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Introduction

This booklet is intended to assist coastal property owners in identifying, trimming, and altering mangrove trees in a manner that will:

- provide a view of the water
- protect valuable mangrove resources; and
- be in compliance with state laws that regulate the trimming and alteration of mangroves.

Mangroves are tropical trees that are restricted to the calm intertidal areas of Florida where temperatures do not usually drop below freezing for prolonged periods. They generally exist south of St. Augustine on the east coast and from Cedar Key south on the West Coast.

There are three species of mangroves in Florida: *red*, *black*, and *white*. They are generally not found in freshwater systems due to competition with other species, and other factors. Because each species responds differently to trimming, information on the identification of these species is provided in pages 7 through 10 of this booklet.

Mangroves provide many benefits to us and our environment:

- Their roots and trunks resist and prevent shoreline erosion;
- They provide food and habitat for the marine food chain, including fish we like to catch and eat;
- They assist with maintaining and improving the quality of our coastal waters; and
- They can protect homes from severe wind damage.

Mangroves can grow rapidly and often form dense thickets that block the view of the water for waterfront property owners. For this reason, many property owners have already cut their mangroves to improve their view of the water, and many more would like to cut mangroves to get a view they do not currently enjoy. Unfortunately, some cutting of mangroves has not been done in conformance with all applicable state and local regulations. If not done properly, trimming can harm or kill



mangroves. While this might maximize a view of the water, many people do not realize that killing or harming mangroves can have many unintended adverse consequences to the benefits mangroves provide. The Florida Marine Research Institute has reported an 86% loss of mangroves in Florida since the 1940's. With this has been a loss in the productivity and quality of many of our nearshore waters.

The Florida Legislature enacted the 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act (1996 Act) in sections 403.9321-403.9334 of the Florida Statutes (F.S.). This law regulates the trimming and alteration of mangroves statewide, including at the local level. A copy of the 1996 Act can be obtained from agency sources listed at the end of this booklet. While the 1996 Act does recognize a riparian right to view in the intent section (ss.403.9323, F.S.), there are instances when waterfront property owners may not be able to legally obtain a view or all the view they desire.

Before You Trim

Shoreline owners have a unique opportunity to directly participate in the stewardship of Florida's marine environment by understanding that there are many ways that a reasonable view of the water may be obtained without severely injuring or killing mangroves. By so doing, portions of mangroves that are not cut can remain healthy and continue to provide valuable benefits to our coastal waters.

Regulations: The heights to which a mangrove tree may be trimmed depends upon the species and condition of the tree, and the provisions of the 1996 Act. Mangroves may not be trimmed lower than 6 feet in height from the substrate (ground surface) under the exemptions and general permits in the 1996 Act, except for certain maintenance trimming of historically established configurations. Large trees may have to be reduced in height in stages over several years, and often trees cannot be trimmed as low as 6 feet. In no case may trimming result in defoliation (loss of the tree's leaves), destruction (death of a part or all of the tree), or removal of a mangrove. Actions that result in the defoliation, destruction, or removal of a mangrove are considered "alteration," (not "trimming") and are regulated through individual permits. The right to trim mangroves is only provided to riparian owners (see Page 11, *Description of Terms*). Both the property owner and the person hired by the property owner to do the trimming should understand the 1996 Act and applicable local regulations, because both the property owner and the person performing the trimming are jointly and severally responsible for complying with the 1996 Act.

Chapters 373 and 403, F.S., contain separate provisions for cutting mangroves in order to conduct activities authorized under the wetland resource and environmental resource permit programs. Mangroves located within the footprint of an activity so authorized do not require a separate authorization under the 1996 Act. However, future trimming of mangroves to enjoy the view attained by a structure so authorized would be regulated under the 1996 Act.



