



Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

November 15, 2017
8:00 AM – 10:00 AM
Morris Hall

Meeting Packet

Committee Meeting Notice

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

Start Date and Time: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 08:00 am
End Date and Time: Wednesday, November 15, 2017 10:00 am
Location: Morris Hall (17 HOB)
Duration: 2.00 hrs

Consideration of the following bill(s):

HB 53 Coral Reefs by Jacobs

Land Management Funding Impacts from Fiscal Year 2015-16, Fiscal Year 2016-17, and Fiscal Year 2017-18
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Update on the Petroleum Tank Cleanup Program
Department of Environmental Protection

Volkswagen Settlement
Department of Environmental Protection

Coral Reefs
Broward County

NOTICE FINALIZED on 11/08/2017 4:09PM by VLS

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STAFF ANALYSIS

BILL #: HB 53 Coral Reefs
SPONSOR(S): Jacobs & others
TIED BILLS: IDEN./SIM. **BILLS:** SB 232

REFERENCE	ACTION	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR or BUDGET/POLICY CHIEF
1) Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee	12 Y, 0 N	Gregory	Shugar
2) Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee		White	Pigott
3) Government Accountability Committee			

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

Coral reefs in southeast Florida support a rich and diverse assemblage of stony corals, octocorals, macroalgae, sponges, and fishes. These ecological communities run parallel along the coast from the northern border of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County north to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. Coral reefs are valuable natural resources. They protect coastlines by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes. They serve as a source of food and shelter and provide critical habitat for over 6,000 species, including important commercial fisheries. Further, people use coral reefs as a resource for recreation, education, scientific research, and public inspiration. Millions of tourists and local residents enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, and fishing on the coral reefs.

Coral reefs are vulnerable to harmful environmental changes, particularly those resulting from human activities. Globally, 10 percent of all coral reefs are degraded beyond recovery and 30 percent are in critical condition and may die within 10 to 20 years, particularly those near human populations.

The bill establishes the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area (conservation area). The conservation area includes the sovereign submerged lands and state waters offshore of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties from the St. Lucie Inlet in the north to the northern boundary of the Biscayne National Park in the south.

The bill does not appear to have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

PRESENT SITUATION

Coral Reefs

Coral reefs in southeast Florida support a rich and diverse assemblage of stony corals, octocorals, macroalgae, sponges, and fishes. These ecological communities run parallel along the coast from the northern border of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County north to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. Coral reefs are valuable natural resources. They protect coastlines by reducing wave energy from storms and hurricanes. They serve as a source of food and shelter and provide critical habitat for over 6,000 species, including commercially important fisheries. Many medicines, as well as other health and beauty products, are derived from marine plants, algae, and animals found on coral reefs.¹

People use coral reefs as a resource for recreation, education, scientific research, and public inspiration. Millions of tourists and local residents enjoy scuba diving, snorkeling, and fishing on Florida's coral reefs. These activities provide a source of income for the state and its coastal communities.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are vulnerable to harmful environmental changes, particularly those resulting from human activities. Globally, 10 percent of all coral reefs are degraded beyond recovery and 30 percent are in critical condition and may die within 10 to 20 years, particularly those near human populations.²

The United States Coral Reef Task Force identified eight specific and widely accepted threats to coral reefs as being particularly important and tractable:

- Pollution, including eutrophication and sedimentation from intensive land use, chemical loading, oil and chemical spills, marine debris, and invasive nonnative species;
- Overfishing and over-exploitation of coral reef species for recreational and commercial purposes, and the collateral damage and degradation to habitats and ecosystems from fishing activities;
- Destructive fishing practices, such as cyanide and dynamite fishing that can destroy large sections of reef;
- Dredging and shoreline modification in connection with coastal navigation or development;
- Vessel groundings and anchoring that directly destroy corals and reef framework;
- Disease outbreaks that are increasing in frequency and are affecting a greater diversity of coral reef species; and
- Global climate change and associated impacts including increased coral bleaching, mortality, storm frequency, and sea level rise.³

Corals are highly sensitive to even small temperature changes and can react through bleaching, reduced growth rates, reduced reproduction, increased vulnerability to diseases, and die-offs. Corals have a mutually beneficial or symbiotic relationship with a type of algae known as zooxanthellae. Zooxanthellae live inside the coral and provide them with energy derived from photosynthesis. The

¹ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/> (last visited March 15, 2017); *Coral Reef Conservation Program 2011-2016 Strategic Plan*, (July 2011), p. 3, available at: http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/pub/CRCP_Strategic_Plan_2011-2016.pdf (last visited September 5, 2017).

² U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, *The National Action Plan to Conserve Coral*, p. 3, available at: <http://www.coralreef.gov/about/CRTFAxnPlan9.pdf> (last visited September 5, 2017).

³ *Id.*

coral provides the algae with shelter. Corals can tolerate only a relatively narrow temperature range and prefer water between 73-84 degrees. Water temperatures over 86 degrees or under 64 degrees are stressful and are eventually fatal for coral. When the water gets too warm and the coral becomes stressed, they can expel their zooxanthellae, causing bleaching. Although the coral is still alive, just colorless, they will eventually die from starvation if the zooxanthellae do not return.⁴

Recently, massive, region-wide bleaching events have become more common on the Florida Reef Tract. Since 1987, six extensive coral bleaching events have affected the entire Florida Reef Tract. Substantial mass coral mortality occurred during the global bleaching events of 1997/1998 and 2014/2015. Corals at the northern end of their range, such as those found on the Florida Reef Tract, are also vulnerable to cold winter temperatures. A severe cold snap in 2010 resulted in high mortality of certain coral species on shallow-water patch reefs throughout the Florida Reef Tract.⁵

Coral Reef Conservation Program

The Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) within the Florida Coastal Office of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) oversees several programs and initiatives to coordinate research and monitoring, develop management strategies, and promote partnerships to protect the coral reefs, hard bottom communities, and associated reef resources of southeast Florida.⁶ The CRCP implements and coordinates the following:

- *The Southeast Florida Action Network* – This reporting and response system improves the protection and management of southeast Florida's coral reefs by enhancing marine debris clean-up efforts, increasing response to vessel groundings and anchor damage, and providing early detection of potentially harmful biological disturbances.⁷
- *The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)* – This program identifies and implements priority action needed to reduce key threats to coral reef resources in southeast Florida using a local action strategy for collaborative action among government and non-governmental partners.⁸
- *The Southeast Florida's Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program* – Through a partnership with DEP, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Palm Beach County Reef Rescue, this program encourages local divers and dive shops to report marine debris. The partnership organizes reef clean-up events to remove the debris.⁹
- *The Reef Injury Prevention and Response Program* – This program leads response to, and management of, coral reef and hard bottom injuries resulting from vessel impacts such as grounding, anchoring, and cable drag events.¹⁰ Section 403.93345, F.S., otherwise known as the Florida Coral Reef Protection Act, requires responsible parties to notify DEP when they run their vessel aground, strike, or otherwise damage coral reefs. The responsible party must remove the vessel and work with DEP to assess the damage and restore the reef.¹¹ DEP may require the responsible party to pay the cost of assessment and restoration, as well as pay a fine.¹²
- *The Florida Reef Resilience Program (FRRP)* – The FRRP addresses climate change and coral reefs. Reef managers, scientists, conservation organizations, and reef users across South

⁴ Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), *Long Term Temperature Monitoring*, <http://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coral/cremp/cremp-temp-monitoring/> (last visited September 5, 2017).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ DEP, *Coral Reef Conservation Program*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/> (last visited September 5, 2017).

⁷ DEP, *Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN)*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/seafan.htm> (last visited September 5, 2017).

⁸ SEFCRI, *What is SEFCRI?*, <http://southeastfloridareefs.net/about-us/what-is-sefcri/> (last visited September 5, 2017).

⁹ DEP, *Southeast Florida's Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/debris1.htm> (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁰ DEP, *Reef Injury Prevention and Response Program*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/ripr.htm> (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹¹ Section 403.93345(5), F.S.

¹² Sections 403.93345(6), (7), and (8), F.S.

