FY 02 CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS (CNO) ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS
NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE, KINGS BAY
NATURAL RESOURCES – CONSERVATION (LARGE INSTALLATION)

INTRODUCTION - Naval Submarine Base (SUBASE) Kings Bay's mission is to support the Fleet Ballistic Missile System and **TRIDENT Submarine**, as well as to maintain and operate facilities for administrative and personnel support for operations of the Submarine Force. Approximately 7,600 people (4,500 military and 3,100 civilian) live and work on the installation. SUBASE has 12,063 acres, with another 4,000 under restrictive easements. 9,791 acres are included in the current Natural Resources Management Plan.

Land class is as listed below:

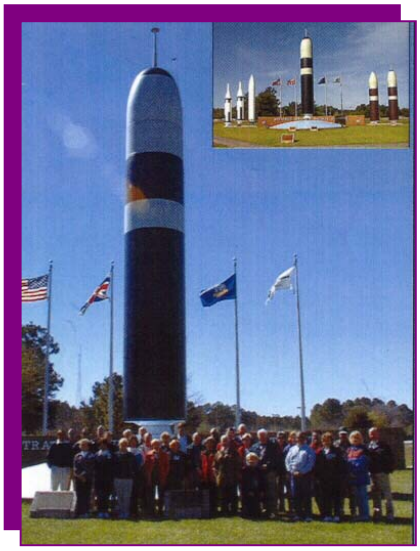
AREA	ACRES
Improved	137
Multiple Use	5,082
Jurisdiction Wetlands	2,208
Developed Areas	4,100
Semi-improved	973
Fresh Water Ponds	247
Salt Marsh	3,900
Total Acreage	16,063

SUBASE Kings Bay is situated on the west shore of Cumberland Sound, a protected bay behind the coastal barrier island which is Cumberland Island National Seashore. There are approximately 16 miles of shoreline on the sound and 22 miles of tidal creeks within the Base boundaries. 6,950 acres are available for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation activities. There is no acreage suitable for agricultural activity. Twenty-one archaeological sites have been identified as potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

BACKGROUND - Natural resources management is an ongoing process because natural resources are living, changing organisms. An Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP) was signed into effect on 15 November 2001. Three additional management plans exist, but are not a formal part of the long-range management plan. These plans include the Archaeological Resources Management Plan, Fisheries Management Plan, and Pest Management Plan. Four cooperative agreements support the Natural Resources Management Plan. These include the Cooperative Agreement for Fish and Wildlife Resources, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Georgia Forestry Commission, a Memorandum of Understanding among Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, and SUBASE, and the Outdoor Recreation Cooperative MOU. Kings Bay staff implements these plans, with assistance from cooperating agencies. Grounds maintenance is directed by the Facilities Landscape Manager. The Moral, Welfare and Recreation Department (MWR) is responsible for day to day management of the Outdoor Recreation Program. Pesticide use is the

responsibility of the pesticide section of the Public Works Directorate (PW). The Natural Resources Section of PW consists of a Natural Resources Manager (forester), a Fish and Wildlife Biologist and a Forestry Technician.

PROGRAM SUMMARY - The INRMP that focuses the SUBASE Natural Resource Program, highlights needs for community education and outreach. The Plan touches on the conservation of wildlife and their habitat as well as the integration of Base recreational needs into future planning. Some of the efforts that support these goals include: Wetland expansion projects; dispersal of a community birdwatcher guide; continued efforts to preserve local endangered species; responsible silviculture practices to maintain and create diverse wildlife habitat in concert with recreation areas; and sponsorship of various community events to increase local environmental awareness.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS - Highlights during this award period include: Enlargement of a wood stork rookery and feeding areas; improvement of least tern nesting habitat; completion of a bank stabilization project on the North River; initiation of a shoreline stabilization project on Cumberland Sound; consideration of two areas as state recognized natural study areas; **seven time host facility for a Weekend for Wildlife in support of GADNR;** conducted breeding bird and neo-tropical bird surveys, surveys for rare and endangered plants and animals including the green sea turtle, gopher tortoise and indigo snake; doubled the number of wildlife food plots; published SUBASE bird list and watching guide; timber harvest revenue of over $275,000, reforestation of over 175 acres, implemented new INRMP, and thinned timber stands to increase visibility for security needs.

