requires that certain parcels proposed for exchange be appraised in accordance with certain criteria; removes provisions requiring division to submit certain requests to Acquisition & Restoration Council for review; removes provisions requiring division to provide certain recommendations to board of trustees; requires division to publish certain information on its website before council or board of trustees meets to review proposed land exchange; requires division to submit certain requests to council for review & requiring council to provide recommendations to division in certain circumstances; requires division to provide certain recommendations to board of trustees in certain circumstances; requires governing board of water management district to publish certain information on its website before meeting to review proposed sale or exchange of certain lands. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee

House State Affairs Committee (Current Reference)

#### **Actions**

01/28/2026 HOUSE Now in State Affairs Committee

#### **Identical**

SB 0546 Conservation Lands (Mayfield)

### SB 0558 **Standards for Stormwater Systems** by Burgess

Standards for Stormwater Systems; Requiring stormwater systems owned by counties and municipalities, respectively, to comply with specified Department of Transportation standards; providing inspection requirements for such systems; specifying that certain local standards are superseded, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Community Affairs (Current Reference)

Senate Rules

#### **Actions**

01/28/2026 SENATE Now in Community Affairs

#### **Similar**

HB 0239 Standards for Storm Water Systems (Grow)

### SB 1422 **Surface Waters** by García

Surface Waters; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to incorporate habitat equivalency analysis in the uniform mitigation assessment method; requiring that permits for dredging and filling include certain requirements; requiring permitted entities to bear the full cost and responsibility for any damage or destruction caused by dredging, filling, or related activities, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources (Current Reference)  
Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government  
Senate Rules

**Actions**

01/16/2026 SENATE Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Rules

**Identical**

HB 1319 Surface Waters (Cross)

**SB 0848**

**Stormwater Treatment** by Truenow

Stormwater Treatment; Defining the terms “compensating stormwater treatment” and “total land area”; requiring compensating stormwater treatment to comply with certain provisions unless certain circumstances exist; authorizing entities to apply for a water quality enhancement area provisional permit under certain circumstances; authorizing mitigation measures or enhancement credits intended to address certain impacts to be generated by third parties and sold and transferred to environmental resource permit applicants pursuant to specified provisions, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

**Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources  
Senate Community Affairs (Current Reference)  
Senate Rules

**Actions**

01/16/2026 SENATE Now in Community Affairs

**Similar**

HB 1457 Stormwater Treatment (Gonzalez Pittman)

**HB 0479**

**Land and Water Management** by Maggard

Land and Water Management: Prohibits counties & municipalities from adopting laws, regulations, rules, policies, or ordinances that prohibit adjacent upland activities that are outside certain wetland buffers; repeals provisions relating to land management review teams. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

**Committees of Reference**

House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee  
House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (Current Reference)  
House State Affairs Committee

**Actions**

01/16/2026 HOUSE Now in Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

**Compare**

SB 0718 Water Management (McClain)

**HB 1457**

**Stormwater Treatment** by Gonzalez Pittman

Stormwater Treatment: Requires compensating stormwater treatment to comply with certain provisions unless certain circumstances exist; explaining types of mitigation measures for compensating stormwater treatment that DEP or water management district governing board must consider; authorizes mitigation measures or enhancement credits intended to address certain impacts to be generated by certain entities & sold only to certain environmental resource permit applicants; requires that certain uses of public lands require private entity to cease certain activities upon certain determination by department. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

**Committees of Reference**

House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee (Current Reference)

House State Affairs Committee

#### **Actions**

01/15/2026 HOUSE Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

#### **Similar**

SB 0848 Stormwater Treatment (Truenow)

**SB 0546**

#### **Conservation Lands** by Mayfield

Conservation Lands; Requiring the Division of State Lands to publish certain information on its website before the Acquisition and Restoration Council or the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund meets to review the proposed sale of conservation lands; requiring that certain parcels proposed for exchange be appraised in accordance with certain criteria; requiring the governing board of a water management district to publish certain information on its website before meeting to review the proposed sale or exchange of certain lands, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (Current Reference)

Senate Rules

#### **Actions**

01/14/2026 SENATE Now in Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

#### **Identical**

HB 0441 Conservation Lands (Kendall)

**SB 1220**

#### **Transportation** by Massullo, Jr.

Transportation; Providing requirements for an infrastructure development and improvement component included in a port's strategic plan; requiring the Department of Transportation to coordinate with the Department of Commerce, specified ports, and the Federal Government for a certain purpose; revising duties of the Department of Transportation relating to airport systems in this state; providing that the department serves as the primary point of contact for statewide topographic aerial LiDAR procurement and certain cost sharing, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Transportation (Current Reference)

Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development

Senate Appropriations

#### **Actions**

01/12/2026 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development; Appropriations

#### **Compare**

HB 0053 Rapid Rail Transit Compact (Hinson)

HB 1233 Transportation (Griffitts Jr.)

