



WQPP Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Florida Department of Environmental protection, South District

November 13, 2019



TAC Role

Steering Committee

WQPP Guidance, Policy and Decision Making



The TAC

Assists with Design and Prioritization of Research and Monitoring Programs



The Management Committee

Coordinates the Activities of the Steering Committee and the TAC



Issues Reviewed by the Management Committee

- **What is the Role of the TAC (based on WQPP priorities)?**
- **Do we have the appropriate scientific/technical disciplines and expertise represented?**
- **How to select and retain qualified members – should the Steering Committee appoint TAC members?**
- **How to provide adequate management and staffing support to make the TAC a more focused and effective technical advisory group?**
- **How do we ensure member participation in meetings and projects, so the group stays on task?**



TAC ROLE

Section 8(d)(2)(C)

FKNMS and Protection Act

USEPA and NOAA shall cooperate with the FDEP to establish a Technical Advisory Committee to advise the Steering Committee and to assist with design and prioritization of research, special studies and monitoring programs.



WQPP Monitoring Program

Section 8(a)(2)(C) FKNMS Protection Act)

Establish a comprehensive water quality monitoring program to :

- **Determine the sources of pollution causing or contributing to existing or anticipated pollution problems in the Sanctuary**
- **Evaluate the effectiveness of efforts to reduce or eliminate the sources of pollution**
- **Evaluate progress toward achieving and maintaining water quality standards and toward protecting and restoring the coral reefs and other living marine resources of the Sanctuary**



WQPP Monitoring Program

- **Establish baselines and detect status and trends**
- **Document Water Quality changes/improvements resulting from better wastewater and stormwater management and canal restoration projects**
- **Provides early warning system for far-field sources**
 - **Harmful Algal Blooms – SW Florida/ Florida Bay**
 - **Gulf of Mexico – i.e. oil spills, pollutant transport from Mississippi, etc.**



