

# FLORIDA COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

## COASTAL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE<sup>1</sup>

Grant Abstracts, FY 2013-2014

**PROJECT:** *Building Coastal Stewardship at the Barrier Island Sanctuary and Education Center*

**RECIPIENT:** Sea Turtle Conservancy and Brevard County

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$15,000

**ABSTRACT:** The non-profit organization Sea Turtle Conservancy and Brevard County will continue to promote coastal stewardship at the [Barrier Island Sanctuary & Education Center](#) located within the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Project tasks to be supported by FCMP funds include: 1) conduct Coastal Lighting Stewardship Training; 2) implement the Summer Eco-Camp for kids to further awareness on coastal habitat conservation and ecology of sea turtles; 3) expand and conduct workshops on sea turtle conservation, light management and beach habitat management; and 4) support the 2013 *Tour de Turtles Migration Marathon* educational program.

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**PROJECT:** *Florida Keys Coastal Stewardship Program*

**RECIPIENT:** Reef Relief, Inc. and City of Key West

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$15,000

**ABSTRACT:** [Reef Relief, Inc.](#), in partnership with the [City of Key West](#), will increase community actions to protect Florida Keys' coastal resources through education, field trips and clean-up events. Reef Relief will use FCMP funds to expand its "Discover Coral Reefs School Program", which includes distributing coral reef Guides and anti-litter posters to area 4<sup>th</sup> grade students. Educational outreach will continue through distribution of environmental posters and brochures to resorts, hotels, visitor centers, boaters, snorkelers and fishermen. Through its website, Reef Relief will inform the online community on coastal resource issues, trainings and volunteer opportunities, including the scheduling of ten community coastal cleanup events.

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**PROJECT:** *Cedar Cove Restoration*

**RECIPIENT:** City of Crystal River

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$13,000

**ABSTRACT:** The [City of Crystal River](#) will use FCMP funds to continue the manual harvesting of the invasive cyanobacteria *Lyngbya*, specifically, removing 375 tons of the cyanobacteria via hand-raking. *Lyngbya* is a filamentous algae and has a negative effect on the ecosystem, local fisheries, boating, and all the related tourism activities. Work began in October 2011. By removing *Lyngbya*, the City of Crystal River hopes to remove the nutrient pollution out of King's and will allow other beneficial submerged aquatic vegetation a chance to start growing, as sandy bottoms are uncovered.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**PROJECT:** *Community Based Social Marketing to Reduce Wildlife Impacts from Mechanical Beach Cleaning*

**RECIPIENT:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$18,624

**ABSTRACT:** [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will conduct social science research on which factors are most important in driving the behavior of mechanical beach cleaning and to develop outreach products aimed at addressing those factors. Mechanical beach cleaning or raking (using a tractor towing a rake to collect debris from the beach) can remove litter, but has negative impacts for coastal species. For example, mechanical beach cleaning equipment causes disturbance that can preclude successful nesting of beach-dependant birds, or crush eggs and young. Thus, even in communities that want to continue mechanical cleaning at certain periods, reducing the timing, frequency, and/or extent of mechanical cleaning can provide benefits to beach dependant wildlife species.

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**PROJECT:** *Oyster Condition Assessment*

**RECIPIENT:** DEP/Florida Coastal Office - GTMNERR

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$50,000

**ABSTRACT:** The [Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Reserve \(GTMNERR\)](#) will use FCMP funds to examine oyster population structure metrics such as percent cover of live oysters, oyster density (#/m<sup>2</sup>), and oyster size class distribution on a subset of reefs spanning from the Georgia state line to Ponce Inlet. Oysters are a prominent feature of estuaries in northeast Florida and they provide numerous ecological and economic benefits. The information on the status and trends of local oysters is scarce and the current condition (and value) of the the oyster resources is not known.

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**PROJECT:** *Permitted Seagrass Mitigation and Restoration Activities in Florida: Creating A Statewide Database*

**RECIPIENT:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

**FCMP FUNDS:** \$29,938

**ABSTRACT:** [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will complete a statewide database of permitted seagrass mitigation projects hyperlinks to permit documents. This information will be made available in a geodatabase format so the exact location of each project site can be easily mapped. The second major goal of this project is to determine the long-term status of selected mitigation projects that were deemed successful at the end of the required monitoring period. Approximately 20 specific projects will be identified for follow-up field research to assess the long-term success of various mitigation techniques. This data will provide much needed information to permit reviewers and regulators so that they may better analyze the likely success of future mitigation proposals.

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## STATE AGENCY AND WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PROJECTS<sup>2</sup>

**PROJECT:** *Community Resiliency: Planning for Sea Level Rise, Year 3*  
**AGENCY:** Department of Economic Opportunity  
**CONTACT:** Julie Dennis  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$180,020  
**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. Part of this effort will include creating a risk assessment and adaptation plan for at least two pilot communities. Based on lessons learned, the final project report will include recommended statutory and rule changes to integrate SLR into hazard mitigation and land use planning. In the third year of this 5-year initiative, DEO will: (1) conduct risk and vulnerability assessments (2) present options for statewide vulnerability assessment; (3) develop outreach materials for use by local governments; (4) provide guidance for local governments; and (5) create a white paper that connects the Community Resiliency Initiative and SLR adaptation. This effort is being supplemented by a Project of Special Merit, a competitive award funded by NOAA. Visit [Adaptation Planning/AAAPolicy.pdf](#) for more information.

