



St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Ave. Fort Pierce, Fla. 34982 www.stlucieco.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Heavy Equipment & Crews Working on South Hutchinson Beaches Feb. 12-17

SOUTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND - St. Lucie County's Port, Inlet and Beaches Department will be working with crews to level the shoreline along roughly five miles of beaches starting Monday, Feb. 12 through Saturday, Feb. 17.

Eastman Aggregates has been contracted to till the shoreline to reduce the escarpment (cliffs) caused by the increases wave action in recent months. This federally permitted work will take place along 1.3 miles just south of the Fort Pierce Inlet/Jetty Park to Kimberly Bergalis Park and along 3.4 miles on the southern end of Hutchinson Island from Normandy Beach to the Glasscock Beach/Martin County line.

All beaches will remain open during this time. Visitors are encouraged to pay attention to the signage and closed-off areas while the equipment is being used.

Crews will be using a tractor and mounted rake system to level off the slope of the sand to prepare for the upcoming sea turtle nesting season. St. Lucie County has a record-setting sea turtle nesting season last summer with 7,163 Loggerhead nests, 682 Green Turtle nests and 251 Leatherback nests. For more information about what residents can do to help protect sea turtles, visit: www.stlucieco.gov/seaturtleseason.

**ERICK GILL | Director | Communications Division**