



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEACH MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS CUT IN FLORIDA

As in many other coastal states, Florida legislators began their summer session anticipating a large shortfall (more than \$1.5 billion) to meet current levels of spending. Nearly every state program came in for its share of cuts, and beach management was no exception. State funding for beach and inlet programs fell from \$16 million last year to \$6.9 million for the coming fiscal year. Including federal matching, this is enough to fund about \$28 million in beach management projects.

Florida's 1991-92 beach budget includes \$2 million for inlet management and studies, and nearly \$5 million to beach restoration projects at Venice, Longboat Key, and Indian Shores. The State Division of Beaches and Shores, requesting \$22 million for beach management, did not receive the following: \$5 million for inlet sand transfer and inlet management studies, \$4 million for dune restoration and revegetation projects, \$1.5 million for project studies, and \$3 million for parking and hazardous structure removal.

LIMITS SET FOR SHORELINE ARMORING IN FLORIDA

Florida joins North Carolina and other coastal states by restricting techniques of hard

stabilization. Coastal property owners will now find it harder to build seawalls. A new policy approved by the Governor and Cabinet now restricts construction of sea walls or revetments to imminently-threatened property.

Among the new restrictions are regulations that include:

- The property must be threatened by a five-year storm.
- Other alternatives, such as dune reconstruction and beach replenishment, must be unfeasible.
- The owner must have applied and been turned down for financial assistance under the federal Upton-Jones Act. Under this program, the federal government will pay the cost of relocating a coastal structure or pay the owner 110% of the property value to have the building demolished.
- The building must have been built without a "notice of vulnerability," meaning after the coastal construction control line was adopted for that particular county.

These new restrictions will greatly limit the number of property owners who can qualify (get permission) to build sea walls or revetments.