Overall Conservation Management - Forest management is the best resource management tool available, and is used to manipulate or create wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation opportunities, aesthetics and other land management benefits. **Prescribed burning is used to improve wildlife habitat, reduce dangerous fuel loads, improve access for recreation and improve aesthetic values.** Even age silviculture (clear cutting) has been reduced in favor of less intrusive selection methods of timber harvest. Where appropriate, group selection is used to remove insect infested trees and create small openings which benefit wildlife. Planting pine plantations has been de-emphasized in favor of natural regeneration, and native long leaf pine is favored over non-native slash pine. Mast producing hardwoods have been planted to provide food, and snags are retained as den trees. Over all rotation ages have been raised; this allows for more attractive trees to be grown. Innovative staffing and program management allows the accomplishment of more with less investment. Use of organic fertilizer and proper timing of application has reduced the need for soil amendments in lawn care. Chipping and composting of green waste provides an abundant source of low cost plant mulch. Integrated Pest Management has reduced pesticide use. Over 100 acres of wildflower plantings on road shoulders and medians improve aesthetics and reduce mowing cost. Self-help Seabees used their equipment to develop and maintain over 20 acres of new wildlife food plots. Scout groups erected and cleaned bird boxes. In addition, volunteers conduct lakeside litter cleanup days.

Ecosystem Management - The environment crosses property lines and must be protected as a unified effort. SUBASE has been involved in cooperative efforts with adjacent Crooked River State Park and Cumberland Island National Seashore to protect and maintain areas of mutual concern. SUBASE shoreline stabilization projects and drainage improvements result in improved water quality, enhanced aesthetics, and reduced need for channel maintenance dredging. Managing stands of mature Long Leaf Pine in a manner similar to adjacent stands in the State Park provide a larger area of contiguous habitat for birds and other species dependent on this habitat type. Cumberland Island National Seashore has received considerable assistance from Kings Bay in transportation of people, supplies and equipment to the island and in support of various construction and clean up activities. The Park Service and Navy have cooperatively worked together on studies concerning the ecology of Cumberland Sound and protection of marine mammals in the Sound. **SUBASE Kings Bay is a cooperating partner with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Florida Freshwater Fish and Game Commission, and GADNR in projects to radio tag and track Manatee for research, and protect marine mammals and sea turtles which use inshore and near shore waters of the local area.** SUBASE also works with the US FWS, GADNR, and Savannah River Ecology Lab in Wood Stork research efforts and establishing managed breeding habitat for migratory birds. The installation also routinely participates in waterfowl surveys, eagle count and the Christmas bird count. The North River saltmarsh/estuary is one of two areas being considered for designation as a State recognized Natural Study Area.

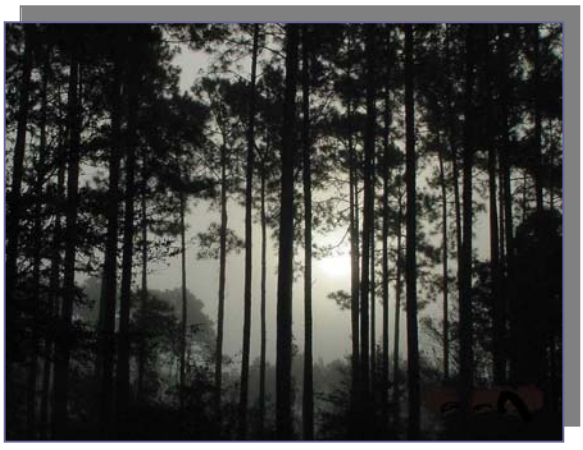
Land Use Management - Management of improved and semi-improved areas is done under direction of the SUBASE Landscape Coordinator, a Contracting Officer Technical Representative (COTR). He develops and implements this section of the program which includes installation and maintenance of landscape plantings, turf management, noxious weed control, drainage maintenance and erosion control, anti-litter program, and general roads and grounds beautification. The Corps of Engineers surveyed and reevaluated the installation-wide storm water drainage system. Because topography on the Georgia coastal plain is very flat and close to sea level, a functional storm water drainage system is essential. This project determined flow capacity and provided detailed recommendations for corrective actions and future maintenance activities.

