

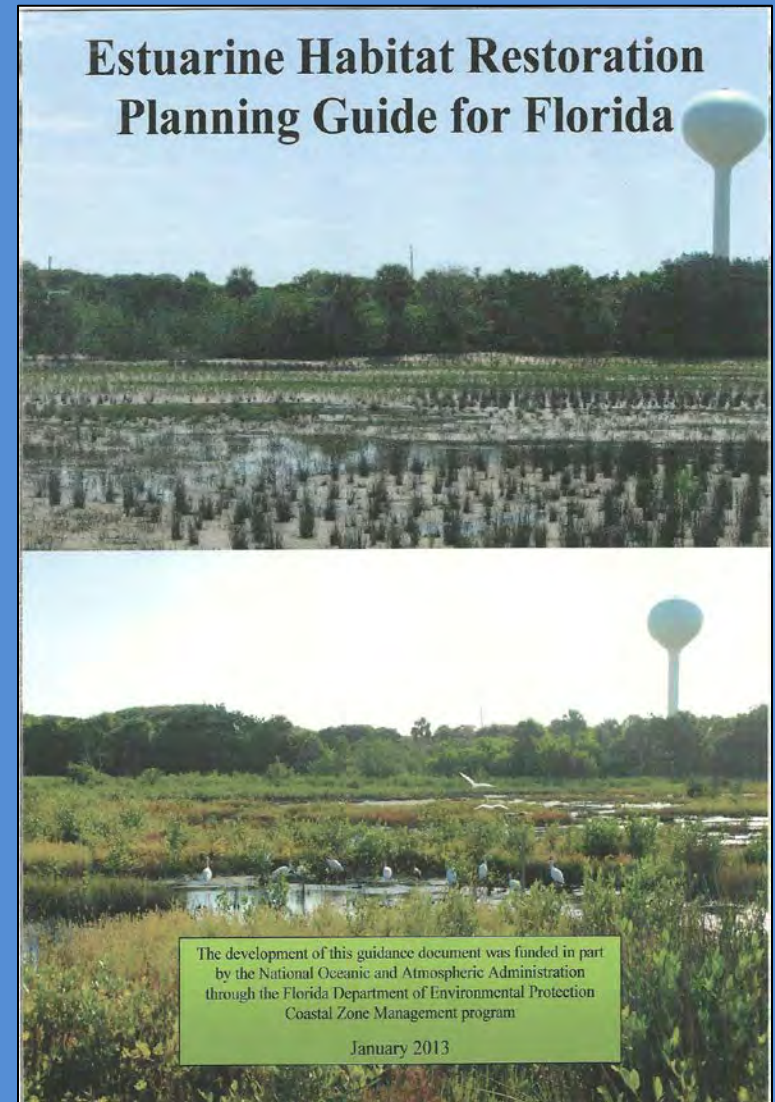
*A Planning Guide for Florida and a  
Test Estuarine Restoration Plan for  
Northeast Florida*



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# *Estuarine Habitat Restoration Planning Guide for Florida*

- Statewide guidance document
- Basic planning template
- Standardized stepwise approach
- Yields prioritized lists of projects



# *Eight Step Process*

Step 1

Bring together interested parties

Step 2

Scope the Work

Step 3

Draft the Plan

Step 4

Review & Comment

Step 5

Adoption/Endorsement

Step 6

Implementation

# *Step 3 Drafting the Restoration Plan*

## *Two-part Process*

### **Part One**

- Essential Information Gathering
  - Baseline conditions
  - Essential habitats at risk

