Coastal Construction Control Line
Division of Water Resource Management

COASTAL ARMORING POLICY and GUIDELINES

AUTHORITY: Section 161.085, Florida Statutes and Chapter 62B-33, Florida Administrative Code.

COASTAL ARMORING: A manmade structure designed to either prevent erosion of the upland property or protect eligible structures from the effects of coastal wave and current action. Examples include seawalls, revetments, bulkheads, retaining walls, sloped boulder revetments, sloped geotextile revetments, geotextile dune scour protection, or other similar structures.

POLICY: The State recognizes the need to protect private structures and public infrastructure from the effects of coastal erosion. Beach nourishment, dune restoration, the landward relocation of structures and coastal armoring are all effective strategies to mitigate the effects of coastal erosion. Coastal armoring, however, may negatively impact the integrity and natural functioning of the beach and dune system, and it may also increase the vulnerability of adjacent unarmored properties to storm damage. Due to the significant potential impacts associated with coastal armoring, the following siting and design criteria apply.

CRITERIA: Construction of armoring may be authorized under the following conditions:

- The structure to be protected must be eligible. Eligible Structures are:
  - Habitable major structures on a foundation not designed to withstand undermining by storm erosion (i.e., shallow pile or slab-on-grade);
  - Other major non-habitable structures whose failure would damage a habitable structure; or,
  - Significant public infrastructure.
- The eligible structure must also be vulnerable to damage from a 15-year return interval storm. The vulnerability analysis should take into account the effects of shoreline change rates, natural physical features, and existing manmade structures.
- The armoring shall not result in a loss of public access along the beach.
- The construction will not result in a significant adverse impact.

Exceptions:

- If all of the above criteria cannot be met, but a continuous line of rigid coastal armoring exists on either side of unarmored property and the gap does not exceed 250 feet, then armoring can be authorized where it closes the gap.
- If all the criteria have been met, but construction of a beach restoration, beach nourishment, sand transfer or other protective project is to commence within nine months, and all permits and funding for the project are in place, then armoring cannot be authorized.

SITING: Armoring is to be sited as far landward as practicable and designed to minimize adverse impacts to the beach and dune system, marine turtles, native salt-tolerant vegetation, and existing upland and adjacent structures, and shall not interfere with public beach access.

DESIGN: Armoring shall be designed to provide protection to vulnerable structures while minimizing adverse impacts and shall be designed consistent with generally accepted engineering practice. Design procedures are available in the latest edition of the Department of the Army Corps of Engineers' Coastal Engineering Manual (CEM, 2008), or other similar professionally recognized publications.

MARINE TURTLE PROTECTION: Armoring construction must be conducted in a way that provides protection to nesting sea turtles, hatchlings and their habitat, pursuant to s. 370.12., F.S.