

April Public Comments

Updated 4/13/15

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
04/13/15	Broward	Ocean respecting Non-touch Diver	<p>Massive deterioration to coral reefs from non-inspected and poorly maintained boats that pollute and damage the corals. Dropping anchors on top of reefs or boating to close to them or to the ocean front. I went beach diving on Dania last week and I was just shocked by how much damage has been caused to the coral reefs in Florida. They are extremely long patches of sand with practically non-existent corals. it's so sad to see that about 80% of them have been wiped off!!! What has happened??!!! Long barren deserts without any visible aquatic fauna. It's very sad to see how bad they have been kept. I have seen people in boats go too close to the shore and there are cans and other bottles that have been dropped and carried into the ocean. There needs to be some very necessary efforts to protect these ocean sanctuaries. We really need a massive effort of education and conscious effort so that this stops. This starts both from boaters to beach goers. There could be soo many more things that can be done to protect. More importantly there has to be much much tougher regulation on industrial waste that has been dispersed out through pipelines into the ocean. The massive pollution that is being spilled needs to be more carefully and throroughly inspected. Commercial regulations need to be upheld and inspectors do a more thorough job. There needs to be quality standards that have to be very clearly stated and strong limitations that have to be respected. STRONGER Limitations need to be done on pier fishing. There has to be an effort to ensure that nonallowed wildlife is not extracted from the oceans. I have a very practical case of somebody that extracted a nurse shark and a few others into the pier. This is not allowed and it only harms the species. FISHING EDUCATION is needed strongly to make sure that people are aware of the effects.</p>	<p>I appreciate the ocean entirely and it makes me sad to see that there are very poor efforts to preserve it. Just as simple as reducing the unnecessary amount of plastic bags and bottles that are sold in grocery stores and replace them by eco-friendly linen bags is a very strong option that needs to be implemented. It doesnt make sense that there are soo many of them still around. (about 20 of them provided every time in a grocery store) These could be reduced, is there a need for them???</p> <p>Refilling water bottles instead of constantly buying new ones is also an option. Specially in offices that have tons of plastic. There are soo many more eco-friendly options that we could start to implement and make people more concious about.</p>	<p>It has to be addressed to private citizens, visitors, tourists and businesses separately. The strategy that is used for each one has to be independent and focused on their needs. We can't use a cookie cutter for all of them. We have to gather completely the statistics and background information for each and make sure to address the message appropriately.</p>	<p>Stronger marketing needs to be done with a mobile app and more social media presence. If it wasn't for the presentation that we have from Nova University I wouldn't have known about the current efforts. Also, it's very important to have the survey that you have for boaters on the mobile app too. That way persons can tag exactly the GPS location where they went fishing and extracting species. Also illegal lobstering and other activities should be controlled appropriately. I know it's hard but a society and common effort can help this happen.</p>