An additional 90 acres of slow rate irrigation fields were put into service to provide additional capacity to the land application area, which is used to dispose of treated wastewater effluent. Wastewater is high in nitrogen, phosphorous and other nutrients, and low in dissolved oxygen, pumping it into Cumberland sound would promote algae blooms and fish kills. In the land application area, it is sprayed onto the ground at the rate of 1 to 1 1/2 inches per week, where the vegetation uses the excess nutrients as fertilizer. It is aerated, and eventually recharges the ground water as drinking water quality water. Non-native and non-regional landscape materials were replaced with native or local plants. This has reduced the need for pesticides, fertilizer and routine maintenance with a corresponding cost savings. **Over 100 acres of native wildflowers were planted on road shoulders and medians to improve aesthetics and reduce mowing.**

Most green waste is being chipped and composted to provide mulch and reduce disposal costs. Use of organic fertilizer and timing of fertilizer application has improved soil fertility and reduced lawn maintenance costs. Dredge spoil storage area dike banks were constructed from high pH sandy soil which is highly erosive and difficult to vegetate, so salt tolerant grasses and plants have been used on the dike banks to control the erosion problem. Integrated pest management has reduced pesticide use and saved money. In southeast Georgia, Mole Crickets are a serious problem in turf management. As part of a University of Georgia study, parasitic nematodes, which feed on immature stages of Mole Crickets, have been released on the installation. The result has been a significant reduction in chemical control cost. **Nest boxes for insect eaters such as Blue Birds, Purple Martins, and bats have been installed.** Sterile Grass Carp have been placed in ponds and lakes with an aquatic weed problem, reducing herbicide use.

Forest Management - Sustainable forestry is used to enhance the environment, protect the other values at risk, and maintain a health forest. Even age silviculture has been de-emphasized; single tree selection is used where possible, group selection is used when removing timber damaged by insects and diseases, or to create small openings for recreation or wildlife. Timber rotation lengths were increased. Planting of pines was reduced in-favor of natural regeneration of mixed stands with random spacing. Native long leaf pine is favored over non-native slash pine. Two timber harvest contracts are let each year, one to conduct the planned silviculture program, the other to allow for prompt removal of small patches of infested trees or clear building sites on short notice. During this period, approximately 450 acres of pine stands were thinned from below to reduce competition, improve spacing, and improve visibility for security personnel. 38 acres of pine were harvested to reduce southern pine beetle problems, and two land application area spray fields are being regenerated to improve nutrient uptake. Approximately 45 acres were reforested using prescribed burning and natural regeneration. A contract is being advertised to plant 108 acres, mostly with long leaf pine.

A large stand of southern maritime forest along Cumberland Sound was identified and management altered to provide additional protection. This area is considered so unique and valuable for wildlife and beauty, that no additional routine commercial entries will be made. This is one of the two areas being considered for designation as state recognized natural study areas. The only remaining stand of large Long Leaf Pine on the installation was identified and management altered to coincide with similar stands in adjacent Crooked River State Park. Sawtooth Oak is a species that produces an abundant mast crop at an early age. 200 were planted in an irregularly shaped patch within a young Pine stand to create a wildlife area.



Prescribed burning is of major importance in the Southern Pine ecosystem. **At SUBASE, 500-600 acres of forest are scheduled for burning each year to reduce fuel loading, improve wildlife habitat, and help make the woods more aesthetically pleasing.** Under a cooperative agreement with GADNR, there is close coordination on fire use, including mutual aid on wild fires and fire training. Staff members have received Prescribed Burn Certification from GADNR. There is also mutual cooperation on forest inventory, insect and disease surveys, and reforestation.

Fish and Wildlife - Follow up work to a two-year breeding bird survey and neo-tropical migrant survey by U.S. Biological Survey ornithologists was completed. Based largely on this data, a SUBASE Bird List and watching guide was designed and published. Surveys were conducted by GADNR Division of Natural Heritage for Gopher Tortoise, Indigo Snake, and other rare and endangered plants. Habitats at Kings Bay include planted and natural southern pine, bottomland and upland southern hardwoods, cypress - gum ponds, fresh water wetlands, saltmarsh, fresh water ponds, gravel beaches and open saltwater. Habitat protection is an integral part of the INRMP. Endangered, threatened, or candidate species and species of special concern are all given equal consideration. Resident species include 37 amphibians, 67 reptiles, 68 mammals and 219 birds. Of these, 22 species are listed as endangered or threatened.