Florida have developed a *Climate Change Action Plan for the Florida Reef System (2010-2015)* (Action Plan). The goals of the Action Plan are to increase coral reef resilience to climate change impacts through active management of local reef impacts; enhance communication and awareness of climate change impacts on coral reefs and reef users; and conduct targeted research to increase understanding of climate change impacts and develop new intervention measures.¹³

- *The Southeast Marine Event Response Program* – This program responds to potentially harmful biological disturbances along the northern third of the Florida Reef Tract from the northern border of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. Upon notification of an event such as harmful algal blooms, fish kills, coral bleaching, or diseases, DEP coordinates with regional partners to schedule initial site assessments, implement event response protocols, and analyze samples, where possible and appropriate.¹⁴
- *The Southeast Florida Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program* – This program builds partnerships and obtains funding to implement fisheries-independent monitoring.¹⁵ Fisheries-independent monitoring is a system-wide approach that evaluates marine communities and the populations of fish and invertebrate species that comprise them. Fisheries-independent monitoring also investigates habitat conditions for purposes of learning more about system-wide trends.¹⁶

FWC also plays a role in protecting Florida's coral reefs. Through the Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP), FWC has monitored the condition of coral reef and hard bottom habitats annually throughout the Florida Keys since 1996, southeast Florida since 2003, and the Dry Tortugas since 2004. The CREMP was able to document the temporal changes that occurred in recent years.¹⁷

Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring

During the 2017 legislative session, DEP received \$1,000,000 in nonrecurring funds for the Coral Reef Disease Water Quality Monitoring Program.¹⁸ The intended use of the funds include high resolution monthly water quality sampling throughout the northern Florida Reef Tract; the purchase, installation, and maintenance of Land/Ocean Biogeochemical Observatories, offshore salinity and temperature sensors, acoustic fish stations; laboratory analyses; data storage and processing; reporting and scientific expertise; coral tissue sampling; regular report writing; and the creation of a public outreach and education program.¹⁹ The recommendations from the Our Florida Reefs program and the Southeast Florida Intergovernmental Coastal Ocean Task Force are the basis for these activities.²⁰

EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES

¹³ DEP, *Climate Change and Coral Reefs*, http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/climate_change.htm (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁴ DEP, *Southeast Marine Event Response Program*, http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/event_response.htm (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁵ DEP, *Southeast Florida Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program*, <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/fisheries-independent.htm> (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁶ Sarasota County Wateratlas, *Fisheries Independent Monitoring*,

http://www.sarasota.wateratlas.usf.edu/shared/learnmore.asp?toolsection=lm_fishindep (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁷ FWC, *Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP)*, <http://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coral/cremp/> (last visited September 5, 2017).

¹⁸ Chapter 2017-70, specific appropriation 1708, Laws of Fla.

¹⁹ Second Revised Meeting Packet Part 4 & 5, p. 128, Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee, March 21, 2017, available at:

<http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loadaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&CommitteeId=2893&Session=2017&DocumentType=Meeting%20Packets&FileName=anr%203-21-17%202nd%20REVISED.pdf>.

²⁰ Id.; Our Florida Reefs, *Recommended Management Actions*, <http://ourfloridareefs.org/rmacomment/> (last visited September 5,

2017); Broward County, *Southeast Florida Intergovernmental Coastal Ocean Task Force Final Recommendation Report*,

http://cragenda.broward.org/docs/2016/CCCM/20161206_525/23351_Exhibit%201%20-%20COTF%20Report.pdf p. 31 (last visited September 5, 2017).

The bill establishes the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area (conservation area). The conservation area includes the sovereign submerged lands and state waters²¹ offshore of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach Counties from St. Lucie Inlet in the north to the northern boundary of the Biscayne National Park in the south.²²

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1. Creates the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.

Section 2. Provides an effective date of July 1, 2018.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

By making the designated coral reef ecosystem a conservation area, the bill may enhance the ability for the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area to receive grant funding. There is no fiscal impact on state government.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

None.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

Not applicable. This bill does not appear to affect county or municipal government.

2. Other:

None.

²¹ "Water" or "waters in the state" are defined in s. 373.019(22), F.S.

²² Florida's seaward boundary extends three nautical miles in the Atlantic; Fla. Const. art. II, s. 1.

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

The bill does not provide rulemaking authority or require executive branch rulemaking.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/ COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES

None.

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to coral reefs; establishing the
3 Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation
4 Area; providing an effective date.

5
6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

7
8 Section 1. There is established the Southeast Florida
9 Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. The conservation area
10 shall consist of the sovereignty submerged lands and state
11 waters offshore of Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, and Palm Beach
12 Counties from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of
13 the Biscayne National Park.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

FWCC Land Management



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Update:

