

**APPENDIX E
HCP EDUCATION BROCHURE**

St. Johns County Habitat Conservation Plan Incidental Take Permit

Beach driving is a lawful and traditional activity but can have the potential to impact sea turtles, the native Anastasia Island Beach Mice (AIBM) and their nesting habitat. St. Johns County recognized the need for coordinating lawful beach activities in a manner that maintains public use, while minimizing negative impacts to the natural beach/dune environment and the protected species that depend on its health. In August 2006, St. Johns County received approval for a 20 year Incidental Take Permit (ITP) and Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to minimize these possible effects.

The over-arching biological goal of the HCP is to provide a net benefit to both sea turtles and AIBM throughout the life of the ITP. The programs and policies contained in the HCP will improve the County's protected species management on the beaches relative to practices currently in place. The Plan contains measures that will be implemented to minimize the potential for impacts to sea turtles and the AIBM causally related to vehicular access to the beach under the County's authority.



Caribbean Conservation Corporation
Hatchling traversing over tire track

Conservation Zone

Please help protect this fragile ecosystem. All vehicle and pedestrian activities are prohibited within the area 15 feet (30 FEET AT PORPOISE POINT) seaward of the dunes or vegetation.



Driving Hours

Vehicles shall not be permitted to drive or park on designated beaches between the hours of 7:30 PM – 8:00 AM from

May 1 – October 31

Excluding authorized sea turtle personnel, commercial fisherman, emergency personnel, and law enforcement

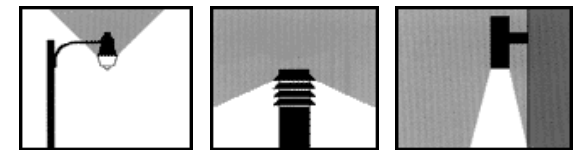
Maintain a safe distance of at least 15 feet from sea turtles and their nest.

Nests are noticeably marked with signage, stakes and fluorescent flagging



Beach Lighting County Ordinance 99-33 Beach Lighting Management Plan

Artificial lighting disrupts the critical nocturnal behavior of sea turtles and the native AIBM during nesting periods. Beach front properties are required to replace or eliminate all non-compliant interior and exterior lights that are visible from the beach.



Poor

Good

Excellent

Photos provided by:

Florida Marine Research Institute

**HCP/ITP Education
Workshops**

Individuals wishing to obtain permits to drive north of Vilano Ramp, conduct Commercial fishing activities as permitted through the state, and participate in beach horseback riding must attend a Protected Species and HCP education program.

County Rut Removal Program

Vehicle tire ruts and large holes left from beach visitors can trap or impede post-emergent hatchlings during their crawl to the ocean from their nest. You can help St. Johns County in minimizing these possible effects by filling in large ruts and holes left in the soft sand.

Tips For Sharing The Beach

- 🐢 When crossing dunes, use designated walkovers. Stay off dunes and vegetation
- 🐢 All pedestrian activities are prohibited within the Conservation Zone (CZ), 15 feet seaward of the dune line.
- 🐢 Minimize cruising and save gas by parking and exiting at nearest beach ramp.
- 🐢 At the end of your visit fill any holes left by sandcastles and tire tracks.
- 🐢 Leaving beach chairs, canopies, or other such items on the beach overnight is prohibited.
- 🐢 Reduce litter and marine debris by disposing of your trash properly. Do not release balloons into the sky. Pick up any fishing line and plastic that you see and participate in beach clean-ups.
- 🐢 Never approach sea turtles emerging from or returning to the sea. Nesting females are vulnerable and timid, and can be easily frightened away.
- 🐢 Do not use torches, lanterns and flashlights at night. Bonfires and fireworks are prohibited.
- 🐢 Report all dead, injured, stranded turtles, birds or other marine life to 1-888-404-FWCC (3922), 904-209-3740 (office), or 227-0023 (pager)
- 🐢 **Remember: Leave only your footprints in the sand.**

Where to find more information on the web:

St. Johns County: <http://www.co.st-johns.fl.us/HCP/index.aspx>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: www.fws.gov

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission: www.floridaconservation.org

Florida Power and Light: www.fpl.com

Fish & Wildlife Research Institute: www.research.myfwc.com



St. Johns County Beach Services
2175 Mizell Road
St. Augustine Beach, Florida 32080

Phone: 904.209.3740
Pager: 227-0023
Enter area code and phone #
Fax: 904.209-0321

Printed on recycled paper



WELCOME TO ST. JOHNS COUNTY BEACHES

Sea Turtle Season
May 1 – October 31



St. Johns County is home to several species of endangered or threatened sea turtles that arrive every spring and summer to nest along our 42-mile coastline and the native Anastasia Island Beach Mice (AIBM). People and these protected species can co-exist if we take steps to share and protect this common habitat.

For more information contact
Beach Services
904.209.3740