High profile management activities during this award period include:

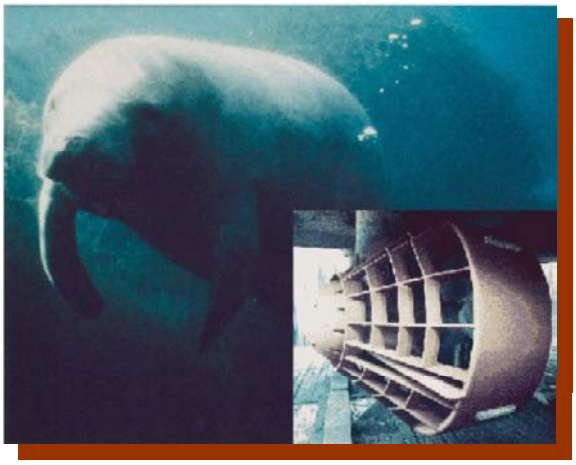
Wood Storks - The Pagan Creek Wood Stork Foraging Project was a borrow pit adjacent to the North River, designated for saltmarsh creation to mitigate for saltmarsh lost during SUBASE construction. Up to 125 wood storks have been known to use the area when high tides made adjacent salt marshes too deep for use. Because any modification could potentially impact wood storks, SUBASE requested

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation with the US FWS to ensure regulatory concurrence with proposed modifications. Biologists from the University of Georgia Savannah River Ecology Lab and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources also attended this consultation. All parties agreed that the foraging site project would benefit wood storks and create additional habitat. The original design would have maintained water levels too deep for wood storks. **Design changes added bermed terraces, which trap prey on outgoing tides.** A Watchable Wildlife tower was built at the site and is available to local schools.

Bank stabilization - A shoreline stabilization project was initiated that will protect a historic site, control erosion and sedimentation in Cumberland, and add additional substrate for marine flora growth.

Etowah Pond Wood Stork Rookery - Etowah Pond is a man-made freshwater system consisting of open water with vegetated shallow flats. **The pond was designed for wading birds and is heavily utilized by wood storks. It was enlarged by 40 % in 2002.** This site has good potential for establishing a wood stork rookery because the structures can be erected over open water. Open water below the rookery is critical, in part because alligators control raccoons and other nest raiding predators. A cluster of 100 wood stork platforms was erected. These platforms consist of 4 x 4's with inverted rebar/wire cones approximately 8-10 feet

above the water. The cones are lined with plant parts and draped with Spanish moss to mimic native vegetation. The structures are being used as nests by egrets, and perches and night roosts by a variety of colonial waterbirds.



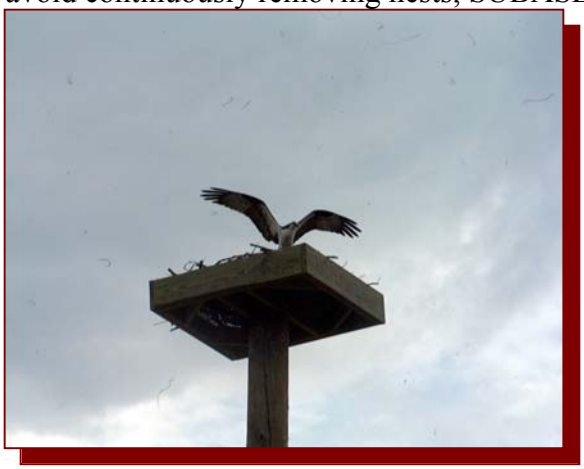
Manatees - SUBASE manatee protection continues to be quite successful and is recommended by the US FWS as a model program for use by other agencies. **This program established a SUBASE Instruction requiring manatee guards on virtually all craft operating in Kings Bay.** It also established a communications network where manatees in or around Kings Bay are reported to Port Services and all vessels are notified of the manatee's location. Operators receive manatee awareness and avoidance training. Port Services also notifies the GADNR Non-game and Endangered Species Program, who record the sightings. SUBASE has also entered a joint venture with the GADNR, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the US FWS to use Kings Bay for remote sensing manatees. SUBASE is also cooperating with researchers from Florida Atlantic University in an attempt to develop a warning device to detect them.

