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(FDEP CRCP) Strategic Plan Survey 2010-2015

FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is the lead agency in the State of Florida's government for environmental management and stewardship. Comprised of three divisions - Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, Planning and Management - the FDEP serves to protect the state's air, water and land resources. Florida's environmental priorities include restoring America's Everglades, improving air quality, restoring and protecting water quality, conserving environmentally sensitive lands and providing recreation opportunities for citizens and visitors, today and in the future.

Within the Division of Land and Recreation, FDEP's Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas directs the management of Florida's 41 aquatic preserves, three national estuarine research reserves, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Coral Reef Conservation Program.

The mission of the FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) is to protect southeast Florida's coral reef ecosystems by:

- promoting, coordinating and conducting research, monitoring, mapping; education and outreach; injury prevention and response; and,
- facilitating and developing management strategies and alternatives that balance use and protection; partnerships, and stakeholder engagement.

Acting upon its mission, FDEP CRCP has adopted the following long-term goals:

FDEP CRCP Capacity

A. Acquire, sustain and enhance appropriate staffing levels, funding, technical resources, and operational and programmatic capacity within CRCP, including expanding facilities/staff to support resource management activities in Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin counties.

B. Contribute to the management of the Florida Reef Tract as a holistic system.

C. Identify and designate a managed area for southeast Florida's reefs that includes appropriate statutory authority to accomplish CRCP's mission.

D. Promote, coordinate, and conduct research, monitoring, and mapping to support coral reef conservation and management through enhanced understanding of ecosystem extent, characterizations and ecological processes.

Education and Outreach

A. Encourage improved coral reef conservation through increased public awareness, appreciation and community support and strengthened governance to support effective coral reef management goals.

B. Increase understanding of the connection between coral reefs, watersheds, human activities, and human welfare.

C. Improve environmental stewardship and encourage sustainable development and non-consumptive resource use in southeast Florida.

D. Support initiatives that reduce the impacts of climate change with emphasis on efforts in Florida that target local activities contributing to climate change and ocean acidification.

E. Maintain established partnerships and cultivate new cooperative associations that complement or further the CRCP vision, mission and goals.

Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation

A. Develop and implement an adaptive management plan for the southeast Florida coral reef ecosystem to protect, and where possible, restore natural marine habitats, populations and ecological processes.

B. Reduce chronic and acute stressors to reef health from land-based sources of pollution and impacts from fishing, diving, and other uses.

C. Minimize and, where possible, avoid localized human-induced habitat destruction from maritime industry and coastal construction impacts.

D. Support the development and implementation of a comprehensive network of marine protected areas/zones across the Florida Reef Tract to enable reef recovery within protected areas and support system-wide reef recovery and resilience to local and global stressors.

E. Reduce cumulative stressors to coral reefs that weaken reef resistance and resilience to climate change.

Rules, Regulations, Compliance and Enforcement

A. Recommend and support new or strengthened federal, state, and local regulations and enforcement capacity to protect coral reefs.

B. Work with regulatory agencies to improve agency coordination and compliance with, and enforcement of, existing laws (e.g. Clean Water Act, fisheries regulations, Endangered Species Act listings and associated rules, Coral Reef Protection Act, etc.).

To achieve these long-term goals, FDEP CRCP is developing priority objectives and strategies for 2010-2015. Your response to

the following survey questions will ensure that FDEP-CRCP's objectives and strategies reflect the concerns and priorities of southeast Florida's citizens and stakeholders.

Note: An asterisk appears next to questions where a response is required.

Note: Click on blue hyperlinks for additional information.

1. For each of the existing FDEP CRCP core programs and services listed below, please choose the most appropriate response to indicate your familiarity with, and support of, each program or service:

[1.1 Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative \(SEFCRI\) Local Action Strategies*](#)

- I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.
- Other (please include additional comments).

[1.2 Coordination and Leadership of the SEFCRI Team*](#)

- I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.3 [Planning and development of a Managed Area and Management Plan for southeast Florida's reefs](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.4 [Education and Outreach Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.5 [Reef Injury Prevention and Response Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.6 [Marine Debris Reporting and Removal Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.7 [Southeast Florida Coral Reef Evaluation & Monitoring Project](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments below).

1.8 [Southeast Florida Coral Reef Water Quality Monitoring Project](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.9 [Southeast Florida Marine Event Response Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.10 [Review of proposed regulatory \(permitted\) projects](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.11 [Marine Regulation Awareness Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.12 [Coral Reef Awareness Training Program](#)*

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is important.

I am familiar with this CRCP service or program and I feel it is not important.

I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.

