

## Nature Coast Shorebird Partnership: 2016 pre-season meeting

-Vic Doig stated that the Refuge is currently pursuing management authority for the waters surrounding Snake Key, the location where many of the birds nested after abandoning Seahorse Key last year. If management authority is granted, the refuge would have the ability to control access to the waters surrounding the island and the channel through the mangroves where the greatest number of birds are nesting at Snake Key.

-Maria Sgambati discussed an upcoming training that will be held for ecotour operators in Cedar Key. This training will allow an opportunity for informing ecotour operators about the impacts of bird disturbance and the need to stay back 300 ft. from roosting and nesting locations. She is still in the process of determining a date for the training.

-A press release was created and sent out by FWC to help raise awareness about the impacts of disturbance to roosting shorebirds at Cedar Key and other coastal areas. The release was picked up by 40+ news outlets statewide. Savannah Barry with UF-IFAS will be working on a brochure to help target outreach efforts on this issue along the Nature Coast.

-FWC has launched their new campaign Don't Cut the Line! Reel. Remove. Release. This campaign will be used to reduce bird entanglement and educate anglers and outdoor enthusiasts about techniques for unhooking entangled birds. You can find more information at the campaign's website, [www.MyFWC.com/unhook](http://www.MyFWC.com/unhook).

- Doug Maple offered a suggestion of developing brochures or wrack cards to be available at hotels, etc. to try and increase awareness for this issue.

-FWC is trying to determine the location of orphaned monofilament recycling containers. If you know of a site that has a container that appears to not be serviced regularly, let us know. Additionally, if there is a location that needs a container, please let us know that as well.

-Signs have been developed by FWC for use at fishing locations including piers and marinas. If there is a need for signs to prevent feeding, entanglement, or unhooking a bird, please let us know. The three sign designs available are attached.

-Route and rooftop surveys for the upcoming shorebird nesting season were discussed. Below are the routes/ rooftops with the identified partner to survey that route/rooftop this year. If you have been identified and cannot commit to conducting surveys during each count window, please let me know ASAP so that we can make the appropriate arrangements.

### Survey windows:

**March 18-24**

**April 15-21**

**May 13-19**

**June 10-16**

**July 8-14**

**August 5-11**

Routes:

Route Name	County	Surveyor
Barge Canal	CI	Janell Brush
Chassahowitzka NWR	CI	Joyce Kleen
Chassahowitzka NWR 2	CI	Joyce Kleen
Ft. Island Beach	CI	Jamie Letendre
HorseshoeJetties	DI	Vic Doig (Carolyn Enloe?)
LSRNWR HorseshoeCove-Big Pine	DI	Vic Doig
S361- RoadToNowhere	DI	Kevin Oxenrider/ Ashley Ballou
Cedar Key 2	LV	Janell Brush
LSRNWR_Shell-LittlePine	LV	Vic Doig
Waccasassa Bay Preserve	LV	Jamie Letendre

Roof tops: (crossed out roofs have been retired)

Roof Name	County	Surveyor
Sears-Crystal River Mall	Cl	Ann Paul
<del>Bealls - 430 N. Suncoast Blvd., Crystal River</del>	<del>Cl</del>	<del>Ann Paul</del>
<del>Citrus Kia</del>	<del>Cl</del>	<del>Ann Paul</del>

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the meeting. Good luck this nesting season, and please let me know if you have any issues, comments, or questions.

Take care,

**Kevin Oxenrider**

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