

## Boards Application Form

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### Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

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**Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted**

**Mr.** **Donald** **R.** **Deis**  
Prefix First Name Middle Initial Last Name

**donder.deis@gmail.com**  
Email Address

**1456 Ballinton Drive**  
Home Address Suite or Apt

**Melbourne** **FL** **32940**  
City State Postal Code

**Home: (904) 704-6992**  
Primary Phone Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

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**2 years**

To which Commissioner are you applying?

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N/A

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### Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.**

**Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).**

**Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.**

**In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

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**Yes**  **No**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

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- Science**  
 **Technology**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

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**As a scientist, I have been involved in several past and ongoing studies within the Indian River Lagoon system for many years. I have a good understanding of past and current conditions and keep in touch with other scientists studying the system. The efforts of Brevard County are making a difference. I would like to continue to be a part of guiding those efforts in the future. The passage of the tax to fund the SOIRL effort demonstrates how much a healthy IRL system means to the citizens of Brevard County. Transparent oversight of those funds is required to demonstrate proper use of those funds. I know that I can be of knowledgeable assistance in providing that oversight.**

Mr. Donald R. Deis

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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**My attached resume reveals that I have a Masters Degree in marine ecology from Florida Atlantic University. My thesis was on the effects of wastewater outfall on Lake Worth Lagoon (water quality and benthic community). As a professional, I have worked for government and the private sector for 44 years and am in the process of retiring from my current job as a principal scientist (vice president) with Atkins/SNC Lavalin, a 60,000-person international science and engineering firm. I have worked on major ecosystem restoration programs throughout the US and internationally including Everglades restoration and Louisiana saltmarsh restoration (including 12 years of study after the Deepwater Horizon oil release). I have been involved in studies with the St. Johns River Water Management District on the IRL system and 16 years of study of the seagrass beds on the flood tidal shoals at Sebastian Inlet for the Sebastian Inlet Tax District. I have volunteered on citizen advisory boards advising the county commission on comprehensive development plans and project compliance. I am currently volunteering with the Brevard Zoo on water quality monitoring, seagrass, oyster, clam, and other IRL related projects.**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

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**I have had all of these attributes to reach the level of principal scientist. The character, judgement, and analytical abilities certainly come naturally with being an experienced scientist. Communication and group consensus building have come with extensive training in those areas. I have had to learn to communicate abilities and results both for proposals and conferences (both professional and public). I have had to build consensus to move projects and programs forward. I work hard to understand and develop the science, but understand that continued funding for projects and programs requires the ability to clearly communicate the results and build consensus.**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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**I have led and been a part of many groups from other companies, government, and the private sector entrusted with making decisions, some in emergency response situations. I have always tried to adhere to and emphasize leaving any personal interests and feelings at the door in order to focus on the task at hand. The task at hand for the Oversight Committee is to transparently make recommendations for use of the Trust Funds. I will be using my background knowledge to assist the committee in the efforts to make sound recommendations.**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

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**Don Deis has worked for 45 years in the environmental science field as a consultant to industry and government. His areas of interest include environmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring of marine, estuarine, and coastal projects; restoration of estuarine and marine ecosystems; impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and transport; disaster response and planning; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) related to disasters; and environmental rules and regulation. During his career, he worked on many large restoration programs in Florida and around the U.S., including Everglades Restoration, Mississippi River delta area restoration, Missouri River, and The Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Mr. Deis has authored or coauthored many technical reports and published several papers in his areas of interest. In "retirement", he has been donating his time towards grants working with Brevard Zoo and others on seagrass and other restoration projects within the Indian River Lagoon system. He is currently a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Plan.**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

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- Email**
- Phone**

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**[Don Deis reference letter - email.pdf](#)**

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

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**I am currently serving on the steering committee for the Seagrass Assembly being organized by the Marine Resource Council.**

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

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**My current company, Atkins/SNC Lavalin, has contracts with Brevard County, in particular, for the muck dredging project in Satellite Beach. I am not actively involved in that project. I am currently a temporary assignment employee working less than 8 hours per week on existing projects that I am trying to finalize.**

Please explain your interests and experiences.