Northern Right Whales - In 1994, the National Marine Fisheries Service designated Critical Habitats for right whales, one of which is off the Georgia and Florida coast, their only known calving ground. The area includes the Saint Mary's entrance channel, which is used by submarines and support craft. SUBASE and tenant commands, in cooperation with CNRSE, local Port Authorities, Harbor Pilots Associations, and applicable State agencies have taken an active role with the Right Whale Recovery Southeast Implementation Team. Legacy funds helped finance daily aerial surveys where cetacean biologists from the New England Aquarium survey the Critical Habitat and report Right Whale sightings. This early warning communication network has been quite successful in informing vessel operators of Right Whale locations which allows vessels time to take necessary action to avoid collisions. SUBASE is also cooperating with Navy Research Lab personnel who are attempting to identify acoustic signatures of Right Whales. Submarine Group 10 initiatives include a Right Whale video issued to all commands in Kings Bay for training. An early warning network initiated standard procedure for Operational Control Center (OPCON) personnel who collect information concerning Right Whales sighted by daily aerial survey flights. The information is mirrored by Port Operations Harbor Control. An annual Right Whale training seminar is conducted for personnel, which feature lectures from biologists from the New England Aquarium and GADNR.

Least Terns - The Least Tern is classified as federally endangered, except the Atlantic coast population. SUBASE has three major nesting areas. A ten-acre Shorebird Sanctuary has been set aside in accordance with the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SUBASE construction. This area is maintained as unvegetated dredge spoil where Least Terns and other shorebirds nest annually. **Least Terns also nest on the Trident Refit Facility (TRF) industrial warehouse**

rooftops; this least tern hatchling is perfectly camouflaged in the gravel. These birds are monitored weekly in cooperation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. TRF maintenance personnel voluntarily rescheduled all scheduled maintenance on the rooftops to avoid disturbing the nesting birds. Rescheduling maintenance results in adult terns not being flushed from the nests by the maintenance workers presence. The TRF buildings have been retrofitted with Least Tern predator guards, which offer chicks escape cover from crows and other avian predators. The Crab Island Dredge Spoil Disposal Area also supports nesting Least Terns. Electric fencing has been purchased for both this site and the 10-acre Shorebird Sanctuary site to fence out raccoons and other nest predators. Recently, the Coastal Georgia Audubon Society formally acknowledged SUBASE's accomplishments of continued participation in Least Tern conservation.

Ospreys - SUBASE has US FWS permits to remove osprey nests during the non-nesting season. To avoid continuously removing nests, SUBASE installs osprey excluders where needed. **It is SUBASE policy to erect an osprey nesting platform for each removed nest.** This policy has resulted in SUBASE having one of the highest concentrations of nesting ospreys in southeast Georgia.



Fox squirrels - Forested areas of SUBASE support large numbers of Shermans Fox Squirrels, which has Candidate Level 1 Status for inclusion on the Federal List of Endangered Species. A US FWS design was used to build and install 40 Fox Squirrel nest boxes in an appropriate habitat. These boxes were monitored and utilization has been documented.

Southeastern American Kestrels -The Southeastern American Kestrel is another subspecies having Candidate Level 1 Status for inclusion on the Federal List of Endangered Species. 25 nest boxes have been installed in an appropriate habitat with the intention of inducing them to nest.

Gopher Tortoises - Gopher Tortoises are State Listed Threatened Species, and have Candidate Level 1 Status for this part of the historic range. Further, Gopher Tortoise burrows may house the Federally Threatened Eastern Indigo Snake. Although Gopher Tortoises are abundant at SUBASE, Eastern Indigo Snakes have not been found during surveys of Gopher Tortoise burrows using optical borescopes. SUBASE offers Gopher Tortoises a high level of protection. When activities have potential impacts to burrows, the burrows are flagged and personnel are informed of the tortoises and required to avoid them. **The presence of Gopher Tortoises is considered in early planning stages of any new facility and protection requirements are noted during the Preconstruction Conference.** SUBASE has also completed an intensive Gopher Tortoise survey through the Nature Conservancy.

Green Sea Turtles - Green Sea Turtles have been observed at SUBASE. A survey was conducted which documented immature greens foraging on marine flora on riprap along the waterfront.