Other (please include additional comments).

1.13 Other (Additional comments on FDEP CRCP existing core services and programs).

2. Of the following FDEP CRCP partnerships, please choose the most appropriate response from the list below to indicate your familiarity with, and support of, each partnership:

2.1 [U.S. Coral Reef Task Force](#)*

- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.
- Other (please include additional comments).

2.2 [U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee](#)*

- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.
- Other (please include additional comments).

2.3 [NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program](#)*

- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.
- Other (please include additional comments).

2.4 [Florida Reef Resilience Program](#)*

- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is important.
- I am familiar with this CRCP partnership and I feel it is not important.
- I am not familiar with this CRCP service or program and I would like to know more about it.
- Other (please include additional comments).

2.5 Other (Additional comments on FDEP CRCP partnerships).

3. Please rate each of the following coral reef ecosystem conservation strategies as high, medium or low priority.

3.1 Define a managed area for the mainland southeast Florida reef system and recommend managed area alternatives based on management goals, best available science, monitoring results and stakeholder input.*

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

3.2 Work collaboratively with partners to develop, implement and support action plans including monitoring, research, stakeholder communication and response strategies to support management of the Florida Reef Tract (from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas) as a holistic system. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

3.3 Reduce the impacts of land-based sources of pollution. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

3.4 Reduce the impacts from extractive and non-extractive recreational and commercial uses. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

3.5 Support habitat restoration efforts, where appropriate, to benefit coral reef conservation and reduce coastal development impacts on reef resources (e.g. vegetated sand dunes, wetlands, mangroves). *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

3.6 Increase capacity to prevent and respond to coral reef injuries associated with vessel impacts and non-regulated activities (e.g. groundings, anchoring, marine towing). *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

3.7 Promote the development and implementation of new SEFCRI local action strategies to address existing or emerging local threats to coral reef conservation. *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

3.8 Support and, where possible, strengthen agency capacity and authorities to conserve coral reefs. *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

3.9 Increase support of inter- and intra- agency regulatory programs and the coastal construction industry through permit review and implementation of new tools to minimize coral reef impacts and improve the efficacy of associated monitoring and mitigation. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

3.10 Other (please include additional coral reef ecosystem strategies below).

4. In the next 5 years, FDEP CRCP will build upon the existing education and outreach programs - emphasizing impacts from land-based sources of pollution, climate change and ocean acidification, and integrating monitoring data results and applicable regulations - to expand coral reef awareness and protection. Please rate each of the following coral reef education and outreach strategies as high, medium or low priority.

4.1 Maintain and update CRCP and SEFCRI websites. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.2 Maintain a presence at community events with supporting

education and outreach materials.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.3 Sustain the ongoing multimedia public service announcement campaign.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.4 Develop and implement an outreach campaign to minimize, and where possible eliminate, recreational and marine event anchoring on Florida's reefs (e.g. conduct outreach patrols on the water).*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.5 Continue to conduct coral reef teacher trainings.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.6 Continue to produce and distribute the Southeast Florida Reef News newsletter.*

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

4.7 Expand education programs that inform stakeholders about regulations and best practices when boating, fishing and diving (e.g. Marine Regulation Awareness Program). *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

4.8 Disseminate coral reef awareness and protection materials to boaters, anglers and divers through targeted organizations/publications (e.g. National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, Fishing Lines, local dive instructors). *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

4.9 Compile and disseminate coral reef awareness and protection information, specifically targeting new southeast Florida residents. *

High Priority Medium Priority Low Priority

4.10 Continue to support regional reef and coastal cleanup events that complement the FDEP CRCP Marine Debris Program. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.11 Develop and implement a storm drain labeling program. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

4.12 Other (please include additional education and outreach strategies below).

5. Please rate each of the following land-based sources of pollution strategies as high, medium or low priority.

5.1 Sustain and expand (e.g. sites, frequency, parameters) the long-term Southeast Florida Coral Reef Water Quality Monitoring

Program, and link the results to benthic habitat monitoring data, to aid in determining linkages between environmental factors and changes in the local coral reef community.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

5.2 Identify cause and effect relationships between land-based sources of pollution and adverse effects on reef resources (e.g. biomarker studies).*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

5.3 Support development and implementation of numeric nutrient criteria for coral reefs.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

5.4 Continue to characterize and quantify amount and flux of pollution sources to the reef at appropriate intervals.*

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority

5.5 Engage in Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and other related activities and meetings. *

High Priority

Medium Priority

Low Priority



5.6 Other (Please include additional land-based sources of pollution strategies below).

50%

 Take a look under the hood

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