

News and Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Q4 Board Meeting Held 07/05/2025

Dog Island Conservation District

P.O. Box 14288

Tallahassee, FL 32317-4288

<http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>



DOG ISLAND
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Important Alerts and Notices

- Annual meeting and Q1 Board meeting to be held Saturday August 30, 2025 at 10:30 AM at the Yacht Club, weather permitting.
- Initial DICD Budget Adopting hearing to be held Saturday September 6th, 2025, at noon, at the same venue.
- July 31st was the final date established by the DICD to remove abandoned and junk trailers etc. from the airport tie down area near the LCM dock in Tyson harbor. Any material remaining of that sort after that established and noted date is being scheduled to be removed.

ON THE PASSING OF MR. LARRY HUNTSMAN

The diverse Dog Island community lost its longest full-time resident on the 7th of July of this year. Mr. Huntsman and his former wife Helen built a cabin out here in “the mountains” in the early 1970s and he resided there until this year. He was a pilot, mariner and craftsman who was a serious student of history and of the classics. He was a very vocal and committed environmentalist and preservationist. He played a role in the TNC acquisition and conservation of the majority of Dog Island and one of the founders of the Barrier Island Trust. He was instrumental in their academic studies of historic ocean erosion, archaeology, freshwater resources and avian populations and their migrations.

Mr. Huntsman cared deeply about our island and believed that the best we could do for it was to simply “leave it be.” He had struggled with several severe debilitating health issues for more than a decade and yet persevered in his simple life on the island; his strength and courage and refusal to give up on any minute of this life is truly admirable. He will long be remembered as a self-described curmudgeon in the spirited defense of Dog Island because of his heartfelt love and passion for this unique place he called home for more than 50 years.

If our small island, battered by the waves – giving way but still strong, were given a voice at this moment, we might hear among the breakers, “My friend, well done.”

Rest in Peace, Larry.

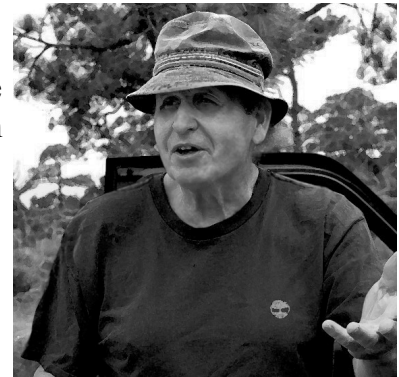


Photo from FB by Jess Van Dyke



Admonitions from the Chair

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest. --Mark Twain

Life is a learning experience, only if you learn. --Yogi Berra

The time is always right to do what is right. --Martin Luther King, Jr.

DOG ISLAND: A REFRESHER

It is easy for most long-time islanders to grasp the rationales behind our island living guidelines and then adapt our behavior to the few simple rules out here. However, these understandings need to be learned by newcomers, guests, and those coming of age. They need to hear the stories, know the rules and learn from our experiences. Following are some admonitions and examples that might be helpful in this process.

We islanders do not place non-household (kitchen and bath) refuse in the compactor. For many years the island had open containers that overflowed and fed an army of raccoons, which scattered refuse everywhere. The compactor we use now was a leap forward for sanitation and ease of use. However, putting folding chairs, lumber, roofing and large boxes into our compactor system is a big island NO. Why? Someone placed leftover metal roof pieces into the compactor, which led to its components having to be taken apart and the roofing painstakingly sawed out of the way. On several occasions, the container had to be climbed into (in the summertime!) and the inappropriate materials removed by hand. This system only continues to function for the benefit of all if everyone follows directions for its use. To properly dispose of non-household trash like roofing, appliances, and construction debris please contact the Island manager during normal work hours and arrange for the items to be placed in the correct open dumpsters at the shop; a nominal \$2/cubic foot fee applies.



We islanders drive slowly and cautiously on our island roadways due to their narrow sandy nature and our recognition of their inherent danger. We remember accidents involving young people losing control of a vehicle and crashing, drunk drivers hitting immovable objects, and an older person in a golf cart being forced off the road by workers in a side by side. We know that out here there are lots of blind driveways, inexperienced drivers, children driving while sitting on someone's lap, vehicles without brakes, vehicles with limited visibility and kids hanging on, slowly moving golf carts, and folks out walking. Remember the posted island speed limit is 25 MPH, but in truth the safe speed is closer to 15 MPH. Please slow down.