Neotropical Migratory Landbirds - The Breeding Bird Survey of SUBASE supports the Partners in Flight Initiative for Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds. This survey was conducted in direct cooperation with the GADNR Non-game and Endangered Species Program and the Department of Interior National Biological Service (NBS). NBS personnel established survey routes and monitored breeding bird activity at SUBASE for two years. The end product is a SUBASE Breeding Bird Atlas for inclusion in the GA Model Management Plan for Neotropical Migratory Landbirds and the identification of a SUBASE Management Demonstration Area that will become available for public education.

Other fish and wildlife management - Recreational hunting and fishing is governed by a SUBASE Instruction that insures compliance with applicable State and Federal regulations and includes restrictions required by mission and security considerations. Security restrictions mandated that all hunting and most fishing be closed after September 11, 2001; however, most fishing and limited hunting was restored for the 2002 season.

The GADNR Game Management Division considers SUBASE a special management unit that allows SUBASE to tailor hunting regulations within a window of allowable limits. As an example, hunting is allowed only on weekends and holidays, but all hunting days are either-sex deer hunting. This is to keep the deer herd in balance with the habitat and carrying capacity. Without the extended either-sex hunting, the deer herd would quickly overpopulate.

SUBASE manages approximately 250 acres of lakes and ponds for warm water fisheries. Live bait (minnows) is prohibited to prevent pest species from contaminating the fisheries. Launching boats with trailers is prohibited to prevent aquatic weed infestations. Weed control is integrated using sterile triploid grass carp, water level manipulation, and if necessary, herbicides.

SUBASE Wildlife Law Enforcement (WLEO) personnel, who are assigned to the Navy Security Department, receive general direction from the Natural Resources Manager. WLEO personnel receive formal training in wildlife enforcement at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Brunswick, GA. This is the same training given to State Game Wardens and Wildlife Special Agents of the Department of Interior.

Bio-diversity is identifying and managing a variety of habitats capable of supporting breeding populations of a variety of species. Kings Bay has identified significant wildlife resources on the installation and, through the INRMP, protect and enhance habitats to support that resource. This includes adaptive silvicultural methods, prescribed burning, habitat protection and creation, breeding or nest structures, food plots, limited hunting, and cooperative efforts with other Federal and State agencies to protect and enhance species which transcend individual properties.

Two Interagency Agreements were initiated in 1999: one with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to relocate nuisance Canada Geese, bat proof buildings and exclude vultures from roosting in the Explosive Handling Wharves, and the other with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to assist with erosion and sedimentation control projects.

Other Natural Resources - Outdoor Recreation is a major part of Natural Resources Management, and enjoys a high level of user involvement. The Outdoor Recreation Section of the Moral, Welfare and Recreation Department is responsible for development and management. A family campground was designed and sited on Lake "D", the largest and most scenic lake on the installation. Included in the design are picnic areas, day use facilities on the lake, a boat ramp, campsites with hook ups, restrooms with showers, and other amenities. Construction is planned in phases over the next few years.

Recreational boating is allowed in areas open for fishing, but no gasoline-powered crafts are permitted. Boats are available for rent, but a boating knowledge and safety test must be passed first, including a section on Manatee awareness and avoidance. Sport fishing is a very popular year-round

activity, as is hunting during that season. Outdoor Recreation sells State licenses and SUBASE Permits, provides general information, and distributes fishing and hunting maps of the Base. Hunter safety classes are arranged and taught by MWR personnel at locations both on and off the Base.

Several day use areas and small picnic areas are located throughout the installation. Group use areas are popular for ship's parties, organized cookouts and Boy/Girl Scout day camps. One ten-acre location near Etowah Park has been designated as a Scout camping area. Bird watching and other forms of non-consumptive recreation are encouraged. No off-road vehicle use is allowed. The most current rate of recreation use is well over 35,000 user days per year. A cooperative agreement has been signed with the US Park Service to provide for help when needed. Close cooperation with GADNR and the local Crooked River State Park provides additional recreational benefits for the Kings Bay community. SUBASE is an active member of Georgia Parks and Recreation Association.

Pest Management - The Pesticide Section of Public Works has three employees, all with certified applicator credentials. Integrated pest management is practiced to the maximum extent possible to save money and protect the environment. Some things are obvious, such as replacing poison bait with sticky boards and mechanical traps for rodent control; however many other sound practices are followed.

