

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Event:** Florida Pro Surf: A World Surf League event Presented by Sunshine State FL-Lager

**Date:** January 18-24, 2018 (WSL Sanctioned Event), January 25-26, 2018 (Non-WSL Sanctioned Event)

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** Sebastian Inlet – 9700 South Highway A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963

**Website:** FloridaProSurf.com

**Facebook:** @FloridaProSurf

**Instagram:** @FloridaProSurf

**Event Description:**

The weeklong Florida Pro Surf will return to Sebastian Inlet in January of 2018 on Florida's Space Coast, reinforcing the area's prominence as a world-class surfing destination. The event will host a World Surf League qualifying series event for men and women January 18-24. Florida Pro Surf will feature a Women's QS6000 competition offering the largest cash prize in the U.S. (\$55,500), along with a Men's QS1500 competition. From January 25-26, Florida Pro Surf will also host a "Champions and Icons" non-World Surf League sanctioned event featuring former World Surf League champions and professionals.

**Event Spokespeople:** CJ Hobgood and Mitch Varnes (available for Q&A)

**Spokesperson Quotes:**

**CJ Hobgood – Former WSL World Champion from Satellite Beach, FL**

*"This event is very important – there has been a 7-year hiatus since the last pro contest, so there's a whole different generation that's coming up that needs the same platform we were given to succeed on the world stage for a long time."*

**Mitch Varnes – Director, Florida Pro Surf; Founder & Director, Sebastian Inlet Pro\*, 2005-2011**

\*Sebastian Inlet Pro was the largest professional surfing competition ever held in Florida and was the second largest competition ever held on the East Coast of the U.S.

*"It is very exciting to have high-level pro surfing back on the Space Coast and particularly at Sebastian Inlet. With such a high-level WSL sanctioned women's event, we will certainly have many of the world's very best female surfers here competing, along with many of the best emerging male surfers from various countries, including the U.S., Europe, and Central and South America."*