

**Section 7****Elevating Trash Receptacles****Purpose**

AIBM and their predators have been documented foraging in trash receptacles on the beach. Trash receptacles are considered as an attractive nuisance to the beach mice as they will forage in or burrow under the receptacles. The potential exists for the beach mice to get trapped in or crushed by the receptacle. As well, attracting both AIBM and their predators to the same location may cause an increase in predation of the AIBM. Elevating trash cans may reduce the potential negative impacts on the AIBM of entrapment, crushing or predation resulting in positive conservation benefits for AIBM.

**Relevant ITP Condition(s) - G.2.b.**

- b.** Elevating Trash Receptacles. “By May 1 of the first full nesting season following the issuance date of this Permit, the Permittee shall locate all County-placed trash receptacles within the Plan Area on elevated posts at the seaward boundary of the Conservation Zone throughout the Plan Area, except from the north jetty of St. Augustine Inlet south and west to the Tolomato River (commonly known as Porpoise Point area) where the trash receptacle posts and associated Conservation Zone signage shall be no closer than 30 feet from vegetated dunes or coastal structures.”

**HCP Performance During 2008**

**Implementation:** In the summer of 2006 County trash receptacles located on Anastasia Island and north of the St. Augustine Inlet extending north to Vilano beach were placed on post in the appropriate locations as mentioned in the Condition above. All county trash cans located north of Vilano into Ponte Vedra beach have been elevated on new trash can and recycling bin post. Conservation Zone (CZ) signs have been placed in between the cans in high use areas and maintained throughout the season.

**Assessment:** No beach mice were reported by trash contractors or the recycling crew during the year of 2008 while conducting regular trash maintenance.

A new trash can design (Object 4) was tested during the 2008 beach season within the City of St. Augustine Beach limits that contained both recycling and trash cans. The innovative design proved to be both dependent and more appealing to beach goers. The cans did not hang as with the previous design and were more supported during high wind and storm events thus decreasing maintenance needs.

**Object 4.**



**Program Improvements:** No program improvements are needed at this time.