

## MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)

**TO:** Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.  
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

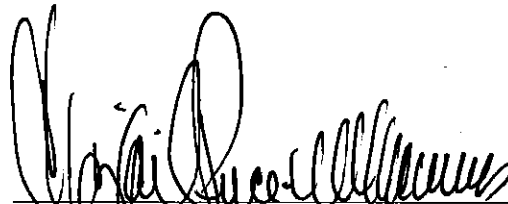
**DATE:** June 6, 2017

**FROM:** Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

**SUBJECT:** Resolution endorsing the Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force final report and recommendations; endorsing the Coastal Ocean Forum priority recommendations; and urging the municipalities within Miami-Dade County to adopt a resolution demonstrating their support of same

Resolution No. R-618-17

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava.



Abigail Price-Williams  
County Attorney

APW/lmp



# MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

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Please note any items checked.

- "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Statement of social equity required
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's \_\_\_\_\_, 3/5's \_\_\_\_\_, unanimous \_\_\_\_\_) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(4)  
6-6-17

RESOLUTION NO. R-618-17

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA COASTAL OCEAN TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS; ENDORSING THE COASTAL OCEAN FORUM PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS; AND URGING THE MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION DEMONSTRATING THEIR SUPPORT OF SAME

**WHEREAS**, coastal marine resources are public resources that provide recreational benefits to users and income to local economies; and

**WHEREAS**, coastal marine resources are highly valued and require conservation management to protect; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Florida Coastal Ocean Task Force (“COTF”) was established in 2012 through enabling resolutions of the Boards of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach and Martin Counties to coordinate protection of habitats and marine communities at the regional level; and

**WHEREAS**, the COTF formed an intergovernmental body comprised of one County Commissioner from each member county, elected officials representing municipalities in each county, representatives from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (“FDEP”), the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (“FWC”), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”); and stakeholders representing recreational fishers, commercial ports, the dive charter industry, and the marine industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the COTF met monthly over a period of 30 months, studied the challenges and technical issues affecting coastal marine resources in southeast Florida and finalized its

recommendations as part of the Southeast Florida COTF Final Recommendations Report (“COTF Final Report”), attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

**WHEREAS**, the COTF Final Report includes three (3) overarching recommendations relating to interagency coordination, implementation, and protection of coastal resources from any oil exploration off the Florida coast, with additional recommendations focusing on water quality, beaches, fisheries, coral reefs, estuaries, socioeconomics, the management of marine debris, and implementation strategies involving technical investigations, policy, planning and projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the COTF disbanded after developing recommendations and several members formed the Coastal Ocean Forum (“COF”) with the purpose of implementing the COTF’s recommendations; and

**WHEREAS**, the COF intends to advance several priority recommendations each year; and

**WHEREAS**, in May 2016, the COF established priority recommendations, attached hereto as Exhibit “B”; and

**WHEREAS**, the COTF Final Report may be presented for approval and advancement by local governments within the five county planning area of Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Monroe and Martin Counties, and the COTF Final Report consists of viable and worthy goals for the conservation of southeast Florida’s coastal waters,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**, that this Board:

**Section 1.** Endorses in concept the Coastal Ocean Task Force Final Report (“COTF Final Report”), attached as Exhibit “A”, and commits to work with local, regional, state, and federal governments, educational institutions, and non-profit organizations to improve the coastal ecosystem to benefit human use, ecosystem health and economic sustainability. This board further

acknowledges that the overarching goals adopted by the COTF relate to interagency coordination, implementation, and protection of coastal resources from any oil exploration off the Florida coast, with additional recommendations focusing on water quality, beaches, fisheries, coral reefs, estuaries, socioeconomics, the management of marine debris, and implementation strategies involving technical investigations, policy, planning and projects.

**Section 2.** Urges the municipalities within Miami-Dade County to adopt a resolution demonstrating their commitment to support the COTF Final Report, attached as Exhibit “A”.

