

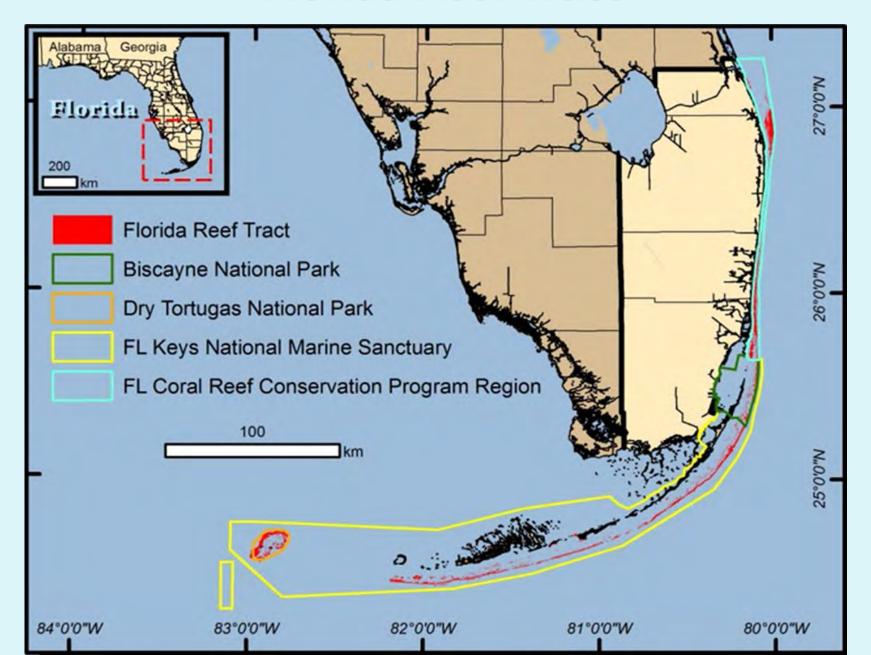


Community Engagement in Coral Reef Resource Management:
The Our Florida Reefs
Community Planning Process

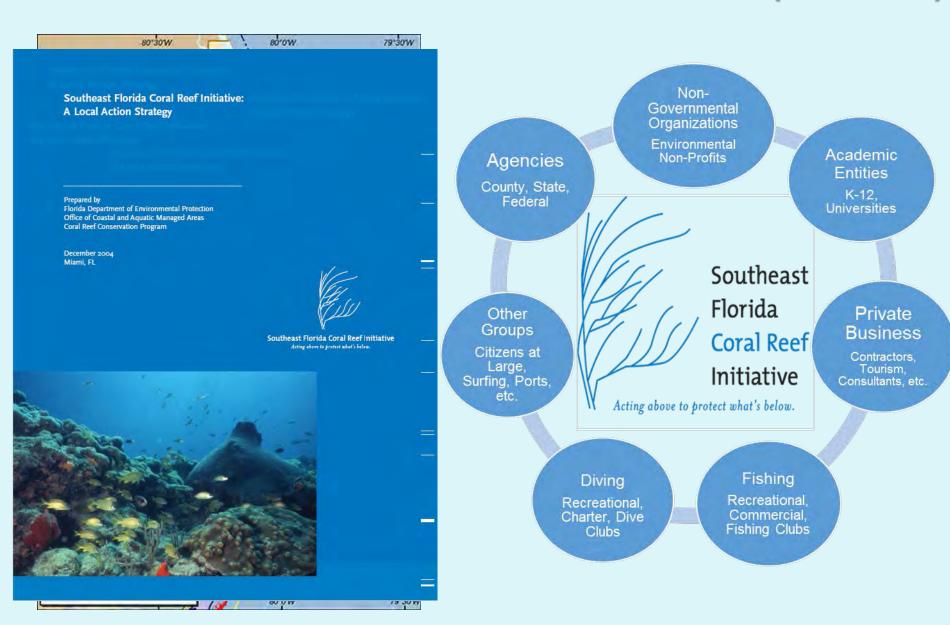
Jamie Monty
Miami-Dade County
Division of Environmental Resources Management

