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
Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

Mission:
To develop, and support the implementation, of an effective strategy to preserve and protect SE FL's coral reefs, emphasizing balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all interested parties.
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
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
Coral reefs are crucial for the survival of countless marine species. They act as nurseries, providing shelter, food, and protection for young fish and invertebrates. Coral reefs also have a significant impact on shoreline protection, as they can absorb the force of ocean waves and reduce erosion.

Threats to coral reefs include climate change, pollution,过度捕捞,和疾病。为了保护这些宝贵的生态系统，采取行动至关重要。
Reef Use and Value

Alice Kinsey
School Teacher
I arrived in Miami, Florida in August of 1974 to attend graduate school at the University of Miami. Travelling 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 Miami!

Guy Harvey
World Renowned Marine Artist
Guy Harvey is a unique blend of artist, scientist, diver, angler, conservationist, and explorer, fiercely 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 1999 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.

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 ocean.

Shana Phelan
Dive Shop Owner
Originally from Columbus, Indiana, Shana graduated in 1996 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 area’s amazing coral reefs and pursue a career in diving.
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

SAVE THE DATE

You are invited to join OUR FLORIDA REEFS, a community planning process for southeast Florida’s coral reefs, at one of six upcoming community meetings taking place across southeast Florida during the month of June.

Two sessions each day
2pm - 4pm
and
6pm - 8pm

Each location will have two identical sessions. You are invited to participate during either of the first two-hour sessions. A 45-minute informational presentation will begin promptly at 2:00 pm (first session) and 6:00 pm (second session). Afterward, you’ll be able to walk through a number of interactive booths to learn more about southeast Florida’s coral reefs, ask questions, provide feedback, and learn how to get involved in the OUR FLORIDA REEFS multi-year, community-driven process. Light refreshments will be served.

Martin and Palm Beach Counties
Wednesday, June 5th in West Palm Beach
South Florida Water Management District
511 building, Main Administration
2851 South Military Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

Thursday, June 6th in Stuart
Indian River State College, East Campus
7775 U.S. Highway 1
Stuart, FL 34997

Wednesday, June 12th in Delray Beach
Boynton Beach Civic Center, Room C000
1150 N Ocean Drive, Delray Beach, FL 33483

Broward and Miami-Dade Counties
Wednesday, June 19th in Dania Beach
Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center
Center for Excellence for Coral Reef Ecology Research
3rd Floor Auditorium
4300 N Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004

Tuesday, June 25th in Miami
North Bay Village Civic Center Auditorium
2555 NW 176th Street, Miami, FL 33185

Wednesday, June 26th in Cutler Bay
Miami-Dade Public Library
Bayview Branch, Regional Library
7000 SW 213th Street, Cutler Bay, FL 33190

For more information on OUR FLORIDA REEFS, and to sign up to attend an upcoming meeting in your community, please visit www.OurFloridaReefs.org

*Please note: online signup is recommended but not required.

OUR FLORIDA REEFS is a community planning process of the South Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SECR), a collaborative, citizen-driven effort started in 2004 to understand and protect our coral reefs for the benefit of all. SECR is coordinated by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Coral Reef Conservation Program.

Join the community today at OurFloridaReefs.org
Spreading the Word

Florida Saltwater Recreational Fishing Regulations 2014

Applies to Florida State Waters of the Gulf and Atlantic

New Recognition Programs

Lionfish Updates

Meet the FWC Artificial Reef Team

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Our Florida Reefs

Help Decide the Future of Southeast Florida's Coral Reefs

Join the Community

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

July 1, 2014
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*
Informational Community Meetings:

- June 2013
- 12 meetings
- 6 days
- 4 counties
- 440 attendees
- 259 comments
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
Mission

...to collaboratively develop a prioritized list of recommended management actions to preserve and protect SE FL's coral reefs and associated reef resources, emphasizing balance between resource use and protection...
What we know (and what we don’t know)

- Best available science
- CWG member perspectives
- Coral reef management tools
③ Resources: Existing Strategies
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VERB</th>
<th>Install</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OBJECT</td>
<td>a sufficient number of mooring buoys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Quality Check**
For Listing Management Actions