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As a marine/estuarine ecologist, my interests and experiences have centered around coastal waters. I am an avid boater, sailor, and kayaker. I am also a swimmer, snorkeler, and diver. I enjoy being on and in the water, and, of course, I want that water and the surrounding ecosystem to be as healthy as possible. My career has allowed me to mix my interests with the projects that I have done over the years. Those projects have leaned towards assessment, restoration, mitigation, and/or enhancement of systems. The ultimate goal is to get the system in as good a condition as possible. As I retire, the Indian River Lagoon system has become my focus of interest for study and recreation. From my experience, I know what the system was able to achieve in the past and I understand the tipping point that caused the current condition. From my experience, I know that we can achieve restoration of the system.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

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I have a M.S. in marine/estuarine ecology from Florida Atlantic University. My specialty is benthic invertebrate ecology and water quality. My thesis was on the effect of a wastewater outfall into Lake Worth Lagoon (West Palm Beach). I am in the process of retiring after working as a scientist for government or science and engineering firms for over 40 years. I am retiring after 25 years as a Principal Technical Professional (Vice President) at my current firm. My work has focused on assessment restoration, mitigation, and/or enhancement of ecosystems applying technology and science. I am a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP); a member of the National, state (Florida) and local Association of Environmental Professionals; a member of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; and a member of the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society. I have served on committees and boards for all of these organizations including board president of the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals. I mentor young professionals with all these organizations and my company. We moved to Brevard County from northeast Florida. I served as the chairman of a citizens advisory committee to the county commission for comprehensive planning and development. I would hope that it is obvious that I am not the type of individual to sit back and let things happen. A difference is made by getting involved. I would like to be a part of the restoration of the Indian River Lagoon system. Being a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee and advising in the expenditure of the Trust Funds would be a method of getting involved and making a difference.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

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I am requesting no accommodations at this time.

[Deis Resume 2022.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

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**I Agree**

# Donald R. Deis, CEP

## Donald R. Deis. M.S., CEP

### Employment

1978 – 1985 – Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Biologist  
1985 – 1992 – Continental Shelf Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager  
1992 – 1996 – KBN Engineering/Golder Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager  
1996 – 2022 – Atkins North America/SNC Lavalin, Inc., Vice President/Principal Scientist

Don Deis has more than 45 years of experience in the environmental science field as a consultant to industry and government. His areas of interest include environmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring of marine, estuarine, and coastal projects; restoration of estuarine and marine ecosystems; impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and transport; disaster response planning; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) related to disasters; and environmental rules and regulation. Mr. Deis has authored or coauthored more than 100 technical reports and published articles in his areas of interest.

Mr. Deis has both domestic and international experience developing environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. He has experience in evaluation (modeling) and assessment (monitoring) of restoration projects. He has used habitat equivalency analysis to scale mitigation for impacts from NRDA and permitting-related projects. As a coastal ecologist, he has particular interest in hard bottom (reef) and seagrass habitats. He has studied these habitats throughout Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Mr. Deis' Atkins project experience includes:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Lead scientist on the identification and restoration of propeller-scar damaged areas in seagrasses in St. Joseph Bay, Alligator Harbor, and St. Andrews Bay Aquatic Preserves. **Duration:** 01/2018-2021

**Port of Miami, North Bulkhead Realignment Program, Miami, FL.** Project manager for permitting the realignment of the north bulkhead of the Port to address the future needs of the cruise industry at the Port. The program includes permitting the mitigation needs of the program which includes removal and reattachment of corals from the existing bulkhead and development of an artificial reef program to address mitigation requirements. Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) was used to scale seagrass and shoreline vegetation impacts. **Duration:** 09/2015-2021

**Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Baton Rouge, LA.** Project scientist in support of the development of the Restoration Plan for Barataria Bay. Tasks include the development of the Strategic Restoration Plan and the Restoration Plan associated with obtaining DWH NRDA funding for the project and project alternatives analysis in support of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. The projects considered include alternatives associated with the mid-Barataria sediment diversion into Barataria Basin. **Duration:** 10/2017-2021

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### Education

M.S., Marine Biology/Ecology, Florida Atlantic University, 1978  
B.S., Biology, Wright State University, 1974

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### Certifications

Certified Environmental Professional (CEP), #91032285  
Certified 40-hour HAZWOPER and current 8-hour HAZWOPER refreshers  
Atkins Dive Team:  
:: YMCA Open Water Diver  
:: NAUI Nitrox  
:: PADI Advanced Diver  
:: PADI Rescue Diver, Current O2 delivery, First Aid, CPR  
Certifications, Licensed Captain (uninspected passenger vessel)  
TWIC Badge expires 11/13/2024  
FEMA Badge expires 6/19/2022

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### Professional affiliations

Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals, Past Board President  
National Association of Environmental Professionals, Member, Florida and state regional affiliate  
Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation

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# Donald R. Deis, CEP

## **Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Baton Rouge, LA.**

Project scientist providing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) support services in preparation of the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion EIS. Under this initial scope of work (SOW), the Atkins team will work closely with the engineering and design team selected for this project and CPRA staff to perform the tasks in support of the EIS.