Professional Mangrove Trimmers (PMTs): The 1996 Act has provisions (section 403.9329(1) and (2), F.S.) for qualifying certain persons as PMTs. These persons are required to supervise or conduct certain types of trimming, and typically are the best qualified to do most trimming in a manner that is least damaging to the trees. Pages 12 through 14 of this pamphlet provide additional information on the use of PMTs.

Conducting trimming without professional experience: Shoreline owners may trim mangroves themselves where previously untrimmed trees are between 6 and

10 feet in height, and where trimming is needed to maintain a previously trimmed configuration.

However, such maintenance trimming is limited to situations where the mangroves have not grown so tall and dense that a view of the water has been blocked for a prolonged duration. Except for trees 10 feet or less in height, reestablishment of a previous configuration requires a PMT. Regardless of who conducts the trimming, contact your county Extension Service office or the International Society for Arboriculture (<http://www.floridaisa.org>) for additional information on standard horticultural practices. There also are some excellent and easy to read books available from libraries, bookstores,

and the internet for this purpose. Remember, you are responsible for trimming mangroves in accordance with the 1996 Act. (Refer to Page 4, *Trimming for Healthy Plants*, and Pages 5-6, *Trimming Styles*.)

Styles of trimming: Mangroves can be trimmed in a variety of ways that can provide a view while still protecting the health of the tree. A PMT, your County Extension Service, libraries, and many web sites can provide additional information on standard horticultural practices. However, in all cases, the trimming must be done in a manner that will not cause the defoliation, destruction, or removal of the mangrove. Suggested alternative trimming techniques are provided on Pages 5-6, *Trimming Styles*.

Trimming for Healthy Plants

Healthy mangroves are more beneficial to your shoreline, to the fisheries, to our water quality, and to your landscape design than are mangroves that have been trimmed improperly.

Trimming (many publications also may refer to this as “pruning”)

Objective - When trimming a branch, the desired result is a nice, clean cut to the branch side of the juncture of the branch and the limb (or trunk). Damage to that junction will wound the tree. Stubs left on the tree are subject to decay, and may be a source for future insect and fungal damage.

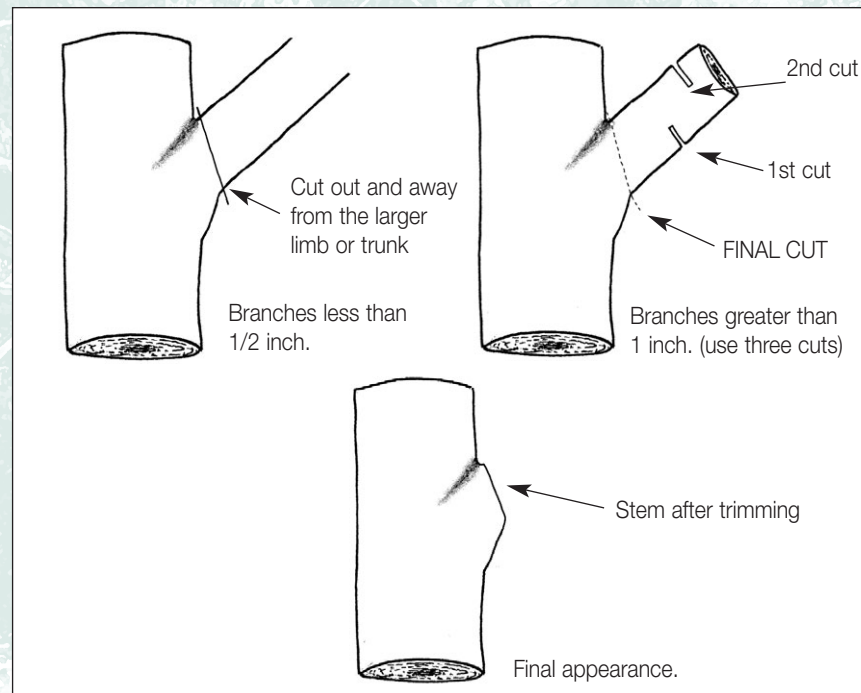
Equipment - Tools must be clean and free of oils. It is important that the tools are sharp for a clean cut. The wood at the cut should be smooth, not frayed. Frayed cuts may not heal properly and may be a source of infection. If fraying occurs, your trimmer's tools may not be sufficiently sharp. Do *not* use pesticides or pruning paint on any cuts.

