LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC – LAWS TO BE OBSERVED - COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT AND OTHER WILDLIFE REGULATIONS (SEA TURTLE).
(REV 10-21-21) (1-6-22) (FY 2027-28)

SUBARTICLE 7-1.4 is expanded by the following:

The Department has determined that the project occurs within the known habitat of sea turtles (*Caretta caretta, Chelonia mydas, Dermochelys coriacea, Lepidochelys kempi, Eretmochelys imbricate*).

The Department will provide instruction at a pre-construction meeting regarding:

1. The presence of species and limits of critical habitat.
2. The appearance, habits and biology of the species.
3. Their protected status.
4. The need to avoid collisions with these species.
5. The civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing these species.

Advise all work crews of this information.

Provide sediment and turbidity barriers constructed of material in which a sea turtle cannot become entangled. Secure and monitor the sediment and turbidity barriers to avoid protected species entrapment. Sediment and turbidity barriers may not block sea turtle entry to or exit from designated critical habitat without prior approval of the Engineer and concurrence from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resources Division, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Operate all vessels at the minimum safe speed when transiting and maintain vigilant watch for sea turtles to avoid striking them. Operate at "Idle Speed/No Wake" speeds while in the construction area in water depths where the draft of the vessel provides less than a four-foot clearance from the bottom, and in all depths after sea turtles have been observed and recently departed the area. Follow marked channels or routes of deep water whenever possible. Maintain a distance of 150 feet or greater between sea turtles and the vessel. When visibility is limited, assign a designated individual to observe for sea turtles and limit vessel operation to only daylight hours.

All on-site project personnel are responsible for observing water-related activities for the presence of sea turtles. When sea turtles are observed, follow the sea turtle species guidelines posted in the URL address in 7-1.4.