Dog Islanders should not start open fires, burn debris or set off unauthorized fireworks. Why? Dog Island is a dry, readily combustible and windy environment, with a very limited ability to respond



to any form of fire. Many of us can recall multiple home fires over the years, all of them complete losses. While every effort was made by willing islanders to deal with these fires, the best that could be done was to try to save the adjacent homes and nearby woods and vegetation. The goal is to avoid real and lasting devastation to our homes and island. Burning and open fires are a real and inherent threat.

As you see, we adapt our behaviors and practices to the unique nature, available infrastructure capabilities, and environment of Dog Island. Our

island has long been internationally recognized as an Important Birding Area, and long-term homeowners can tell you of the incredible numbers of Black Skimmers, Plovers and American Oystercatchers that you would encounter here on a regular basis. Sadly, our nesting sea and shorebirds are in significant decline and need our help, our protection, and our support for survival. These threatened and imperiled species need our open beaches to successfully nest. We give them space and respect by walking down in the wet sand away from their nests and keeping dogs leashed and well away from their nesting areas. Most importantly, we inform others of how we strive to allow these remaining pairs of birds to be successful in having young and continue to thrill us by their ongoing presence. This same idea is extended to our visiting sea turtles by giving them respect and space, turning off our lights which cause them problems, removing our beach chairs and tents and filling in holes at the end of the day. These thoughtful actions give them the opportunity to successfully reproduce and thrive.

We protect what makes this place unique and irreplaceable by remembering what makes it so. We act with intent to keep it the one-of-a-kind retreat which attracted us initially: its abundant and beautiful ocean, its mature maritime forests, its clear dark starry nights, its birds and turtles and so much more. We remember that we share this amazing place amongst ourselves, our families and friends, and, most importantly, with the natural world and generations to come.



Young and On the Move: First Migration for Florida's Shorebird Chicks

Collette Lauzau- Audubon Panhandle Program Manager



As the summer is coming to a close our shorebirds are wrapping up their breeding season on the sandy beaches and estuarine islands. By mid to late summer, their downy chicks have grown into fledglings, gaining flight feathers and slowly building their strength with short, fluttery flights. After nesting and growing on Florida's beaches these young birds are preparing for their next big adventure, their very first migration. While some species like the Snowy Plover will spend their winters on not-too-distant shores, young Least Terns head as far as South America's Atlantic coast.

It's no small thing: flying thousands of miles for the first time, with no one showing the way, just instinct and cues from the sun, stars, and Earth's magnetic field. Young birds have it especially hard, fewer than half of all chicks survive their first year, one study suggests that number could be as low as 14% for some populations. First year birds are more likely to fall prey to predators, get caught in storms, or wear themselves out on long flights over open water. Along the way, they have to figure out how to feed in unfamiliar places and find safe spots to rest. And just as they're trying to fatten up for the trip, things like human disturbance, loose dogs, and disappearing habitat can throw them off course.

