• Vessel owners are encouraged to hire a licensed marine contractor or salvor to recover their vessel to provide the safest method possible for your vessel and to protect coastal resources.

• If the vessel is located above, or landward of the normal high-water line, the property owner contiguous to the location of the vessel should be contacted for permission to work on their private property.

• Vessel removal and marine debris removal activities from shallow waters should be conducted at high tide to minimize risks to sensitive habitats including marshes, mangroves, seagrasses, and oyster beds.

• Perform site visits and work from waterways, paved surfaces, or existing roadways whenever possible to minimize impacts to sensitive habitats.

• Removal operations should take place during daylight hours pending tidal conditions.

• Do not block major egress points in channels, passes, and bays during assessment and/or recovery operations.

• Vessels should anchor in bare sand bottom areas during in-water response operations when possible.

• When operating motor vessels over seagrass, care should be taken to avoid propeller scarring or washing.

• Use floating lines for anchoring and vessel removal operations to prevent line sweeping of seagrass and the bottom.

• In mangroves and seagrasses, remove vessel through the damaged pathway by which it entered or the shortest possible route to avoid additional damage to the mangroves and benthic habitat.

• Trimming or altering of mangroves may require approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (see FDEP Post-Storm Guidance).

• Incidental dredging and/or filling associated with removal may require approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (see FDEP Post-Storm Guidance).

• Remove all equipment, materials and trash at the conclusion of operations.

• Have absorbent materials such as absorbent pads and absorbent boom readily available in the event of an accidental pollutant discharge.

• Use of detergents (dish soaps, degreasers, etc.) or any other type of oil dispersion chemical is prohibited.

• In the event of an oil or chemical release during recovery operations, please refer to the contact numbers at the end of this document.
Wildlife

- Watch for and avoid collisions with sea turtles, manatees, dolphins, sawfish, or other animals. Stop all in-water operations if sea turtles, manatees, or dolphins are observed within 50’ and resume only after the species has departed the area of its own volition.
- When sea turtles, manatees, dolphins, sawfish, or other animals are sighted while a vessel is underway, attempt to remain parallel to the animal’s course.
- Avoid excessive speed or abrupt changes in direction until they have left the area.
- Obey all Manatee protective zones and boating safety zone regulations.
- Maintain a minimum distance of 300’ from any observed animals while underway.
- Reduce speed to 10 knots or less when sea turtles, manatees, dolphins, sawfish, or other animals are observed, when safety permits.
- Avoid all bird nesting or aggregation areas.
- Removal operations should avoid marked sea turtle or bird nests and stay low on the beach to minimize contact with unmarked nests. In the event that nesting turtles, birds, or hatchlings are sighted, cease removal operations in the area.
- Remove all trash or anything that would attract wildlife to work areas.
- Any killed or injured fish or wildlife observed should be reported to the FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline 888-404-FWCC (3922).

If Vessel Owner is removing their vessel, please notify the Hurricane Ian Vessel Hotline at 850-488-5600 and report the following:
- Vessel Removal Information:
  - Vessel registration#
  - Current Owner name:
  - Vessel Location:
  - Date of removal:
  - Contractor/salvior/self:

The FWC assumes no responsibility for the safety of the salvage operations. This responsibility rests solely with the vessel owners/operators and/or their salvage contractor.

Emergency Notifications

Federal
- Anyone witnessing an oil spill, chemical release or maritime security incident should call the National Response Center hotline at 1-800-424-8802.

State
- Oil, Fuel or Hazardous Material Spills in Florida Waters: Call the State Watch Office at 800-320-0519.
- To report wildlife law violations anywhere in the state, 24 hours a day, call the toll-free FWC Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-FWCC (3922)
I need to make repairs, what can I do without talking to or notifying DEP?
The EFO’s intention is to let people repair what was legally there immediately before the hurricane. Anyone can do the following:

- Repair (either temporarily or permanently) structures and drainage systems that have not been completely destroyed.
- Repair structures on state owned submerged lands that are water dependent, like a residential dock.
- IF I AM A GOVERNMENT ENTITY - Restore elevations and contours of uplands, wetlands and submerged lands and navigation channels by local, regional, and state governments.
- Remove debris and trash, sunken vessels, vegetation, and structural remains that have been deposited into waters or wetlands, so long as no dredging or filling occurs.
- Repair, restore, or replace structures, land, and submerged contours to the conditions that were authorized or otherwise legally existed prior to the Hurricane.

I need to make repairs or rebuild, what do I have to get authorization for?
Certain activities that need to occur in order to recover property, protect property from further damage, maintain navigation, or protect public health, safety and welfare may not qualify for the exemptions mentioned above. If that is the case, your activity may qualify for a Field or an Individual Authorization/Permit.

What activities may qualify for a Field or an Individual Authorization?

- Replacement of structures that are completely destroyed.
- Pre-existing non-water dependent activities on state owned submerged lands.
- Regrading, dredging or filling uplands, wetlands and submerged lands, if not a government entity.
- Trimming or altering of mangroves.
- Removal of debris, sunken or grounded vessels, vegetation, and structural remains that have been deposited into waters, wetlands or uplands if it requires filling or dredging.
- Other activities that cause minimally adverse impacts as determined by the Department.

How do I request a Field or Individual Authorization?
Provide a notice to the applicable District office of the Department that includes:

- Description of the work requested.
- DEP Facility I.D. for the location (if applicable).
- The name, address, and telephone number of the contact person for the work requested.
Where do I send my Notice requesting a Field or Individual Authorization?

Email your request to your local District office – see District contact information above. Please include “Emergency Field Authorization” in the subject line of all emails.

What happens after I submit my Notice?

Department staff will conduct a site inspection and issue a Field Authorization if the activity qualifies. The Field Authorization may include specific conditions and an expiration date.

What is the deadline for my request for Field or Individual Authorization?

The due date is dependent upon the storm specific Emergency Order dates and extensions. Please contact your local District office for the due date – see District contact information above.

What specific exemptions (those that don’t require notification) am I allowed?

- The installation and repair of mooring pilings and dolphins associated with private docking facilities or piers and the installation of private docks, piers and recreational docking facilities, or piers and recreational docking facilities of local governmental entities when the local governmental entity’s activities will not take place in any manatee habitat, any of which docks:
  - Has 500 square feet or less of over-water surface area for a dock which is located in an area designated as Outstanding Florida Waters or 1,000 square feet or less of over-water surface area for a dock which is located in an area which is not designated as Outstanding Florida Waters.

- The replacement or repair of existing docks and piers, except that fill material may not be used and the replacement or repaired dock or pier must be in the same location and of the same configuration and dimensions as the dock or pier being replaced or repaired.

- The restoration of seawalls at their previous locations or upland of, or within, 18 inches waterward of, their previous locations.

What State Lands Authorization do I need to conduct repairs associated with the DEP Exemption?

These activities are granted a Letter of Consent (authorization to be located on State own lands) provided all the terms and conditions of those rules are met, including restrictions for activities performed within aquatic preserves.

What activities are not authorized in the Emergency Area?

The Emergency Order does not authorize the construction of structures that did not legally exist prior to the Hurricane. Legally existing includes prior permitted or exempt activities as well as certain projects that are considered grandfathered. Contact your local District office for further information.