### **Part Two**

- Establish Restoration Priorities (Threat matrix)
- Develop GOPs

# *Eight Step Process*

Step 1

Bring together interested parties

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Scope the Work

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# *Eight Step Process*

Step 7

Monitoring

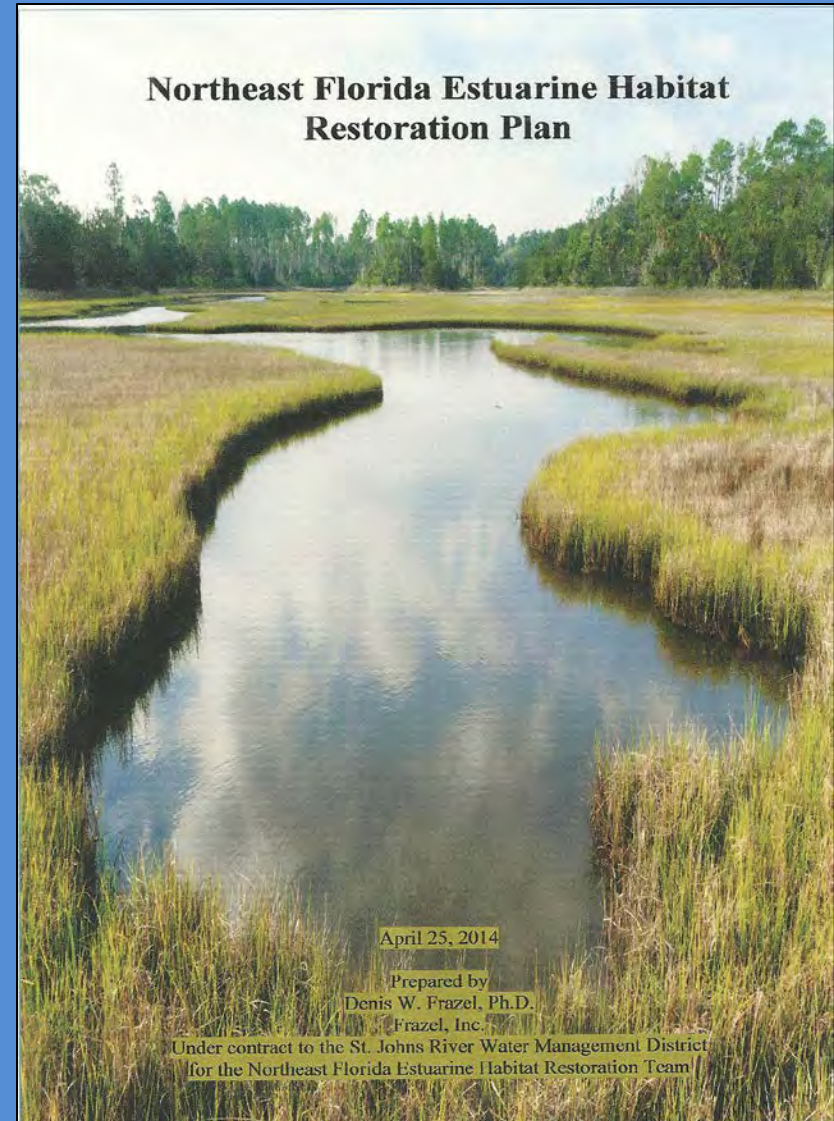


Step 8

Plan Update & Revision

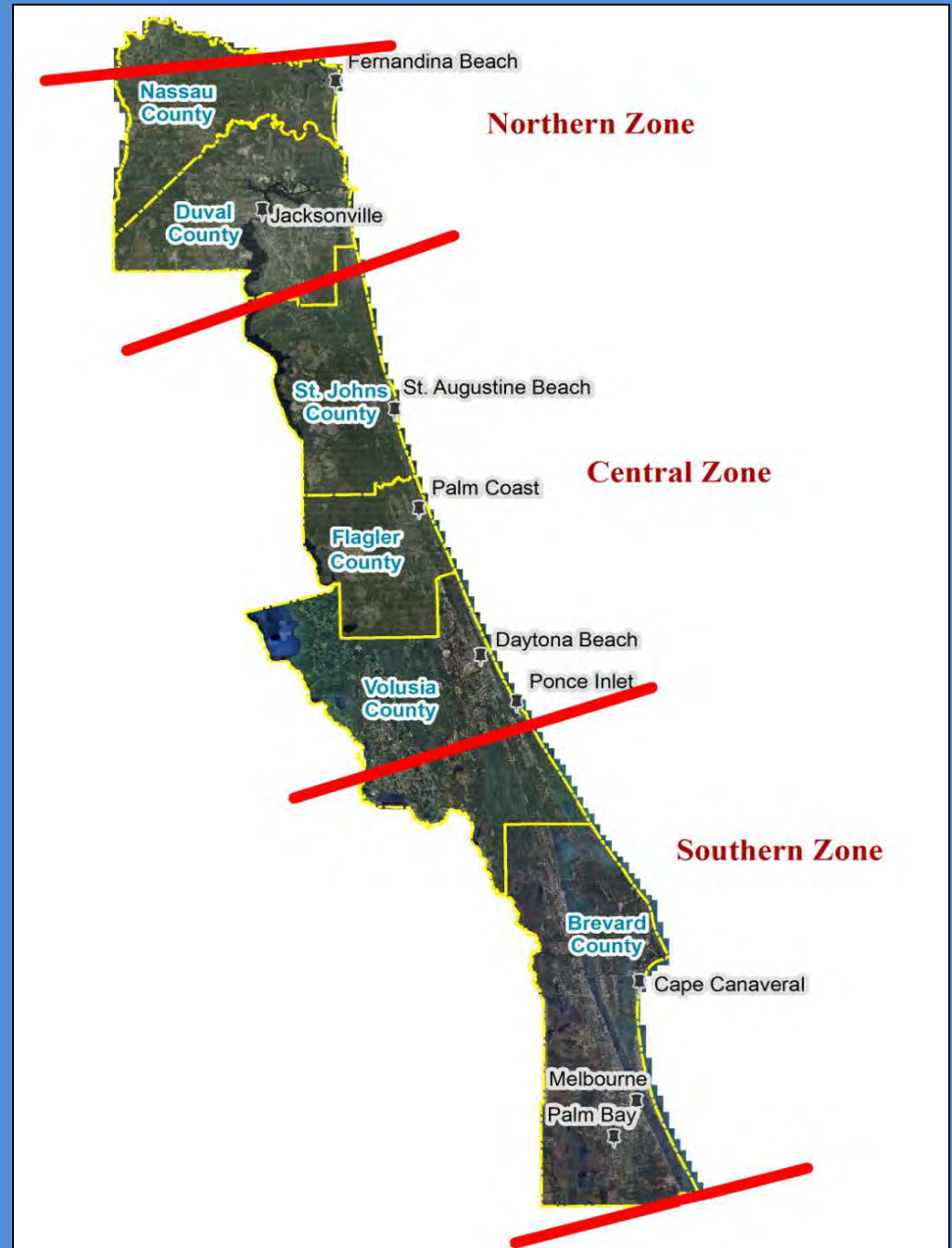
# Northeast Florida Estuarine Habitat Restoration Plan

- First test of the *Guide*
- Vision-based planning approach
- GOSs by region
- Public lands only
- Specific priority restoration projects for the region



# Planning Area

- Sebastian Inlet to the Georgia Border (St Marys River)
- 200 miles of estuary
- Saltmarsh, oyster reef, mangrove, and seagrass habitats





# Baseline Conditions: *Temporal gradient*

## North

- Saltmarsh and Oyster Reef

## Central

- Saltmarsh, Oyster Reef and Mangrove

## South

- Saltmarsh, Oyster Reef, Mangrove, Seagrass



# *Results*

- 26 different public land areas owned/or managed by federal, state or local entities
- More than 70 different stakeholders
- Estuarine areas range from pristine, to degraded, ditched, drained, or impounded
- Implementation just now beginning
- 12 projects
- \$2 million in requests

***So What are the Lessons Learned Through  
This Guide and Plan Process?***