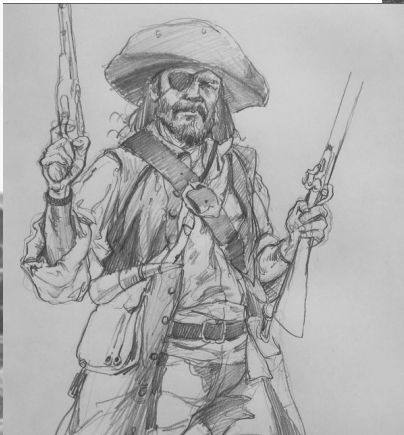
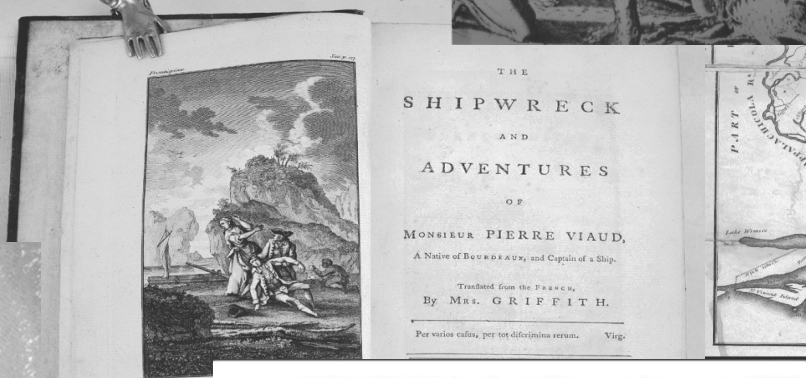
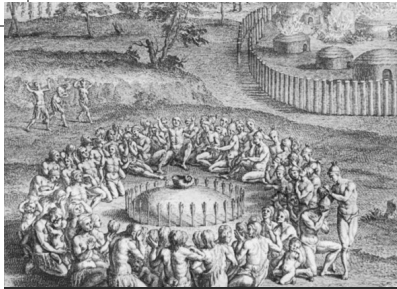
How You Can Help

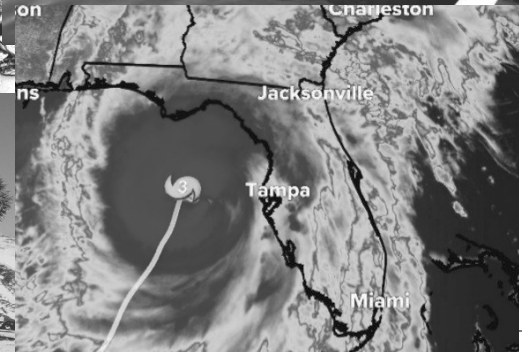
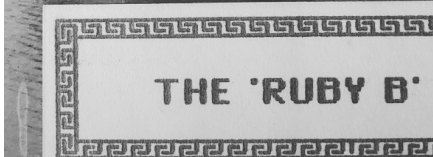
You can play a role in giving these chicks a head start. Here are a few simple actions that can make a difference:

- Give beach-nesting areas space during late summer. Many young birds are still trying to gain enough strengthening to make it across the Gulf.
- Keep dogs leashed in coastal areas, even after the obvious nesting signs come down.
- Reduce light pollution during peak migration months.
- Support habitat protection efforts for both nesting and migratory stopover sites.



With each migration they survive, they inch closer to becoming the next generation of parents, scraping out their shallow nests in the sand and continuing this incredible cycle. If you would like to get involved or to find out more information please visit Audubon Florida's website www.audubon.org/florida/projects/coastal-stewardship-florida or email Alie MacVicar, Audubon FL's Carrabelle Shorebird Biologist, directly at Alexandra.Macvicar@audubon.org.





Minutes of the Q4 Board Meeting, July 5, 2025

Call to Order:

10:32 a.m. Board Members present: Mr. Stone, Ms. Kellett, Mr. Brady, Mr. Hudson and Mr. Will by phone.

Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Brady motions approval, Mr. Hudson seconds, approved unanimously.

Approval of previous minutes:

Motion Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Brady, approved unanimously.

Chair Report:

The Chair, Mr. Stone, said he had several topics that he wanted to bring up. The first topic was being prepared in the event of an island emergency. He noted that where he lives the local government has an alert text system that rapidly notifies everyone on it about emergencies, and he believes something like this could be put in place for the island. He had recently asked islander Richard Grape to investigate systems of this sort, including feasibility, availability, vendors and set up costs. Mr. Grape reported that he had begun inquiring into such systems and that he would give a detailed report at the next Board meeting. The Chair said that this item will be put on that agenda for further discussion. The Chair then brought up an emerging property crime scam. An individual lists and sells property, without the owner's knowledge, using fake IDs. This was nearly successful here on the island just a few weeks ago and typically happens with vacant property. One possible action you can take is to sign up through your Clerk of Courts for Property Fraud Alerts, where you are notified if any instrument relating to you is filed with their office. This allows you to rapidly react to a crime of this nature. Call 800-728-3858 to register.



