

# Recommendations for Conservation Strategies

Cry of the Water  
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# THINGS WE KNOW

**Reef related expenditures in Southeast Florida contribute billions of dollars annually to the local economy**



- **The reefs of Southeast Florida absorb wave energy from storms and produce sand to help protect the coast which make our beaches more sustainable**
- **Southeast Florida reefs are a vital part of the fishery up and down the east coast**
- **Socioeconomic study of Reefs in Southeast**  
[http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/pub/Reef\\_Valuation\\_Da deBrowardPBMonroe2001.pdf](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/programs/coral/pub/Reef_Valuation_Da deBrowardPBMonroe2001.pdf)

# THINGS WE KNOW

**Pumping partially treated sewage, industrial waste and leachate from landfills onto the reef is harmful to corals**



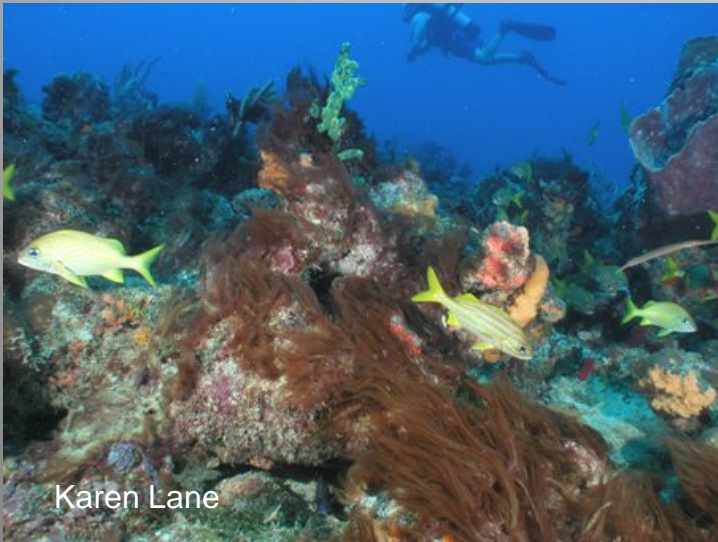
- **We have worked with other environmental groups to get a bill passed to do away with this harmful practice**
- **There is currently an effort underway to roll back the deadlines for closing these outfalls**
- **These harmful discharges need to be stopped sooner than later**

# THINGS WE KNOW

**Coral reefs are one of the most nutrient sensitive habitats**

**Harmful algal blooms are being caused by**

- **Millions of gallons of poorly treated sewage and industrial waste**
- **Urban stormwater runoff**
- **Pulses of fresh water from Everglades releases**



# Broward County Segment III Dredge and Fill Project Impacts

## Port Everglades to Miami-Dade County Line



- **Over 60 Acres of reef burial and hundreds more acres of reef impacted**
- **1.75 millions cy of poor quality sand pumped on beaches in Segment III**
- **Endangered Species Act listed Staghorn coral was buried**
- **Millions of dollars of mitigation needed to off-set impacts to this Segment**
- **We are now 5 years post-construction and mitigation has not been built**
- **We must look at the cumulative impact to reefs and essential fish habitats from dozens of these dredging projects in the SEFCRI area**

# Transplantation may be futile if we don't address what is killing corals



## Problems

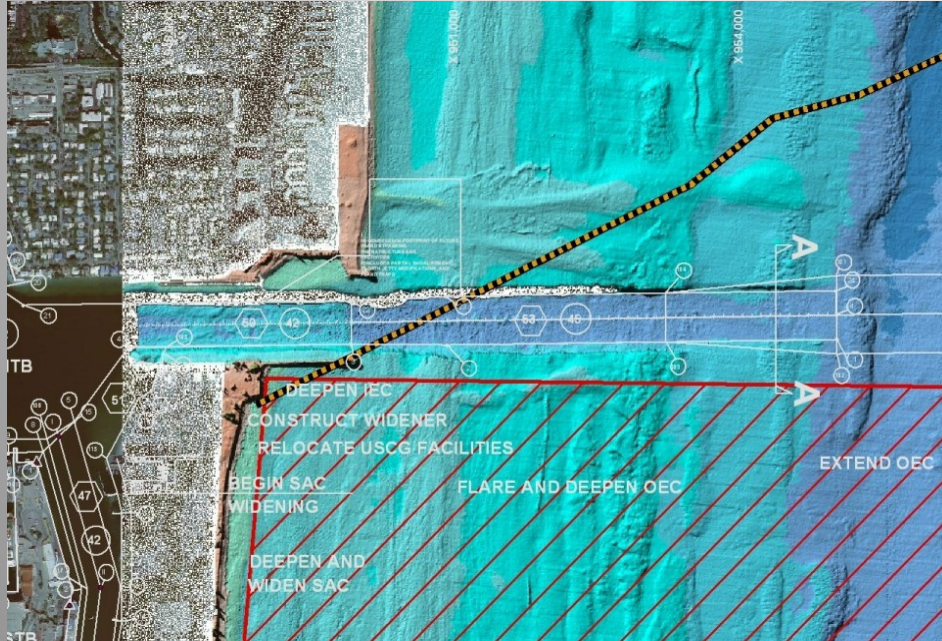
- Because these reefs do not have a management plan there is no protocol to deal with outbreak of diseases
- Current monitoring is not structured to capture bleaching, diseases and harmful algal blooms
- Little or no money available to fund coral reef disease work

## Recommendations for Solutions

- Establish a Management Plan for the reef of Southeast Florida within 2 years
- Monitor reef in the time of the year when water is warmest and diseases are most prevalent
- Funding is needed to address coral disease and water quality



# Port Everglades Channel Expansion



- Port Everglades would destroy the Third Reef to deepen and widen channel
- Over 20 acres of reef and tens of thousands of corals will be destroyed
- This project area borders the Segment III beach project that buried and smothered over 8 miles of reef
- Cumulative Impact Assessment must be conducted using all projects in the area

# **Recommendations for Priority Coral Reef Habitat Broward County**

## **Management Plan Must Be Established to Include:**

- Water Quality Monitoring**
- An adaptive management plan in order to deal with outbreaks of disease and harmful algal blooms**
- Coral disease and health assessment to determine what is killing our reefs needs to be made a Top Priority**
- Must address outdated sewer and storm water infrastructure**
- Best Management Practices (BMP'S) for Beach Maintenance**
- Better enforcement of laws and rules such as The Clean Water Act, NPDES and M-S4 and M-S6 storm water permits**



# **Coral Reef Conservation Job Creator not Job Killer**



- **Enforcement of water quality regulations will create jobs building the needed infrastructure to meet compliance of the Clean Water Act**

- **Enforcement will preserve the thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in revenue that are generated to the local economy from reef related expenditures**



- **When it comes to a Management Plan for the SE Florida reefs the State of Florida seems to want to kick the can down the road 5 more years, much like they are doing with Everglades Restoration, Water Quality Regulations and Numeric Nutrient Criteria**

## **Cry of the Water**

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**The reefs of Southeast Florida deserve the same protection as the reefs in the Keys National Marine Sanctuary**

**It's time we take a common sense approach to marine resource management in SE Florida. Sustainable reefs, fisheries and beaches are vital to our economy**

**For all the above reasons we ask that the reefs of SE Florida be put under the umbrella of the National Marine Sanctuary Program and that a management plan be established within the next 2 years.**

