

Advertisement

## **Flagler Beach Pier will reach into ocean**

Unlike one in St. Johns County, it'll be spot to catch fish

### **Frank Fernandez**

Daytona Beach News-Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

The St. Johns County Ocean and Fishing Pier in St. Augustine has received a lot of attention recently for what it's missing: the ocean.

An Army Corps of Engineers beach renourishment project in St. Augustine left only sand beneath the pier without a drop of surf. You can catch the sights but you sure can't catch fish, at least for now.

The same sandy fate does not await the new Flagler Beach Pier, which is expected to have plenty of the wet stuff beneath it at its planned opening in April 2026.

The existing Flagler Beach Pier has been shut down since Tropical Storm Ian tore off a chunk of the iconic structure in 2022.

Flagler Beach City Commissioner Jane Mealy said Friday she had seen a picture of the St. Augustine pier high and dry above sand. But she said there was no concern of something similar happening in Flagler Beach.

**“Our pier will be built after the beach project and it will be way out farther.”**

**Jane Mealy** Flagler Beach city commissioner

“There is no comparison,” Mealy said. “It's a funny picture to look at.”

“Our pier will be built after the beach project and it will be way out farther,” Mealy said.

The new Flagler Beach Pier will be 800 feet long, longer than the pier in St. Augustine.

## **Flagler Beach Pier to have plenty of ocean after beach widened**

The Flagler Beach Pier will have lots of water underneath it, according to a diagram provided by David Ruderman, a spokesperson for the Army Corps of Engineers in Jacksonville.

“It will have no impact on people fishing,” Ruderman said.

Ruderman also emphasized that the portion of the beach renourishment project around the Flagler Beach Pier does not involve the Army Corps of Engineers.

The Army Corps of Engineers beach renourishment project runs from South 28th Street to South Sixth Street.

The state Department of Transportation is overseeing the project from South Sixth Street north to North Seventh Street, a portion of which the pier is located.

Ruderman provided a graph that shows a dashed line called the “approximate toe of fill.” That line shows how far out the sand is expected to reach. It shows a long stretch of the Flagler Beach Pier above the Atlantic Ocean.

As for the St. Augustine pier, the Army Corps placed plenty of sand there because the pier's location is most exposed to erosion, Ruderman said.

Re-shaping is largely dependent on wave and storm activity, according to a story in The St. Augustine Record.

“The greater the coastal storm activity, the shorter the duration of the equilibration process,” the agency stated in The Record. “In time, the St Augustine Beach Pier will reach out into the ocean, we just cannot predict when.”

Ruderman said in The News-Journal interview that eventually people will be able to fish off the St. Augustine pier depending on storm activity.

“When are we going to have storms? I don't know,” Ruderman said. “We can't predict the weather.”

---

[Copyright © 2024 News-Journal Corporation](#)  
[Powered by TECNAVIA](#)

---