



Info Release

For immediate release: Feb. 18, 2016

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Construction alert for boaters in St. Lucie Inlet as work begins on Bathtub Beach renourishment project

As part of construction preparation for Martin County's Bathtub Reef Beach renourishment project, the pipeline that will be used to pump sand from nearby flood shoals is being placed in the St. Lucie Inlet on Thursday, February 18.

Boaters are advised to use extreme caution when traversing the St. Lucie Inlet and travelling to the sandbars. Parts of the pipeline may be submerged at one point in time and may be above water a short time later as the full pipeline corridor is positioned properly in the water. Buoys mark the pipeline every 33 feet and boaters need to remain within these navigable marked areas to ensure safe navigation and prevent accidents.

The pipeline will be used to transport sand from the St. Lucie Inlet to Bathtub Reef Beach and Sailfish Point as part of the County's beach renourishment project to create a new and improved Bathtub Reef Beach - one of Martin County's favorite beaches.

Information about beach and parking lot closings, beach access, and construction and restoration updates will be provided in a timely basis by going to www.BathtubBeachMartin.com, receiving status updates on Facebook at facebook.com/BathtubBeachMartin. For more information call 221-1387 or email coastal@martin.fl.us. Click [here](#) to see the approximate location of the pipeline route.

About the Bathtub Reef Beach/Sailfish Point Renourishment Project

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection is funding nearly 40% of total project costs through their Beach Management Funding Assistance Program. Martin County and Sailfish Point will each pay 50% of the remaining project cost. A FEMA reimbursement from hurricane damages sustained in 2012 is also under review and may provide additional funding.

Martin County's Coastal Engineering Division plan for the restoration effort is the most cost-efficient as well as the most environmentally sensitive approach. Sand will be dredged from the flood shoals and the impoundment basin of the St Lucie Inlet located immediately south of these beaches. This will help maintain the safety and navigability of the Inlet for local boaters. The sand will then be piped to the beach and distributed from that point across 4,900 feet of coastline, from just north of Bathtub Beach and extending south into Sailfish Point. This approach provides a high

quality recreational beach, increased storm protection and is designed to protect the integrity of the fragile Sabellariid worm reef that serves as both a critical marine habitat and protective barrier at Bathtub Beach.

Part of the project will restore at least 100 parking spaces in the Bathtub Beach parking lot which had been lost over the last several years as the beach eroded and sand had to be piled up in the parking area. Upon completion of the project, residents and visitors will be able to enjoy a bigger and better Bathtub Reef Beach - one that more closely resembles the way the beach used to be.

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SR/FFG

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