**Duration:** 08/2018-2021

## **Accelerating Recovery After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Response of the Plant-Microbial-Benthic Ecosystem To Mitigation Strategies Promoting Wetland Remediation And Resilience, Louisiana State University, LA.**

Co-principal investigator on the benthic portion of this study funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI). The study tracks salt marsh plants and animals through remediation schemes and time. The research emphasizes ecological assessment of plant structure and function, marsh integrity, analysis of microbial communities, stable isotope signatures and life cycle of dominant benthic and faunal communities, and soil biogeochemical techniques. **Duration:** 10/2012-10/2014

## **Long-Term Impact, Recovery and Resilience: Wetland Plant-Microbial-Benthic Ecosystem Responses to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Mitigation Strategies Promoting Sustainability, Louisiana State University, LA.**

Co-principal investigator on the benthic epi-, infaunal portion of this study. The study continues and expands the GoMRI funded research described above. **Duration:** 1/2016–2021

## **Synthesis of Long-Term Wetland Impacts, Recovery, and Resilience Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Comprehensive Meta-analysis and Supporting Resiliency Experiments, Nicholls State University, LA.**

Co-principal investigator on research to assess the long-term impacts of the *DWH* spill using a more broad, multi-tier approach that includes a combination of (a) collaborative meta-analyses across multiple data sets and literature synthesis including data from GoMRI, the NRDA, and other studies, and (b) supporting resiliency experiments that integrate measures of long-term ecological status of the wetland vegetation-soil-benthic complex. **Duration:** 1/2018–present

## **Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area (EPWMA) Hydrologic Study and Conceptual Restoration Plan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation**

**Commission, FL.** Project manager on a *DWH* oil spill National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded project tasked with using a combination of Geographical Information System (GIS) current and historic geospatial data in conjunction with two EPWMA field visits to 1) determine the current and historic surface water flow patterns of EPWMA and 2) develop engineering restoration recommendations to restore the historic flow patterns. **Duration:** 02/2016-10/2016.

## **Deepwater Horizon (MS Canyon 252) Oil Spill Shoreline Assessment Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, LA.**

Team lead for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the MS Canyon 252 specific shoreline assessment project in Louisiana. The assessment included field sampling and leadership of a multi-agency team. Additional related assignments include assistance in the management of staffing for 5-7 rotating field scientists and technical advisors serving as NOAA representatives on shoreline assessment teams (in AL, MS, and FL), marsh cleanup monitoring teams in LA, and research and monitoring cruises in offshore waters (NOAA R/V Pisces). **Duration:** 10/2011-04/2012

## **Plan for Response to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Incident, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, LA.**

Co-author on plan describing the important ecological, geomorphic, and hydrologic features and factors that may be affected by or may have an effect on the oil released from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; oil spill

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

response strategies; a summary of documents that are most relevant to the development of a statewide plan to respond to the oil spill; and recommendations on the technologies proposed to be employed by the state. **Duration:** 5/2010–6/2010

**Old Tampa Bay Regional Water Quality Improvements/Tampa, FL.** Technical advisor on water quality benefits to seagrass and the development of the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) for the effects of improvements on the seagrass beds. FDOT District Seven is anticipating significant right-of-way costs associated with multiple upcoming projects, including acquisition of high-value commercial parcels for stormwater treatment ponds. The Atkins team, in partnership with FDOT environmental permitting and drainage staff, developed a unique cost-saving alternative that will meet state water quality criteria, provide greater benefits to the receiving water body (Old Tampa Bay), and save millions of taxpayer dollars versus the costs associated with stormwater ponds. **Duration:** 8/2017-2020

