



Blind Pass Inlet Management Study April 2018 Status Summary

The Blind Pass Inlet Management Study is entering the report writing phase. The study is being conducted to evaluate options and provide recommendations for the ongoing management of Blind Pass and the adjacent beaches within its area of influence and will consider the collective input of the appropriate governmental agencies and local stakeholders. When complete, the study will be utilized collaboratively by Lee County, the Captiva Erosion Prevention District (CEPD), and the City of Sanibel, and will assist the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) in adopting an Inlet Management Plan for Blind Pass.

State adoption of an Inlet Management Plan with support of all three local governmental entities is the primary goal of the study. In order to achieve this, the study is utilizing the DELFT-3D numerical model to simulate coastal processes, including waves, currents and tides, along with the resulting erosion and accretion patterns of various management options. The data collection phase was completed very successfully in winter 2015-2016. The information and data collected were used as inputs to drive the model. In addition, the past and present erosion and accretion patterns in the vicinity of the inlet and neighboring shorelines were analyzed to identify the trends in the inlet's area of influence.

The numerical model was set-up, calibrated to match the measured local data, and used to simulate various management alternatives. Alternatives were developed based on the historic information, feedback from the stakeholder meetings held April 2016, and March 2017, and comments from the Technical Advisory Committee consisting of state and local coastal experts. Approximately eighteen (18) initial management alternatives were simulated and compared to the "no action" scenario to evaluate the potential effects on the inlet system. Based on the results of those initial model runs, a series of alternatives were developed that combined the most promising features. The third stakeholder meeting was held on April 27, 2018 to present and compare the combined alternative model results, and gather stakeholder feedback.

The next stage will be drafting the study report. Including time for internal review and comments, the draft report is scheduled to be available in June 2018. It is anticipated that the draft report will be presented to the appropriate policy makers and FDEP for consideration and direction on implementation during the summer of 2018.