Wildlife Management Areas




Wildlife Management Area System



FWC Lead

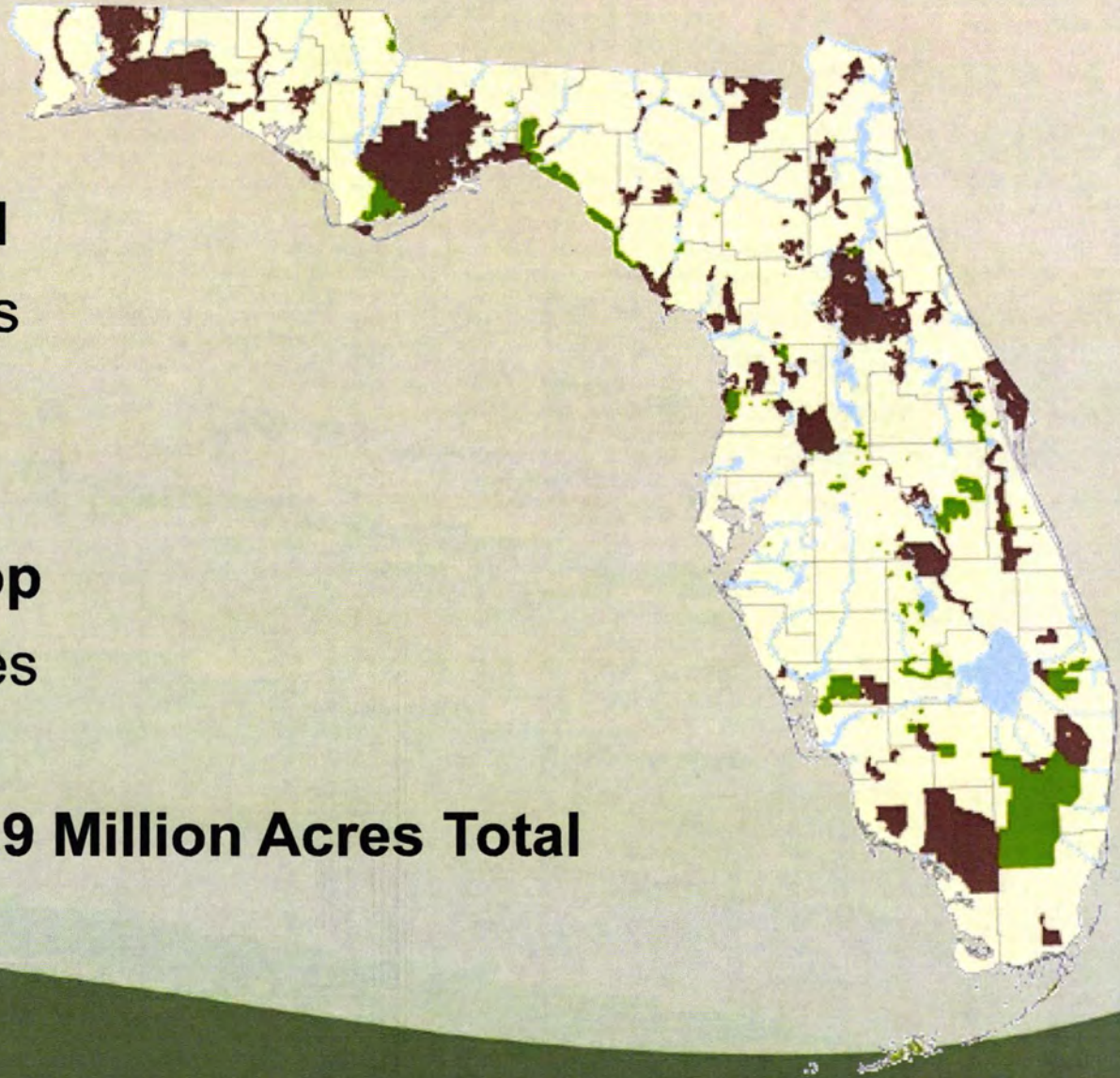
- 1.4 Million Acres
- 54 areas



FWC Co-op

- 4.5 Million Acres
- 93 areas

5.9 Million Acres Total



Focus on Actively Managing Fish and Wildlife Resources

Habitat Management



Fish & Wildlife Management

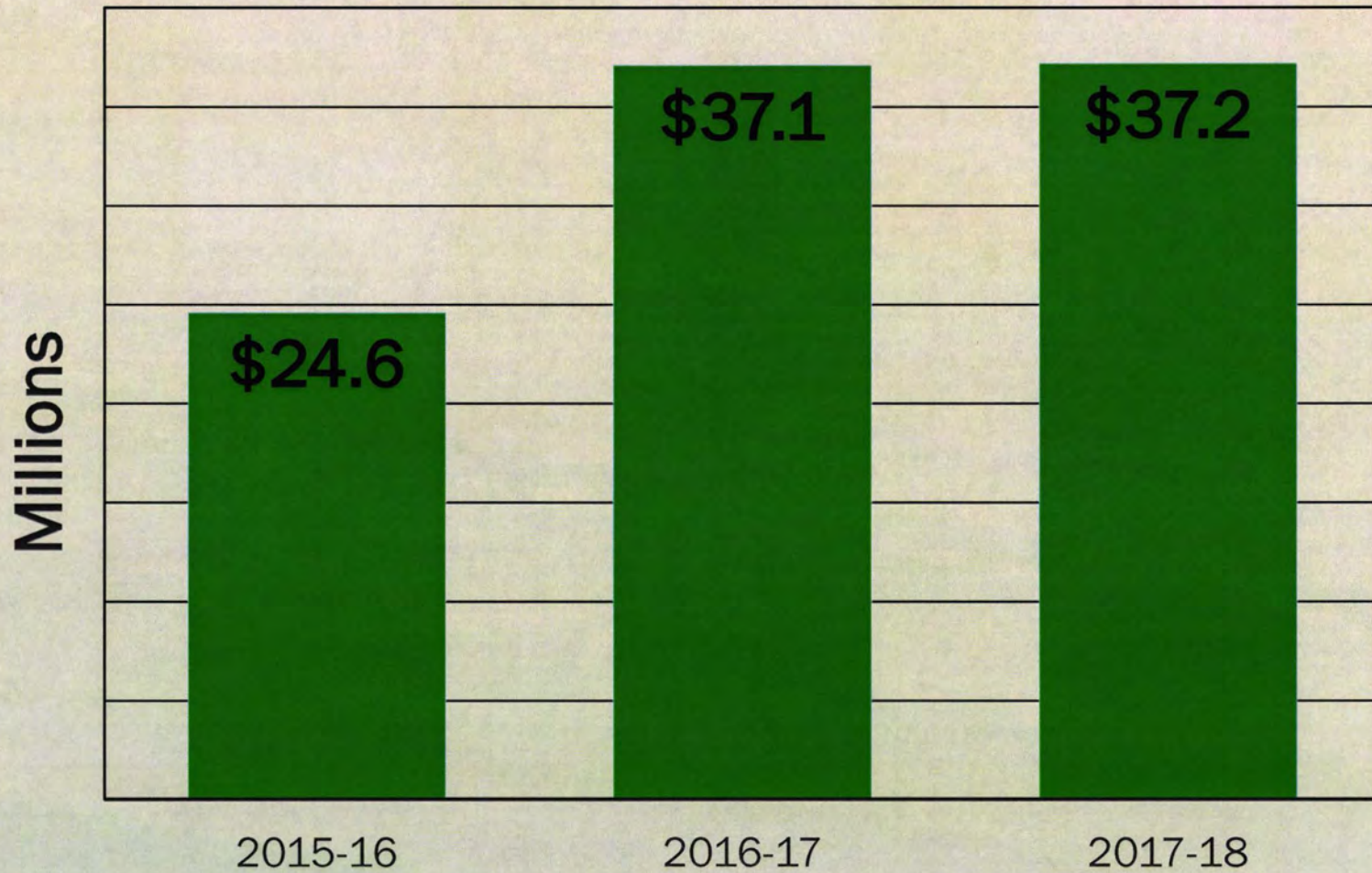


Our Mission:
Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

Public Access and Use



Wildlife Management Areas Base Budget



Wildlife Habitat Restoration

From this:



To this:



Prescribed Fire



=



Primary Objective: Improve Wildlife Habitat



Control of Invasive Plants for Wildlife Habitat Management



Control
Efforts



Control Techniques:

- Aerial Herbicide Spray
- Basal Bark Treatment
- Ground Foliar Spray
- Hand Pulling



Wildlife Habitat Management Using Mechanical Treatments



Wildlife Monitoring and Management



Public Access Infrastructure Maintenance



- 2,000 miles of roads
- 944 miles of trails
- Facilities occupying 1,796 ac.



Enhanced Capacity



▲ 300%

13 new hydrological restoration efforts



▲ 63%

73,000 more acres of prescribed fire



▲ 105%

21,000 more acres mechanically treated



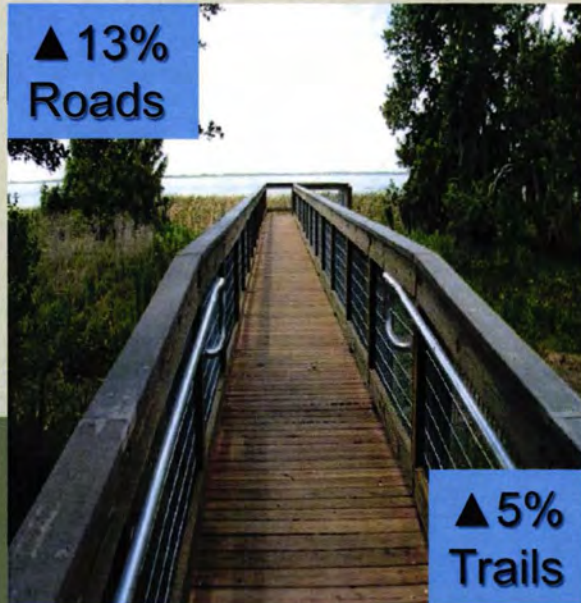
Enhanced Capacity



▲ 33%

24,000 more acres of invasive plant control

Wildlife monitoring and management



▲ 13%
Roads

▲ 5%
Trails

Infrastructure
Increases





Thank You



**Petroleum Tank
Cleanup**

|



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Petroleum Restoration Program Accomplishments

Significant Programmatic Changes 2013 - Present

November 15, 2017

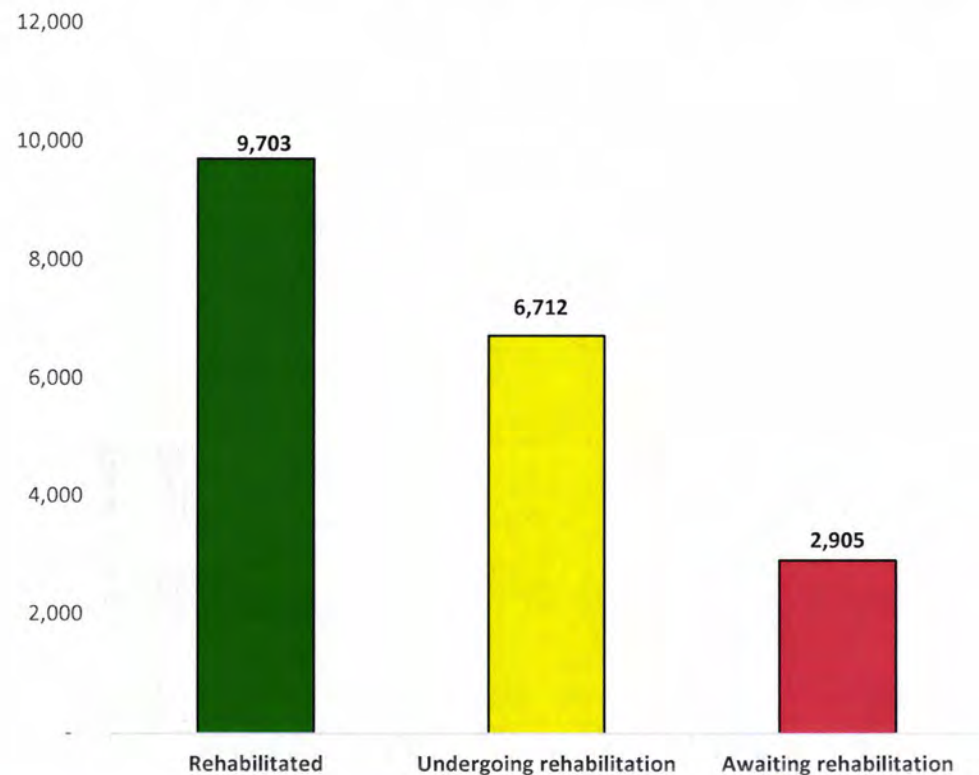




Significant Programmatic Changes

- Reimbursement 1986-1995
- Pre-Approval 1996-2013
- Agency Term Contracts (Competitive Bid) 2013-present

