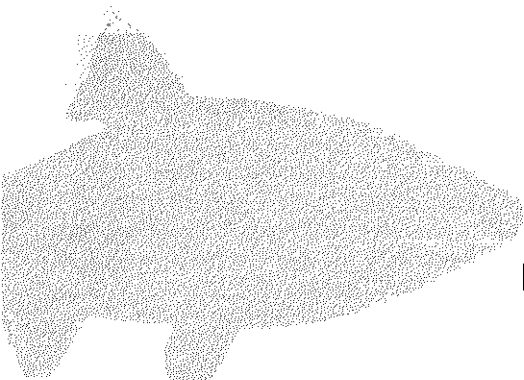
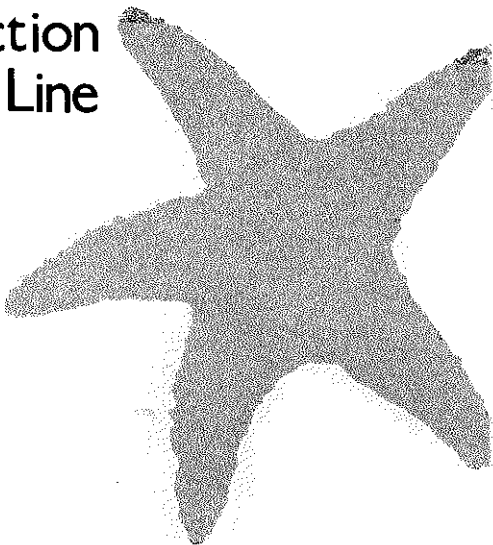


# Reestablishment of the Coastal Construction Control Line




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Florida Sea Grant Extension Program


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## Program background

In 1971, the Legislature of the State of Florida enacted Section 161.053 of the Florida Statutes, relating to coastal construction and excavation. The act provided that the Florida Department of Natural Resources (DNR) shall establish coastal setback lines on a county basis, requiring engineering and topographic surveys, local public hearings, etc. 


Simplistically, the originally stated purpose of the setback line was "for the protection of upland properties and the control of beach erosion". The determining criteria were "ground elevations in relation to historical storm and hurricane tides, predicted maximum wave uprush, beach and offshore ground contours, the vegetation line, erosion trends, the dune or bluff line, if any, and existing upland development". 

At that time it was mandated that setback lines were to be reviewed by DNR at five (5) year intervals from the time of establishment, or at the written request of affected county or municipal officials. Consultant to the DNR in the original establishment of the setback lines was the Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering Laboratory of the University of Florida. Variances or waivers to the setback requirements were authorized by DNR in accordance with need, site characteristics, and existing lines of construction. 


## The existing program


A major rewrite of Section 161.053 F.S. in 1978 resulted in an expansion of the legislative intent and essentially a redefinition of the demarcation of regulatory jurisdiction from setback line (SBL) to coastal construction control line (CCCL). The apparent intent of the renaming of the "line" was to: 

- a.) Remove the connotation of a "setback", which it was never literally meant to be, and to


- b) Better reflect the expanded area of regulatory jurisdiction which resulted from the adoption of a 100-year storm impact zone as the basic determinant in the implementation of the regulatory scheme. 

Principal consultant to the DNR in the current statewide reestablishment of the CCCL is Dr. T. Y. Chiu of the Beaches and Shores Resource Center, Institute of Science and Public Affairs, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

In 1978, the DNR was given the expanded charge to "establish coastal construction control lines on a county basis along the sandy beaches of the state fronting on the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico". Such lines were to be "established so as to define that portion of the beach dune system which is subject to severe fluctuations based on a 100-year storm surge, storm waves, or other predictable weather conditions". 

This intent was further modified by the legislature in 1985 in accordance with a major caveat which provided that "the department may establish a segment or segments of a coastal construction control line further landward than the impact zone of a 100-year storm surge, provided such segment or segments do not extend beyond the landward toe of the coastal barrier dune structure that intercepts the 100-year storm surge. Such segment or segments shall not be established if adequate dune protection is provided by a state-approved dune management plan." 

## Criteria for reestablishment

At present, there are essentially four (4) criteria for the reestablishment of CCCL's statewide. Three of these are technical and one is essentially non-technical. The figures are a graphic depiction of the four methodologies or "conditions" for control line determination. 



Erik J. Olsen, professional engineer with Olsen Associates in Jacksonville, Florida, prepared this information as a public service to the citizens of Florida.

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