



Southeast Florida **Coral Reef** Initiative

Acting above to protect what's below.



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Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)



- a locally-driven roadmap for collaborative and cooperative action among federal, state, local and non-governmental partners
- identifies priority actions needed to reduce key threats to the coral reef resources of southeast Florida

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

- In 1998, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) was established by Presidential Executive Order (#13089) to lead U.S. efforts to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems.
- The USCRTF includes:
 - 12 federal agencies responsible for coral reef conservation
 - 7 states and territories
 - 3 freely associated states (Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau)
- The 7 states and territories include American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, USVI, and Florida.



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

- In 2002, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force adopted the “Puerto Rico Resolution” which called for the development of Local Action Strategies (LAS) by each of its 7 member states and territories.
- The objective of the LAS is to identify and implement priority actions needed to reduce key threats to valuable coral reef resources .



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

- With guidance from the USCRTF, FDEP and FWC coordinated the formation of a team of marine resource professionals (state, regional, local, and federal), scientists and stakeholders.
- The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Team (SEFCRI Team), first gathered to develop local action strategies targeting southeast Florida's reefs in May 2003 and completed Florida's LAS in December 2004.
- Numerous stakeholders were and continue to be involved in developing southeast Florida's LAS through a facilitated process including public review and input.



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

Southeast Florida (including Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin Counties) was chosen because it contains reef ecosystems that:

- are extensive
- are close to shore
- co-exist with intensely-developed coastal areas
- lacked a coordinated public education or management plan



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

To develop an effective strategy to preserve and protect southeast Florida's coral reefs and associated reef resources, emphasizing balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all interested parties.



4 focus areas of concern:

- **Land-based sources of pollution**
- **Fishing, diving, and other uses**
- **Awareness and appreciation**
- **Maritime industry and coastal construction impacts**



Maritime Industry & Coastal Construction Impacts (MICCI)

Issue 1: Coral systems in southeast Florida are threatened by projects and activities such as anchoring, vessel groundings infrastructure installation, beach nourishment and dredge and fill operations.

Objective 2: Avoid and minimize impacts on coral reef ecosystems from dredge and fill activities and infrastructure installation.

Project 3: Identify innovative technologies, construction practices and procedures that minimize or eliminate coral reef impacts. Review and recommend criteria for coral reef mitigation (associated with construction activities or groundings).

Project 6: Develop BMP's for coastal construction, dredge and fill and other activities around coral reefs.



THANK YOU

The FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program recognizes and is deeply indebted to the many stakeholders and partners who have contributed their time and expertise to the development and implementation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative.



Southeast
Florida
Coral Reef
Initiative

For more information on the SEFCRI, including the complete Local Action Strategy visit:

www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/

Coming soon:

www.southeastfloridareefs.net

Or contact:

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