Eligible Discharge Status as of September 29, 2017





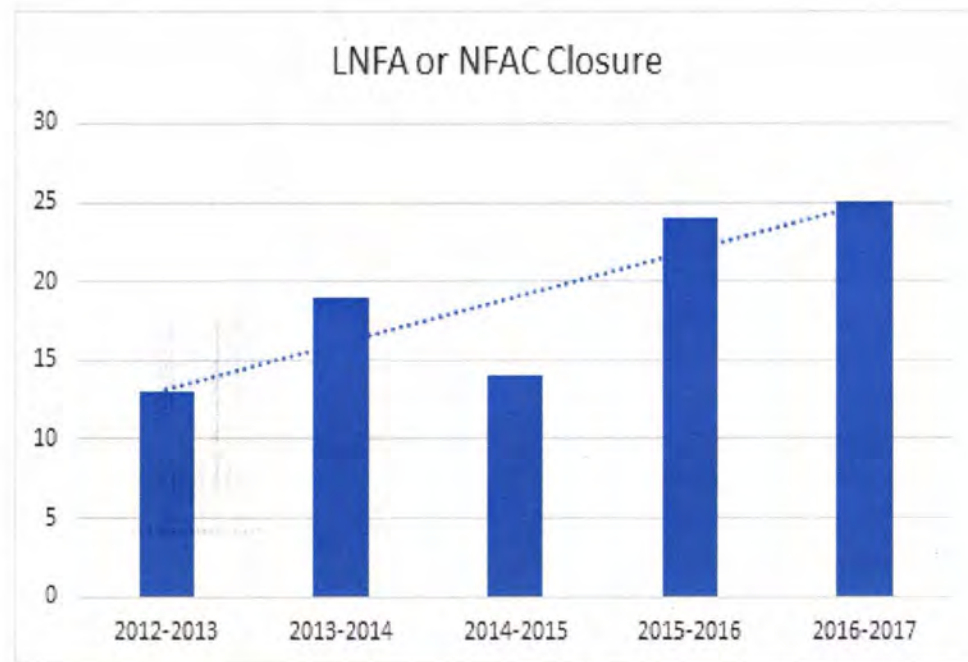
2013-2017 Legislative Changes

- 2013 Transition from Pre-Approval to Competitive Procurement of Agency Term Contractors.
Advanced cleanup funds increased to \$15 million.
- 2014 Competitive procurement replaces Pre-Approval.
Advanced cleanup is expanded to permit bundles and require cost savings.
- 2015 Innovative Technologies program initiated and provided \$5 million.
- 2016 Low Scored Site Initiative (LSSI) program modified to increase funding.
Allowed issuance of Site Rehabilitation Completion Orders with reopener conditions.
Abandoned Tanks Restoration Program and the Petroleum Cleanup Participation Program application period reopened.
Provided the Advanced Cleanup bundles utilizing voluntary cost-share could set aside sites for cleanup in future years.
Innovative Technologies program re-authorized and provided \$5 million.
- 2017 Advanced Cleanup program expanded to redevelopment sites.
Contractors to subcontractors payment deadlines increased from 7 to 30 working days.



Measuring Progress (ATC)

- 2013 - 2014 transition from Preapproval to Agency Term Contracts.
- As of August 2017, 50% of eligible cleanups completed.
- 10% of eligible discharges completed since July 2013.
- 23% Cost Savings - average cost for closure FY 2013-14= \$311,006 and for FY 2016-17= \$241,633.
- Past two years, reduced Purchase Orders from 65 days to 24 days.



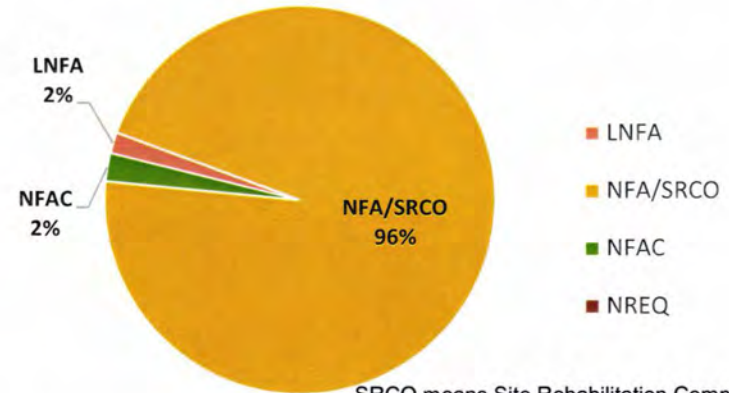
LNFA means Low-Scored Site Initiative No Further Action
NFAC means No Further Actions with conditions



Assessment and Closure Update

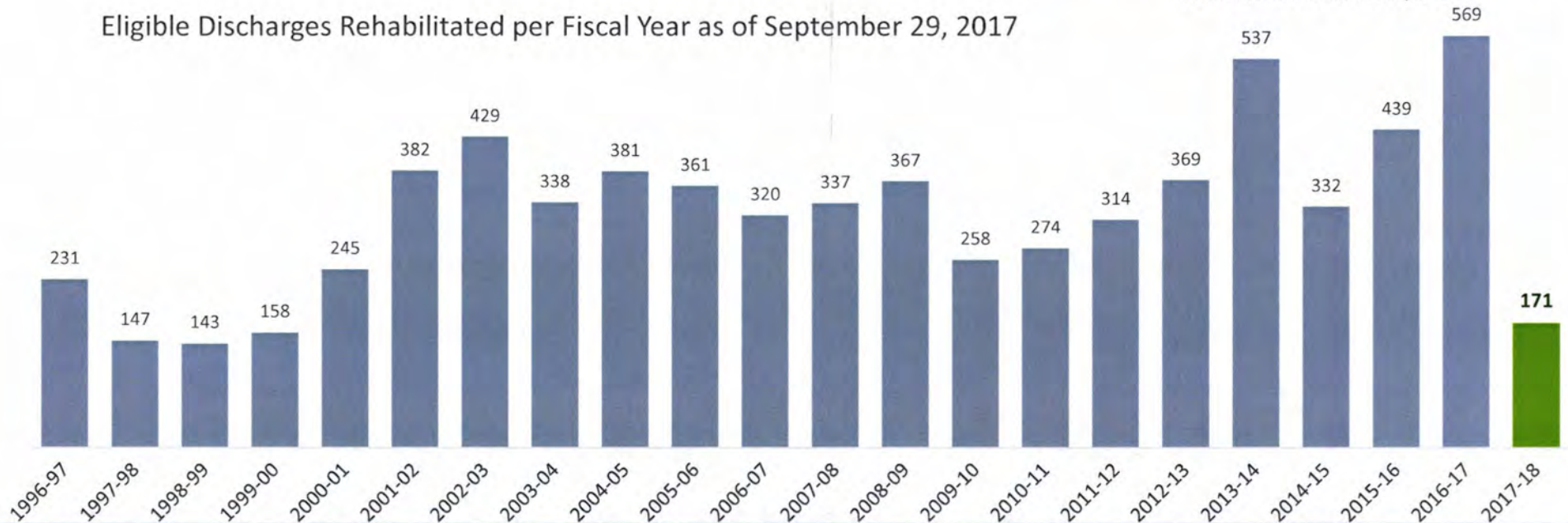
FY 2017-18 Closures by Type as of September 29, 2017

DEP assessed 3,665 Petroleum sites in the past four years



SRCO means Site Rehabilitation Completion Order
NREQ means No action Required

Eligible Discharges Rehabilitated per Fiscal Year as of September 29, 2017





Advanced Cleanup / Redevelopment

- Advanced Cleanup
 - 187 Sites under Advanced Cleanup since 2014
 - 46 Individual AC Agreements
 - \$ 16,771,143 in Total Cleanup Costs
 - \$ 6,064,329 in Total Cost Savings to State (35.3%)
 - 141 Sites in 9 Bundle Agreements
 - \$ 41,289,847 in Total Cleanup Costs
 - \$ 14,702,102 in Total Cost Savings to State (35.6%)
- Advanced Cleanup/Redevelopment
 - Five applications received to date
 - One deemed insufficient but have requested additional info for completion
 - Two applications negotiated & contracts drawn
 - Single Applicant - \$700,000 & \$300,000 (\$1,000,000 cap/applicant)
 - Negotiated as a Performance Based Cleanup Contract
 - Two applications in review
 - Estimated cleanup costs of \$350,000 & \$250,000
 - Five additional inquiries received via phone or email
 - Coordinated effort with Brownfields to stimulate economic development
- Motivate property owners to come to DEP for closures out of normal priority funding order



Changes Going Forward

Expediting Closures:

- Increased application of LSSI/ NFA closures.
- Increased utilization of site rescoring.
- Increase Conditional Closures.
- Continued outreach to site owners.

Complicating Closures:

- Mega Sites (Cleanup costs exceed \$10M):
ports, airports, and bulk storage facilities.
- Ability to obtain site access



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Volkswagen Settlement and Mitigation Trust Fund

**House Agriculture and Natural Resources
Appropriations Subcommittee**

November 15, 2017





What is the VW Settlement?

