



# Florida Department of Environmental Protection

## Northeast Florida Estuarine Restoration Team (NERT) Regional Approach to Restoration



**Andrea Noel**  
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# What is NERT

Created in 2010 to:

- Bring partners together to develop regional landscape-level habitat initiatives
- focused on the restoration and enhancement of estuarine habitats including coastal marsh, mangroves, oyster reefs, and seagrass



Led by representatives from state and federal agencies and non-profits.

(Steering Committee)



Ron Brockmeyer



Kent Smith

Jeff Beal

*Regional Lead:*

Annie Roddenberry



Andrea Noel

Gian Basili



Ann Birch



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Duane DeFreese





# Where is NERT



- Spans six coastal counties
  - Nassau
  - Duval
  - St. Johns
  - Flagler
  - Volusia
  - Brevard



# NERT Approach

## Vision

*To create healthy, thriving estuarine habitats of sufficient quantity and quality throughout northeast Florida.*

- Gather data sets supporting prioritization of restoration projects
  - Identify gaps in data and work to acquire that data
- Establish habitat-based restoration/enhancement priorities
- Identify priorities in resource management plans
- Facilitate workshops to gather input on partner programs and priorities
- Develop implementation strategies with concurrence from partners



# NERT Coordination

## How it works:

- Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings
  - Conference calls
  - Discuss agenda
  - Follow-up call
- Quarterly Face-to-Face Meetings
  - Meeting location rotates between counties
  - Invitation to all members
  - Solicit agenda items
  - ~5 hour meetings
  - Discuss projects, funding sources, partnerships, etc..

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ONE LAGOON™  
ONE COMMUNITY • ONE VOICE



# FCMP Funded Projects



- 2011/2013 – Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide
- 2013 – Northeast Florida Coastal Habitat Restoration Plan
- 2015 – Oyster Condition Assessment Protocol
- 2017 - Spoil Island Assessment & Establishment of ECERT (East Central Estuarine Restoration Team)



# Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide



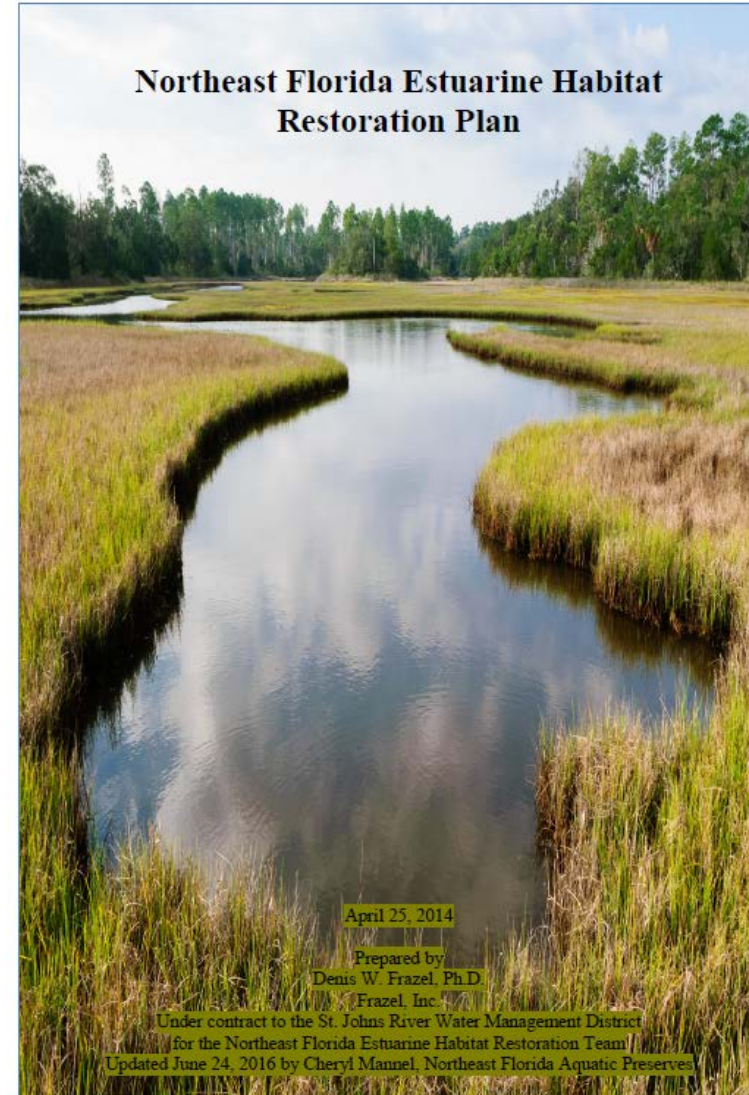
*Provide natural resource managers with a standardized approach to developing comprehensive estuarine restoration projects*



# Northeast Florida Coastal Habitat Restoration Plan

The plan is a functional test of the guide.

- Appendices' Include:
  - Workshop in each county
  - Alphabetized project list
  - Includes status of project and cost
  - Map of projects







# Oyster Condition Assessment Protocol

## Oyster Condition Assessment Protocol

Developed by

Dr. Linda Walters, University of Central Florida; Ron Brockmeyer, St. Johns River Water Management District; Dr. Nikki Dix, Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve; Andrea Small Noel, Northeast Florida Aquatic Preserves; and, associated support staff from each organization.

This project was funded by cooperative grants from the St. Johns Water Management District and the Florida Coastal Management Program.