August 11, 2017 38th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

### **Florida Reef Tract**



### Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)



## Stakeholders Informing Management

### User Surveys in 2006 and 2014 Show:

- Coral reefs are important to South Florida
- Overall negative perception of reef conditions
- Opinion that coral reefs, water quality, fisheries declined
- Users changed locations; increased use conflict
- If nothing changes, conditions will continue to decline
- Strong support for implementation of management strategies







Photo By: Writenonfictionnow.com



# A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

STEP 1 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

STEP 2
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

STEP 3
SHARE RECOMMENDATIONS

STEP 4
REEF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### **Best Available Science**



Corals are so on the plane coral reefs, o and diverse

Florida's cor. array of fish, during storr economy. Ye



Close up view of Phata: Dave Gilli

fans and sea skeleton allo

Like all anim depth, light.

Corals form The algae pr with safe she bleaching. B limestone sk don't, the co

#### Threats to Many differe

People are an don't spend ti products into greenhouse carbon dioxi

Shore fishing is one

people enjoy along

Photo: Danielle Go

How People I

People benefi Southeast Flor without realizi more than 10 delicious seafc millions of res Plus, reefs are \$5.7 billion in : already contril every year.12 ecologically va

Located within Management i proximity offer reef ecosyster but it also put prevent addition

#### **Current Man**

The northern two-thirds of 1 Florida Keys N

In 2004, Florid Initiative (SEF) coordination v

- · A Lack have co Inlet in
- Fishing diving, I Injured recover
- · Land-B partially and car
- Maritin beache uninten

SEFCRI has berecommendat these actions i Coral reefs are Florida. The proc nearby coastal I beds, mangroves water meet. Tog the world, pro recreational and

Ensuring that the coast and waters

#### The Importance

Mainland southe Florida's coral re including many c many large ocea

Nearshore hardt fish and sea turt be so close to the

Seagrass beds p recreationally an source of food fo maintain water c



Red mangroves (Rhizi

From the worldocean-inspired shellfish bring ( Florida's reef ecc fish and other ar

Many reef fish d growing populati other habitats, w

Various reef resi urchins and othe Larger predators Many of these la game fish and se

The health of the future. We have a



A red grouper (Epineph Photo: Joe Marina

Commercial fish catches of south Assessing reef fis region. As a com Water is the basis of that we can safely and salt water, since

Rain falls on land v recharges Florida's through canals, st through one of nin marshes and cypre crustaceans live an

The southeast Flor flows over land, it i pollutants, such as quality and impact a



Algae overgrows a col wastewater outfall (up) Florida's five partially tre Photo: Steve Spring-Reef Brad Bedford (lower)

Coastal developme water, which reduc From our beaches, mangroves, seagrasses, and coral reefs to our surfers, divers, fishers and beach lovers, southeast Florida is a delicately balanced inter-connected community equation.

The health of the entire southeast Florida coastal ecosystem is dependent upon the health of its parts. Floridians benefit from healthy and productive coral reefs, and we all need to help ensure that a strong and balanced community ecosystem exists in the future.



#### The Importance of a Healthy Ecosystem

When the ecosystem equation is balanced, everyone wins. If our coastal habitats are healthy and managed wisely, we can have clean water, lots of big fish, thriving corals, a booming economy, and happy people.

#### Impacts Felt Throughout the Ecosystem

The entire ecosystem depends on balanced inputs. Many complex biological and physical components work together to maintain a functional ecosystem. If any one of the pieces in the equation becomes unbalanced or unhealthy, we risk severely altering the whole ecosystem. For example, if our water is polluted then the oysters, lobsters, and fish become sick or could die, which directly affects our local seafood supply.



### **Reef Use and Value**



#### Alice Kincey School Teacher

I arrived in Miami, Florida in August of 1974 to attend graduate school at the University of Miami. Traveling by car from Alabama with my Siamese cat named Sam, was quite an adventure. Sam had attended the U of Alabama and now he was moving to sunny South Florida to attend the U of Miamil



#### Guy Harvey World Renowned Marine Artist

Guy Harvey is a unique blend of artist, scientist, diver, angler, conservationist, and explorer, flercely devoted to his family and his love of the sea. Growing up in Jamaica, Guy spent many hours fishing and diving with his father along the Island's south coast.