- In October 2016, the United States entered into a **Partial Consent Decree** to resolve claims that Volkswagen (VW) violated the Clean Air Act (CAA) by selling more than 500,000 vehicles containing **2.0-liter diesel engines** equipped with “**Defeat Devices.**”
 - The “Defeat Devices” allowed the diesel vehicles to meet emission limits during emissions tests while not meeting these limits during normal vehicle operation.
- In May 2017, the United States entered into a **Second Partial Consent Decree** to resolve claims that VW sold more than 80,000 vehicles containing **3.0-liter diesel engines** also equipped with “Defeat Devices.”



Components of the VW Settlement

The settlement consists of three major components:

- VW will conduct a **Buyback** or **emissions modification** on at least 85 percent of the subject vehicles.
- **Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Investment** – VW will invest \$2 billion to promote the use of ZEV and infrastructure.
- **Mitigation Trust Fund** – \$2.925 billion to states to fully remediate the excess Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) emissions from the subject vehicles.



What is the VW Mitigation Trust Fund?

- The **Mitigation Trust Fund** is a combined \$2.9 billion for beneficiaries to mitigate excess NOx emissions from subject vehicles sold in their state.
 - Funds will be available for **Eligible Mitigation Actions**.
 - Fund allocation is based on the number of subject vehicles registered in the state.
 - **Florida's** share of the Mitigation Trust Fund is **\$166 million**.
- A U.S. District Court has appointed **Wilmington Trust** as the independent trustee to administer the Trust Fund.



Timeline

- The United States recently filed a final Trust Agreement, which set the following timeline:
 - **Oct. 2, 2017:** Trust Effective Date (TED) established
 - **Dec. 1, 2017:** Deadline for Governors' offices to Submit Certification of Beneficiary Status and identify Lead Agency
 - **Jan. 30, 2018:** Deadline for Trustee to designate "Beneficiaries"
- **Failure to timely submit** the Certification Forms means a potential Beneficiary becomes an **Excluded Entity, ineligible to receive funds.**
- Once the Trustee designates the state as a "**Beneficiary,**" the state may submit its **Mitigation Plan** at any time.



Beneficiary Mitigation Plan

The Beneficiary must submit to the Trustee and make publicly available a **Beneficiary Mitigation Plan** before receiving any trust funds. The plan must:

- Explain the Beneficiary's overall goal for the use of the trust funds;
- Describe the expected NO_x reductions the plan will achieve;
- List the categories of projects the plan is expected to implement;
- Explain how the plan considers benefits to air quality in communities with a disproportionate air pollution burden; and
- Explain how public input has been sought and considered in developing the plan.



Eligible Mitigation Actions

1. Repower or replace older heavy-duty local freight trucks and port drayage trucks with new diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines;
2. Repower or replace older school buses, shuttle buses or transit buses with new diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines;
3. Repower or replace older medium-duty local freight trucks with new diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines;
4. Repower or replace older diesel switcher locomotives with new diesel, alternative fuel or electric engines;
5. Repower or upgrade diesel-powered ferries and tugs with new diesel or alternative fuel engines;
6. Provide electric shorepower equipment for oceangoing vessels;
7. Repower or replace diesel-powered airport ground support equipment with electric engines;
8. Repower or replace large forklifts and port cargo handling equipment with electric engines;
9. Build new light-duty zero emission vehicle supply equipment (electric charging or hydrogen dispensing stations); and
10. Provide matching funds for state allocation of project funding under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA).



Funding

States may request funding for Eligible Mitigation Actions 30 days after submitting the Mitigation Plan.

- Trust funds are projected to be available by the middle of 2018.
- Funds will be available for 10 years.
- State-owned vehicles and equipment are eligible for 100 percent funding for repowering or replacement expenses.
- Non-government-owned vehicles and equipment are eligible for reimbursement of a fraction of the repowering or replacement expenses (from 25 percent up to 75 percent depending on the project).
- Up to 15 percent of available funds may be used to cover administrative costs.



Public Outreach Activities

- Published webpage describing the VW Settlement and Mitigation Trust Fund.
- Parties may subscribe to an email list on the webpage to receive direct notice of updates relating to Mitigation Trust activities.
- Published six Requests for Information (RFI) to gather information from interested parties to inform the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.
 - Received more than 150 responses to the RFI from businesses, organizations and local government representatives.
- Currently planning for further opportunities to submit comments and a series of public meetings to solicit public input on priorities and considerations in developing the Beneficiary Mitigation Plan.



Questions

John J. Truitt

Deputy Secretary for Regulatory Programs

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

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COASTAL RESILIENCE AND OUR CORAL REEFS

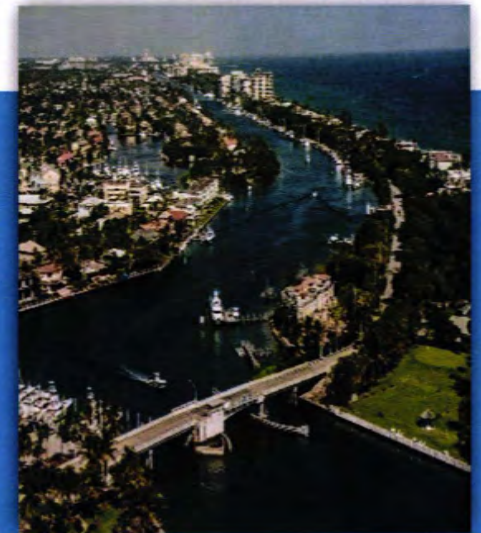
House Environmental Appropriations Committee
November 15, 2017

Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division



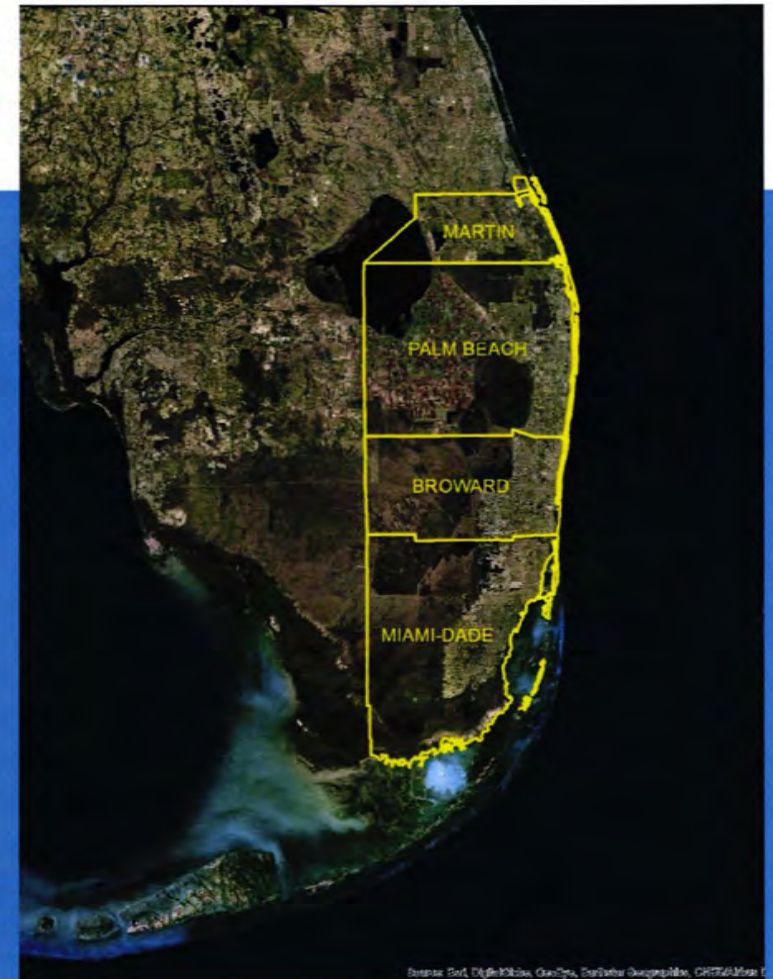
SE FLORIDA COASTAL RESILIENCE

- Population of 6.18 Million
- 194 miles of shoreline/ 132 miles of beaches
- Vibrant coastal economies
- Rich nearshore reef and coastal resources
- Varied land use
 - Dense coastal development
 - Suburban
 - Agriculture
 - Natural areas



SHORELINE CHARACTERISTICS

- Exposure to Nor'easters and tropical systems
- 9 Navigational Inlets/Active Ports
- Intense commercial/recreational boat use
- Extensive beaches and natural areas
- 3 Parallel reef tracks
 - unique nearshore reef system
 - average 40 ft depth
 - diverse and complex



