

Jim Stoutamire

Florida Sovereign Submerged Land Value/Fees

Biography

Jim serves as Environmental Administrator in the Bureau of Submerged Lands and Environmental Resources, a division of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection. In that position, Jim's areas of responsibility include sovereign submerged lands rules and policy, sovereign submerged lands training of District staff, EPA wetlands grants coordination, sovereign submerged lands and environmental resource permit legislative liaison, and GIS system development.

Jim received his Ph.D. from the University of Missouri, Columbia, in 1975.

Presentation Abstract

Florida Sovereign Submerged Land annual lease fees are based on either a base square footage charge or 6% of income earned on SSL with surcharges for first time leases, long term leases, leases in resource protection areas and discounts for public access marinas and certain public benefit projects. Non-water dependent activities are rarely authorized but when they are, annual and one-time fees are assessed based on appraised value and profit gained. Private easements, such as channels to upland development and fiber optic cable installation, are assessed generally one-time fees based on an appraisal of the SSL used and the enhanced value or profit gained through the use of those SSL. Where activities result in "unauthorized" impacts (ex. ship groundings) to SSL resources then damages are assessed based on the "value" of the resources impacted and the costs of repair with different formulas being used for soft (seagrass) vs. hard (coral) bottoms.