

CHAPTER 19: UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

Unforeseen circumstances are those events, conditions, or situations that are completely unanticipated at the time of preparation of this HCP. If, during the implementation of this HCP, an unforeseen circumstance occurs that could have a significant negative impact on sea turtles or other protected species in the Plan Area or could affect the ability of Walton County to effectively manage activities under this HCP, the following procedures will be followed:

Within five (5) business days of the date the Unforeseen Circumstance is brought to the County's attention, the HCP Coordinator will advise the USFWS Panama City, Florida Field Office by certified letter of the following:

- The nature of the situation;
- The geographic and temporal extent to which the beach will be affected by the situation; and
- The potential impact of the situation on sea turtles and/or other protected species in the Plan Area.

Within three (3) business days of USFWS receipt of the written notification described above, the County will discuss the Unforeseen Circumstance with USFWS personnel and other affected parties, as applicable. An appropriate response to the situation, such as modifying the HCP and/or ITP, shall be developed and implemented upon approval of the USFWS. The County and USFWS shall determine the extent to which additional information is needed to document the merit and/or significance of the Unforeseen Circumstance or assess its relative impact on protected species in the Plan Area. As mutually agreed to, a special monitoring plan may be formulated. The plan will contain the following:

- A description of the data and/or information to be collected;
- Procedures for collecting the data/information;
- Data/information collection responsibilities;
- A schedule for implementing the plan; and
- Reporting requirements.

Upon obtaining all necessary information, the USFWS, Walton County, and other third party individuals or agencies, as applicable, shall meet to analyze and review the data and develop an action plan to successfully resolve issues associated with the Unforeseen Circumstance.