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**PROJECT:** *Coral Reef and Hardbottom Mapping & Monitoring, Year 3*  
**AGENCY:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
**CONTACT:** Rene Baumstark  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$168,091  
**ABSTRACT:** In its third year of funding, the [Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will continue to address the need for a single coordinated perspective on the mapping, monitoring and management of the Florida reef tract due to increased threats from anchoring incidents, increased boater activity and potential climate change. FWC will build upon methods currently used by federal, state and university scientists to provide a highly detailed and synoptic view of the coral reef ecosystem that ranges from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to Martin County. By combining FWC's Coral Reef Evaluation & Monitoring Program with extensive mapping projects in southeast Florida, the Dry Tortugas and Biscayne National Parks, a more robust and synoptic dataset will be made available for resource managers, stakeholders and the public. Third year activities include: (1) completion of the correlation between habitat map and in situ data; (2) release of updated version of all data and map products; and (3) delivery of an updated web-based "living map" of the Florida Reef Tract. FWC will request feedback from the community to ensure that work already completed will not be reproduced.

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**PROJECT:** *Characterize The Condition Of Previously Known And Newly Identified Large Dense Acropora Cervicornis Patches In Southeast Florida*  
**RECIPIENT:** DEP/Florida Coastal Office – Coral Reef Conservation Program  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$45,049  
**ABSTRACT:** The [Coral Reef Conservation Program \(CRCP\)](#) will use FCMP funds to characterize previously known and newly identified large and dense patches of *Acropora cervicornis* on the northern Florida Reef Tract (FRT) and to document their current status in light of the recent unprecedented coral disease outbreak in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Currently, two (2) of the thirty-five (35) dense patches have been mapped and monitored. This study will acquire population and condition data of all thirty-five (35) dense patches identified in the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's southeast Florida nearshore benthic habitat mapping study.

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

**PROJECT:** *Marine Debris and Aquaculture Use Zones, Year 1*  
**AGENCY:** Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services  
**CONTACT:** Paul Zajicek  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$74,092  
**ABSTRACT:** In its first year of funding, the [Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services \(FDACS\) – Division of Aquaculture](#) will The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' (DACS) Division of Aquaculture organized two stakeholders meetings in August and December 2012, to introduce the goals and objectives of the project and seek member input to identify non-regulatory and regulatory actions to prevent and manage marine debris that occurs n and around aquaculture use zones. FDACS will implement an integrated effort that will focus on revisions to the existing Aquaculture Best Management Practices (i.e., regulations), shellfish farmer and shellfish processor educational workshops, and partnerships to prevent future marine debris accumulation via methods and practices to remove, collect, transport and properly dispose of lost or discarded production materials.

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**PROJECT:** *Estuarine Habitat Restoration: State Planning & Guidance, Year 3*  
**AGENCY:** DEP/Florida Coastal Office - GTMNERR  
**CONTACT:** Andrea Small  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$43,889  
**ABSTRACT:** In 2011, the Northeast Florida Estuarine Restoration Team (NERT) developed a two-part grant project to start the process of regionally coordinating estuarine habitat restoration. Part one of the grant was the development of the *Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide for Florida (Guide)*, a statewide planning and guidance document focused on coordinated estuarine habitat restoration. The *Guide*, completed in 2012, provides a basic planning and guidance template for estuarine habitat restoration that can be used throughout Florida. Part Two of the grant was preparation of a *Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Plan (Plan)*. The final draft of the *Plan*, completed in April 2014, was developed as a first test of the *Guide*. It followed a vision-based planning approach in which the stated mission, vision, and goals established by the NERT were used to develop applicable objectives and strategies. The NERT is now preparing to move forward with a series of public workshops to receive feedback on the *Guide* and *Plan*, and seeks to retain a part-time coordinator to organize and conduct the workshops and incorporate feedback from the workshops into the final documents. .

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**PROJECT:** *Quantification of changes in seagrass percent cover using remote sensing techniques in the Indian River Lagoon*  
**AGENCY:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
**CONTACT:** Renee Duffey  
**FCMP FUNDS:** \$23,862  
**ABSTRACT:** [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission](#) (FWC) will use FCMP to quantify seagrass abundance at a landscape level and monitor more subtle yet ecologically important changes in seagrass abundance using high spatial and spectral resolution information provided by aerial photography and satellite imagery. Change detections based on percent seagrass cover derived from remote sensing image processing techniques informed by in situ observations will be used to provide deeper insight into how IRL seagrass changed in response to the 2011 algal super blooms.