The Chair then thanked TNC and Audubon for their great cooperative effort in support of the Franklin County Sheriff's officers who are patrolling the East End and Narrows on busy holiday weekends, helping to protect important bird nesting sites as well as keeping us all safe. He also thanked individuals who have donated funds towards this important endeavor. He also thanked our island manager Mr. Buckley for his hard work in the heat and rain on the LCM rehab and bottom painting. The Chair then read into the record the names of islanders who have donated toward the rebuilding of the Tyson Harbor ferry dock to date: the Bradys, the Clarks, the Winsteads, the Newsomes, the Bujolds, the Miller Lakier family, both Appen families, Ms. Hastings, the Hunters, Mr. Vanliere, Mr. W. Johnson, Nancy Kellett and Joe Clark, Ms. Danesi, the McCluskeys, Ms. Nix, the Riddles, Mr. Risse,

the Robucks, Mr. Leonard, Ms. Wood, Mr. Sparrow, the Clay Spencers, Mr. Scott, the Wheelus family, the Wills, the Teafs, the Fords, and the Gronholms. He next invited everyone to donate to this crucial effort. The Chair then asked for updated email and postal addresses to be sent to him to enhance District-to-islander communication. Next, the Chair asked for a motion to put out an RFP for our pre-event debris removal contract. The District's contract with its current vendor, Aftermath Disaster Recovery, is set to end in late October. He explained that the District needs to have such a contract in place should a storm occur to expedite our response. Mr. Brady moved and Mr. Hudson seconded such a motion, which passed unanimously. The Chair said the potential adding of new detailed procurement policies to our Policy and Procedures Manual would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. FDEM would like the District to have such policies in place, and they would help us garner additional points in their system. Mr. Jones, our emergency response coordinator, has adapted Franklin County's policy for our use, and Ms. Kellett reviewed it. We had already adopted the State of Florida's procurement policies several years ago, and this action will simply state them for the record should the policy be adopted. The proposed policies were sent to the Board for their review prior to this meeting. Finally, the Chair asked for a motion, again relating to storm preparedness, for himself or the Vice Chair or Treasurer to sign, after review, both a Resolution of Mutual Aid and the Mutual Aid agreement itself on behalf of the District Board once these documents are made available to us by Franklin County. Ms. Kellett made the requested motion and Mr. Brady seconded, passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Brady distributed the financial statements and noted the balances in the general checking account, the SBA rainy day account and the segregated fund for



FEMA/Hurricane response. A question was asked regarding expenditures from the FEMA/Hurricane Response account on the Tyson harbor revetment and LCM finger dock, both of which had to be rebuilt after hurricane Helene, and whether the District would be able to meet its matching fund obligations should another storm occur. Mr. Brady explained that FEMA and FDEM are reimbursement programs, and the District needs to be prepared to pay 12.5% of the total spent on debris removal and hurricane response. The funds expended on the necessary LCM finger dock and revetment repairs were taken from the FEMA/Hurricane response

account because it was set up for precisely this type of situation. The District is in the process of getting those expended funds reimbursed to us and replenishing that account in preparation for another storm event. In the event of a storm prior to being reimbursed, Mr. Brady said that we could augment that hurricane response account with SBA rainy day funds, thus ensuring our ability to meet the match at

the same level as before the Helene expenditures. The Chair noted that each storm is different and the political response to available funding is variable. The match portion has sometimes been waived in the past, and recently there has been talk of dissolving FEMA entirely, so there is no set answer. We, the District, need to do all we can to be ready both fiscally and otherwise to respond. The Chair and Treasurer also took the opportunity to thank those who had contributed to this account over the last three years, which has allowed the District to be historically well prepared. Next, Mr. Brady discussed the ad valorem tax revenue and explained that insurance coverage, contractual obligations, and mandated audits account for the entire amount coming to the District. The District receives less than one-third of the amount of a typical island property owner's tax payment, with the rest going to Franklin County. After noting that the District had once again received a clean audit, he distributed a proposed 2025-26 fiscal year budget for review prior to it being taken up at the September District budget hearing. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report by Ms. Kellett, second Mr. Hudson, approved unanimously.