WQPP Priorities

Local Water Quality Issues



**Stormwater and
Wastewater
Management**



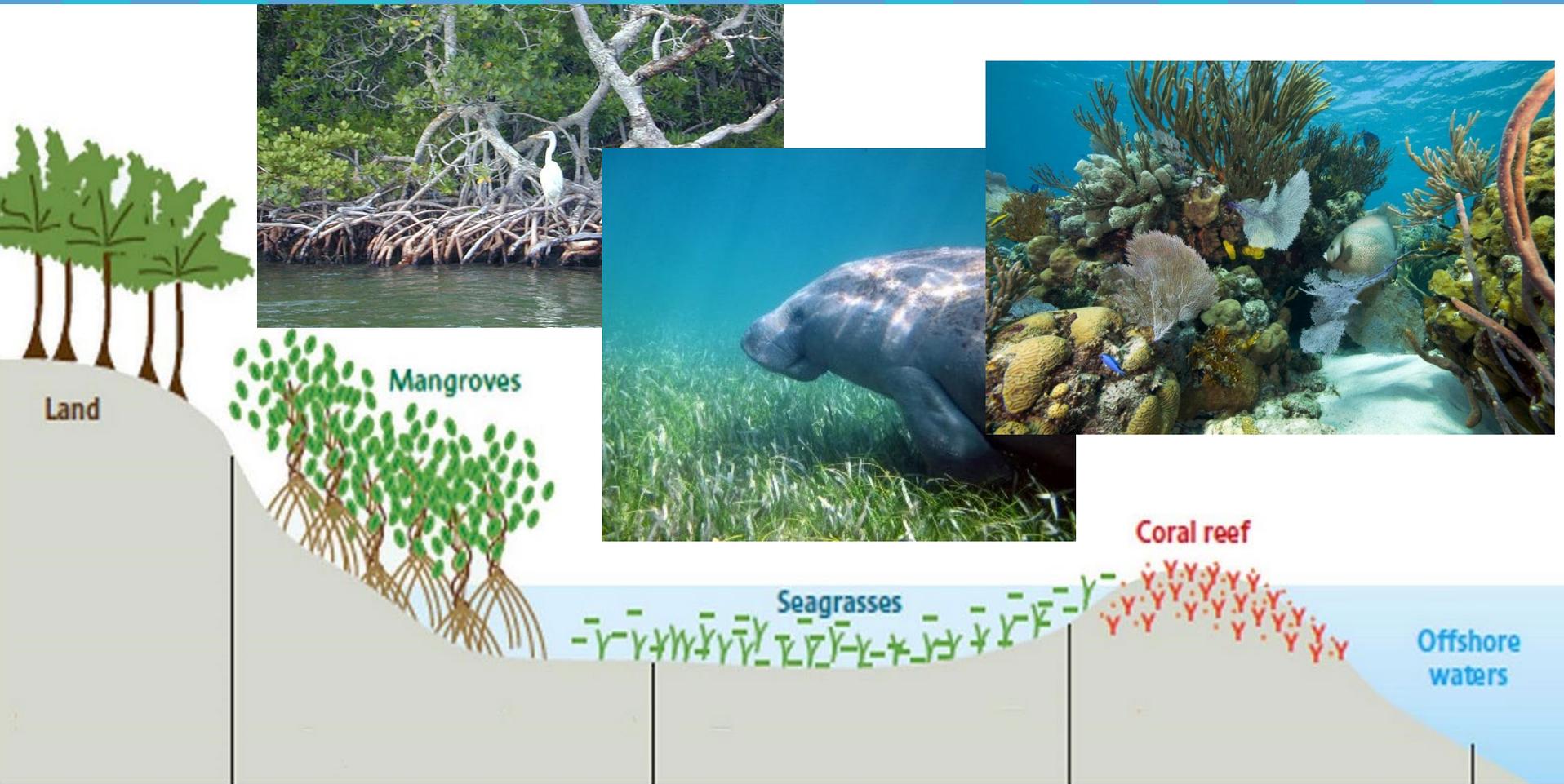
**Water quality
Canals**



**Water quality
Nearshore Waters**

WQPP Priorities

Impacts to Marine Resources

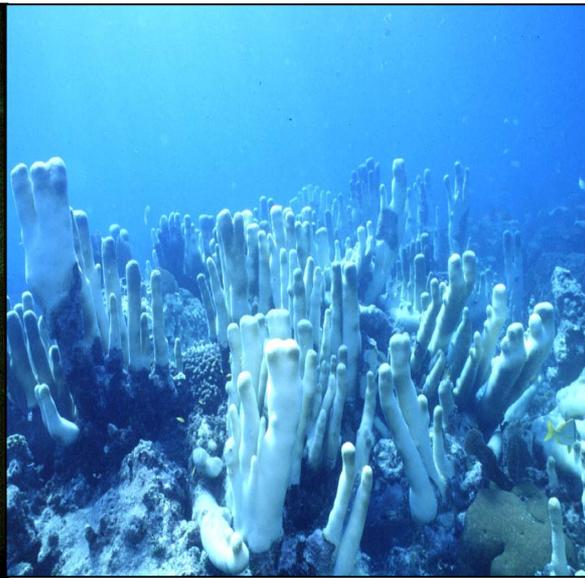




WQPP Priorities



Coral Diseases



Coral Bleaching



Algal Blooms

WQPP Priorities : Currents & Connectivity

External Influences and Far-field Sources

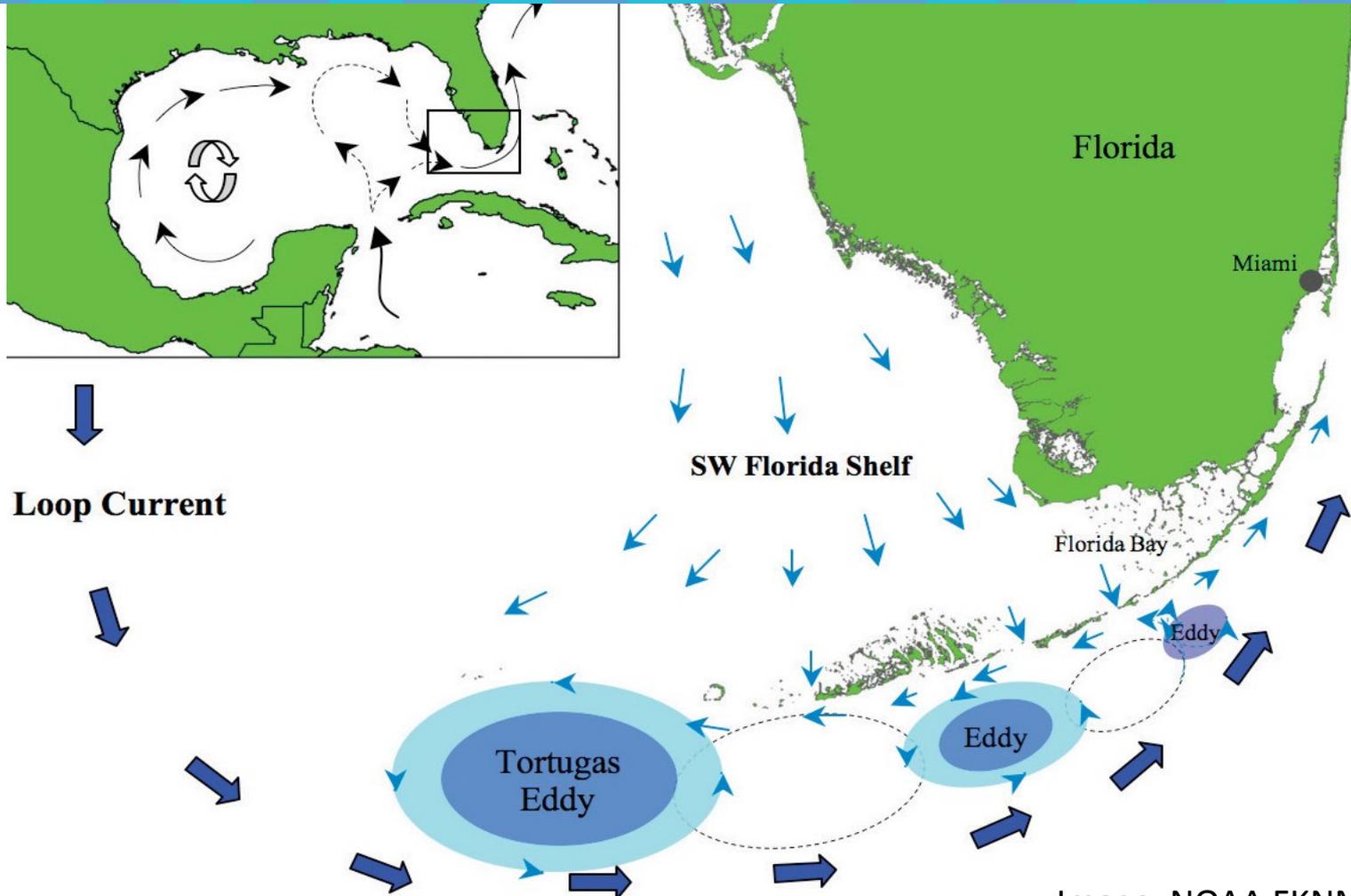


Image: NOAA FKNMS



TAC Disciplines

Wastewater and Stormwater Management

Hydrogeology/ Groundwater

Water Quality

Physical Oceanography

Endocrine Disruptors

Coral reef Communities

Seagrass Communities

Mangrove Communities

Mosquito pesticides

Fish Communities

Algal Communities

Benthic Invertebrates:

- **Spiny Lobster**
- **Queen Conch**
- **Sponges**



TAC Composition

Pursuant to the FKNMS & Protection Act, the TAC shall be composed of:

- **Scientists from federal and State agencies**
- **Academic institutions**
- **Private non-profit organizations**
- **Knowledgeable citizens**



TAC Members

- **Rene Price, FIU**
- **Rob Ruzicka, FWC
St. Pete Lab**
- **Sandra Walters,
SWC , Inc.**
- **Shelly Krueger,
Florida Sea Grant**
- **Steven Blackburn,
USEPA**
- **George Garrett, City of
Marathon**
- **Henry Briceno, FIU SERC**
- **Michael Roberts, Monroe
County**
- **Peter Frezza, Village of
Islamorada**
- **Julie Espy, FDEP DEAR**



TAC Members

- **Alison Higgins, City of Key West**
- **Michael Boehmler, Mosquito Control**
- **Robert Nowicki, Mote Marine Lab**
- **James Rachal, FDOH**
- **Chris Kavanagh, NPS**
- **Nick Parr, FDEP**
- **John Hunt, FWC**
- **Jerry Ault, University of Miami**
- **Jim Fourqurean, FIU**
- **Jolynn Reynolds, FCAA**
- **Lee Kump, Penn State University**
- **Mark Chiappone, MDC**
- **Chris Bergh, TNC**



Issues For Discussion

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FKNMS Liaison and Staffing

Section 8(d)(3)(A) FKNMS & Protection Act

The Regional Administrator of EPA shall appoint a Florida Keys Liaison Officer, who shall be located in the State of Florida and shall have the authority and staff to:

- Assist and support the implementation of the program, including administrative and technical support for the Steering Committee and the TAC.**
- Assist and support local, State and federal agencies in developing and implementing the program action plans.**



FKNMS Liaison and Staffing

(Continued)

- **Coordinate the actions of EPA with other federal, State and local agencies to develop strategies to maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Florida Keys**
- **Collect and make available to the public publications, and other forms of information related to water quality**
- **Provide for public review and comment on the program and implementing actions**



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