

ATTACHMENT NO. 30

WILDLIFE SURVEYS

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The following information describes current sea turtle and shorebird monitoring programs in Lido Key.

Sea Turtle Monitoring

Mote Marine Laboratory's (MML) Sea Turtle Conservation and Research Program (STCRP) conducts sea turtle monitoring along the 3.3 miles of Lido Key shoreline (R-30 to R-44). Daily monitoring of the Lido Key shoreline begins on May 1 and continues until the final nest excavation to fulfill the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) guidelines for sea turtle protection. Monitoring is conducted by MML STCRP personnel, interns, and volunteers authorized under a valid FWC Marine Turtle Permit. Personnel monitor for turtle nesting activity by walking the shoreline at dawn above the mean high water line. Upon discovery of an emergence, permitted personnel determine visually whether the emergence was a nest or a non-nesting emergence (also known as a false crawl). A *nest* is defined as a turtle emergence that resulted in the turtle successfully depositing eggs. A *non-nesting emergence* (NNE) is defined as an emergence that did not result in egg deposition. Results from MML STCRP monitoring on Lido Key from 2005-2013 are presented in Attachment No. 29.

Bird Monitoring

The Sarasota Audubon Society conducts bird monitoring along the Lido Key shoreline as required by FDEP permits for beach projects on the island. In addition, Sarasota Audubon Society volunteers collaborated with FWC and the Suncoast Shorebird Partnership to monitor and document breeding snowy plovers on Siesta Key, north of the main public beach, and monitor continued nesting on Lido Key at North and South Lido Beach Parks (Sarasota County, 2010). Results of bird monitoring on Lido Key are presented in Attachment No. 29.

Shorebird monitoring will comply with FWC requirements and the terms and conditions included in the Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P³BO) if deemed applicable by the USFWS (USFWS, 2013).

References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2013. Shore Protection Activities in the Geographical Region of the North and South Florida Ecological Services Field Offices. Programmatic Piping Plover Biological Opinion (P³BO). May 22, 2013. Prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 42 p.