#### Antonio (& Jesus) Balladares Recreational Fishermen

My, name is Antonio Balladares. I've been in this beautiful state/ country for 24 years, going into 25 years in October. I first set foot here in 1989 with my mother and 3 other siblings. We immigrated from gorgeous Nicaragua, we left because of the war.



#### Philippe Cousteau Author & Environmental Advocates

Philippe-Pierre Jacques-Yves Arnault Cousteau, Jr. is the son of Philippe Cousteau, having been born six months after the death of his father, and the grandson of Jacques-Yves Cousteau.



#### Captain Bouncer Smith Fishing Charter Captain

Captain Bouncer Smith is experienced in every aspect of the sport of fishing, in South Florida as well as a variety of ports throughout North America, he has devoted his life to sharing fishing with others, through his radio shows, magazine articles, seminars, and on the water.



#### Shana Phelan Dive Shop Owner

Originally from Columbus, Indiana, Shana graduated in 1998 from the College of Charleston in South Carolina with Marine Biology and Environmental Science Degrees. Weeks after graduating, she promptly moved to South Florida to explore the areas amazing coral reefs and pursue a career in diving.



#### Melissa Gil Professional Kiteboarder and Marine Biologist

Ever since she can remember Melissa has had a passion for the ocean and a deep love towards nature. Originally from Costa Rica, Melissa moved to Miami in 2003 to go to college and pursue her dreams of understanding her favorite place, the

# **Our Florida Reefs: Step 1**



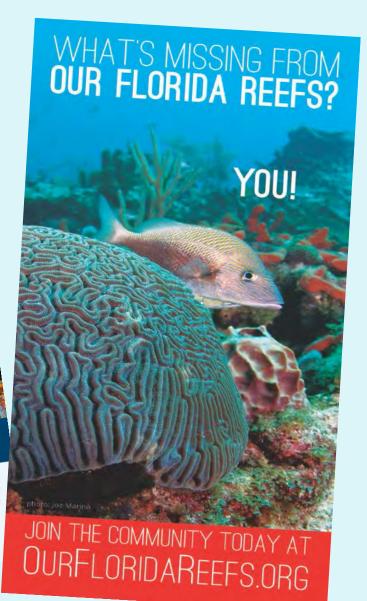
A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

STEP 1 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

√June 2013

# **How To Get Involved**





## **Spreading the Word**



## www.OurFloridaReefs.org



Join Our Community | Log I

0

HOME

ABOUT

EWS

S GET INVOLVED

RESOURCES

FAD



#### RESOURCES

#### SPREAD THE WORD!

Please download this SAVE THE DATE meeting flyer and post in a public location in your office, business, or organization to help us spread the word about OUR FLORIDA REEFS.

#### FACT SHEETS

Coral — The Animals That Build and Live on Our Coral Reefs (PDF)

Ecosystem — Our Inter-Connected Southeast Florida Coastal Community (PDF)

Fish — Marine Life Depends on Healthy Coral Reefs (PDF)

Estuarine, Coastal, and Ocean Habitats — Essential for a Productive Coral Reef Ecosystem (PDF)

Management — An Essential Part of Healthy Reefs (PDF)

People — Everyone Depends on Our Healthy Coral Reefs (PDF)



#### Join Our Community

Join our community to receive information and updates on upcoming meetings, and to comment on topics you care about.

First Name\*

Last Name\*

Email Address\*



## Our Florida Reefs: Step 2



A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

STEP 1
COMMUNITY MEETINGS

√June 2013

STEP 2 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

✓ March 2014- June 2016

### **Step 2: Community Working Groups**

### **Application Process:**

- Non-Agency short application
- Agency nomination by agency

### **Criteria:**

- Resident of, or working in, SE FL
- Time and willingness to fulfill obligations
- Represent interest group leaders
- Ability to work with others
- Ability to disseminate information

### **Review:**

By SEFCRI Vice-Chairs





### **Working Groups Tasks**

 Identify recommended management actions to improve southeast Florida coral reef health