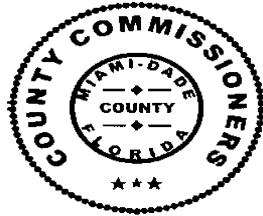
**Section 3.** Endorses in concept the Southeast Coastal Ocean Forum (“COF”) priority recommendations, attached as Exhibit “B”.

**Section 4.** Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit certified copies of this resolution to the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection; the Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; the mayor, county manager, or commissioner chairperson, as applicable, for Broward County, Palm Beach County, Monroe County, and Martin County; and the mayor, city manager, or commissioner chairperson, as applicable, for each municipality within Miami-Dade County.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Daniella Levine Cava. It was offered by Commissioner **Sally A. Heyman** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

	Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Chairman	<b>aye</b>
	Audrey M. Edmonson, Vice Chairwoman	<b>absent</b>
Bruno A. Barreiro	<b>absent</b>	Daniella Levine Cava <b>aye</b>
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	<b>aye</b>	Sally A. Heyman <b>aye</b>
Barbara J. Jordan	<b>absent</b>	Joe A. Martinez <b>absent</b>
Jean Monestime	<b>absent</b>	Dennis C. Moss <b>aye</b>
Rebeca Sosa	<b>aye</b>	Sen. Javier D. Souto <b>aye</b>
Xavier L. Suarez	<b>aye</b>	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY ITS BOARD OF  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: **Christopher Agrippa**  
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as  
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Suzanne Villano-Charif", written over a horizontal line.

Suzanne Villano-Charif

# SOUTHEAST COASTAL OCEAN TASK FORCE

## Draft Recommendations

6/24/2015

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Apply to the appropriate government agencies to develop a holistic management plan that can be accomplished for the southeast Florida coastal waters. The plan shall include stakeholder input and address measures to maximize water quality, improve fisheries, and minimize the impacts of coastal construction.
2. The Task Force encourages a collaborative effort by interested parties to further the implementation of the recommendations endorsed by the Task Force.
3. The Coastal Ocean Task Force opposes offshore oil drilling on the Florida coast.

### WATER QUALITY

1. Address issues concerning water quality impacts to the reef by developing regional initiatives to reduce nutrient loading from all human sources and pathways, including surface water management (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan [CERP] and Central Everglades Planning Project [CEPP]), septic systems and ocean outfall discharges (e.g., advanced treatment), to improve conditions for estuarine and marine habitats.
  - Stormwater treatment
    - i. The COTF encourages the construction of additional water storage reservoirs, stormwater treatment areas, flow equalization basins, and use of appropriate technologies to reduce nutrient levels before release of freshwater to southeast Florida estuaries and to modulate salinity changes in those estuaries.
  - Wastewater
    - i. Update and replace wastewater infrastructure, where necessary, to improve surface and groundwater quality.
    - ii. Replace all septic systems with common sewer hookups to prevent the addition of contaminated sewage and nutrients to groundwater.
    - iii. Reduce the discharge of treated domestic wastewater into the ocean and build infrastructure for advanced water treatment and reuse to improve ocean water quality, reduce destructive algal blooms, and increase water reuse.
    - iv. Promote the development and enactment of strategies and initiatives to reduce the current and future demand on wastewater infrastructure, including, but not limited

to, utilization of more efficient fixtures and appliances and reclaiming and reusing gray water when feasible.

- Water flow and estuaries
  - i. Support restoration of historical/natural “Everglades” water flow to minimize pulses of freshwater and protect marine ecosystems from poor water quality (nutrients).
  - ii. Enhance existing estuaries and restore potential estuarine areas to support coral reef ecosystem function.
  - iii. Restore and create estuarine habitats and redirect historical freshwater flows to increase habitat, improve water quality, and support nursery area for reef fauna.
  - iv. Support incentives and initiatives to restore and preserve wetlands north of Lake Okeechobee to reduce discharges to coastal estuaries to protect estuaries and reefs.
  - v. Identify point-source inputs into estuaries and retro-fit them as needed to reduce pollutant loadings to restore healthy estuaries.
  - vi. Direct funds from the water and land legacy amendment toward land acquisition and/or projects that will help preserve and restore coastal/wetland habitats to benefit coral reefs and water quality.
- Nutrient pollution
  - i. Develop/improve water quality monitoring to include inlet discharges and offshore reef areas to track stormwater on reef and improve water quality
  - ii. Develop mass balance for water going to tide to help prioritize effective management actions and make informed management decisions.
- Groundwater
  - i. Enact a Florida Aquifer Protection Act that establishes guidelines to regulate pollutants introduced into the aquifer
  - ii. Reduce ground water pollution in targeted watersheds associated with priority reef areas to improve water quality and reef health.
- Boating
  - i. Improve sewage and solid waste disposal services at marinas, including recycling, to minimize overboard discharges into water bodies.
  - ii. Promote free pump-out stations to encourage boaters to use these services and minimize overboard discharges.