Timing - Trimming is best done during the months of October through March, when mangroves are not growing as vigorously and energy demand for producing propagules is reduced. However, this is also the time when mangroves may be damaged or killed by freezes. It is recommended that mangroves not be trimmed for at least six months following a freeze in order to allow time to determine what portions of the tree may have actually been affected by the freeze. Removal of dead and freeze-damaged portions of a tree is a good horticultural practice after that six-month period. In addition, once mangroves have been trimmed, it is a good idea to maintain that configuration through regular (i.e. six-month to one-year intervals) maintenance trimming. This maintenance should only cut back to the previous configuration. Regular trimming will reduce stress to the tree in the future and will maintain a view of the water.

Procedure - To obtain the preferred cut without the weight of the branching causing the wood to tear, follow the procedures at right.

Defoliation is stressful. If all or most of the leaves are trimmed off of a mangrove, its survivability is severely reduced. Red mangroves and large black mangroves are most susceptible to death from defoliation. To prevent this from happening, it is recommended that no more than 25% of the foliage is removed annually. It is also recommended that the upper 50% of the canopy of red mangroves not be cut (i.e., no top trimming of red mangroves). The upper canopy of old, mature black mangroves also should not be removed.

Refer to pruning guides available from county extension agents, the International Society of Arboriculture (<http://www.floridaisa.com>) and bookstores for further details.



Trimming Styles

There are several styles of trimming that can provide a pleasing view of the water. While hedging is the form most commonly used, it often is the most environmentally damaging. Other alternate styles can provide a view in a manner that is less stressful to the mangroves and may require less maintenance.

Windows: A view through large trees can be obtained by selective limb removal within the lower or central area of the tree. Windowing allows for a view while maintaining shade, privacy, a windbreak and additional habitat for wildlife.



Hedging: Trimming mangroves into the hedged shape provides a view across the top of the mangroves. If all of the leaves of a tree are in the upper canopy and trimming the canopy will remove all of the leaves, then the top trimming activity of hedging may not be performed or only performed to the height that does not defoliate or otherwise damage the tree. Hedging is not recommended for red mangroves or for mature black mangroves. Trimming to form a hedge generally cannot be performed to heights of less than 6 ft. unless the property has a previously, legally established trimming configuration to a lower height and the agency has reviewed and



approved documentation of the historic configuration. (see Page 14 *Reestablishment of Previous Configurations*).

Undercutting: This is the trimming of the lower portion of a tree. Undercutting as it is sometimes called, may provide a view lower than 6 feet through a taller tree but *young plants that grow up through that viewing area can not be trimmed until they exceed 6 feet*. The results will be similar to window trims with a lower view at 6 feet. Recruiting young plants (those colonizing under established trees) also should *not* be pulled out of the ground. This activity technically is a form of alteration and requires a permit.



Whatever style of trimming you choose, consider a style that can be maintained with the least loss of leaves resulting from the trimming activity. Mangrove leaves are an important source of nutrients for the smaller animals of the marine food chain, including sea grass and coral reef communities. Leaves that die naturally on the tree and then fall into the water are much more quickly biodegraded and available as a food source than healthy leaves cut from the tree. Fresh cut green leaves will stay mostly intact lying on the substrate for months before total leaf breakdown.

Trimming Styles - continued

Design for a view and landscape that is comfortable for you while considering the benefits mangroves provide to your home and property. Refer to individual species discussions for additional trimming information.



A combination of windowing and other landscape plants gives this home a beautiful and lush appearance with a view of their front walkway.



