



The effects of human induced habitat modification on shorebirds and seabirds in Florida

Introduction:

The culmination of beach erosion and climate change will require increased management of coastal systems in the form of habitat modifications. Beach grooming (raking) is a beach modification activity that can potentially have negative effects on shorebirds and seabirds in Florida. Understanding the relationship between raking and habitat use by shorebirds and seabirds is necessary to effectively manage and conserve wildlife

Objectives:

1. Determine potential factors affecting occupancy, abundance and habitat-use patterns of shorebirds and seabirds at selected locations during winter, migration and nesting seasons.
2. Quantify effects of beach raking on foraging, roosting and nesting shorebirds and seabirds.

3. Determine local movement patterns and survival rates for species in which individual birds are banded.
4. Identify site-specific variables driving habitat selection and distribution of each species.
5. Provide management recommendations for development and refinement of management plans for shorebirds and seabirds.
6. Inform policy makers and managers about the effects of raking on shorebirds and seabirds.

Approach:

We will determine the effect of beach raking on shorebirds and seabirds by incorporating site-specific information about occupancy, habitat use, threats, habitat characteristics and prey availability.

Benefits:

This information will provide a better foundation to formulate management recommendations and inform policy and will be used for the development and refinement of management plans for shorebird and seabird species. This project provides opportunities for multiple partnerships for the conservation of shorebird and seabird species in Florida.

Location:

Statewide

Contact:

Janell Brush, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Janell.Brush@MyFWC.com

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