- iii. Promote southeast Florida coral reef awareness and education and coral-specific boater and marina BMPs to augment Clean Marina Programs and support marina clean-up programs.
- iv. Encourage development of less toxic marine products for boat maintenance and construction.
- Yards, gardens, and golf courses
  - i. Discourage lawn fertilizing during the rainy season and limit the types of fertilizer that can be sold to the public to reduce elevated nutrient levels in canals, rivers, lakes and estuaries.
  - ii. Promote the use of environmentally friendly fertilizers, weed killers, and insecticides to reduce or eliminate toxic chemicals from entering bays, estuaries, and oceans through storm runoff.
  - iii. Reduce yard clippings and other yard waste from entering water bodies to reduce nutrients in estuarine habitats.
  - iv. Promote community compost programs where people can take their organic wastes for composting and receive free compost to reduce the use of inorganic fertilizer.
  - v. Promote existing "rain garden" programs to relevant landowners to reduce contaminated rainwater runoff.
  - vi. Develop and implement a "Green Club" certification program for golf courses (similar to Blue Star for dive industry and clean marina programs) to provide an incentive mechanism for golf courses to reduce their impact on the marine environment.
  - vii. Provide incentives for land owners who convert to "ocean friendly" landscaping, especially the conversion of golf courses and lawns to a native *Paspalum* turf varieties to reduce pollutants to reefs and conserve water
- Public education
  - i. Educate the public on the effects of land-based sources of pollution to reduce the amount of pollutants entering storm drains and waterways.

## BEACHES

1. FDEP shall encourage local communities to manage beaches in a regional context, such as the Palm Beach County Beach Management Agreement (BMA). Inlet management should be included in a regional approach to sand management for beaches.
  - Inlet sand bypassing

- i. Seek Congressional authorization and direction to require the USACE to share in the cost of design, construction, and operation of inlet sand by-passing systems at federally maintained navigation inlets.
2. Modify federal agreements for inlet maintenance to recognize the importance of Regional Sediment Management, and require placement of beach quality sand on adjacent impacted beaches.
3. Beach nourishment
  - Standardize input parameters for HEA (Habitat Equivalency Analysis) and UMAM (Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method) for coral reef environments to improve application of this rule to coastal ecosystems, to provide more consistent/accurate calculations, and to ensure ecological functions are maintained.
  - Modify federal agreements to allow General Reevaluation Reports (GRR) for beach nourishment, as required by the USACE, to remain valid for the life of the project (50 years) unless major substantive changes are made to the federal project.
  - Improve methods of offshore sediment dredging for beach nourishment to reduce muddy runoff turbidity and sediment stress on corals, eliminate damage from dredging "accidents," and enhance sea turtle nesting beaches.
  - Consider alternatives to domestic sand, including use of sand from international sand sources.
  - Encourage the use of recycled glass, if economically feasible, as a source of beach fill.
4. Coastal construction
  - Set new and appropriate water turbidity standards for marine construction to limit damage to reefs and associated habitats from coastal construction projects.
  - Create/enhance a "LEED"-like certification program for coastal construction companies and projects, as well as individuals working in the industry, to encourage smart development and best practices for coastal construction.
  - Revise the coastal permitting process to restrict or limit relevant development and coastal construction projects during periods when corals are more susceptible to impacts (e.g. bleaching, spawning, other disturbance events) to reduce cumulative impacts to reefs.
  - Ensure that coastal construction permits contain best management and permitting practices and use available resources to educate contractors, consultants etc., on the importance and value of our reef systems. If impacts to reefs are expected to occur, understand and account for the direct and indirect impacts.