If you are fortunate to have mangroves growing along your seawall or rip rap, the lush green vegetation provides a pleasing contrast to the cement and rock structures.



These homeowners have decided to let their mangroves grow naturally. A small path through the mangroves provides access to their dock and pier.



This two-story house, under construction, has a view of the water from various rooms of the house and still retains privacy from passing boaters.

Red Mangroves

named after the color inside the bark

Red mangroves (*Rhizophora mangle*) are characterized by their arching prop roots. These roots, referred to as “aerial roots” before they enter the water, extend from the main trunk and lateral branches and grow down towards the water until they reach the substrate. Once in the substrate, the roots are referred to as “prop roots.” These prop roots provide support to the weight of the tree and assist in nutrient uptake and salt exclusion. Their leaves are elliptical, glossy and dark green on top, and paler, dull green, often with small black spots, underneath.

Red mangroves tend to grow closest to the water. They are very valuable in preventing erosion of coastal properties because their prop roots, and smaller roots growing from them, help stabilize the shifting substrate of shorelines.



Propagules hanging from red mangrove

The intertwined habitat of the roots provides shelter for juvenile and smaller species of fish and other marine organisms. Red mangroves are the most susceptible of the mangroves to damage from severe trimming. Cutting of the aerial/prop roots is prohibited without authorization from the agency. Red mangroves only grow from the end of their stems. This area is called the “apical meristem,” (growing tips on branches and main stems). When all of the leaves and the apical meristems are removed, their survival is very doubtful. This is why topping of red mangroves can be so damaging. These trees are best cut by trimming no more than 50% of the lower part of the canopy to form windows.

Propagules are red mangrove seedlings that “start growth” within the wall of the fruit. They continue to grow and sprout while floating on the water. As the tip of the propagule gets saturated with water, it becomes heavy, falls toward the substrate, and sends out roots that establish in the substrate.

Front cover photo: Ibis on a red mangrove.



(above) Red mangrove – note extensive prop roots

(left) Leaves and young propagules of red mangrove

Black Mangroves

named after their dark bark

Black mangroves (*Avicennia germinans*) are distinguished by leaves that are dull, dark green on the upper side and whitish green/gray underneath. The leaves aid in salt exchange, which is why they often have a salty encrustation on the underside. They also possess pencil-like roots, called pneumatophores, that grow up from the sediments (like soda straws) for several feet from the base of the tree. The pneumatophores grow off of extensive cable roots running just under the surface of the soil. The pneumatophores are similar to the prop roots of the red mangrove in that they aid in air, nutrient, and salt exchange.

Black mangroves can grow to be quite tall, usually with a single main trunk that often has a large diameter in older trees. They are useful as windbreaks during severe weather. They are most attractive when the lower branches are trimmed (windowed) and the upper canopy is left intact or thinned. Their form, color and slender leaves often allow a pleasing, and somewhat private view from waterfront homes.

Black mangrove propagules are smaller than red mangrove propagules and gray. They lay stranded by the tides until the fruit wall falls from the developing seedling, as the seedling sends small roots into the substrate. Black mangroves are generally able to grow in more saline and "basin like" conditions than the other mangroves.



(above) Window views under black mangrove canopy

(left) Leaves and fruits (propagules) of black mangrove



(above) Window view through a canopy of a black mangrove

(left) Pneumatophores are primary characteristics of black mangroves

White Mangroves

named after the whitish bark

White mangroves (*Laguncularia racemosa*) are characterized by leaves that are uniformly light green on both their upper and lower surfaces. The leaves typically have small “notches” (indentations) at their tips, and two small “bumps” on opposite sides at the base of the leaf stem. The bumps are sugar secreting glands called “nectaries” that are thought to attract ants which aide in the control of other small plant-eating insects. White mangroves generally do not tolerate the same extent of flooding that black and red mangroves can tolerate. On rare occasions they produce pneumatoid roots around the base of the tree, but usually they are characterized by a single trunk without any other distinguishing features in the sediments surrounding the tree trunk.

