



Figure 1: Beach nourishment project on Jekyll Island, GA (Conley, 2020)

Introduction

The completion of a beach nourishment project involves multiple scales of government along with the private sector. At the federal level, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have designated responsibilities related to permitting, science and implementation. State coastal management and natural resource programs are also engaged, especially when projects occur in state waters. The decision to move forward with a nourishment project often falls to local government agencies who work with consultants and engineering firms to design the project. Universities support data collection and distribution while varied non-profit organizations may engage throughout the process.

Sand constituents were engaged throughout the project to better understand how existing data is used and what opportunities there are for additional collaboration across the region. The project engaged state and federal agency partners on the project steering committee. We then contacted over 50 sand constituents across the southeast about the project, inviting them to participate in a 1:1 interview. This resulted in 15 interviews with geographic and organizational diversity. This document provides a summary of the results from those conversations with an emphasis on common themes.

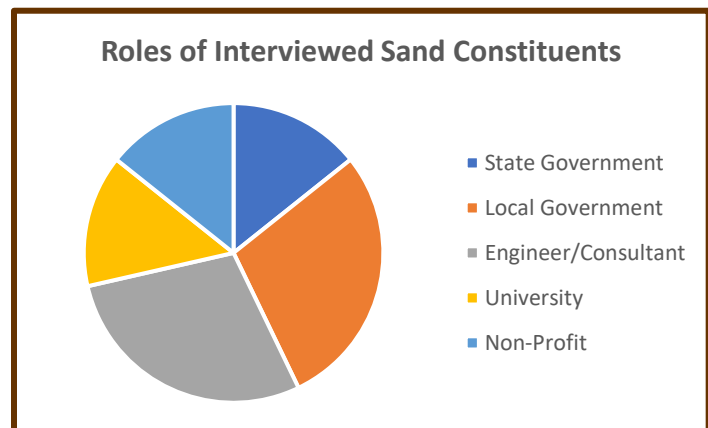


Figure 2: Distribution of sand constituents interviewed for the project

Interview Questions

- What is your role in sand management and beach nourishment?
- How do identify potential borrow sites? Are there key data sources that you use?
- What other data sets do you take into consideration when planning a project?
- What data do you collect and how is it shared?
- What are the primary opportunities and challenges around beach nourishment and related data?

Outcomes

Interviews with constituents were combed for common themes and opportunities. Four common themes were identified: (a) accessing data and tools, (b) existing data gaps, (c) permits and regulation and (d) collaboration. These are highlighted in the following bullets and graphics.

Accessing Data and Tools

- Advance existing resources that are used to help identify potential sand borrow sites, including:
 - Federal data sources and online tools, including BOEM’s Mineral Management Information System (MMIS) and U.S. Seabed (USGS)
 - Topographic and bathymetric maps to determine investigate based on geological features
 - Sand research studies led by government agencies and universities
- Connect and facilitate access to existing sand data resources

Existing Data Gaps

- Fill data gaps that exist within state waters
- Use the potential borrow sites identified by BOEM to prioritize areas for detailed data collection
- Monitor/track changes at borrow sites to understand the biological impacts and viability of reuse
- Collate data collected by engineering firms and consultants who work closely with local government to identify borrow sites with associated data included in technical reports for permitting.
- Identify criteria that will ensure that data collected meets management requirements

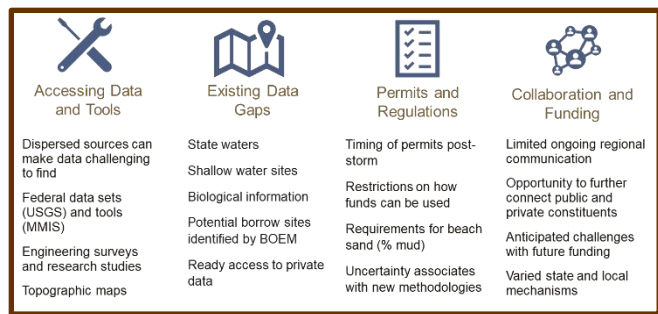


Figure 3: Recommendation themes

Permits and Regulations

- Evaluate the impact state and local beach sand requirements (e.g. grain size, color) have in limiting the number of viable sand sources (including beneficial use) and identify best practices
- Review restrictions of different funding sources on project design, particularly related new and innovative project design and methodology
- Review the processes for emergency post-storm action which present greater challenges than the general permit process which coastal communities and contractors have greater familiarity

Collaboration and Funding

- Enhance regional collaboration between federal, state and local partners and across public and private constituents
- Share best practices for data sharing and access with state and local governments
- Identify new sources of funding sources, including state and local mechanisms, to support sand data collection, research, and management

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