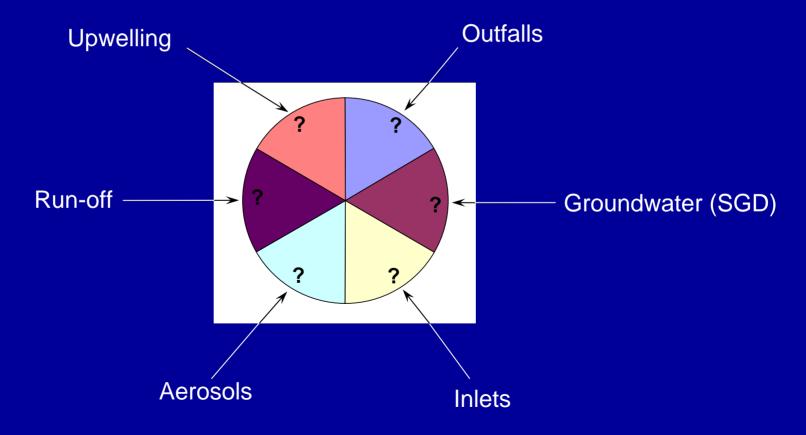


Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative

Acting above to protect what's below.

Issue – coral reefs on a narrow continental shelf adjacent to a highly urbanized coast are likely to be impacted by pollution



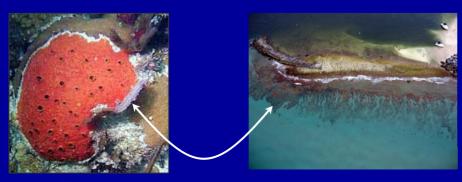
Impacts - Indications of water quality degradation:

Macroalgal blooms





Coral-boring sponges



Turbidity



Approach - SEFCRI LBSP Goals



- Characterize the existing condition of the coral reef ecosystem
- Quantify and characterize land-based sources of pollution
- Identify how these sources of pollution impact the coral reef
- Develop strategies to reduce the impact of land-based sources of pollution
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the effects of land-based sources of pollution on water quality and coral reefs

Project 5: Conduct a biomarker study to identify and trace specific pollutants negatively impacting corals (Pilot Study)

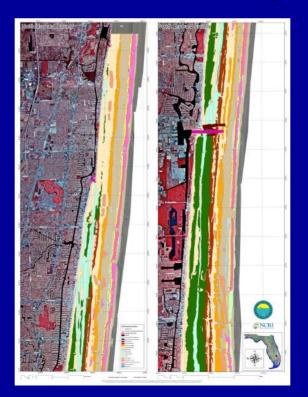
Goal - Impact of pollution of reef condition





Project 6: Develop benthic habitat maps for Broward County

Goal - Characterize existing reef condition

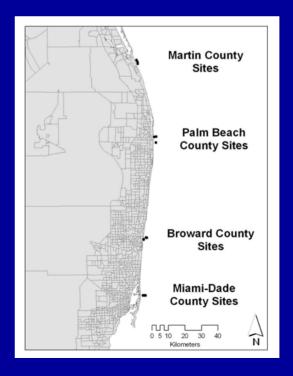




Project 12: Establish and maintain Southeast Florida Coral Reef Evaluation & Monitoring Project (SECREMP)

Goal - Characterize existing reef condition







Land-Based Sources of Pollution (LBSP) Project Implementation Challenges

Financial Capacity

Research projects not funded through existing funding sources:

water quality monitoring

SECREMP expansion

completion of habitat mapping

pollutant loading project

Technical Capacity
 adequate through Technical Advisory Committee and local universities



 Establish a long term water quality monitoring program in the SEFCRI geographic region - Sustainable funding for technical staff and equipment to design, implement and manage monitoring and resulting data.

Potential Partners: NOAA USEPA

DEP universities

counties



 Add SECREMP monitoring sites to improve spatial resolution of status and trends data

Potential Partners: NOAA NSF USEPA NRCS universities



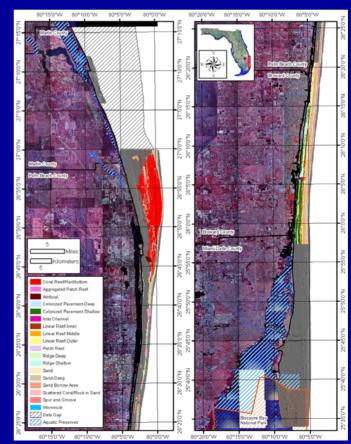
 Martin County bathymetric mapping and Martin and Miami-Dade Counties benthic habitat mapping – Funding needed to fill these gaps in mapping for the reefs of

southeast Florida.

Potential Partners:

NOAA USGS NCRI

DEP FWC





 Quantify mass loading of pollutants to the coastal waters determine relative contribution of different pollutant sources

Potential Partners: NOAA NSF USACE

USGS USDA USEPA

NRCS universities



FUTURE PLANS:

- At this time no new LBSP projects are planned for addition to the current LAS until existing priorities can be met.
- Upon completion of the 140 SEFCRI LAS projects, it is anticipated that a comprehensive management plan will be developed for the reefs of southeast Florida. The management plan may include additional LBSP LAS projects.

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)

The FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program recognizes and thanks the growing group of stakeholders and partners who have contributed their time, expertise support and in-kind resources to the development and implementation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative.

Biscayne National Park

Broward County

Broward Audubon Society

Coastal Eco Group

Coastal Planning & Engineering Coastal Systems International

College of Charleston

Cry of the Water

Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association

Environmental Defense

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Florida International University

Florida Outdoor Writers Association

Florida Sea Grant

Florida Sportsman Magazine

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Greater Fort Lauderdale Diving Association

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

International Game Fish Association

Lighthouse Point Saltwater Sportsman Association

Lithophyte Research

Marine Industries Association of Florida

Martin County

McMaster University

Miami-Dade County

National Coral Reef Institute/Nova Southeastern University

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

Ocean Engineering

Ocean Watch Foundation

PADI Project Aware

Palm Beach County

Port Everglades

Port of Miami

Port of Palm Beach

Reef Environmental Education Foundation

Smithsonian Institute Marine Station South Florida Diving Headquarters

South Florida Water Management District

Surfrider Foundation

Tetra Tech

The Nature Conservancy

The Ocean Conservancy

Tropical Audubon Society

University of Florida

University of Georgia

University of Miami

University of North Carolina, Wilmington

University of South Florida

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. Department of Agriculture

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. Geological Survey

Vone Research