As the fruits are stranded on exposed substrate the fruit wall becomes spongy and the seedlings emerge .

Of all Florida's mangroves, the white mangrove is the most tolerant of trimming, including hedging. The wood of the white mangroves is not as strong as the black mangrove and they do not have the supporting prop roots associated with red mangroves. Trimming that removes all of the understory and lateral branches while retaining only a canopy can produce a “lollipop” trunk that often, in time, will bend and break. When trimming white mangroves, trim for balance of their weight as well as how they look.



(above) White mangrove tree with two trunks and a balanced canopy over a mostly white mangrove hedge



(left) White mangrove leaves and fruits



(right) White mangrove flowers just opening

Similar Species – Buttonwood & Brazilian Pepper

Buttonwood - *Conocarpus erectus*

Although buttonwood typically grows in close association with mangroves and is often referred to as a mangrove, it is not a true mangrove, and is not protected or regulated by the 1996 Act. Buttonwood is protected by some local government ordinances. Buttonwood has two forms. The most common has leaves that are similar to black mangrove leaves in shape, although they are uniform green on the upper and lower surfaces. The rarer variety has leaves that are silvery green on both sides. This latter form is often used in landscaping. They do not have any prop roots or pneumatophores. The color of the leaves, the absence of large obvious root structures, and the angles that are apparent on most of the stems distinguish buttonwood from the three mangroves.



Buttonwood

Brazilian pepper – *Schinus terebinthefolius*

Brazilian pepper is an exotic shrub with dark green compound leaves (several portions to the leaf blade; as contrasted to mangroves that have simple leaves with only one apparent blade). The leaves and wood are aromatic when crushed or cut. Brazilian pepper also is distinguished by having clusters of bright red berries. The leaves can be irritating to some people, and the berries can be toxic to wildlife.

Pepper grows very dense, with branches that are often intertwined and difficult to penetrate. Brazilian pepper also grows rapidly, typically crowding out other species of plants, and blocking views. Brazilian pepper typically grows immediately behind and within the landward edge of mangroves. When removing Brazilian pepper plants from the mangrove area, care must be taken not to cause destruction to the mangroves. Because Brazilian pepper is considered a nuisance exotic, homeowners are encouraged to completely



Brazilian Pepper

Description of Terms

Alter - Any human-induced removal, defoliation, or destruction of mangroves other than trimming.

PMT - Professional mangrove trimmer. See page 12.

Pre-trimmed height - The height of the mangroves prior to trimming, whether the mangrove is trimmed for the first time ever, or for the first time in a long while. If the mangroves are being trimmed to maintain a legally established height and configuration, the pre-trimmed height is the height the mangroves are just prior to the maintenance trimming.

Private or other public ownership of submerged lands - Submerged lands waterward of Mean High Water (MHW) may be owned by an entity other than the state of Florida. The entity's permission is required to trim mangroves on their (submerged) land.

Property restrictions - Legally binding covenants running with the land that restrict existing and future property owners from performing certain activities on the land. These may be in the form of a conservation easement or other deed restriction. These covenants are recorded in the public land records, and accompany the deed for the property. Homeowners associations often have covenants that restrict certain activities on private property and common property under the control of the association.

Riparian mangrove fringe (RMF) - Those areas where the band of mangroves along a shoreline is no more than 50 feet from the most

landward trunk to the most waterward trunk. Certain mangrove trimming within an RMF is exempt from the need for permits (see ss. 403.9326(1)(a), (b), and (c), F.S.). However, the RMF designation does not apply to areas within certain conservation easements, certain mitigation areas, or within any of the types of public areas listed in s. 403.9325(6).

Riparian property owner - The owner of lands immediately landward of the elevation of MHW. Only a riparian property owner can trim mangroves. In many locations, an entity other than the state owns the lands between MHW and upland property; in such cases, the landward property owner is not a riparian property owner.