Island Manager Report:

Mr. Buckley began by reporting that he believed that the LCM would be back in the water soon. He is waiting on Dockside to complete the work on one of the propeller shafts and the rudder. He said he had worked on the roads using a borrowed skid steer but did not think he would be able to continue with that equipment. There was a question about calendaring and scheduling the LCM and how that could be made easier and more user friendly for island homeowners. A couple of homeowners volunteered to research possible automated systems, keeping in mind that weather is always a possible issue. Ms. Kellett moved acceptance of this report, Mr. Will seconded, approved unanimously.

Volunteer Fire Department Committee Report:

The Fire Chief, Mr. Cannon, addressed a recent incident involving a burn barrel and reminded everyone of the danger of open fires, saying that they are in violation of our District safety ordinances. In case of an emergency please call 911 first, as the 911 dispatch system gets the response in motion. He stated that the DIVFD really had two purposes: containing fires and emergency response and evacuation, which is always a lengthy process. He reminded everyone of the annual DIVFD fundraiser pancake breakfast scheduled for the next morning. He closed by saying there has been no update on Duke Energy's proposed building.



Airport Committee Report:

Mr. Gronholm, the current head of this committee, said he had begun an effort to contact pilots and speak with them about annual fees in support of the airport, but so far was meeting with little success. He noted that a plan to screen the dredged sand from the work done at the DIYC and use the resulting clean sand as fill on the airstrip had hit a snag, but he still felt it was worth pursuing. He said he was looking into a different mower arrangement that might not cause the ruts in the runway that the District tractor and bush hog are creating. The Chair recognized Dr. Atwell for getting information about the airstrip on to the appropriate websites. A motion was made by Ms. Kellett and seconded by Mr. Will to

raise the landing fee to \$30 and the overnight to \$20, which passed unanimously. The Chair said he would have a new sign and payment envelopes produced reflecting this updated fee schedule.

Old Business

A. Fee Schedule Consideration: Mr. Brady proposed changing the fee schedule for Section 2 of Resolution 04-44 “Disposal of Construction/Demolition Waste, White Goods and Similar” (Section 1 which deals with the \$2 per cubic ft. charge to place things in the open dumpsters at the DICD shop would remain the same. Section 2 deals with a dumpster delivered to a residence if conditions permit). Mr. Brady moved changing the fees to \$1200 for the large dumpster and to \$800 for the smaller to take effect October 1, 2025 (the beginning of the District fiscal year). Second by Mr. Hudson, passed unanimously. He then proposed a similar incremental increase to the fee schedule in Resolution #9118 “Road Use”. This would set fees as follows: a golf cart \$250, a single axle trailer including boat trailers or an ATV/UTV \$550, a 2-axle trailer or pickup truck/car \$650, a dump truck/heavy equipment/vehicle over 12,500 lbs. \$750, to begin collection January 1, 2026. Ms. Kellett seconded this motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Brady had a third proposal, an addendum to this same resolution, regarding Road Use fees collected for vehicles or equipment transported to the island on a non-District vessel. (This Resolution currently stipulates that the applicable road use fee will be collected regardless of how



the vehicle arrives at the island.) This proposal would charge a road use fee by duration of the vehicle's stay on the island of \$300 for 3 months and \$750 for 12 months and allow for multiple round trips. Several concerns were raised in the ensuing discussion. Where would that piece of equipment be located? Would use be restricted to a single property? Who would oversee the arrangement? Would a written agreement be required? How would the District enforce time limits? Would the transport vessel potentially block the District docks, while possibly resulting in a loss of revenue to the District? Ms. Kellett moved the tabling of this proposal due to the many complicating factors which had been voiced, seconded by Mr. Will, passed.

B. Ferry Dock: The Chair reviewed the status of rebuilding the “Bailey Bridge” section of the Tyson Harbor ferry dock and its bulkhead. We have had drawings done and a DEP permit

applied for, which will be valid for 5 years. We have taken in about \$50,000 in donations from nearly 30 island families (please see their names in the preceding Chairman's Report). He stressed that we need to make another appeal to those who have yet to donate. This is a big project for the District in that its rebuilding cost is greater than our current annual tax income. It is essential for continued ingress and egress for islanders and their safety. The project will need to be bid due to state procurement policy. It should not impact our submerged land lease cost. The Chair has reached out to Franklin County for assistance in directing us toward funding that they may be aware of via the State or possible grants. While they have responded positively, it is unlikely that the island will qualify for aid due to

several factors. **Please donate if you are able.** DICD PO Box 14288 Tallahassee FL 32317, with “ferry dock rebuild” on the memo line.

