

Section 2 Installing and Maintaining Traffic Barricades

Purpose

Installing traffic barricades on vehicular access ramps will spatially and temporally separate sea turtles and AIBM from vehicular activities. Impenetrable barricades greatly reduce unauthorized public vehicular access to the beach.

Applicable ITP Condition - G.2.a.

- a. **Installation, Maintenance, and Operation of Traffic Barricades.** “The Permittee shall maintain and/or enhance all existing traffic barricades on public beach access ramps to ensure they effectively exclude public vehicle traffic when closed. The Permittee shall install and maintain additional traffic barricades at locations where vehicles have regularly accessed the beach illegally. The Permittee shall close the traffic barricades to limit public vehicle access as described in Conditions 11.G.1.b and c.”

HCP Performance During 2012

Implementation: During 2001 and 2002, St. Johns County Division of Beach Management installed impenetrable steel gates at all public vehicular access points excluding Surfside Avenue vehicular access ramp. By April of 2008, a steel gate was installed at Surfside Avenue access ramp. Prior to the 2010 nesting season a combination lock was installed at Surfside Avenue beach access ramp (Object 2) which allowed only North Beach Permittees access. In addition, “Do Not Enter” signs (Object 3) are installed north of the Vilano Road beach access ramp to minimize uncontrolled northbound driving.

Object 2. Surfside Avenue beach access ramp



Object 3. North of Vilano Road beach access

Assessment: During the 2012 nesting season no gates were reported to be vandalized. However, several reports were made regarding gates being “dummy” locked and several gates were open upon arrival by both sea turtle patrol and beach staff prior to 8:00 a.m. Historically there were 12 reports in 2007, 8 reports in 2008, 1 report in 2009, 1 report in 2010 and 0 reports in 2011 of documented damage regarding vehicular access gates. The vandalism of beach gates will continue to be monitored by staff and law enforcement.

Program Improvements: There are no other program improvements scheduled at this time.