

Qualitative Species Lists: West Florida

Prepared by: Duane Kauffmann
Sarasota Shell Club
November, 2018

The attached spreadsheet is an interim report of efforts to identify species at a number of beach locations from Cedar K to north of Sanibel Island. As an interim report it reflects several characteristics: a) more data is needed from many of the locations, b) shells from beach drift are often in marginal condition and thus some identifications are tentative (or even wrong), c) the beach is an evolving ecosystem, and changes can be expected (e. g., beach “restoration,” red tide, or storms [e.g., the shape of South Lido Beach has changed a great deal]).

Comments, suggestions, or requests for more information should be directed to Duane Kauffmann at duanerk@goshen.edu

Locations

The following beaches have been explored during the development of this data. Some have been visited numerous times. Most materials have been taken from tide-line or drift-line areas; plus some wading in very shallow water at Whitfield Beach and in Sarasota Bay.

Anclote Key is off New Port Richey north of St. Petersburg.

Bay Carefree Learner is used to describe a beach area across the access road south of the parking lot which is near the dock for the Sarasota High School pontoon boat the Carefree Learner.

Boca Grande Beach refers to a beach located on Gasparilla Island south of Englewood.

Bradenton Beach is located at the northern end of Longboat Key.

Caledesi Island is located off Dunedin, just north of St. Petersburg.

Casey Key is located just north of Venice.

Coquina Beach is located on the south end of Anna Maria Island, some 20 miles north of St. Armand's circle on Lido Key.

Ft. Desoto is south of St. Pete Beach.

Lido Beach refers to the beach located middle and north Lido Key.

Pine Island is located north of St. Petersburg; north and west of Weeki Wachee. (This site is not to be confused with the Pine Island in the Fort Myers area.)

Sarasota Bay is used to refer to flats, accessible by boat, just offshore at the southeastern end of Longboat Key.

Siesta Key Beach refers to the large public beach located on the northern end of Siesta Key.

Siesta Key Bridge Flat refers to a shallow area, exposed at low tide, which can be accessed from a parking area along Siesta Key Drive just before crossing the bridge to the Key.

Skyway North refers to the northwest shoreline accessed from the rest area at the north end of the Skyway Bridge

Skyway South is used to refer to a large flat located at the rest area at the south end of the Skyway Bridge.

South Lido Beach is located at the southern tip of Lido Key

Turtle Beach is located toward the southern end of Siesta Key

Venice Beach refers to a series of public beaches located south of downtown Venice.

Whitfield Beach is north of Sarasota, located at the end of Whitfield Avenue.