New Business

A. On-Going or Board subjects/For the good of the order: Dr. G. Gore, a practicing emergency room physician and islander, asked to speak about emergency evacuations and helicopter services. He has been in contact with the local provider and alerted the Board that best practice would be to have a concrete lighted landing pad available for their use to ensure reliable service. He would like us to consider installing such a pad for the welfare of Dog Islanders. The Chair asked that he work with Mr. Gronholm on a location in the tie-down area and check whether the pad had to be concrete. This item will be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Ms. Kellett took the opportunity to remind everyone of the upcoming International Coastal Cleanup, which will be held the morning of September 20th. Lunch and celebration afterwards. Mr. Will reminded everyone that July 31, 2025 is the last day to remove all abandoned items and boat trailers from the tie-down area near the Tyson Harbor ferry dock, or they will be junked. Mr. Grape asked about the availability or acquisition of more parking in Carrabelle for islanders.

Adjournment:

Ms. Kellett moved and Mr. Brady seconded, passed unanimously.

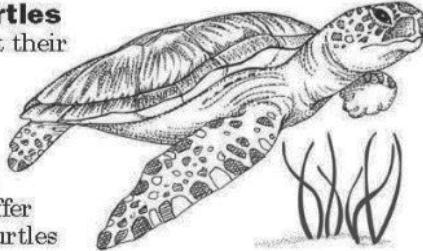


Sea turtles of Florida

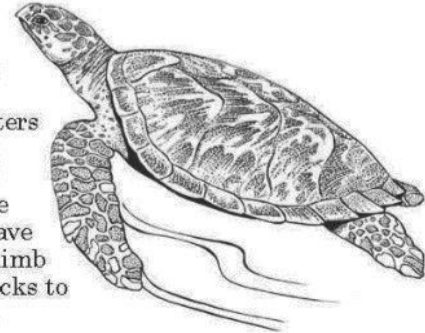
Endangered sea turtles

Green sea turtles

Green turtles get their name from the color of their body fat. Their shell is brown with dark spots. Green turtles differ from other sea turtles because when they are young, they eat meat. But, when they become adults, they prefer plants and are the only adult sea turtles that eat sea grass and seaweed. This species usually lays about 2,600 nests each year on Florida's sandy beaches.

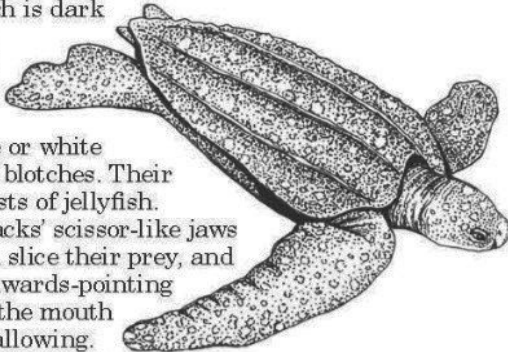


that attaches itself to the sea floor. Hawksbills often live in the Florida Keys waters and off the coast in other parts of Florida. They are very agile and have been known to climb over reefs and rocks to nest on beaches.



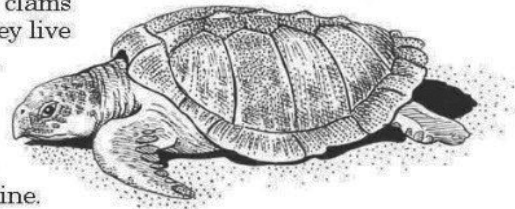
Leatherback sea turtles

Leatherback sea turtles are the largest of all. The largest leatherback, from its nose to the end of its carapace (shell), was nearly 10 feet long. Leatherbacks are easy to identify by their smooth shell which is dark brown to black and marked with pink, blue or white spots and blotches. Their diet consists of jellyfish. Leatherbacks' scissor-like jaws help them slice their prey, and stiff, backwards-pointing spines in the mouth aid in swallowing. Females nest about 290 times each year in Florida.



