

January Public Comments

Updated 1/20/15

| Submitted | County | Your Identity | Reef-related problems or concerns you would like to share | Suggestions to improve the Our Florida Reefs process | Best way to engage, inform, and work with your community | Additional comments/suggestions |
|-----------|------------|---------------|--|--|---|--|
| 01/9/2015 | Miami-Dade | Waterman | Our SE Florida reefs are in poor health due to human produced stresses caused by our infatuation with beach renourishments and land based pollution entering the ocean | I am not well versed in your process. | engagement through face to face meetings - can take the form of formal events, family fun events, educational film fests, community outreach meetings, partnering with local groups | From my vantage point, many organizations appear to be trying to treat the symptoms of poor reef health and not the root cause. We must educate the masses as to the detrimental effects that our societal habits are placing on the environment. We cannot continue this way and must change. I would estimate that the majority of the general public is unaware of the detrimental effects that their daily habits have on the environment and the ocean. Education is the key. Surfrider has an ongoing campaign called Rise Above Plastics to educate the general public about the impacts plastics are having on the planet, and would very much like to contribute to your efforts. We have 13 chapters in the state of Florida, and a state coordinator in Tallahassee monitoring and working with the state legislature to invoke more environmentally friendly laws. We are currently engaged in a lobbying campaign to address plastic bag bans across the state. Want to join us? Please contact me. |

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| 01/2/2015 | Palm Beach | All-Fisher, Diver, Boater etc. | keep trying to join but your web site wont let me get past the damn code, entered 4 times gave up would like to discuss the overfishing I had one of the first commercial rs licenses in Tampa and now live in Jupiter. There needs to be a moratorium on fishing except for goliath. they can be hunted with a lottery system they are becoming too dominant for the ecosystem and need to be culled intelligently. | | | |
| 01/11/2015 | Palm Beach | Snorkeler, diver, photographer | preserving the reefs from boat traffic and public education on how to enjoy the reefs without endangering it | | | |
| 01/16/2015 | Palm Beach | Fisherman | Until we stop pumping 50/50 treated sewage into our oceans and demand the State and Counties do a better job, there will be no improvement in our water quality, fisheries will not improve and then the planet can heal itself. Do you know how many Billions of gallons of sewage we dump on our reefs annually? We must take the task of cleaning up what we discharge every year even if more expensive. | | | Let's get started but we must admit we have a problem with Sewage discharge. |
| 01/17/2015 | Broward | Diver, Environmentalist | 700,000 tires remain off shore from Ft Lauderdale waiting for the next tidal surge to displace them and destroying the coral from West Palm to Miami. By using a tub grinder on a barge this threat can be eliminated in months instead of years AND at a significant less cost. | Yes, remove or stabilize 700,000 tires | Keep the public advised as to what is happening under the water too many people believe out of sight out of mind makes it all OK. | My company and my associates have petitioned the State of Florida to consider options to either stabilize these tires or a method to efficiently remove them. Instead companies with the goal of making a profit have been chosen disregarding other proposals. |

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