SHORELINE PROTECTION

- Beaches and Dunes:
 - Protect \$4 billion* upland infrastructure
 - Produce \$13 billion annually* in economic activity
 - Provide recreational space for tourists and residents
 - Provide critical habitat
- Management Activities
 - Sand bypass
 - Regional renourishment projects
 - Targeted hot spot maintenance
 - Reef conservation and enhancement

*Broward Statistics



EQUALLY CRITICAL NEARSHORE HABITAT

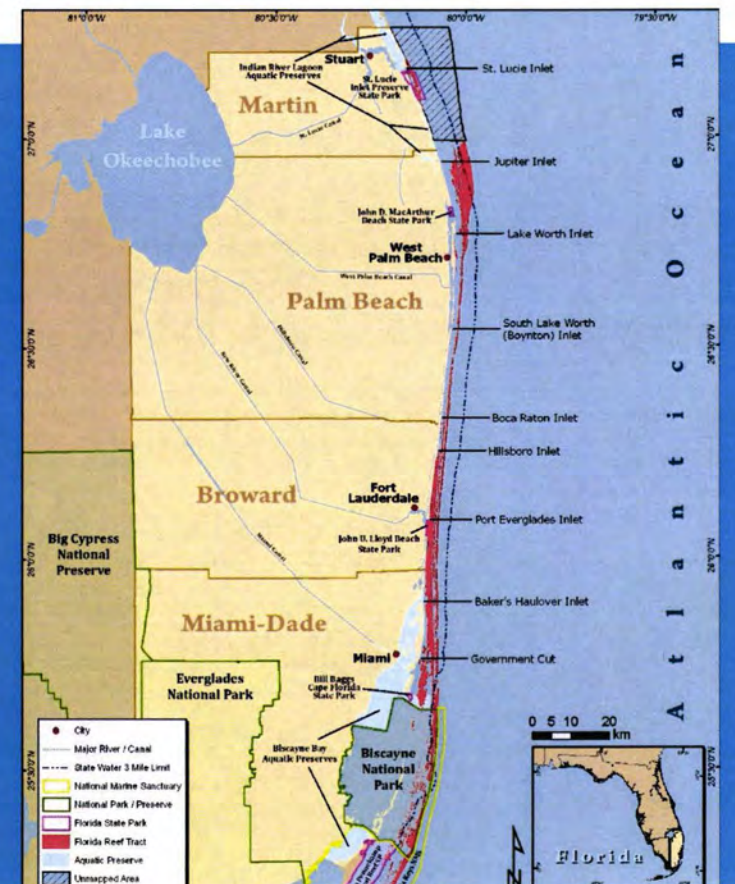
■ Denotes >150 Acropora colonies



SE FLORIDA CORAL REEF TRACT

Why are reefs important?

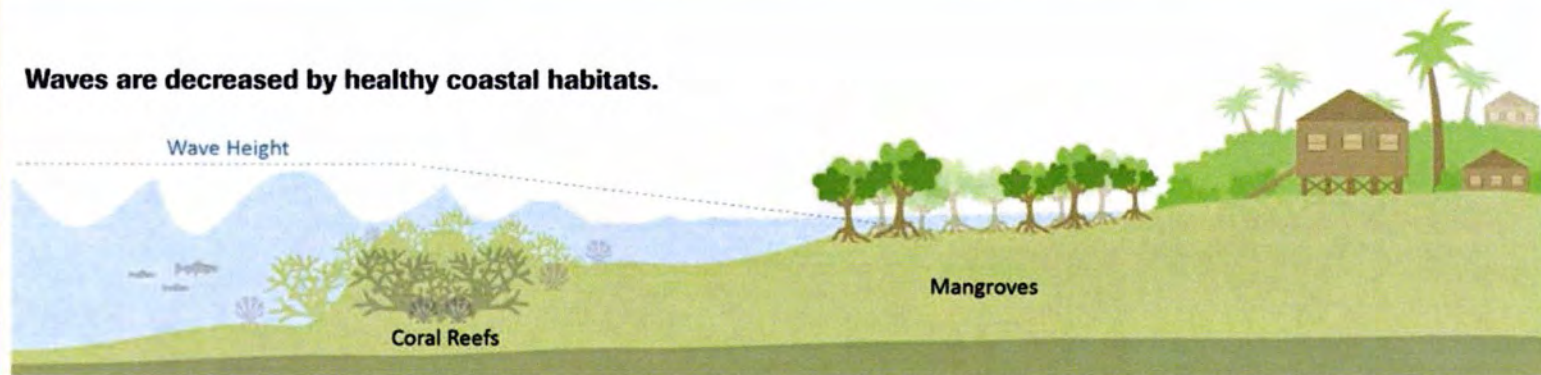
- Vital to Coastal Protection
 - Dispel wave energy before reaching shore
- Support Tourism, Fisheries, and High Biodiversity
- Jobs & Economy in Southeast Florida
 - 61,000 jobs
 - \$5.7 Billion in sales and income every year



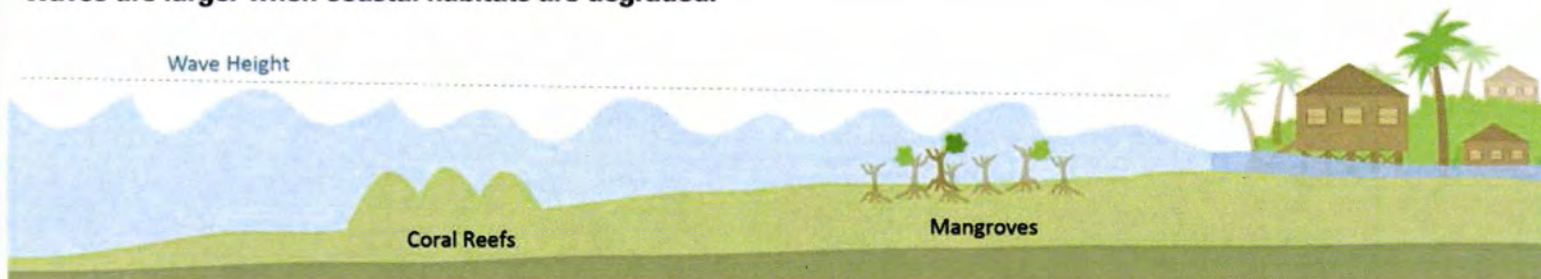
Why are reefs important?

CORAL REEFS

Waves are decreased by healthy coastal habitats.



Waves are larger when coastal habitats are degraded.



CORAL REEFS

Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

Poor water quality



Illegal fishing practices



Direct human impacts



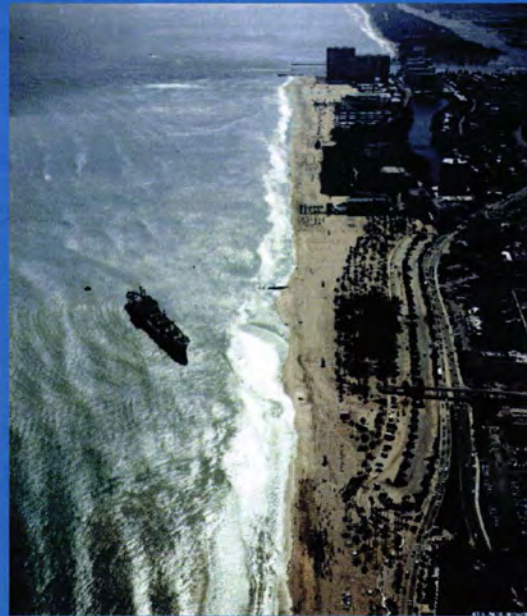
Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