Kemp's Ridley sea turtles

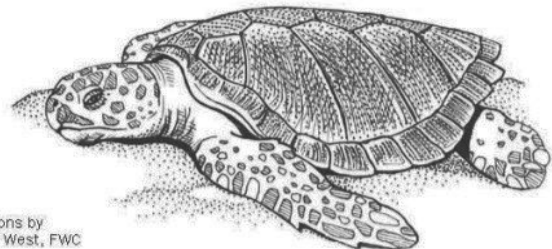
Kemp's Ridley sea turtles are the smallest and most endangered of all sea turtles. These olive-green turtles prefer blue crabs to eat, but they also eat jellyfish, clams and fish. They live primarily in the Gulf of Mexico but regularly travel as far north as Maine.



Most common sea turtle in Florida (threatened)

Loggerhead sea turtles

Loggerhead sea turtles – the most common in Florida and the official state saltwater reptile – are reddish-brown and named for their large head. They are very large turtles which can grow to weigh as much as 350 pounds. They become mature when they are between 15 and 30 years old and continue to reproduce for many years. Loggerheads feed primarily on mollusks or shellfish such as clams or crabs and use their powerful jaw muscles to crush the shells of their prey. The southeastern United States is one of the most important nesting grounds in the world for these turtles. Brevard and Palm Beach counties have the most nesting areas.



Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Habitat and Species Conservation
MyFWC.com

Illustrations by
Lizabeth West, FWC

A Kids' Page

Just a few fun things for our favorite Dog Island Pups!

Crusty Crab's Corny Corner

What do sea monsters eat?

Fish and ships!

Why are fish so smart?

Because they live in schools!

What does the Gulf say to the beach?

Nothing, it just waves!

Why are fish so smart?

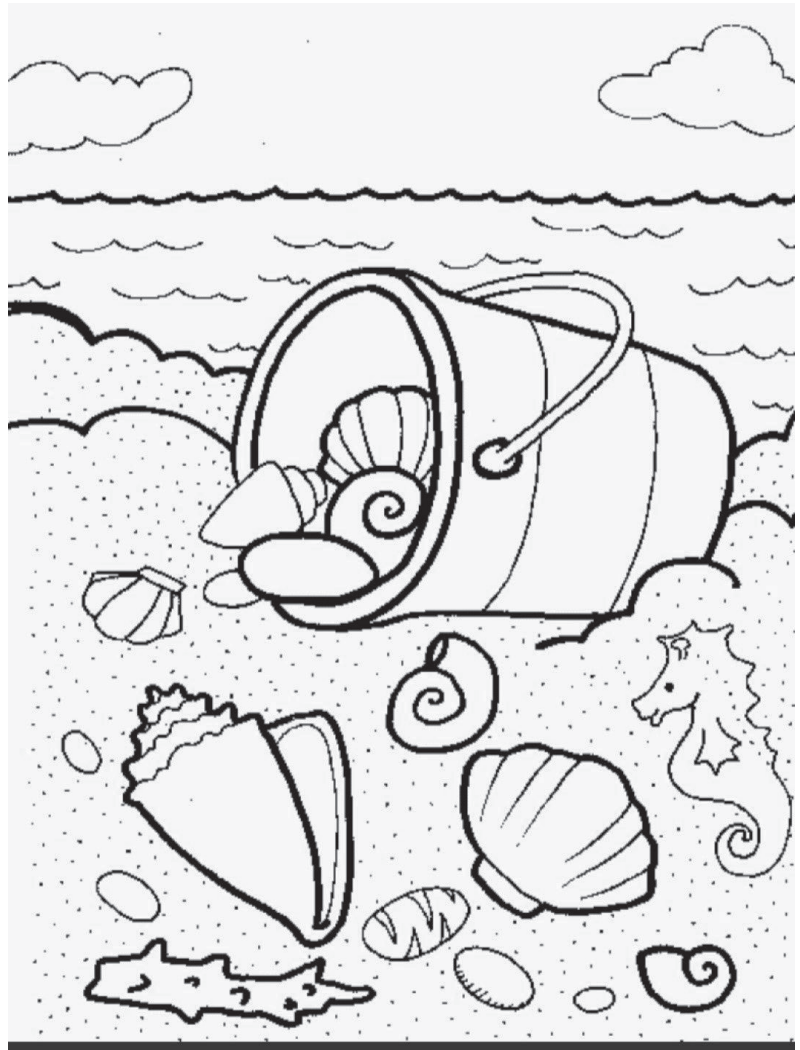
Because they live in schools!