- Prioritize the list
- Give recommendations for implementing the prioritized actions





# (1) CWG Organizational Resources



David is originally from oriented, passants, rie grew up recreating on me remeases every and vacationing along the Gulf of Mexico. He has always held a keen interest in marine life and vacadoning along the dust of MEXXO, he has always held a been interest in matrix site and became a certified scuba diver in the early 1990s. At the time, marine science and decame, a certified scund over in the early 1990s. At the time, marine science remained a hobby and an area of interest as he pursued his Bachelor's degree in history. , remained a hobby and an area of interest as he pursued his Bachelor's degree in history of from Auburn University and a Master's degree in geography from the University of Alabama. He then accepted a job to live in Nassau, Sahamas, and study in the Natural for the Company of the Company o and Environmental Sciences Department at the College of the Bahamas. While in the and environmental sciences beganing at the surgery of the parameter street of the Balanta, he took advantage of the great Scuba diving opportunities to receive his Rescue Diver and Diversaster certifications. After a couple of years in the Bahamas, he moved Stateside and attended the PhD program at the University of South Carolina, specializing aversame and diversaria are state program as are universary or adults. Leturing, approximating in coastal and martine geography. He now resides in Highland Beach and works for the City at custom and matter grupping. The new resides in riightand beach and works for the city of Bock Ration as a Marine Turtle Specialist at Gumbo Limbo Nature Center. He is also an of socia risson as a matrine turnor specialist at summus unitios nasure scener. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Broward College, a member of several academic and environmental organizations, and an avid fan of Auburn University athletics.

Irene was born Montevideo Uruguay and imm family. She currently lives in Port St. Lucie, but h and back to Uruguay along the way. She did her un an MS in Marine Biology and Coastal Zone

Irene works for the Florida Department of Enviro Resource Permitting Section, and as an adjunct Marine Biology and Environmental Science. In t Associates, inc. marking sea turtle nests along the that have had the pleasure of being on a dive boa in a light chop.

Dr. Ken Banks - County Govern

Dr. Ken Banks works for Broward County, in the En Resilience Division as the manager of the Marine the management and implementation of interdig the management and implementation of iteration for related to coral reef mapping and monitoring ( related to coral reel mapping and momenting ( sonars, low altitude aerial photography, and in water quality, marine resources damage assessing projects (erosion studies, wave and current stu projects jerosion studies, wore and current st mitigation projects), and coastal conservation. coastal resources management.

**Mission** ely develop a pri ent acti

> reefs ring bo

YOUR GROUP NORMS OF DOING THINGS

Approved 4-22-2014 Version 01 TABLE OF CONTENTS

Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process

South Community Working Group

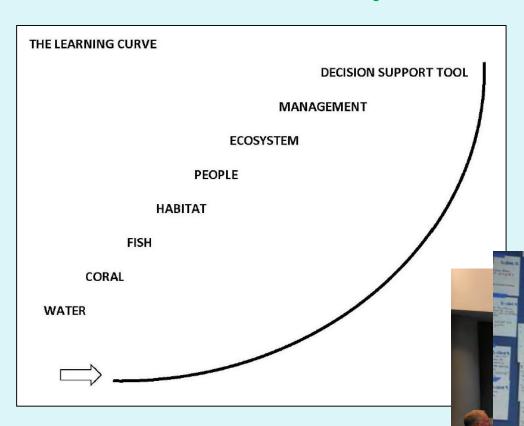
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Selection of Accus	
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TOTAL ICTS OF INTEREST	
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PRIMARY ROLES AND REST	
Facilitator  CWG Members  Coral Reef	- 14-4578
Coutheast Florida	
Southeast Florida Coral Reel Public Observers	
WORK PLAN	
COMMUNICATIONS	10
PUBLIC ACCESS	District Control of the Control of t
CHARTER REVISIONS	