CORAL REEFS

Coastal armoring



Ship groundings



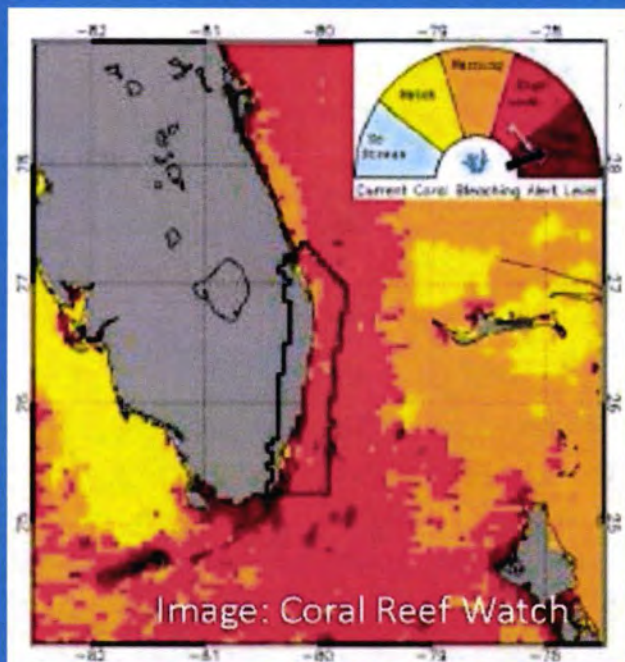
Storms



Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

CORAL REEFS

Water temperature



Coral disease

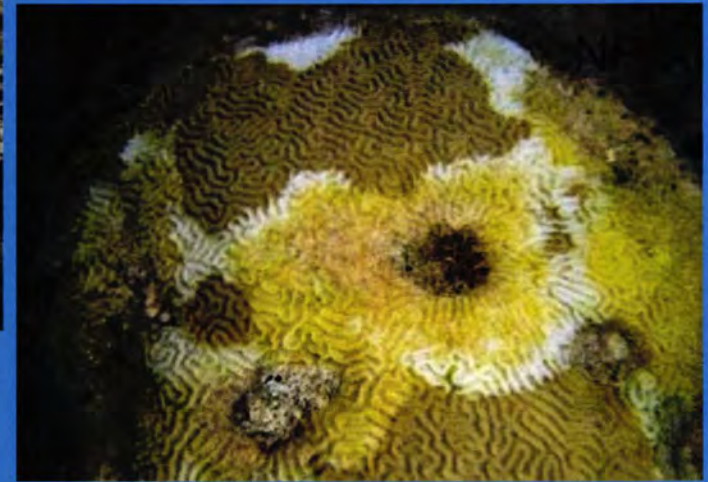
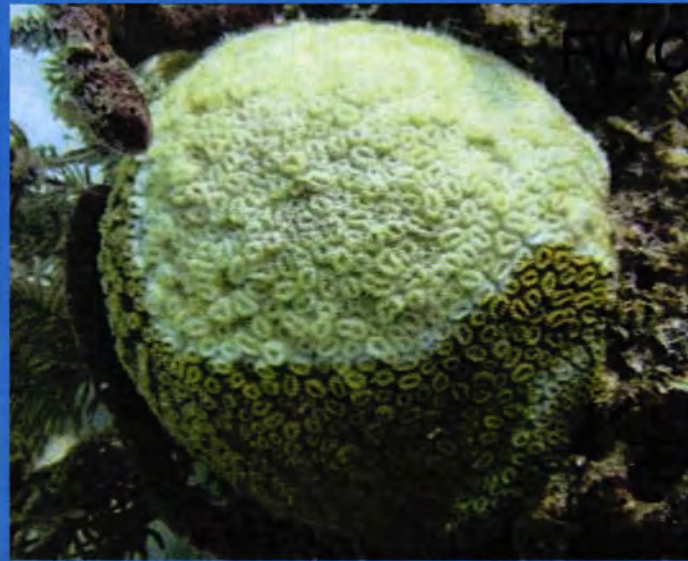


Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

Coral disease epidemic

CORAL REEFS

Nearly 50% of southeast Florida's corals are affected

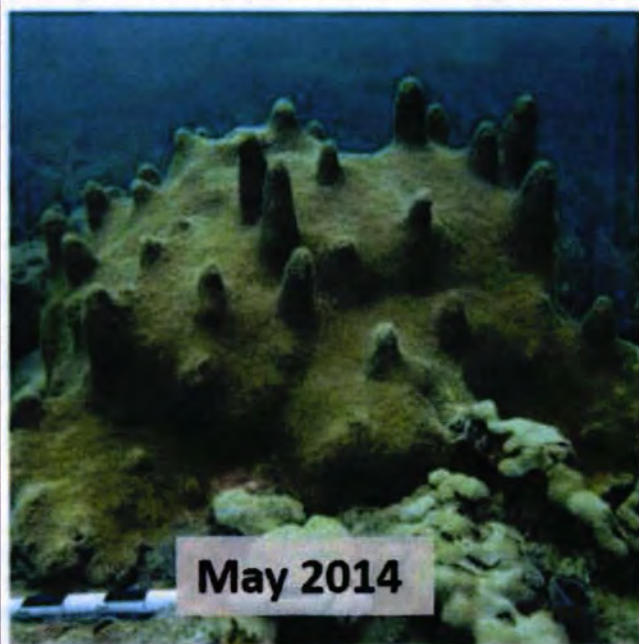


CORAL REEFS

Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

Coral disease epidemic

The diseases progress at an unprecedented rate

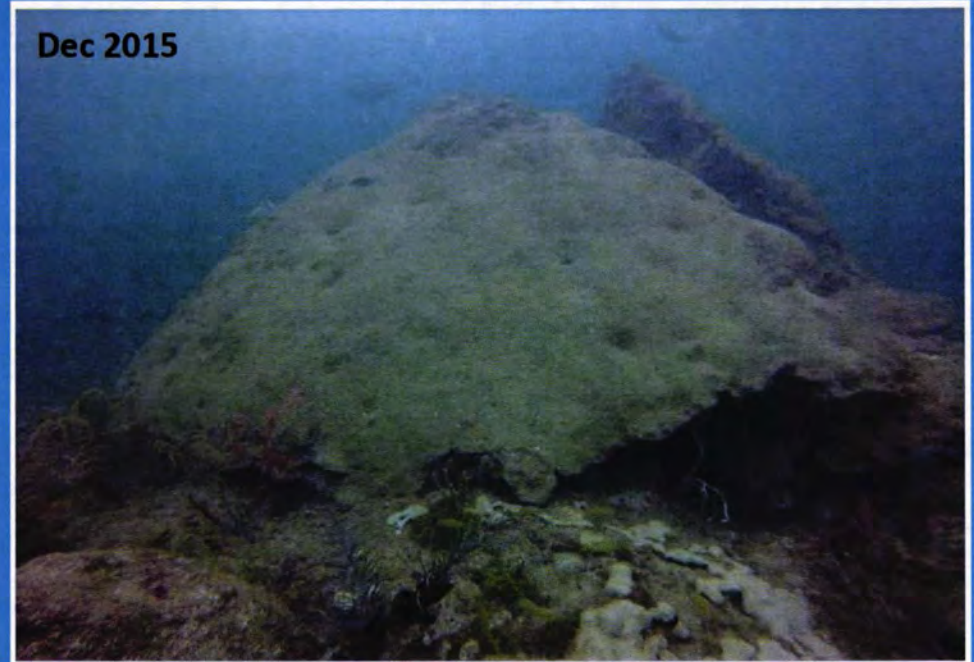
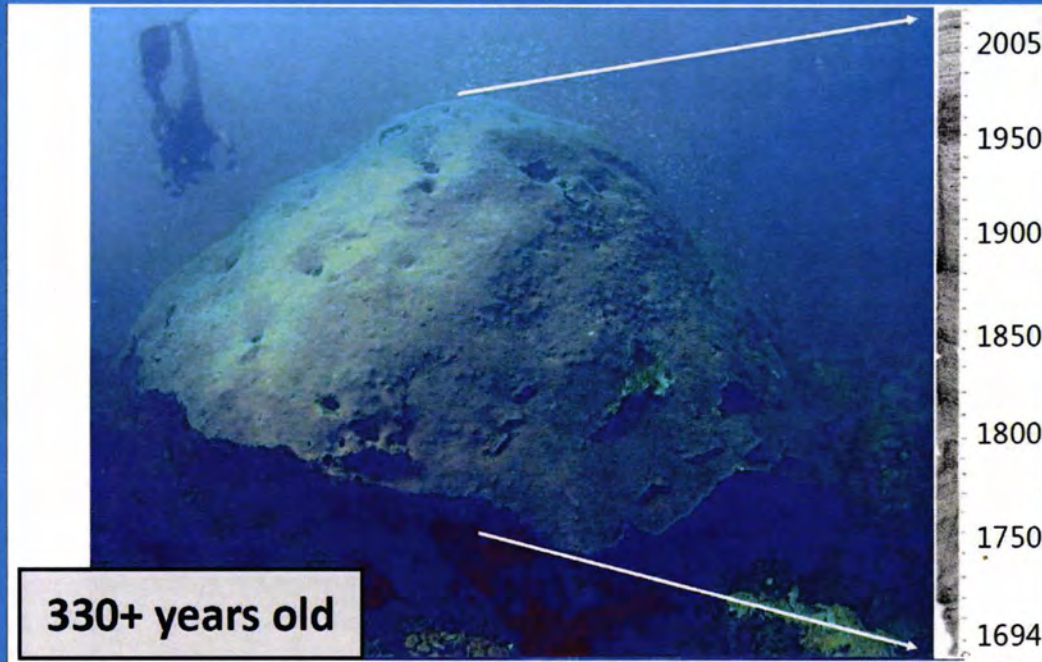