Sovereign submerged lands - Submerged lands, generally extending waterward from the MHW elevation, owned by the state of Florida. The 1996 Act provides permission for riparian property owners to trim mangroves on sovereign submerged lands immediately waterward of their property.

Trim - Cutting of mangrove branches, twigs, limbs and foliage, but not including the removal, defoliation, or destruction of mangroves. Some people may refer to this as "pruning," but this term is not in the 1996 Act.



Professional Mangrove Trimmers (PMT)

These are persons who are considered to be professional mangrove trimmers based on certification in one of the following organizations or who have demonstrated qualification under the 1996 Act. They include:

- Arborists certified by the International Society of Arboriculture
- Professional Wetland Scientists, certified by the Society of Wetland Scientists
- Environmental Professionals, certified by the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals (Florida Association of Environmental Professionals membership is insufficient)
- Ecologists certified by the Ecological Society of America
- Landscape Architects currently licensed under part II of chapter 481
- Persons in receipt of PMT status from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (in locations that are not delegated to local governments) or as recognized by a local government that has been delegated the state mangrove regulatory program from the DEP



Mangrove trimmer

Note: Membership in an organization generally does not constitute a certification by that organization.

The services of a PMT are required to qualify for certain provisions under the 1996 Act:

- For trimming under an exemption to establish the desired and legal height and configuration of the mangroves for the first time, where the mangroves are greater than 10 feet in height.
- For trimming to reestablish a documented, historical, and legal height and configuration for the mangroves within a Riparian Mangrove Fringe (RMF). In non-RMF areas, the homeowner must obtain a permit, but the trimming may not require a PMT. Note that reestablishment differs from maintenance. A PMT is not required to *maintain* mangroves at a previously attained, legal configuration. The difference is that maintenance is no longer available when the mangroves have grown to such a height or configuration so as to have blocked the view previously maintained for a prolonged period of time.
- For trimming mangroves under a general permit.
- In areas where a local government has been delegated mangrove regulatory authority and the local government requires a PMT (registered with the delegated government) for non-exempt trimming.

Note: In all cases, including when a PMT is not used, check into the past trimming experience of the person you are considering hiring for mangrove trimming. Contact your local mangrove regulatory office (listed on the inside back cover) for a trimmer's regulatory history and talk with other waterfront homeowners who have used various mangrove trimmers in your area.

A list of PMTs may be viewed at
<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/mangrove.htm#pmt>.

A listing on that web site does not constitute an endorsement of any particular PMT by the DEP.

Exemptions for Homeowners

Activities that qualify for an exemption may be conducted at no charge and without notice to the DEP.

There are four exemptions applicable to homeowners in the 1996 Act (see ss. 403.9326(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d), F.S.). Those provisions and the rest of the 1996 Act may be viewed at: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/rules/mtpa96.pdf>. Additional exemptions exist for trimming by governments, utilities, and surveyors. You should carefully review the definition of *riparian mangrove fringe* (RMF) in s. 403.9325(7) of the 1996 Act (and as summarized on Page 10), because this term is critical to qualifying to use the exemptions.

General conditions to qualify for an exemption:

- Only trimming, not alteration, may be performed. Defoliation is not allowed.
- Mangrove roots may not be trimmed. Cutting mangrove roots is considered alteration and needs a permit.
- Trimming may only be done by the riparian mangrove owner or with the permission of the riparian property owner. The trimming must be limited to the mangroves on the riparian property and on the sovereign submerged lands immediately waterward of that property. Cutting on another person's property is not authorized.

The following is a summary of the conditions of the homeowner's exemptions. Because this is just a summary, you should review the actual wording of the 1996 Act for all the applicable provisions.

