



SHOREBIRD LAW ENFORCEMENT WORKSHOP:

Engaging Local Law Enforcement On Shorebird and Waterbird Enforcement Within Tampa Bay



Issue Summary

Over the last few years, there has been a noticeable lack of two important things for the enforcement of rules and regulations to protect waterbirds during their breeding seasons:

- A misunderstanding of local LE around the rules and regulations of Florida imperiled beach-nesting birds and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- Little communication regarding these regulations among law enforcement agencies at multiple levels.

Relevant Parties

- Audubon Florida
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
- Indian Shores/Redington Shores Police Department
- Florida State Parks
- Pinellas County Environmental Lands
- FL Department of Environmental Protection



NRLI Techniques

- Facilitator agenda
- Introductions (Round Robin)
- Game to reinforce information (BIRD BINGO!)
- Breakout groups for discussion and scenarios
- Enticement for attendance - Snacks, drinks and SWAG!





Outcome: Success!

Outcome:

- 23 total attendees
- 5 law enforcement agencies and 9 total organizations
- We could only determine immediate success by the number of attendees and the number of organizations that were represented.
- The best measure of long-term success could be assessed during future waterbird breeding seasons to determine whether the workshop provided the best tools for implementing waterbird protections and increased communication among law enforcement agencies.

Lessons Learned

- Sending a “Save the Date” a few months in advance helped attendance.
- Keeping presentations to 10 - 15 minutes helped attendees stay focused.
- Facilitator agenda was a useful aid in planning.
- If there are multiple members from a single organization, try to split them up during any group activities.
- Asking agencies for permission to share their contact information with other attendees could be useful in the future.



Next Steps

- Assess whether agencies had a better understanding of waterbird protections and had better communication throughout the 2025 breeding season.
- Implement a similar workshop for agencies in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.
- For Holley: Implement NRLI strategies as an Executive Director in a young nonprofit to engage with new partners and grow as a cohesive, knowledgeable organization in the community.
- For Brendan: Continue to engage with relevant parties and provide assistance to Audubon, FWC and USFWS law enforcement where possible.



Questions?

