



## MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 12

From: Staff

Date: October 12, 2018 Joint Council Meeting

Subject: Florida Coastal Mapping Program Initiative – Presentation by Philip Kramer, Ph.D.,  
Director, Florida Institute of Oceanography

### Introduction

The Florida Coastal Mapping Program (FCMaP) is an initiative between Federal and Florida state agencies and institutions to coordinate and facilitate the collection and accessibility of Florida coastal seafloor data in order to fill priority areas and gaps. The presentation will describe the importance of the data for federal, state, regional, and local decision-making related to infrastructure, resource management, emergency response, and coastal resiliency efforts.

### Background

The State of Florida has the longest coastline in the contiguous United States (1,345 miles). About 20 percent of Florida's coastline is contained in the South Florida and Treasure Coast regions. The coastal zone is heavily populated (76 percent of the state population lives in coastal counties) and contains 1,180 miles of sandy beaches that support economically important recreation and tourism. Florida's coastal waters are among the most valuable coastal zones in the nation: generating over \$30 billion in revenue per year, hosting the largest number of recreational boats and saltwater fishermen in the country, and containing important marine mineral resources and unique ecosystems. There is continual need for high resolution data of the coast and adjacent seafloor for resource and habitat mapping, understanding coastal vulnerability, evaluating performance of restoration projects, and many other coastal and marine spatial planning efforts.

### Program Overview

To address the increasing need for coastal seafloor data, in 2017, the United States Geological Survey and the Florida Institute of Oceanography spearheaded the FCMaP, which is an initiative between Federal and State agencies and institutions to assess existing data and develop a prioritization and strategy for filling gaps with high resolution data for all of Florida's coastal waters from the shore to the shelf edge. To accomplish this goal, a steering committee composed of four Federal and four State agencies are working together closely to coordinate ongoing and future planned mapping efforts, and engaging with stakeholders through workshops and other communications to prioritize new data collection and set consistent mapping standards. The goal is

to implement a strategy to have complete, consistent, high resolution data for all of Florida's coastal waters by 2028.

Recommendation

For information and discussion purposes only.