- **Exemption 403.9326(1)(a), F.S.:**

- Homeowners may trim the mangroves *in an RMF, without a PMT*, on their property and the sovereign submerged lands immediately waterward of the property **when the mangrove height exceeds 6 feet, but is not taller than 10 feet and the mangroves are not reduced in height below 6 feet.**
- When the property shoreline is greater than 150 feet in length, only 65% of the mangrove trees along the property shoreline may be trimmed.

- **Exemption 403.9326(1)(b), F.S.:**

- Homeowners may trim the mangroves *in an RMF, with a PMT*, if the **mangroves are between 10 feet and 24 feet in height.**

- Trees over 16 feet tall prior to trimming must be trimmed in stages so that no more than 25% of their leaves, and the tree's regrowth since the last trim, is removed annually.
- When the property shoreline is greater than 150 feet in length, only 65% of the mangrove trees along the property shoreline may be trimmed.

- **Exemption 403.9326(1)(c), F.S.:**

- Homeowners may **reestablish the height of a previous, legally-attained mangrove configuration** if the mangroves are less than 24 feet in pre-trimmed height. The services of a PMT is required if the mangroves are between 10 feet and 24 feet in height.

- **Exemption 403.9326(1)(d), F.S.:**

- Homeowners may **maintenance trim** mangroves that have been previously trimmed in accordance with an exemption or prior government authorization, provided the trimming does not exceed the height and configuration previously attained.



Reestablishment of Previous Configurations

Provisions of the 1996 Act generally do not allow mangroves to be trimmed lower than six feet in height from the substrate. This does not mean that everyone will be able to trim their mangroves to a height of six feet. For example, if trimming to such a height can be expected to result in the removal, defoliation, or destruction of a mangrove, the cutting is considered alteration and would not qualify as exempt trimming; a permit would be required for such alteration, and it may or may not be issued. In other cases, attaining a height of six feet must be done through stage-reduction trimming by a PMT.

However, the 1996 Act includes two exceptions to this six-foot height limitation:

- To reestablish a previous, legally-attained configuration within an RMF (s. 403.9326(1)(c), F.S.); and
- To maintain mangroves in accordance with a previous configuration attained through an exemption or previous government authorization (s. 403.9326(1)(d), F.S.).

In both cases, the reestablishment and maintenance cannot result in the destruction, defoliation, or removal of the mangroves. Further, the prior configuration must be documented. In cases where the documentation clearly establishes that the mangroves were historically and legally trimmed to a height lower than six feet, they may be reestablished and maintained to that height in

accordance with all the provisions of the above exemptions. Such documentation generally must include:

- information on *when* and specifically *where* on the property the prior height and configuration was attained (so the agencies may determine if such height and configuration was legally achieved);
- copies of permits or acknowledgement of exempt status from all

applicable agencies, where available. This may include copies of letters sent to DEP under the provisions of s. 62-321.060, F.A.C., (the former Mangrove Protection rule of DEP);

- copies of photos or affidavits from persons attesting to their knowledge of the previous mangrove configuration.

There are a few coastal communities where most of the waterfront property owners previously legally achieved and maintained a mangrove height and configuration of less than



six feet; in other communities, only a few of the properties have such a configuration. You may expect DEP staff to request to view the above documentation during field compliance checks. If you do not have the necessary documentation, and you are not in one of the rare, fully documented communities, DEP staff may conclude that the mangroves on your property do not qualify to be reduced to a height of less than six feet from the substrate without a permit.

General Permit – Individual Permit

General Permit (GP)

Activities that do not qualify for one of the exemptions described on page 13 may qualify for a general permit. The specific conditions of the general permit in s. 403.9327(1)(a), F.S., should be reviewed before doing any work; see: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/rules/mtpa96.pdf>.

