

# Timucuan Shorebird Partnership

## Pre-season Meeting Agenda

March 2, 2017 – 1:30pm-4:00pm

The Ribault Club, 11241 Ft George Road, Jacksonville, FL 32226



1:30-1:35 Welcome and Introductions

In Attendance –FPS (TISP & FCSP), COJ (Huegonot), FWC Bios, USFWS, SAISSA, Audubon, Volunteers, JaxZoo, NFLT, FWC LE

1:35-1:55 FSD Custom Data Download Demo – Meagan Wallrichs, FWC

- Use Google Chrome for max efficiency
- Custom Data Download – Search past years database entries by year/sites/property (2011-2016) – Up online by 4/2017
- View results in tabular and map or export to .xls
- 1<sup>st</sup> Count Window: 3/18-3/25

1:55-2:05 FSD 2015 Annual Report Summary – Blair Hayman, FWC

- Available on FSD website – Statewide Overview & Trends

2:05-2:20 Imperiled Species Management Plan Changes – Blair Hayman

- Updates Effective for 2016-2016; changes to state listing status of spp.

- 15 spp. Are no longer imperiled – inc. BRPE, LIMP, SNEG, WHIB
- 23 spp. Are newly listed as threatened increasing protections
  - AMOY, BLSK
  - LETE, SNPL – maintain threatened status
  - Increased Protection under 68A-27.001 Rule
    - Cannot Take – Harass or Harm
    - E.g. if inside posted area and nesting ongoing, can be sited for harassing, causing take
    - Officer discretion; proof in pictures; safety first
- ISMP Policies – 2 new
  - Single-Use Nest Removal, if inactive no permit needed to remove
  - Man-made structures – removal or mediation ok if listed spp. are not present/occupying site

*Break (15 minutes)*

2:35-3:05 CWAs & Key Sites – Habitat Changes post Matthew, Posting, Needs, etc. – All

- Discussion of Nassau Sound Islands CWA
  - One of several new CWAs presented before committee and in process of approval in Tallahassee pending final signatures
  - Affords increased protection to the NS shoals and potential nesting habitat for shorebird species & allows prohibition of all public use during nesting season
  - Big Bird Island/N. End of Little Talbot Island included in the polygon – historic suitable nesting ground for LETE, BLSK, AMOY & WIPL
    - Changes since 2016 Storm Season – Remaining elevated land on former sand spit is now tidally restricted. Only accessible from land to the south for 2-3 hours around Low Tide. This will affect staff and visitor access during the 2017 nesting season.
    - Plans to pre-post nesting areas as in years past to alert public to nesting potential and keep them out of sensitive areas to allow shorebirds access. If behaviors of birds indicate a hard closure is needed, would consider enacting during nesting season as we do on AISP.
    - Audubon, Leary, Beckers expressed desire to enact hard closure of the area to pedestrians and boaters effective ASAP.
      - Narrow habitat, lean buffers, expected disturbance
    - Management Concerns
      - Public Outreach, Interpretation, Enforcement

- Concerns about MHW Line (CWA effective only above) and public access to beach
- Patrol access with tidal restrictions, staffing
- Unpredictability of Resource
  - Unsure where birds will prefer to nest this year – adaptive management and posting strategy allows flexibility to change areas/corridors to maximize breeding success
  - Changing sands/tides/habitat/accessibility
- Visitation
  - Boaters will access this land, Little Bird Island is now gone
  - Boaters come from variety of boat ramps, private marinas, docks
  - Need to educate boaters on CWA restrictions and sensitive areas
    - Donna Bear suggested sending literature out as boat registration renewals are completed each year –FWC LE agreed it may help
    - Reach out to Kayak Amelia & Long Island Outfitters to provide information
  - Educating LTI Park Visitors – Ranger Station, signage. Combination of FWC and FPS signage
  - Roving Interpretation & Enforcement
    - PRs & Stewards needed especially on busy weekends, presence
    - FWC LE is aware of nesting areas and will work to patrol as able
- Follow-up Meeting On-site
  - Leary proposed additional on-site meeting to discuss options, FPS Allison welcomed this.
  - FWC, Audobon, FPS, Vols will meet later in March on-site to evaluate and continue dialogue about CWA posting.

3:05-3:20      Review of Rooftops (& Routes not already covered) – Megan Wallrichs

- Volunteers discussed and delegated routes

3:20-3:40      Predator Control: Needs & Data Collection – Allison Conboy, FDEP

- Insufficient time to discuss. Will email discussion on data collection methods to identify quantifying predation pressures on NE FL shorebirds.

3:40-3:50 Other Needs or Issues/Regional Updates – All

- Fort Clinch State Park
  - Beach nourishment complete
- North Florida Land Trust
  - Acquired “Chup Property”
- SAISSA
  - Nesting area significantly reduced after Hurricane Matthew
  - Next nourishment would not be until at least 2020
- S. Amelia River Oyster Rakes
  - All signage is gone after Hurricane Matthew; needs to be replaced
- Huguenot Memorial Park
  - Approx. 5000 gulls already present
  - Royal terns arriving
  - Significant dune loss after hurricane

3:50-4:00 Other Announcements / Wrap-Up / Action Items