



# MARTIN COUNTY

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# Info Release

[www.martin.fl.us](http://www.martin.fl.us)

2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, Florida 34996

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bathtub Beach renourishment to begin this spring**

STUART, Fla (February 26, 2021) - A renourishment project for Bathtub Reef Beach is underway this spring. About 220,000 cubic yards of sand will be dredged from the Sailfish Point Marina channel, federal navigation channel and the impoundment basin (located between the north jetty and the navigation channel) and used to replenish the beach, including the northern portion of the beach fronting the Sailfish Point community and all of Bathtub Beach.

Martin County has contracted with national dredging company, Weeks Marine, to conduct the dredging. Sand will be pumped through a combination of 30-inch submerged, floating, and shore pipelines onto the designated beach areas. The company will be using larger, higher production barges and equipment than in previous renourishment efforts, which will shorten the duration of the project. Dredging operations will take place 24/7 and the project will be completed by the beginning of May 2021 in advance of the critical portion of sea turtle nesting season.

The first several weeks will be spent setting up equipment, bringing pipe from the north to the south side of the inlet where the pipeline will be assembled and placed on the bottom of the channel. Once in place, the pipe will be connected to the hydraulic dredge and sand will be redistributed to the beach.

Boaters are asked to be patient and remain safe by avoiding the barges, pipelines (marked by floating buoys) and other equipment, to prevent accidents and unnecessary interruptions to the construction schedule. On land, equipment will be staged in the lots just south of the beach allowing for limited beach access.

Funding for the renourishment project comes from a variety of sources, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Martin County and the Sailfish Point Property Owners Association.

Timely information about beach and parking lot closings, beach access and construction updates can be found on Martin County's website at [www.martin.fl.us/BathtubBeach](http://www.martin.fl.us/BathtubBeach) and on the county's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. For more information, call 772-221-1387 or email [coastal@martin.fl.us](mailto:coastal@martin.fl.us).

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### **About Bathtub Reef Beach**

Martin County's Atlantic beaches span nearly 22 miles along our coast and include Jensen Beach, Stuart Beach, Sailfish Point, St. Lucie Inlet State Preserve, Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge, and the Town of Jupiter Island.

These beaches are an integral part of the quality of life in Martin County, generate considerable revenue Martin County economy, and support homes, businesses and related infrastructure (roads, utilities) for residents and visitors.

Bathtub Reef is located just offshore at Bathtub Beach Park and is a popular spot for snorkelers due to the large number of marine creatures and fish that congregate there. Its presence is also a key factor in creating the "bathtub effect" of very shallow waters during low tide that make it such a favorite swimming location for families with young children.

Bathtub Reef is a fascinating reef system, created by tiny tube-building Sabellariid sea worms. It is not only an incredibly unique system, but also an extremely fragile one. The worms cement sand grains together, creating a vast network of tube dwellings. Colonies build on top of one another over time and create a reef system that helps break waves and reduce beach erosion. This habitat is used by more than 500 marine species including endangered sea turtles that forage on and around the reef.

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