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

A fsh!

What do you get when you cross a fish with an elephant?

Swimming trunks!



Coloring Time!

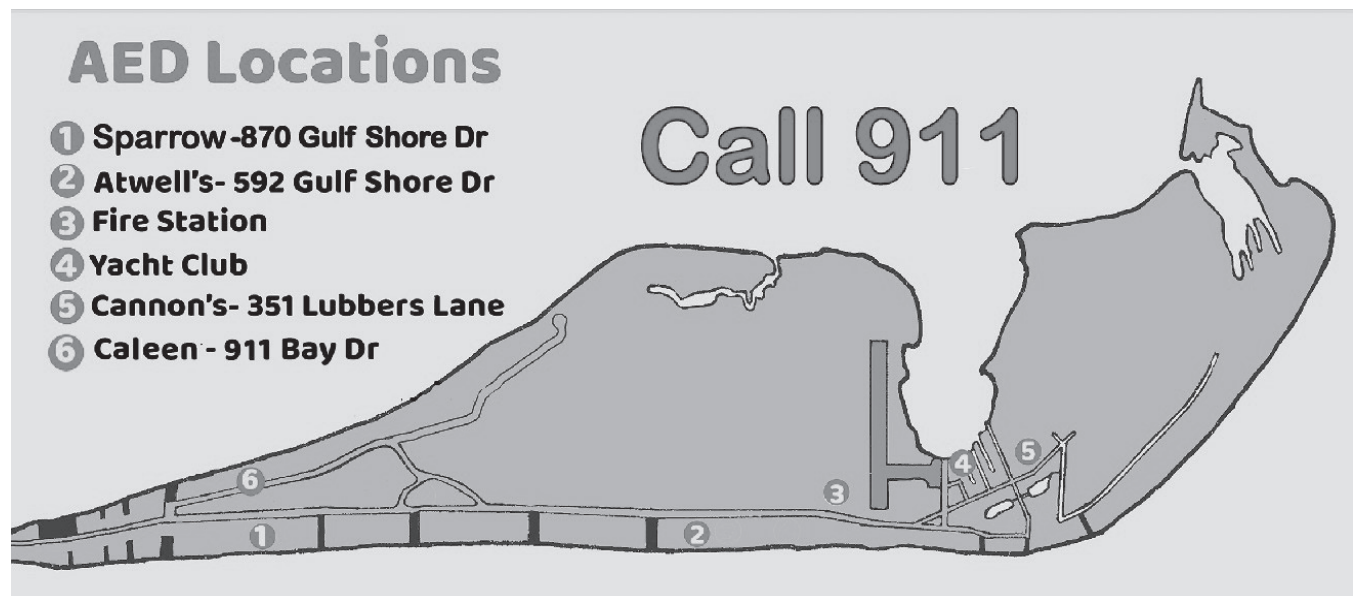


**Scan me for
more fun beach
activities!**

Next Up: Q1 2026 DICD Board Meeting: August 30, 2025 10:30am at DICD Yacht Club

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes
4. Chairman Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Island Manager Report
7. Volunteer Fire Department Report
8. Airport Committee Report
9. Old Business
 - A) Emergency Communication System
 - B) Ferry Dock update
 - C) Policy and Procedure Manual addenda
 - D) Fee Schedule Consideration
 - E) Helicopter services pad
10. New Business
 - A) On-going or Board subjects
 - B) For the good of the order
11. Adjourn



Handy Reference Information

DICD Website: <http://dogislandconservationdistrict.org>. Includes legal descriptions, financial reports, board member contacts, newsletter archives, and more about the DICD.

Dog Island Conservation District
PO Box 14288
Tallahassee, Florida 32317-4288

REMEMBER!