## 5. Beach raking

- Reduce negative impacts from beach raking/cleanup practices to minimize negative impacts to the beach ecosystem by limiting mechanical beach raking to high public use beaches and eliminate raking in front of lower density residential properties.
- Educate property owners on the ecological importance of the beach's wrack line and the habitat and food sources that it provides to the beach ecosystem.

## 6. Shoreline Development

- Eliminate coastal storm water runoff to beaches to eliminate losses of sand due to scouring.
- Promote land acquisition by the state and local governments to limit shoreline industry and maintain coastal wetlands to protect mangroves and coral reefs.
- Increase and protect public access for sustainable use of coastal resources to increase appreciation of reef resources (and their value) by the general public.
- Evaluate and enforce lighting regulations to make sure they are effectively protecting sea turtles.
- Include consideration of sea level rise in revisions of Florida's coastal construction control line (CCCL).
- Eliminate/discourage government subsidies/funds to rebuild habitable storm-damaged structures near coast and estuarine shorelines.
- Coordinate regional "living shoreline" objectives to promote the use and protection of natural infrastructure (e.g. coral reefs, native vegetation, mangroves, and wetlands) to provide natural barriers to storm surge and maintain coastal biodiversity.

## FISHERIES

1. Work with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), who regulates submerged state lands, and consult with NOAA, academics and others, as appropriate, to promote the recovery of reef organisms, including reef fish, coral, and related species by using appropriate available tools and incorporate assessment monitoring to evaluate the success of these activities. Tools can include, but are not limited to, bag limits, size limits, seasonal closures, special-use areas, no-take areas. Additional guidance may also be provided by the recommendations of the Our Florida Reefs working groups.
2. Consideration of forage fish should be included in fisheries management plans.
3. Encourage fisheries managers to provide special protection for fish spawning aggregations.

## **CORAL REEFS**

- 1 Encourage the State Legislature to mandate the incorporation of best permitting management practices (BMP) for coral reef ecosystem protection in coastal construction permits.
- 2 Develop a best management practice for the dive industry
  - Encourage dive charter operators to provide a substantive pre-dive briefing on awareness, etiquette and low-impact techniques.
  - Discourage the use of gloves (If diver's hands are bare, they are less likely to touch coral); emphasize buoyancy control and "fin awareness" during diver training and practice; teach new divers the "fins up" diving position; encourage divers to descend over sand, and, when possible, take this into consideration in siting mooring buoys; encourage in-water supervision of divers and overtly correct inappropriate diver behavior; consider using environmental success stories in advertising campaigns; and encourage dive tour operators to invest in professional development dive guides.
  - Consider implementing a program like the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Blue Star Program and appoint a Northern Reef Tract diver education committee to develop a "Blue Star" like program with a dive shop certification in the four-county area.
3. Support renewal of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 in Congress.
4. Promote measures to minimize or eliminate anchoring on coral reefs by small boats.
  - Encourage the use and funding of small boat moorings and education of anchoring and its impacts on reefs.
  - Create enforceable, temporary anchor zones during marine events to minimize impacts to hardbottom resources.
5. Promote science-based, goal-oriented artificial reefs, using appropriate materials, for inshore and offshore waters; streamline the permitting process; and encourage expanded funding for artificial reef projects.

## **ESTUARIES**

- 1 Manage muck sediments on both the freshwater and estuarine sides of estuaries to prevent them from entering coastal waters.
- 2 Place a priority on restoration of shallow-water estuarine habitats and locate restoration projects strategically to improve connectivity among habitats.

