

Hi,

I am Drew Martin, volunteer and Everglades Chair for the Sierra Club. The Sierra Club was founded in 1892 and has over a million members world wide.

1. The Sierra Club has sued to bring the EPA into Florida to enforce the Clean Water Act. Water quality is essential to protecting our reefs. In fact, during a presentation this week it was noted that reefs in clean water environments are much more resilient to climate change than those exposed to polluted water. We need numeric standards in place to limit nitrogen and phosphorus.

2. Stop deep Port Dredging projects. Port Deep Dredging Projects are damaging inlets and will kill existing corals. The projects in Miami will damage Biscayne National Park. Some of the corals that will be destroyed in the Miami dredging project are hybrid corals that may provide the future to coral survival.

3. Complete Everglades Restoration. Today we saw a presentation on how import Everglades Restoration it to the survival of corals. We need to proper quality and quantity of water from the land. Everglades Restoration can provide this component of a healthy ecosystem.

4. Prevent on shore developments that are too close to the shoreline and require Beach Dredging projects that place sand on the beach to protect them. Stop the building of sea walls and inlet dredging projects that prevent the proper migration of sand onto the beaches. Where we do have inlet dredging we need to have sand bypass plants to protect nearby beaches. Beach projects create turbidities that damage near shore reefs and hard bottom habitat. Beach dredging offshore can also kill marine sea life and damage reefs.

5. What happens on the land and in near shore ecosystems impacts reefs. We need to protect Mangrove Estuaries, wetlands and sea grass.

6. We need to establish extensive no-take zones. In the book The End of the Line we see that too many fish are being taken from the sea and that current practices are unsustainable. No-take areas provide for resilient habitats. If we don't create no-take areas now we will not be able to protect our reefs. The loss of Parrot Fish is an example of a fish essential to reef protection.

7. We need to reduce Algal blooms by reducing on shore pollution. We need to act now. We need the proper cleaning of sewage through modern sewage treatment and reduction of septic tanks and raw sewage being dumped into oceans or on porous land where it quickly seeps into the nearby oceans.

8. We need to stop outflows of sewage into our oceans. NGOs in South East Florida such as Reef Rescue and Cry of the Water explained the need to control these outflows.

Thank you for listing to my comments.

Drew Martin
Sierra Club Everglades Chair, Florida Volunteer