

May 2006 Public Comment: Ray McAllister

I will not beat a dead horse. You know how desperate the situation is with regard to coral reefs. I am concerned that many of the organizations that propose to work on this matter are bound by political and legislative ties that restrict their ability to do any good. I have seen this particularly with SEFCRI/SEAFast in Florida. About two years ago I made a suggestion that we send a proclamation to the state legislature. The moderator thanked me and went on with the meeting as I had said nothing. I have since been involved with the MICCI group of SEAFast and I'm totally frustrated by the constant obstruction to our attempts to do something now while there is still coral reef to save. I have no idea what you can do but among our problems in Florida, the last natural coral reef in the United States, are algal blooms, gas pipelines through the reef, fiber optic cables on the reef, anchoring off Port Everglades on the reef, dredging of inlet's which damage enormous amounts of the adjacent live reef; as demonstrated at Hillsboro Inlet and will be again demonstrated when they dredge Port Everglades Inlet.

If you can think of any way in which my experience can make a difference please contact me and let me help. Thank you

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