- A \$100 fee and notice to the DEP is required 30 days before beginning any work under a general permit. A suggested general permit application form is provided in: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/forms.htm>.
- General permits are limited as follows:
 - The band of mangroves subject to trimming must not be more than 500 feet deep (from the most landward to most waterward trunk).
 - Only 65% of the mangrove trees along a shoreline that exceed a height of six feet may be trimmed. When there are multi-family units or fee simple owners along a common shoreline, the 65% must be distributed equitably so that each unit obtains a view (unless a restriction has been placed over a portion of the shoreline).
 - A PMT must be used and identified to the agency prior to trimming.
 - The trees may not be trimmed lower than 6 feet



- Trimming must not result in the removal, defoliation, or destruction of mangroves; alteration is not authorized.
- Once the permitted height and configuration for the mangroves is legally achieved, it may be maintained under the exemption in s. 403.9326 (1)(d), F.S.
- The general permits in s.403.9327.F.S. are not available in areas where there is local delegation of mangrove regulations.

Individual Permit (IP)

An individual permit may be applied for all other trimming or alteration:

- that cannot be done under an exemption or GP;
- that will result in alteration of mangrove(s), e.g. extensive exotic plant removal (photo below)
- when the applicant does not want to use a PMT.

A fee of between \$250 and \$500 is required (depending on the number of mangroves to be trimmed or altered), and an application is required (available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/forms.htm>). Agency staff should be contacted for additional information.



Cutting that may lead to defoliation of mangroves would need an individual permit.

Regulatory Offices and Sources

DEP OFFICES

Flagler County

7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200B
Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7590
(904) 807-3300

Brevard, Indian River & Volusia Counties

3319 Maguire Blvd., Suite 232
Orlando, Florida, 32803-3767
(407) 893-3311

Citrus to Sarasota Counties

3804 Coconut Palm Drive
Tampa, Florida 33619-8318
(813) 744-6100

Charlotte County

7451 Golf Course Blvd.
Punta Gorda, Florida 33982
(941) 575-5814

Lee & Collier Counties

2295 Victoria Ave., Suite 364
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
(941) 332-6975

Monroe County

2796 Overseas Hwy., Suite 221
Marathon, Florida 33050
(305) 289-2310

Palm Beach County

400 N. Congress Ave., Suite 200
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401
(561) 681-6600

Indian River & St. Lucie Counties

1801 Hillmoor Drive
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952
(772) 398-2806

LOCAL DELEGATED GOVERNMENTS

A few local governments in Florida have received delegation of the State Mangrove Regulatory program, including:

Miami-Dade Co.

Coastal Resources Section
Dade Co. Environmental Resources Management
33 SW 2nd Avenue
Miami, FL 33130-1540
Phone: (305) 372-6575, FAX (305) 372-6479

Broward Co.

Depart. of Planning & Environmental Protection
Department of Natural Resource Protection
218 SW 1st Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: (954) 519-1230, FAX (954) 519-1412

Pinellas Co.

Water and Navigation Section
Department of Environmental Management
512 S. Ft. Harrison Ave.
Clearwater, FL 33756
Phone: (727) 464-4761, FAX (727) 453-3371

City of Sanibel

Natural Resources
City of Sanibel
800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957-4096
Phone: (941) 472-3700, FAX (941) 472-3065

Town of Indian River Shores

Building Dept.
Town of Indian River Shores
6001 North A-1-A
Phone: (561) 231-4453, FAX (561) 234-5246

Town of Jupiter Island

Town of Jupiter Island
P.O. Box 7
Hobe Sound, FL 33475
Phone: (561) 546-5578, FAX (561) 546-6228

STATE MANGROVE COORDINATOR

The office of the State Mangrove Coordinator is located in Tallahassee:

Bureau of Beaches & Wetland Resources

2600 Blair Stone Rd., MS 2500
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400
(850) 245-8482 or 245-8474

WEBSITES

1996 Mangrove Trimming & Preservation Act

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/rules/mpta96.htm>

Professional Mangrove Trimmers

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/mangrove.htm#pmt>

Mangrove Trimming & Alteration Applications

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/form.htm>
Scroll down to Mangrove Trimming

Facts About Mangroves

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wetlands/erp/mangrove.htm#facts>

