

N-114



Title: Reinstate funding for regulatory agencies (reinstate Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast District Dive Teams) to provide in water permit compliance monitoring as needed for reef related projects, and assist other agencies with monitoring (fish/coral surveys).

Objective: The intended outcome of this action is to provide long term underwater science support for nearshore environmental impact assessments for permits and compliance and enforcement activities and to increase compliance with specific permit conditions.

Background: This recommended management action is being put forth because currently there are no regulatory divers to address impacts to coral reefs and ensure permit compliance. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has no way of verifying the presence of corals when issuing a permit, nor does the Florida Department of Environmental Protection staff have firsthand knowledge when developing permit conditions.

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