**Indian River Lagoon Muck Dredging Projects, Brevard County, FL.** Environmental lead. Brevard County targeted muck sediment removal as a method to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$10 million in grant funding to Brevard County for muck removal projects in the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries. Atkins is assisting the County in the identification and permitting of projects. **Duration:** 09/2014-2021

**Port Canaveral Pre-emptive Mitigation Program, Canaveral Port Authority, Cocoa Beach, FL.** Project manager for conducting a preliminary feasibility study of the Port's expansion and rail line program to determine the scale of impacts and the mitigation opportunities that could be available to meet the mitigation needs for seagrass and mangrove impacts. **Duration:** 08/2013-2019

**Seagrass and Benthic Survey Services, Florida Inland Navigation District, East Coast, FL.** Project manager for seagrass and benthic habitat assessments extending through permitting and construction monitoring and including post-construction assessments. These studies have been performed along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway distance along the east coast of Florida. **Duration:** 03/2012-09/2014

**Seagrass and Wetland Mitigation Program, Port Manatee, Palmetto, FL.** Environmental lead. As a result of the port's master planning process, Atkins described the future mitigation needs for the building of additional facilities at the port. The field studies were performed to describe the current seagrass and wetland impacts that would be caused from build-out of future facilities and the selection of mitigation projects that would mitigate for those impacts in advance of the impacts. The Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method was used to estimate the acres of mitigation required. **Duration:** 04/2008-2019

**Seagrass Habitat Restoration Management Plan, National Park Service, Everglades National Park, FL.** Senior coordinator for this Seagrass Habitat Restoration Management Plan (SHRMP) for Florida Bay which serves as a comprehensive and adaptive plan for assessing, restoring, and monitoring vessel-induced damages to seagrasses. It was developed to provide technical guidance for Everglades National Park staff and managers and it is consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and incorporates the most current scientific data on Florida Bay's ecosystem and seagrasses. This SHRMP provides a concise, consistent, adaptable, and easily applied process for evaluating seagrass damage, determining the appropriate restoration action for the situation, determining the required permits, and evaluating the recovery progress. **Duration:** 09/2012-03/2013

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**St. Lucie Inlet Federal Navigation Project, Martin County, FL.** Provided environmental support for Martin County's Coastal Engineering Department assisting them in their role as local sponsor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the St. Lucie Inlet Federal Navigation project. Atkins performs several support tasks for inlet maintenance including annual bathymetric surveys, inlet condition surveys, construction management and oversight, state funding requests and grant progress reports, acquisition of regulatory permits, maintaining permit compliance, physical and environmental monitoring of the inlet and coast of Martin County, all in coordination with state and federal agencies. **Duration:** 03/2011-2021

**Smathers Beach Renourishment Construction Engineering and Inspection, Survey, and Biological Support Services, City of Key West, FL.** Assisted with the development of the biological monitoring plan, participated in data collection, analyzed data to determine the potential effects of beach renourishment on the nearshore biological resources including seagrass and hardbottom, and was lead author on all biological monitoring reports. **Duration:** 2001-2014

**Sebastian Inlet Channel Permitting and Comprehensive Seagrass Mitigation Program, Sebastian Inlet District, Indian River County, FL.** Permitting lead for the channel extension to the Intracoastal Waterway. The project involved an analysis of mitigation alternatives and recommended. Monitoring included the quantification of annual changes to submerged aquatic vegetation on the flood tidal shoal, through the use of aerial photography. Services included on-site verification; compilation of a propscar inventory; mapping; and calculating the area of damage of visible impacts from propeller scarring blowout holes and other hull-related damages. Coordinated development of the monitoring report summarizing the aerial analysis and field verification, which was prepared as part of the annual reporting as stipulated in the USACE and FDEP permits. **Duration:** 2005-2021

**Mid-Currituck Bridge Compensatory Mitigation Plans For Submerged Aquatic Vegetation within Currituck Sound, North Carolina Department of Transportation/North Carolina Turnpike Authority, Currituck County, NC.** Project manager for a field investigation was performed that focused on the identification of sites within Currituck Sound suitable for restoration or enhancement of submerged aquatic vegetation that could provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation habitat associated with the construction of the Mid-Currituck Bridge. **Duration:** 07/2012-04/2013

**Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, South Florida Water Management District/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, South Florida.** Senior project manager to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Provided technical support and expertise to the estuarine areas of CERP for restoration coordination and verification (RECOVER). For RECOVER, assists in the facilitation of the southern coastal systems subteam of the assessment team and the evaluation team. These teams support CERP alternatives evaluation (modeling) and monitoring. **Duration:** 2001-2012

**Port of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, FL.** Overall project manager for an environmental resources survey of the Palm Beach Harbor area, with the objective of documenting all biological resources in and around the Harbor. This information was used in conjunction with previously collected data to help assess impacts of port dredging, expansion, modifications, and associated mitigation, while complying with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Clean Water Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and similar laws. Resources included seagrasses,

# Donald R. Deis, CEP

colonized hardbottom, manatee habitat, and popular diving and snorkeling areas.

**Duration:** 2010-2011

**Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Freeport, TX.** Project manager on this monitoring program for the Flower Gardens Banks (FGB) National Marine Sanctuary, off the Texas coast. Atkins teamed with other coral reef experts on this eight-year contract with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that involved a long-term coral reef monitoring program for the FGB. The goal of the program was to monitor coral populations to detect changes that may be caused by oil and gas activities, and to address concerns related to both gradual and punctuated degradation of this unique offshore ecosystem. Also served as project manager on another BOEM contract to conduct a post-hurricane assessment of sensitive benthic habitats within the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, including the Bright, Geyer, McGrail, Sonnier, and East Flower Garden Banks. These banks were located near the paths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. **Duration:** 2002-2010

**Project Manager on a Preliminary Assessment of Injury from the Grounding of the MV Igloo Moon on Hardbottom, ECM Hudson, Biscayne National Park, FL.** Performed the assessment of the MV Igloo Moon, a butadiene ship that grounded on seagrass and hardbottom in Biscayne National Park. Worked with the responsible party towards a cooperative assessment. **Duration:** 2000-2001

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection Seagrass and Hardbottom Permits Training, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Training manager responsible for overall management of this task order, including developing the training courses and materials for local, state, and federal regulators. This project, part of a larger consulting contract with Florida Department of Environmental Protection, involved a series of ecological workshops and training courses focused on issues related to marine and estuarine habitats including seagrasses, wetlands, and hardbottom habitats. The training was for permit processors from local, state, and federal agencies within Florida, and issues addressed included identification of the major species and general ecology of these habitats, as well as concepts in restoration and mitigation in these habitats. Training modules were developed on seagrass species in Florida, ecology of seagrasses, and seagrass restoration. **Duration:** 2004-2006

**Joint Coastal Permit Program Support, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Permitting manager/technical advisor. Assisted with permit processing and technical oversight on various task orders, including the Manatee County Port Authority's seagrass mitigation program. The Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) program, overseen by Florida Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, involves the concurrent processing of applications for coastal construction permits, environmental resource permits, wetland resource (dredge and fill) permits, and sovereign submerged lands authorizations. Environmental consulting services provided in support of the JCP program included technical oversight, permit processing, and permit application review. Typical projects that require a JCP permit include beach restoration or nourishment, construction of erosion control structures such as groins and breakwaters, public fishing piers, maintenance of inlets and inlet-related structures, and dredging of navigation channels including disposal of dredged material onto the beach or in the nearshore area. **Duration:** 2002-2009

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Mr. Deis' additional project management and/or sciences support project experience includes:

- Seagrass consultant for seagrass restoration in Sarasota Bay for the Town of Longboat Key. Duration: 2003
- Lead scientist for investigation of the distribution and ecology of the seagrass *Halophila johnsonii* in southeastern Florida. Duration: 2000-2001
- Project manager for development of a seagrass restoration program in the south Lake Worth Lagoon. Duration: 1998
- Project manager for seagrass monitoring projects in Fort Lauderdale. Duration: 1998-2002
- Co-project manager on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's evaluation of mitigation options to port development in Tampa Bay. Duration: 1984-1986
- Project manager for a seagrass planting project in Biscayne Bay for the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management Bay Restoration Program. Duration: 1994-1995
- Project manager on the aquatic monitoring (seagrass and hardbottom) for the thermal discharge from a power plant in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Duration: 1994-1997
- Co-project manager on the development of the Surface Water Improvement and Management plan for Florida Bay. Duration: 1989
- Project manager for development of seagrass mitigation plans for Harbour Isles Marina, Fort Pierce, and Indian River Lagoon. Duration: 2003-2007
- Project advisor of development of seagrass mitigation plans for Bahia Mar Marina in Fort Lauderdale. Duration: 2000
- Project manager of seagrass planting in Key West. Duration: 2001
- Project manager for benthic macroinvertebrate and seagrass survey in Ocean Ridge, FL. Duration: 1993
- Chief scientist on seagrass mapping and environmental analysis in conjunction with marina development associated with a Fort Lauderdale redevelopment project. Duration: 1990-1991
- Scientist on mapping and monitoring nearshore seagrass and hardbottom habitats for the Southwest Florida Nearshore Habitats Study for the Minerals Management Service. Duration: 1988-1990
- Scientist for a seagrass revegetation project in Laguna Madre, TX. Duration: 1986

