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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Tina Haisman, ASBPA Media Relations, 239-292-2882  
Michael Barnett, FDEP Bureau of Beaches & Coastal Systems, 850-487-1262

**Are You Sitting on a Restored Beach?**

FORT MYERS, FL – Although the practice of beach restoration may seem like voodoo to some, it is actually a very common practice. In many places around this county, chances are good your beach is a restored or managed beach.

In all, more than 375 American beaches have been restored and/or nourished (maintained) over the years, including some prominent locales that might surprise you: Waikiki Beach, Hawaii; Nantucket Harbor, Mass.; Coney Island, N.Y.; Ocean City, N.J.; Virginia Beach, Va.; Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Miami Beach, Fla.; Corpus Christi, Texas; and Newport Beach, Calif.

“Beach restoration and the subsequent maintenance, or nourishment, is the mechanical placement of sand on the beach to lessen the effects of beach erosion from storms, inlet effects, and sea level rise,” says Michael R. Barnett, P.E., bureau chief for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems. “It is usually done to create a wider, higher-elevation beach area to protect infrastructure and property from future erosion.”

Barnett oversees coastal management in a state where more than 485 miles (or approximately 59% of the state's beaches) are experiencing erosion. At present, about 387 of the state's 825 miles of sandy beaches have experienced "critical erosion", a level of erosion which threatens substantial development, recreational, cultural, or environmental interests.

The scientific process of beach nourishment got its start in the United States in the early 1900s due to significant beach erosion issues. It has evolved over the years to reflect changing technology, environmental and economic concerns and myriad increased uses and users. Many of those early projects were so successful at reversing critical erosion and stabilizing the shoreline that residents today may not realize that the wide beach they regularly enjoy is in fact the result of long-term management and restoration.

“The philosophy behind restoring and maintaining beaches is similar to the philosophy that applies to roads,” said Barnett. “Preventive maintenance and repairs must be done to keep the beach in good condition.”

That is why a management plan to address critical erosion must first tackle crisis conditions, such as waves endangering buildings, roads, utilities and natural habitat. Then it can make the transition to a longer-term beach management plan that keeps the coastline healthy and habitable – and, perhaps, harder to recognize as a restored beach over time.

For more information about the health of your beach, visit [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).

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**ABOUT ASBPA**

Founded in 1926, the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) represents the scientific, technical and political interests along the coast in an effort to shape national research and policy concerning shore and beach management and restoration. ASBPA strives to engage in a factual debate on coastal issues and economics that will foster sound, far-sighted and economical development and preservation of our beaches; thereby aiding in placing their beliefs within the reach of the largest possible number of people in accordance with the ideals of a democratic nation. For additional information about ASBPA, please visit [www.asbpa.org](http://www.asbpa.org).