

Environmental Facts

Port Canaveral has initiated several environmental protection programs including:

- *Manatee awareness and protection*
- *Sea turtle awareness and protection*
- *Right whale watching network*
- *Utilizing salt tolerant and native plants where possible*
- *Recycling and trash/ hazardous waste awareness*
- *Water quality monitoring*
- *Ship wastes*
- *Storm water*
- *Beach renourishment*
- *Locks and connection to the Indian River Lagoon*
- *Fisheries*
- *Recreation and green space*

Port Canaveral is home to several protected species such as manatees, sea turtles, and rare offshore sightings of right whales in the months from November to April. All marine construction projects at Port Canaveral are designed and executed with protection and monitoring of these species.

Port Canaveral designed and was the first in Florida to implement manatee plates at its commercial piers. The metal bumpers protect manatees from being crushed by holding the ship away from the seawall. Every port in the state now uses the manatee plates.

Port Canaveral regularly monitors the water quality of the harbor, Barge Canal and beaches from Jetty Park south to Cocoa Beach as well as stormwater that enters the harbor. Many of these monitoring stations have been sampled since the mid- to late-1980s, which enables the Port to look at trends and respond to any unusual readings in order to ensure the health of these waterways.

Port Canaveral has more area designated to recreation and green space than all 13 other Florida deepwater ports combined. From our flagship ocean-front Jetty Park offering camping, beach access, fishing, wildlife viewing, and unparalleled views of space launches to our other two parks—Freddie Patrick and Rodney S. Ketcham--dedicated to fishing and boat launching, Port Canaveral truly is unique.

In April 2007, in response to the severe 2004 hurricane season, Port Canaveral completed its \$2 million sediment trap at the entrance to the harbor. It was designed to protect the channel against shoaling from storm events. It is the only one in the state specifically designed to catch sand to prevent shoaling impacts rather than for sand bypass projects, however, it may prove beneficial to local beach renourishment projects.

In 2008, Port Canaveral is completing a massive stormwater and wetland treatment pond system that will provide water quality treatment to the older marina and fishing areas of the west side of the port. You can see this system in the State Road 401 interchange.

Port Canaveral has constructed a pump-out station for use by smaller commercial vessels. Several of the day cruise lines plan to use the pump-out station in order to remove vessel wastes, which will be treated at municipal wastewater treatment plants. Larger cruise ships and some smaller day cruise vessels have on-board wastewater treatment systems that in most cases meet or exceed the treatment levels of municipal wastewater plants.