

May 2006 Public Comment: Barbara Giacoppo

I have been an avid diver for more than 15 years. During this time I have seen a dramatic decline in the health of our coral reefs in the South Florida area. The last two years have been the worst I have seen with algae blooms everywhere – covering the reefs and smothering them. Also, the sand that has covered the reefs is also evident and contributing to the decline in health of our reefs.

We need our oceans just as much as we need the air in our atmosphere to breath. We do not yet fully understand the how important the oceans are to us and how important it is to maintain the balance that occurs without our human waste and disregard for the integrity of that environment that we don't generally inhabit.

Please put in place a plan that studies and understands what impact our disregard for the integrity of the ocean ecosystems has had and what that means for the future. We need healthy oceans and reefs to support life under water just as we need healthy air and water systems above the oceans to support life on land.

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