OFR South Community Working Group WORK PLAN - Approved 11/19/14 Apr 2014 May 2014 Jun 2014 Jul 2014 product templates, QC, worksheets, score sheet; Develop shared vision; Mgmnt case studies Dec 2014 MTG 8 - Finish listing & ambining mamnt tions that meet QC ngmnt actions based on new DWG worksheet input. Agree on subset of mgmnt actions for categorize & begin stailed info gathering. to combine; look for gaps in migmat Begin to develop spatial CWG Homework: Study materials; draft mgmnt actions that mast QC a write each on a mgmnt criptors for that subset of CWG Homework: Draft additional moment actions to fill paps; Fill out Tier 1 & 2 CWG Homework: Fill out Tier 1 & 2 worksheets (online) for mamma actions of their choice, including providing spatial descriptors for mample actions with patial come 2015 Sen 2016 Refine list of ngmnt actions of mymnt hased on OF CHITAIN nt actions agement actions a atual plant as needed ()

# (2) Learning Curve

### What we know (and what we don't know)



- Best available science
- CWG member perspectives
- Coral reef management tools

# (3) Resources: Existing Strategies



# (4) Brainstorm Recommended **Management Actions (RMAs)**

**VERB** 

Install

**OBJECT** 

a sufficie

Quality Check For Listing Management Actions fmooring



### Each management action:

- is an activity that helps enhance or maintain the condition of coral r reduce threats to coral reef ecosystems to ensure their long-term s
- is a <u>short phrase</u>: verb, object, and brief benefit of activity



# (5) Organizing RMAs

Education & Outreach

**Enforcement** 

Land Based Pollution



Fishing, Diving, Boating, Other Uses/Restoration

Marine
Industry &
Coastal
Construction

Place Based Management



Tier 1: Critical Information Needed from the Community Working Groups



South Community Working Group

Management A

Code:

Management A

1. Focus Area

Identify the focu

- · Land-Bas
- Maritime
- · Fishing, I
- Awarene
- · Coral Re

2. Intended Re What is the end

3. Duration of

Is this a discrete

4. Justification

What issue or p

E WIN	OURFLORIDA
400	YOUR VOICE, OUR FUTURE

South Community Working Group Tier 2: Supplementary Information Needed from the Community Working Groups & SEFCRI

Code:

Management Actio	on Short Title	2
------------------	----------------	---

1. Strategic Goals & Objectives To Be Achi Refer to the SEFCRI Coral Reef Managemen

2. Current Status

Is this activity currently underway, or are the in southeast Florida? If so, what are they, a

3. Intended Benefits (Outcomes)

What potential environmental benefits or p

What potential social/economic benefits or have?

What is the likely duration of these benefits



#### South Community Working Group Spatial Worksheet

Recommended Management Action:

The Decision Support function of the OFR Marine Planner assists in providing spatial options for your recommended management actions. If the management action is spatial in nature, and it is believed that the Decision Support Tool is required to help provide spatial options for that recommendation, please fill out the following information to help us develop the tool to address your needs.

The Decision Support Tool provides spatial options based on features loaded into the OFR Marine Planner that you indicate as being relevant. The critical information you need to provide for your recommendation are:

- 1. Features-These are the data and GIS layers relevant to your recommendation. Below we have provided a couple of guiding questions to help you think through possible features you may want to consider.
- 2. (Feature) Value- How much? This will be a unit of measure, e.g. #, %, distance, amount. If you are unsure you can state "high, medium, low" and allow input from advisors on how much is high, medium, or low for our region. Also, you can make a statement like "far enough away to allow for \_\_\_\_\_, "has enough of x to accomplish y"; again allowing reviewers to help provide necessary input.

FEATURE			VALUE
Evample: Denth h	abitat types to avoid or to target	proximity to other features (inlets,	Evample: # % area distance

outfalls, artificial reefs), reef-use types to include or exclude, intensity of use, fish/coral density, fish/coral diversity.	High, Medium, Low

## (7) SEFCRI Review of RMAs

#### Combine:

- similar language, goals, and/or objectives
- objectives were conflicting and should be combined into a unified objective