## Publications and Presentations

Price, R., D. Loy, D. Deis, S. Zengel, and J. Brucker. 2023. Sediment tube implementation for restoration of extensively propeller scarred *Thalassia* meadows. *Florida Scientist* 86(2): 346-359. Special Issue: Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tampa Bay Area Scientific and Information Symposium 2022, available <https://tbep.org/our-work/library/>.

Deis, D.R., J.W. Fleeger, D.S. Johnson, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, S.A. Graham, S. Zengel, A. Hou. 2020. Recovery of the salt marsh periwinkle (*Littorina irrorata*) 9 years after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill: Size matter. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 160: 111581.

Deis D.R., I.A. Mendelssohn, J.W. Fleeger, S.M. Bourgoïn, Q. Lin. 2019. Legacy effects of Hurricane Katrina influenced salt marsh erosion following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. *Science of the Total Environment* 672: 456-467.

D.S. Johnson, J.W. Fleeger, M.R. Riggio, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, S.A. Graham, D.R. Deis, A. Hou. 2018. Nutrient subsidies do not enhance the positive effects of foundation species on initial recovery of saltmarsh animals. *Ecosphere* (9)1 e02082.

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Fleeger J.W., M.R. Riggio, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, D.R. Deis, D.S. Johnson, K.R. Carman, S. A. Graham, S. Zengel, A. Hou. In review. What Drives Resiliency of Saltmarsh Infauna after Oil Spills? *Estuaries and Coasts*.

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**From:** Scott, Mel W <[Mel.Scott@atkinglobal.com](mailto:Mel.Scott@atkinglobal.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 14, 2022 5:23:29 PM

**To:** Deis, Don R <[Don.Deis@atkinglobal.com](mailto:Don.Deis@atkinglobal.com)>

**Subject:** Email/Letter of Reference for Don Deis for appointment to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund Citizens Advisory Committee

It is my privilege to provide this letter of reference for Don Deis for appointment to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Citizens Oversight Committee. I have known Don since 2014 when I joined Atkins/SNC Lavalin in a business development/strategy role. In my role, I quickly came to realize and appreciate his passion for the work that he does and recognized that he was held in the highest esteem for decades of applying scientific study, observation and solutions for the benefit of our marine/estuarine environment.

Don has built an extensive background of project and program work over the 40+ years he has been a practicing scientist. This background allows him to seamlessly fill roles in project teams where personnel truly enjoyed working with him for his expertise and can-do personality.

An example has been his work with the Sebastian Inlet Taxing District (SITD). He was brought on board with an existing project team to develop a mitigation program for the Intracoastal Waterway to Inlet channel after the permit had been denied for lack of an adequate program. He developed the program and the required monitoring. The SITD Commissioners enjoyed the information and stewardship of environmental resources and have elected to continue the monitoring to the present day, equating to over 16 years of data on the condition of the seagrasses at Sebastian Inlet. Don continued in the role of project manager for the program until recently passing that role to a colleague in his preparation for retirement.

Don has long been viewed in the private sector world of environmental consultancies and the regulatory realm of public service, as a trusted source of knowledge and practical solutions for environmental restoration, recovery and prosperity.

Don certainly has the knowledge and communication skills to become a valuable member of the oversight committee providing stewardship of the trust funds. He understands what the Indian River Lagoon system needs in the restoration process from listening to the experts and his own work. I fully support his desire to volunteer his time for the benefit of this community that he calls home.

Sincerely,

**Mel Scott** *AICP*

Senior Business Development Director  
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