Nest boxes for insect eaters such as bats, Bluebirds and Purple Martins have been installed. In cooperation with the University of Georgia, microscopic nematodes, which are a natural mole cricket predator, have been released into the environment. Non-native and non-local and exotic plant materials have been removed from the landscape program and replaced with low maintenance local and regional plants. Most insecticides used on ornamental plant beds and shrubs have been replaced with soap and oil. Gambousia fish have been placed in many of the small freshwater drainage areas to eat mosquito larvae. Triploid Grass Carp are used in freshwater ponds to control aquatic weeds. Shallow edges of ponds have been deepened to restrict growth of cattail and other aquatic weeds. Proper use of lawn and landscape fertilizer reduces nutrient runoff into ponds, helping to slow aquatic weed growth.

Conservation Education – The objective of Conservation education is shared by Natural Resources and MWR. Basic natural resource regulations are written by the natural resources; enforcement is done by Navy Security. National Rifle Association sanctioned hunter safety classes are taught by MWR, as are boating and other related classes. Prior to the beginning of hunting season each year all hunters are required to attend an orientation session.

SUBASE provides a consistently high level of support to Boy and Girl Scout organizations, including a designated camping area, use of recreational facilities for annual day camps, educational presentations and opportunities to participate in hands on environmental projects. **Natural Resources personnel and Game Wardens are frequently called on to make educational presentations on snakes and other wildlife / outdoor topics to visitors, school groups and scout organizations.** A great visual aid used in these presentations is the wildlife collection of about 40 mounted local animals.

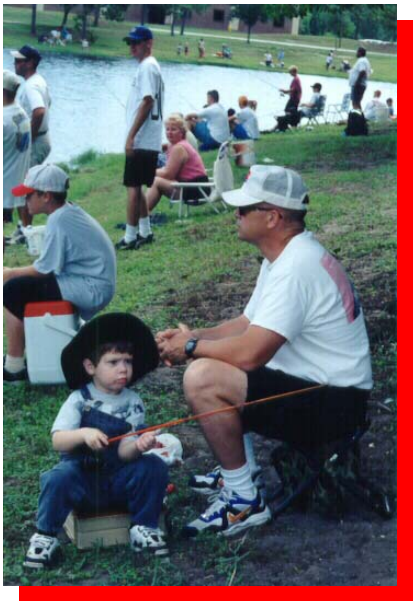
Cooperative research and development projects have been done or are on going with the University of Georgia, Florida Atlantic University, University of Tennessee, Savannah River Ecology Lab, GADNR, US FWS and US Biological Survey. There also exist working relationships with The Nature

Conservancy, Audubon Society, Georgia Conservancy, Coastal Zone Management Commission and other private groups.

Community Relations - Being a good neighbor is a major concern at all levels at SUBASE. Natural resource management and environmental protection are more than just complying with laws and regulations. Much time and effort is spent in maintaining Manatee and Right Whale education and avoidance programs. SUBASE programs are featured in assorted Navy and DOD publications, the local news media and the Base newspaper.

Natural Resources personnel and volunteers from submarine crews helped design and build nature trails at two elementary schools in Camden County. A traveling natural resource display is featured at many SUBASE and local functions. **The annual Earth Day observance is a major public education effort.**

SUBASE also sponsors an annual Children's Fishing Derby. Each January, a pond is closed for fishing and overstocked with catfish. The catfish are fed regularly and on the first weekend of June the pond is opened for children to participate in the derby. This is a very popular event that promotes sportsmanship and outdoor ethics to youths.



Environmental and Mission Enhancement - Most residents of Camden County live or work at Kings Bay, or have family members who do. Maintaining a strong natural resource program provides for a pleasant workplace, abundant recreational opportunities and a healthful environment; a true understanding of the natural treasures this area has is afforded to the community and all those who pass through. It makes for a superb quality of life, not only for the people, but for nature as well.

Natural Resources Compliance Program - A healthy relationship exists with inspectors, the community, and regulators. SUBASE is a Federal facility and as such, publicly owned. All non-classified areas are subject to normal regulation and inspection. If a problem exists, it is to everyone's benefit to find and correct it. Some of SUBASE's most effective programs, such as the manatee protection program, originated by working with regulators to correct problems. SUBASE is committed to taking a pro-active approach in protecting the Earth's natural resources.