Each management action:
- is an activity that helps enhance or maintain the condition of coral reefs and reduce threats to coral reef ecosystems to ensure their long-term sustainability.
- is a short phrase: verb, object, and brief benefit of activity.
Organizing RMAs

Education & Outreach

Enforcement

Land Based Pollution

Fishing, Diving, Boating, Other Uses/Restoration

Marine Industry & Coastal Construction

Place Based Management

Photos By: DEP
South Community Working Group
Tier 2: Supplementary Information Needed from the
Community Working Groups & SEF Can

Management Action Short Title:

1. Strategic Goals & Objectives To Be Achieved
Refer to the SEF Can Coral Reef Management

2. Current Status
Is this activity currently underway, or are the
activities being planned to begin in the future
in southeast Florida? If so, what are they, and
when will they begin?

3. Duration of Planning
Is this a discrete activity with a defined
duration, or is the activity ongoing?

4. Justification
What issue or problem is this activity
intended to address or benefit?

5. Intended Benefits
What potential environmental benefits or
social/economic benefits can be associated
with this activity?

6. What is the likely duration of these benefits?

Recommended Management Action:

Spatial Worksheet

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEATURE</th>
<th>VALUE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Depth, habitat types to avoid or target, proximity to other features (inlets, outfalls, artificial reefs), reef-use types to include or exclude, intensity of use, fish/coral density, fish/coral diversity,</td>
<td>Example: %, area, distance, High, Medium, Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Recommendation Rollout Meetings:

- January-February 2016
- 12 meetings
- 6 days
- 4 counties
- 517 attendees
- >2,000 comments
# Incorporate Comments & Prioritize RMAs

## Prioritized List of Recommended Management Actions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority 1</th>
<th>Priority 2</th>
<th>Priority 3</th>
<th>Priority 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N-76</td>
<td>Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitats</td>
<td>Implement an MPA Zoning Framework for Special Areas of Interest Within the OFF Region</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-146</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-93</td>
<td>Increase the Number of FWC Enforcement Officers</td>
<td>Regulate Fertilizers and Pesticides and Promote BMPs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-48</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-82</td>
<td>Promote initiatives to Reduce Negative impacts of Stormwater Drainage</td>
<td>Reduce Ground Water Pollution from Septic/Storage Tanks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-104</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-69</td>
<td>Set New Turbidity Standards and Support the Improvement of Turbidity Monitoring Methods</td>
<td>Implement Regional &quot;Living Shorelines&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-20</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-63</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-87</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-92</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-102</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-108</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-103</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-114</td>
<td>Revise/Create</td>
<td>Establish Maximum Size Limits for Ecologically Significant Reef-Associated Fish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-57</td>
<td>Integrate Best Management Practices</td>
<td>Educate the Public about Eco-Friendly Yard Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-25</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-36</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-114</td>
<td>Implement &amp; Mechanism that allows Permitting Agencies to Apply Lessons from Previous Projects to Future Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-124</td>
<td>Create Regional Ecosystem-Based Beach Management Strategies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-99</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-120</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-125</td>
<td>Request that FWC Better Define the Word &quot;Take&quot;</td>
<td>Encourage Biological Monitoring of Resources Impacted by Nourishment Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-107</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-101</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-117</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-18</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-116</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-23</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-11</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-67</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-19</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-30</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-108</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-121</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-132</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-65</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-34</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-38</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-37</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-16</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-21</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-27</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-47</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-17</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-106</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-105</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S-76</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-142</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Focus Area Color Key:

- **Education and Outreach**
- **Enforcement**
- **Fishing, Diving, Boating, and Other Uses/Restoration**
- **Land-Based Sources of Pollution**
- **Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts**
- **Place-Based Management Strategy**
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 to 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
Engaging the Stakeholders!

Challenges

Keep Florida Fishing Launches Petition to Oppose Our Florida Reefs Recommendations

Florida Reefs proposes numerous Marine Protected Areas that would prohibit recreational fishing from Key Biscayne to St. Lucie Inlet

By Newswire  Posted February 25, 2016

Gary Jennings Video 1_Our Florida...
Acknowledgements