#### Archive:

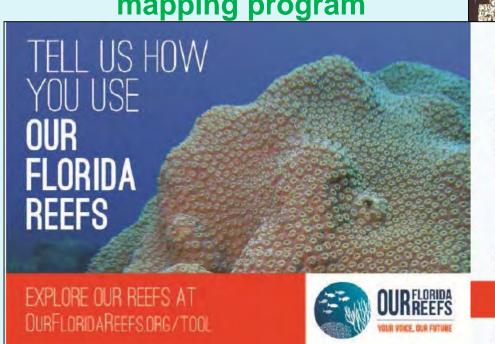
- did not benefit the reef or would not achieve the intended result
- not scientifically or technically feasible
- research or monitoring activities
- already being done
- Clarify/Needs More Info:
  - specific comments on what content was insufficient or unclear



### **Resources: Decision Support Tool**

Use best available data to inform spatial plans for management actions

Internet-based interactive mapping program





 Collect ocean use data from public

# Our Florida Reefs: Step 3



A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

STEP 1 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

√June 2013

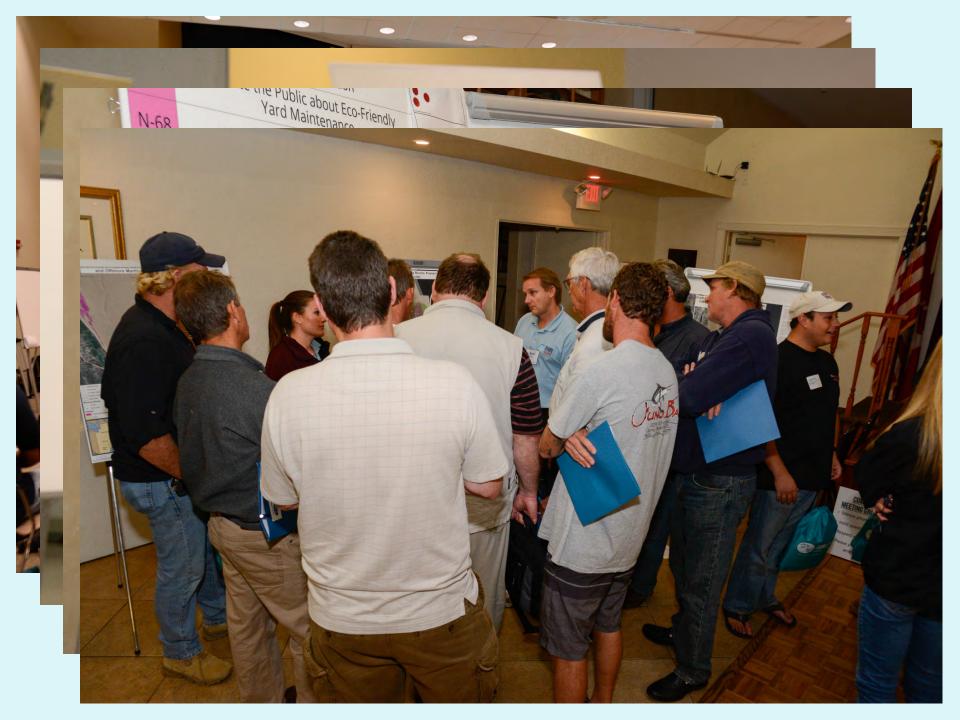
STEP 2 COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

✓ March 2014

- June 2016

STEP 3
SHARE RECOMMENDATIONS

√ Jan / Feb 2016

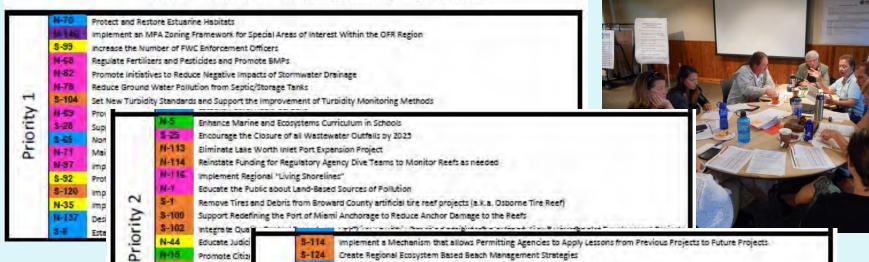




## **Incorporate Comments & Prioritize RMAs**



5-124



Bene

Esta

Land-Based Sources of Pollution

Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts

Place-Based Management Strategy

Revise/Create Establish Maximum Size Limits for Ecologically Significant Reef-Associated Fish \$-103 N-8 Integrate Best Educate the Public about Eco-Friendly Yard Maintenance M-120 Reduce Bag Li Overturn Current Legislation that Restricts Bans on Plastic Bags Create a SEFO 14-75 Offer Free Pump-Out Stations to Boaters S-125 Strengthen Pe Request that FWC Better Define the Word "Take" S-107 Apply for FL R

