

# Water Debris – Current Situation

18 October 2016

**\*\*This document does not address the demolition or repair of docks\*\***

## For Reimbursement from FEMA:

- Debris on land needs to be disaster related and the legal responsibility of the applicant.
- Debris in the water has to be (1) disaster related (2) not the responsibility of another entity and (3) an immediate threat to public health and safety.

Investigations of the waterway have been conducted by Florida Fish and Wildlife (FWC), the US Coast Guard (USCG), and the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Geotagged pictures were requested from local, state, and federal partners and were uploaded into GATOR. All groups, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), have had the ability to review the current findings. At this point, all groups have determined that no emergency actions are justifiable, transitioning this issue from Response to Recovery. Below is a brief overview of our current situation.

## Navigable waterways debris

- Responsibility: Federal Agencies (USACE / USCG)
- Issues seen: No substantial debris
- State action required: None
- Local action required: None
- Reimbursement: None



## Main channel nearshore debris

- Responsibility: Federal Agencies (NRCS, USACE, USCG)
- Issues seen: some lingering debris, but not characterized as an immediate threat to public health and safety
- State action required: DEP evaluating the need for debris removal, identifying potential responsible parties and evaluating funding and cost options for potential non-reimbursable cleanup. (3-6 Months)
- Local action required: identify specific locations of high concentration of debris. (immediate and ongoing)
- Reimbursement: None



### Tributary debris nearshore

- Responsibility: Federal Agencies (NRCS)
- Issues seen: potential debris characterized as an immediate threat to public health and safety
- State action required: apply for streamlined river-wide NRCS assessment on behalf of counties (by end of month). Following assessment DEP will identify potential responsible parties and evaluate funding and cost options for potential cleanup (3-6 months).
- Local action required: identify specific locations of high concentration of debris, or apply to NRCS (immediate and ongoing)
- Reimbursement: Following assessment, if state undertakes work, state would be responsible for 25% of cleanup costs. If locals undertake the work, locals will be responsible for 25% of cleanup cost.



### Onshore debris

- Responsibility: Homeowner / Local Government
- Issues seen: debris on land and in yards
- State action required: If debris is on state lands, state will need to follow normal debris removal process. (ongoing)
- Local action required: homeowner will need to drag debris to the public right of way for normal pickup by local government debris removal. Any debris on city or county lands will need to follow normal debris removal process. (immediate and ongoing)
- Reimbursement: If state debris, state would be responsible for 25% of removal costs. If local debris, locals will be responsible for 12.5% of cost.
- Putting debris back in the water may result in fines.



Please direct further questions to:

Henry Hernandez  
State Debris & Special Considerations Officer  
[Enrique.Hernandez@em.myflorida.com](mailto:Enrique.Hernandez@em.myflorida.com)  
Division of Emergency Management  
Office: (850) 922 – 5914  
Cell: (850) 212 - 9511