Threats to southeast Florida's reefs

Coral disease

CORAL REEFS

Loss of oldest living corals



PRESSURES INCREASE WITH SEVERE WEATHER AND AMBIENT CONDITIONS

2015 Palm Beach – 22" rainfall



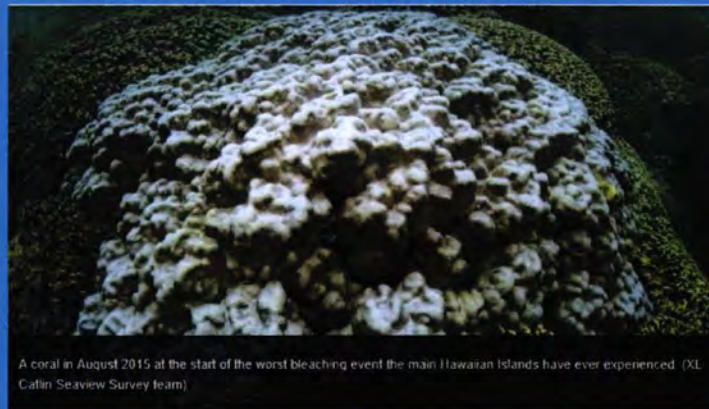
2016 Fort Lauderdale - Tidal Flooding



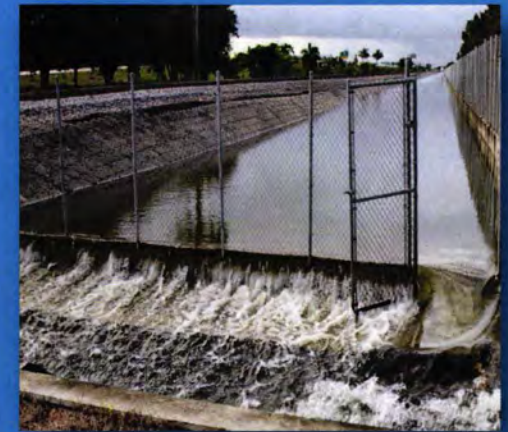
OCEANS

El Nino is taking a toll on the world's coral reefs

By Michael Casey · Published February 24, 2016 · Fox News



A coral in August 2015 at the start of the worst bleaching event the main Hawaiian Islands have ever experienced. (XL, Calin Seaview Survey team)



REGIONAL COORDINATION TO ADVANCE REEF RESILIENCE

- SE Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force
 - Martin, Palm Beach, Broward, Miami Dade Counties
- Established in 2012 via enabling resolutions
- Focus on integrating science and policy to protect and enhance reefs
- 22 Participants
 - County and municipal elected officials
 - Agency representatives
 - Academia
 - Stakeholders – industry and user groups
- 2015 Final Report – Key recommendations
 - Regional water quality monitoring
 - Organized and sustained regional coordination and plan

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COASTAL OCEAN TASK FORCE FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

STEVEN ABRAMS
Commissioner

Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners
Chair

JOHN HADDOX

Commissioner
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Vice Chair

James Byrne
Frank Caplan
Eula Clarke
Daniel Dietch
Smart Dodd
Dr. Richard Dodge
Bonnie Fischer
Beam Furr
Susan Haynie
Bob Jones
Mike Kennedy
Ernie Marks
Dawn Pardo
John Sprague
Jeff Torode
Joanna Walczak
Dana Wusnich-Mendes

The Nature Conservancy
Mayor, Village of Key Biscayne
Commissioner, City of Stuart
Mayor, Town of Surfside
Vice Mayor, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center
Mayor, Town of South Palm Beach
Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Mayor, City of Boca Raton
Southeastern Fisheries Association
Recreational fishing
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Commissioner, City of Riviera Beach
Marine Industry of Florida
South Florida Diving Headquarters
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Alternate Members:

Dr. James Bohrsack
Tom Campanari
Clack Collins
Chip LaMarca
Jannie Monty
Kevin Senecal
Mason Smith
Ed Tichenor

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Commissioner, City of Stuart
Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County
Broward County Board of County Commissioners
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Divers Direct
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Palm Beach County Reef Rescue

Legislative appropriation 2017-18

CORAL REEFS

Coastal Water Quality Monitoring - \$499,977.80

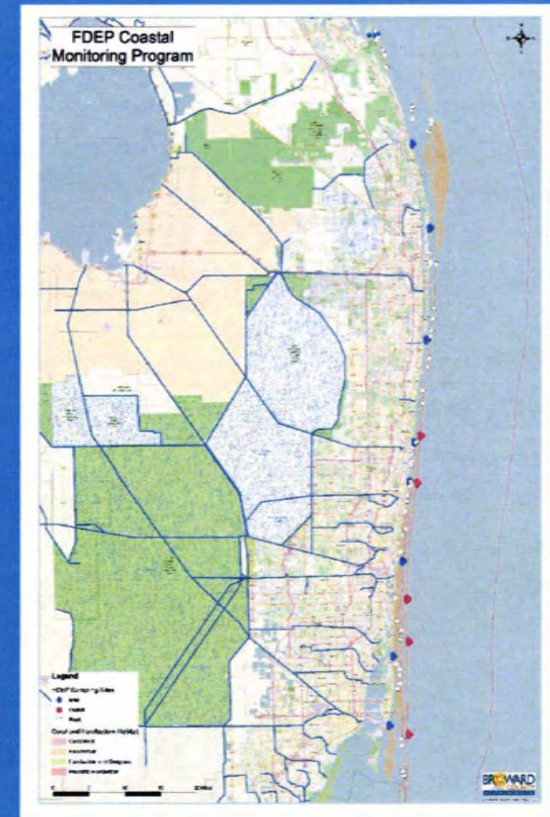
Coral Disease Response for Florida Reef Tract - \$500,020.20



Legislative appropriation 2017-18

CORAL REEFS

- Coastal Water Quality Monitoring - \$499,977.80
- Expands current water quality monitoring – 115 sites monthly
 - All nine inlets
 - Random reef sites
 - Five ocean wastewater outfalls

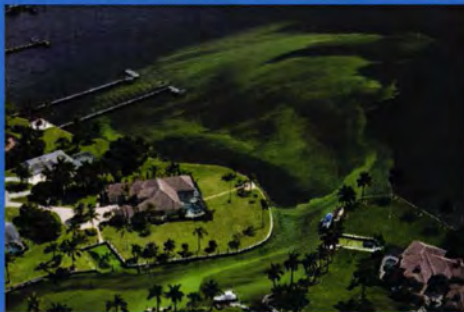


LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION

2017-18

CORAL REEFS

- Coral disease response for Florida Reef Tract - \$500,020
 - Disease monitoring/surveillance
 - Pathogen Identification
 - Data management



Coral white plague



PREVIOUS FINDINGS

- Florida Atlantic Coastal Environmental (FACE) Initiative
- 2004 – 2012 supported by NOAA, EPA, and Universities
- Multidisciplinary effort to identify and trace environmental stressors to coastal ocean (e.g., bacteria, nutrients)
- Included analysis of nutrient flux from outfalls vs. inlets
- Findings:
 - Inlets are significant source of nutrients
 - Flux from inlets comparable to and/or exceeding outfalls
 - Inlets revealed strong alongshore plume (30 km)
 - Outfalls showed rapid decay of plume (8 km) with infrequent onshore component (ca. 4%)



INFRASTRUCTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Stormwater management
 - Surface water storage
 - Water quality treatment
 - Industry best management practices
- Wastewater management



LEGISLATIVE REQUESTS 2018-19

CORAL REEFS

- Proposed FDEP budget contains \$1,000,000
 - Continue water quality and coral disease projects
- Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area - HB 53 and SB 232
 - Sovereign submerged lands and state waters offshore Martin, Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade Counties

Endorsed by the Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force and jointly by the South Florida Regional Planning Council and the Treasure Coast Planning Council



SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AREA

- Anticipated Outcomes:
 - Organized coordination to improve the reef system
 - Annual budgeting of conservation/restoration measures
 - Integrated approach to conservation of coral reefs and associated fisheries (FDEP and FWCC)

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SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AREA

- Potential Improvements:
 - Consolidate local mooring buoy programs into a regional program for increased cost effectiveness
 - More effective response to large scale reef damage incidents and disease epidemics
 - More cost effective reef restoration projects (regional economy of scale)
 - Targeted and coordinated infrastructure investments
 - Coordinated education and outreach programs

CONCLUSION

- Reefs are unique and diverse in their regional benefits
- Pressures can be reduced through organized efforts
- Policy leadership is required to advance solutions
- Stakeholders favor a more organized and consistent approach
- Designation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area is an essential mechanism

QUESTIONS ?

Dr. Kenneth Banks, P.E.
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