Integrate Quali

Educate Judici

Promote Citize

5-102

N-44

Encourage Biological Monitoring of Resources Impacted by Nourishment Projects

Create Regional Ecosystem Based Beach Management Strategies

Implement a Mechanism that allows Permitting Agencies to Apply Lessons from Previous Projects to Future Projects.

Establish Co-Management Agreements to Address Staff Capacity Gaps in Enforcement Agencies

Create a Voluntary Reef-User Donation Fund to Support Reef Conservation

Develop a Voluntary Fee to Fund Education and Conservation Programs

Create a Reef Protection Maccot/Logo Campaign

5-101 Create Eliminate Over-Beach Discharge of Water 3-67 Provid Develop a Finance Plan to Support Reef Conservation N-117 Impro Very High Ban Live Mounts and Promote Proper handling and release techniques of All Shark Species \$-95 Perfor Create, Support, and Promote a Certification Program for BMPs at Golf Courses Reduc \$-98 High Simplify PWC Regulations Regarding Size Limits Create N-64 Encourage Voluntary Labeling of Rishing Gear in St. Lucie Inlet Preserve increa N-37 Improve Existing FWC Hotline for Reporting Marine Incidents Medium N-19 Distrib riority Raise the Cost of Recreational Lobster Stamps and Dedicate Funds to Species Enforcement Establ Offer an Online Exam to Receive a Discount on Fishing Licenses Focus Area Color Key: Enhance Distribution of Educational Materials about the Value of FL Reefs Education and Outreach 14-18 include multi-cultural fishing practices in Fishery Educational Programs Enforcement 5/81 Develop an App for Reporting Marine incidents N-21 Distribute Reef Information to New FL Residents and Visitors shing, Diving, Boating, and Other Uses/Restoration

N-27

8-75

# **Our Florida Reefs: Step 4**



A COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS FOR SOUTHEAST FLORIDA'S CORAL REEFS

STEP 1 COMMUNITY MEETINGS

√June 2013

STEP 2
COMMUNITY WORKING GROUPS

✓ March 2014- June 2016

STEP 3
SHARE RECOMMENDATIONS

✓ Jan / Feb 2016

STEP 4
REEF MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Fall 2016 +

### **Coastal Ocean Task Force/Forum**



### **Members (4-County SE FL Region):**

- County commissioners
- League of City representatives
- NOAA, FDEP, FWC
- Fishing, Diving, Boating, representatives

### Tasks:

- Signed resolution to support SEFCRI Our Florida Reefs Community Planning Process
- Similar learning curve about SE FL ecosystems and threats
- Drafted group recommendations
- Passed individual (city, county) resolutions in support of OFR CWG priority recommendations























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**Ilenges** 

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Coastal Conservation Association

ATAT LIFE

Constal Conservation Association Florida

Florida Reefs cinseed to ALL fishing, even catch and THE COURT OF THE PERMIT THE CHAIN FRANCES OF WHILE IN THE CHAIN THE WASHINGTON TO WHILE THE WASHINGTON TO WASHINGT THE COURT DE LEARLY IT THE CILIF FRANCE IN THE PROPERTY OF THE LAND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPER Heme

Chance to let your which be hearth release!

WE WEED YOUR HELP TO STOP THIS!!! Please help us keep the reets chert The was the first on June 2 and In City

The server of the land of the to berlicipate Do not let the

EXPLESSING YOUR ORIGINAL When: June 2nd 10:4 Juriaria: Filtri Foreist Natura For Anad South Cock

## **Acknowledgements**