SB 1254 Rapid Rail Transit Compact (Davis)

**SB 0992**

#### **Resilient Buildings** by Rodriguez

Resilient Buildings; Specifying that owners of resilient buildings are eligible to receive a specified tax credit; specifying that a resilient building may qualify for such tax credit only once; authorizing a building owner to carry forward the unused amount of a tax credit to a subsequent tax year; authorizing the

transfer of all or part of the tax credits under certain conditions; prohibiting the Department of Business and Professional Regulation from authorizing tax credits that exceed a certain amount; creating the Florida Resilient Building Advisory Council adjunct to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Regulated Industries (Current Reference)

Senate Finance and Tax

Senate Appropriations

#### **Actions**

01/07/2026 SENATE Referred to Regulated Industries; Finance and Tax; Appropriations

#### **Similar**

[HB 1305](#) Resilient Buildings (Barnaby)

**HB 0751**

#### **Infrastructure and Resiliency** by LaMarca

Infrastructure and Resiliency: Revises definition of term "qualifying project"; provides that DEP has exclusive authority to execute coastal resiliency projects through public-private partnerships; authorizes DEP to take certain actions to encourage investment from private sector in coastal resiliency projects; requires DEP to publish certain information on its website. Effective Date: upon becoming a law

#### **Committees of Reference**

House Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee (Current Reference)

House Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Subcommittee

House State Affairs Committee

#### **Actions**

01/05/2026 HOUSE Now in Natural Resources & Disasters Subcommittee

**SB 0718**

#### **Water Management** by McClain

Water Management; Prohibiting counties and municipalities from adopting laws, regulations, rules, or policies relating to water quality or quantity, pollution control, pollutant discharge prevention or removal, or wetlands; preempting such regulation to the state; repealing a provision relating to land management review teams, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources (Current Reference)

Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

Senate Rules

#### **Actions**

12/16/2025 SENATE Referred to Environment and Natural Resources; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Rules

#### **Compare**

[HB 0479](#) Land and Water Management (Maggard)

**SB 0302**

#### **Nature-based Solutions for Improving Coastal Resilience** by García

Nature-based Solutions for Improving Coastal Resilience; Requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt rules and guidelines for nature-based solutions for improving coastal resilience; requiring the department, in consultation with the Division of Insurance Agent and Agency Services of the Department of Financial Services, to conduct a statewide feasibility study regarding the value of nature-based solutions being used for a specified purpose, etc. APPROPRIATION: \$250,000 Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government (Current Reference)

Senate Fiscal Policy

#### **Actions**

12/05/2025 SENATE Now in Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

#### **Compare**

[HB 1035](#) Nature-based Coastal Resiliency (Mooney, Jr.)

**SB 0184**

#### **Seaport Security** by García

Seaport Security; Requiring seaports to maintain an onsite fire station that is staffed and operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; requiring fire stations to have a certified hazardous materials response team with specified capabilities; requiring seaports to maintain a specified number of operational fireboats able to respond to fires and hazardous materials incidents in specified areas, etc. Effective Date: 7/1/2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

Senate Transportation (Current Reference)

Senate Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government

Senate Fiscal Policy

#### **Actions**

11/03/2025 SENATE Referred to Transportation; Appropriations Committee on Agriculture, Environment, and General Government; Fiscal Policy

**HB 0239**

#### **Standards for Storm Water Systems** by Grow

Standards for Storm Water Systems: Requires storm water systems in counties & municipalities, respectively, to comply with specified DOT standards; provides inspection requirements for such systems; specifies that certain local standards are superseded; provides finding of important state interest. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

House Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee (Current Reference)

House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee

House State Affairs Committee

#### **Actions**

10/28/2025 HOUSE Now in Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee

#### **Similar**

[SB 0558](#) Standards for Stormwater Systems (Burgess)

**HB 0053**

#### **Rapid Rail Transit Compact** by Hinson

Rapid Rail Transit Compact: Authorizes Governor to execute rapid rail transit compact with specified states, to join Southern Rail Commission & provides form of compact. Effective Date: July 1, 2026

#### **Committees of Reference**

House Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee (Current Reference)

House Commerce Committee

#### **Actions**

10/07/2025 HOUSE Now in Economic Infrastructure Subcommittee

#### **Compare**

SB 1220 Transportation (Massullo, Jr.)

**Similar**

SB 1254 Rapid Rail Transit Compact (Davis)

# **TAB 10**

## **Open Discussion**

# **TAB 11**

## **Adjournment**