

# The Next WQPP Report to Congress

By Maria Guardado

# Things We'll Be Talking About Generally

1. What is required by WQPP legislation
2. Summary of strengths and weaknesses of previous reports
3. The New WQPP Report



# Purpose of WQPP, as stated in legislation

## FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY

SEC. 8.(a) WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PROGRAM.—(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State of Florida, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, shall develop a comprehensive water quality protection program for the Sanctuary. If the Secretary of Commerce determines that such comprehensive water quality protection program does not meet the purpose for which the Sanctuary is designated or is otherwise inconsistent or incompatible with the comprehensive management plan prepared under section 7, such water quality program shall not be included in the comprehensive management plan. The purposes of such water quality program shall be to—

(A) recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreational activities in and on the water; and

(B) assign responsibilities for the implementation of the program among the Governor, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Administrator in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws.

# What the report requires, from same legislation

## (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Governor of the State of Florida shall implement the program required by this section, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce.

(2)(A) The Regional Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall with the Governor of the State of Florida establish a Steering Committee to set guidance and policy for the development and implementation of such program. Membership shall include representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Florida Department of Community Affairs, the Florida Department of Environmental Regulation, the South Florida Water Management District, and the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority; three individuals in local government in the Florida Keys; and three citizens knowledgeable about such program.

(B) The Steering Committee shall, on a biennial basis, issue a report to Congress that—

(i) summarizes the progress of the program;

(ii) summarizes any modifications to the program and its recommended actions and plans; and

(iii) incorporates specific recommendations concerning the implementation of the program.

Though the program was executed into existence in 1994, it has been unable to deliver a report to Congress on a standard basis due to issues like:

1. How interagency collaboration is hard to communicate
2. Variable report structures and changing content

# The 1996 Report

# The 1996 report, what was good

1. Structure was strongly influenced by legislation
2. Explicit section for Priorities and Recommendations

# The 1996 report, some downfalls

1. Cannot track progress
2. Charts from Priorities and Recommendations missing important details necessary for Congressional Readers

# The 2013 Report

# The 2013 Report, what was good

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# The 2013 Report, some downfalls

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Goal:

Send out complete report for congressional readers by this year and establish a standard reporting framework and time period

# The Next Report aims to

1. Keep purpose and audience at forefront
2. Present dense information in easily digestible formats
3. Keep a “template” like structure that ought to make reporting easier

Keep purpose and audience at  
forefront

# Purpose of Report

## Explicit:

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## Implicit

- Inform congress people of the type of progress that a novel program like WQPP makes in order to consider whether to implement other such programs at National Marine Sanctuaries
- Inform congress people of the type of progress that the WQPP makes in order to justify the further allocation of funding.

# Audiences for report

1. Primarily, Congressional Readers, People evaluating the Funding and purpose of the program for appropriation and support reasons and
2. Secondly, Resource Managers from other regions, People who are Interested in research in general, and Lay people concerned about the environment and want to know what's going on

# Structure for report

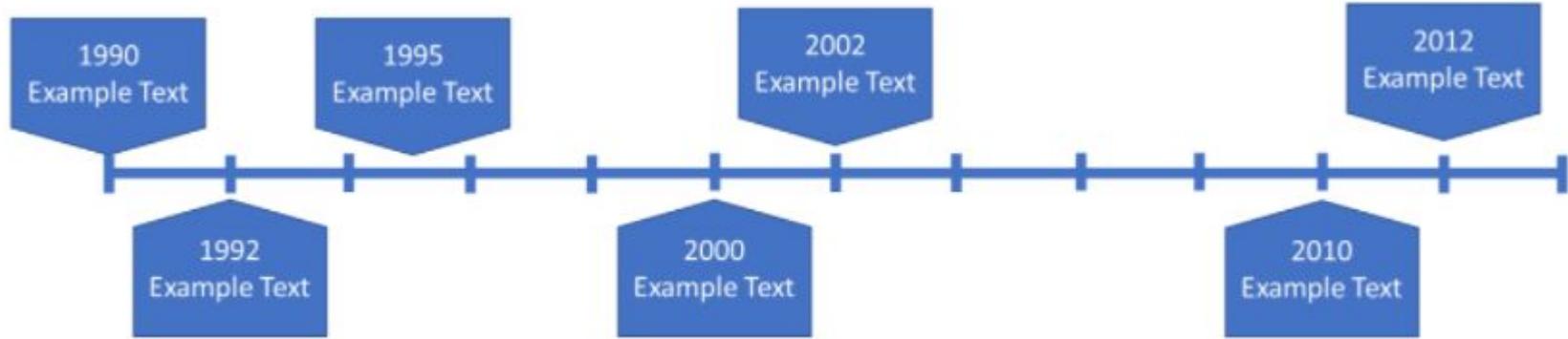
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**Part 1: Program Background and Accomplishments**

**Part 2: Highlights of WQPP Monitoring and Research**

Present dense information  
in easily digestible formats

# Presenting information in easily digestible formats



Keep a “template” like structure  
that ought to make reporting  
easier

# Discussion Questions

. What are your thoughts on the proposed structure of the report (Part 1 vs. Part 2)?

- For Part 1:
  - Are the accomplishments we plan to highlight in the report the correct ones? Is anything missing?
  - Does this accurately capture 'programmatic modifications' that have taken place since 2013?
  - Do you agree with the future needs and priorities to be highlighted? Is anything missing?
  - Should we include other sources of funding that have supported WQPP-relevant project implementation (in addition to EPA South Florida Program)?
  - How do we make the connection between funding and the WQPP's impact?
- For Part 2:
  - Since we can't report on all research findings since the last report to Congress in 2013, are there other big events or key research findings that should be highlighted in a case study? These should be relevant to resource condition, reveal long term trends and/or illustrate the importance and need for the WQPP.
- Overall, do you think this framework will help us generate more regular reports to Congress in the future?