



Broward County mitigation completed

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Where can you find 8,000 limerock boulders within snorkeling distance from shore? Offshore from Dania Beach, Hollywood Beach, and Hallandale Beach in Broward County. Construction is complete for the county's mitigation for the Segment III (Port Everglades to the south County line) Shore Protection Project.

At a cost of \$6 million, the boulders were placed at three

Above: Placement nears completion on one of the limerock reef installations.

nearshore sites to create 10.1 acres of artificial reef, compensating for 7.6 acres of future impacts by the beach project to nearshore hardbottoms. Placement was completed by Coastal Systems Development, Inc. (CSD) between June 2003 and September 2003.

Just prior to placement, CSD updated nearshore hard bottom locations, enabling the County to consolidate several sites into two large and one small mitigation areas. The close proximity of sensitive hard bottom substrate and

shallow water depths of 15 feet (only 300 feet offshore) required that specialized moorings be designed for the crane barge.

Oceangoing tugs towed barges to transport 66,000 tons of boulders from quarries in Freeport, Grand Bahamas, to the project sites. The placement of the boulders was precisely controlled using a crane equipped with a DGPS positioning system, allowing a position to be obtained for each boulder. Crews worked around the clock during favorable weather conditions to complete the massive project in less than four months.

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The county met their goal of having the mitigation constructed prior to beach construction (currently scheduled for June 2004), as preferred by regulatory and resource agencies as a way to maximize the value of the new habitat. The limerock resembles natural reef substrate and is already providing habitat for encrusting and boring organisms as well as fish life.

As an added benefit, stony corals over 15 cm in diameter will be relocated from the impact areas to the mitigation site to protect the organisms and to accelerate the productivity of the mitigation. ♦



Long-time beach advocate Jim Terry was honored recently by the FSBPA with a commemorative bench at Honeymoon Island State Park in Pinellas County (where Jim served as beach manager for many years). The Terry family is seated on the bench; standing behind them are (from left) Nicole Elko (Jim's replacement at the county), Catherine Florko of the DEP and her father, and James Terry Jr.

Around the state

■ The Surfrider Foundation has embarked on a state-wide initiative to create a Florida Open Beaches Act. They believe Florida law is inadequate in protecting beaches and access.

■ On Nov. 4 Venice voters passed a referendum to help fund beach renourishment among other public works projects.

■ After an almost yearlong standoff, Deerfield Beach city commissioners dropped their opposition to Broward County's beach nourishment project. In return for Deerfield's coopera-

tion, the county is agreeing to make repairs should the dredging cause erosion along Deerfield's shoreline.

■ The DEP has dismissed a challenge to Boca Raton's central beach renourishment project, allowing city officials to push ahead with plans to add sand to the beach north of the Boca Raton Inlet.

■ Cold ocean water early in the summer contributed to a below-average nesting season for loggerhead sea turtles on the Treasure Coast. Green and leatherback sea turtles produced a healthy number of nests.

■ Turtle nesting numbers

this season were down statewide, although the south Lee County coast had its best loggerhead nesting year since 2000. Nearly 6,800 south Lee County loggerheads hatched this year.

■ On Nov. 4 voters in Manalapan agreed that ocean-front owners should take over ownership and repair of 1.6 miles of seawall the town built in the 1960s and 1980s. Before the vote, the town charter required the town to maintain it.

■ The Naples Daily News had a 15-day series entitled "Deep Trouble: The Gulf in Peril." To view it, go to www.naplesnews.com. ♦