Small group size ✓



# Consider Subcontracting

- Level playing field
- Dedicated effort
- No FTE needed



# Excellent Marketing Tool

Vetting of  
projects a plus

## One Page Summaries

### Indian River Lagoon Seagrass Restoration Initiative

**Site Location:** Selected areas throughout the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), Southern Zone

**Applicant/Contact:** SJRWMD/USFWS

**Grant Source/Target (If known):** NOAA

**Overview:** In order to address the algae superbloom and major seagrass habitat die-off events of 2011, a multiagency interdisciplinary 3-year SJRWMD-funded research effort (building on and expanding the scope of the 2011 “superbloom” study; is being undertaken to further understand the causes and impacts of destructive phytoplankton blooms...

**Funding request:** \$50,000  
years.

**Timeline:** Three

**Interagency involvement:** SJRWMD, USFWS, NERT, Florida Atlantic University, Bethune Cookman University

**Benefits:** The restoration and protection of seagrass areas is both economically and ecologically important to the Indian River Lagoon...

# Challenges





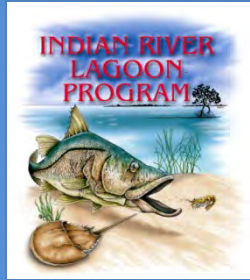
# *Successes*

10 out of 12 current projects funded  
for more than \$1.5 million

Hopefully More to Come



# Thanks!



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