## **SOCIOECONOMICS**

1. Update the 2001 Socio-economic study of coral reefs in southeast Florida and expand the scope to include beaches.
  - Encourage valuation and consideration of ecosystem services in determining benefit/cost ratios as part of local, state, and federal project planning and land use decisions.
  - Encourage members of the Task Force to work collaboratively to identify and target all possible funding sources to support work necessary to document the value of the Southeast Florida marine ecosystem, based on socioeconomic and use pattern studies, and use that information in a public awareness campaign to 1) increase public support for marine conservation, 2) change individual behavior/reduce impacts, 3) inform state, local and federal project planning 4) provide a real basis for impact assessment and 5) provide information to leverage county, state and federal organizations for increased funding.

#### **MARINE DEBRIS**

1. Provide trash and recycling containers at beach entrances.
2. Solid waste
  - Cigarette litter
    - I. Promote the placement of visible cigarette receptacles at beach public access points.
    - II. Work with Florida legislature and local municipalities to implement smoking bans on beaches, yet provide for designated smoking areas.
    - III. Increase shoreline cleanup efforts.
  - Straws/Stirrers, plastic utensils, plastic food-ware
    - i. Work with beachside restaurants and businesses to limit single use plastics and switch to compostable or reusable alternatives.
    - ii. Follow the model set by Miami Beach and ban plastic straws from beachside use.
  - Expanded Polystyrene Foam (EPS)
    - I. Ban use of EPS foam food ware at all beachside establishments.
    - II. Ban use of EPS foam coolers on beaches.
    - III. Expand EPS foam food ware bans on beaches to cover coastal counties in the region.

- Plastic, glass and recyclables
  - i. Encourage the placement of visible recycling receptacles at public access points, dune crossovers and popular beach sites.
  - ii. Encourage frequent recyclable pick up and mandate additional pickup after special events or large beach holidays (e.g., 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Labor Day, etc.).
  - iii. Work with Florida Legislature and municipalities to create a statewide "bottle bill" or container deposit law.
- Plastic bags
  - i. Encourage local municipalities to adopt "voluntary bag bans", encouraging businesses to use only reusable bags.
- Boating, Marinas and their Responsibilities
  - i. Encourage the placement of color-coded, clearly labelled recycling bins with lids on docks for staff and customers.
  - ii. Encourage boaters and fishermen to bring their trash back to the docks for proper disposal.
  - iii. Encourage boaters to set up an onboard system to segregate trash for easy disposal and recycling on shore.
  - iv. Reduce the amount and impacts of derelict fishing gear by collaborating with the fishing and recreational industry to develop best practices to minimize the impact of lost gear or gear thrown into the ocean.
  - v. Encourage these industries to develop and adapt educational effective messages about marine debris issues for placement in kiosks on docks.
  - vi. Encourage marinas to offer Educational workshops/classes on marine debris issues to motivate and inspire people to take action at their marinas.
  - vii. Inform the public that they can call the Coast Guard National Response Center at (800) 424-8802 to make a formal report on those who do not comply with the recommendations. Place large signs with this information near the recycling bins on the docks of the marinas.
  - viii. Encourage greater funding of the derelict vessel program by the legislature, as well as streamlining the vessel removal process, if feasible.

## SOUTHEAST COASTAL OCEAN Forum

### PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

5/26/2016

#### PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Have the State of Florida designate the region including sovereignty submerged lands from St. Lucie Inlet to the North boundary of Biscayne National Park located in Miami-Dade County as The SE Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area. The appropriate State of Florida Government agencies including DEP and FWC to develop a comprehensive management plan for the southeast Florida coastal waters. The plan shall include stakeholder input and address measures to maximize water quality, and improve the coral reef ecosystem. All Fisheries issues shall be under the purview of the FWC.
- 2 Support renewal of the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000 in Congress.
- 3 Encourage members of the Task Force to work collaboratively to identify and target all possible funding sources to support work necessary to document the value of the Southeast Florida marine ecosystem, based on socioeconomic and use pattern studies, and use that information in a public awareness campaign to 1) increase public support for marine conservation, 2) change individual behavior/reduce impacts, 3) inform state, local and federal project planning 4) provide a real basis for impact assessment and 5) provide information to leverage county, state, and federal organizations for increased funding.
- 4 Establish, Implement and support a Water Quality Monitoring Program for the SE Florida Coral Reef Tract from Martin County through Miami-Dade County.