



TAYLOR ENGINEERING, INC.

Jacksonville, FL - May 2008

The American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA) announced today that Beaches of South Walton and Destin's beach restoration project was named one of the 2008 Best Restored Beach Award recipients. Taylor Engineering, based in Jacksonville, designed the Award-winning beach restoration project.

An independent panel of coastal managers and scientists selected the winners and judging was based on three criteria: the economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community; the short- and long-term success of the restoration project; and the challenges each community overcame during the course of the project.

After a series of storms caused severe damage to the coastline, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) designated the project area as "critically eroded," a designation that qualified a large-scale beach restoration project for state funding. In 2003, Beaches of South Walton and Destin contracted Taylor Engineering, Inc. to design the beach restoration project and obtain state and federal permits for construction.

Taylor Engineering began this project in 2005 with an extensive sand source investigation that explored offshore state waters near these beaches. The site located in the East Pass ebb shoal vicinity was identified as having the highest quality, offshore beach quality sand, which was a nearly identical color, composition, and grain characteristic as the native beach.

Overcoming significant obstacles to restore its beach, the communities nourished the beaches in 2007. Careful hopper dredging operations ensured no ill effects to the Gulf sturgeon, a threatened species of fish, whose critical habitat lies within the project area. The project also continually reevaluated its dredging techniques to mitigate impacts to endangered sea turtles. This project not only restored critically eroded beaches but restored them to their natural beauty. The constructed dunes replicate the natural dune system and provide additional habitat for local wildlife as well as critical storm protection. This large-scale beach restoration project was vital in providing upland protection from future storms and the economic vitality of region through tourism.



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Alison Cornelius

acornelius@taylorengeering.com

904.256.1357

Taylor Engineering, Inc.

Coastal Engineering
Hydrology & Hydraulics
Waterfront Engineering
Environmental Services
GIS

904.731.7040

www.taylorengeering.com