- Goal: *To assess and monitor oyster reefs using standardized protocols across waterbodies throughout the region.*
- Assessed fifty reefs throughout the region
- Two seasons
- Updated protocol after each season
- Six seasons of monitoring with financial support of the St. John's River Water Management District





# Regional Spoil Island Assessment

## Identified Need for Regional Plan

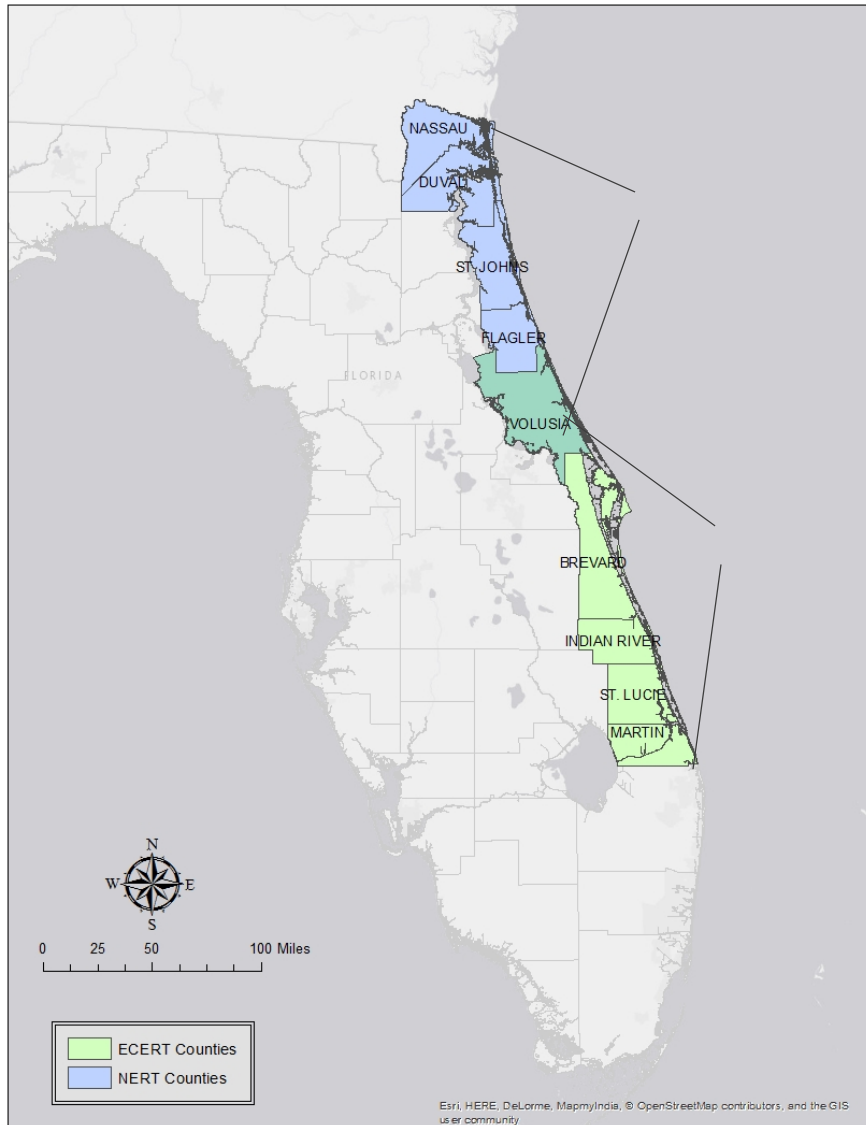


- GIS survey
  - Quantity, condition, management
- Analysis of county plans
- Stakeholder Meetings
- Consistencies with the 2 existing plans
- Produce one cohesive regional SI plan





# Establishment of ECERT (East Central Estuarine Restoration Team)



- Hired coordinator (2017)
- Liaison between NERT and ECERT
- Develop contact list for ECERT
- Establish steering committee members
- Facilitate first two meetings (June, December)



# Conclusion

## Successes

- Region with a high level of inter-agency coordination
- Several regional-scale projects implemented
- Next NERT meeting: May 25, Ribault Club Jacksonville

## Resources

Google Site:

<https://sites.google.com/site/nertinfo/resources>

The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Northeast Estuarine Restoration Team Google Site. The page title is 'Northeast Estuarine Restoration Team' and it includes a search bar. A navigation menu on the left lists: NERT, Documents, Calendar, Directory, Discussion, Announcements, Resources (highlighted), Contact, and Sitemap. The main content area is titled 'Resources' and lists various documents and articles. A background image of a wetland is visible on the left side of the page.

Item	Size	Version	Date	Author
Example Project Description.pdf	443k	v. 1	Feb 22, 2016, 10:57 AM	Cheryl Mannel
Articles				
Maps				
Potential Projects Map			Jun 21, 2016, 11:05 AM	Cheryl Mannel
Meeting Minutes				
Meeting Minutes 15_Nov_2016.docx	23k	v. 2	Nov 23, 2016, 3:35 PM	Cheryl Mannel
Meeting Minutes_Jan_6_2016.docx	28k	v. 2	Jun 24, 2016, 2:06 PM	Cheryl Mannel
NERT Minutes 9_1_15.docx	30k	v. 2	Jun 24, 2016, 2:00 PM	Cheryl Mannel
NERT MINUTES_May25.docx	27k	v. 2	Jun 24, 2016, 2:06 PM	Cheryl Mannel
Workshop Attendance.pdf	2433k	v. 2	Jul 8, 2016, 12:36 PM	Cheryl Mannel
Planning Documents				
Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide for Florida_Final.pdf	1440k	v. 2	Jun 21, 2016, 11:05 AM	Cheryl Mannel
Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat RestorationPlan_Final.pdf	5399k	v. 2	Jun 24, 2016, 1:54 PM	Cheryl Mannel
Presentations				
Nert Presentation Frazel.pdf	1732k	v. 2	Jul 8, 2016, 12:07 PM	Cheryl Mannel



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Thank You

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