



Status of Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations

December 6, 2021

Irela Bagué
Chief Bay Officer

Biscayne Bay Task Force Recommendations



Water Quality



Governance



Infrastructure



Watershed Habitat Restoration and Natural Infrastructure



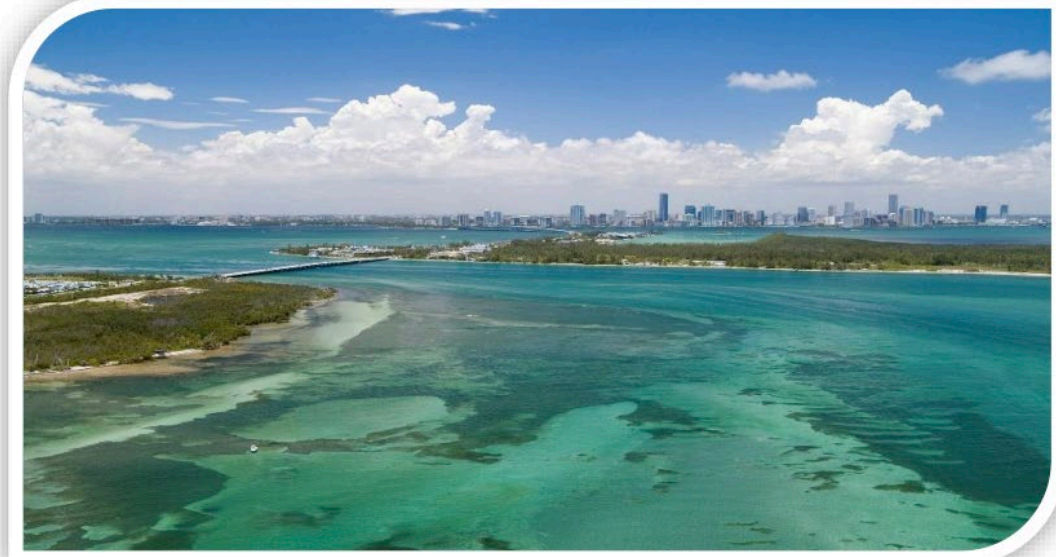
Marine Debris



Education and Outreach



Funding



A Unified Approach to Recovery for a Healthy & Resilient Biscayne Bay

Biscayne Bay Task Force Report and Recommendations

June 2020

Biscayne Bay Task Force Members

Irela Bagué, Task Force Chairperson, President, Bagué Group

David Martin, Task Force Vice Chairperson, President, Terra Group

Lynette Cardoch, Ph.D., Director of Resilience & Adaptation, Moffatt & Nichol

Lee Hefty, Director, Division of Environmental Resources Management, Miami-Dade County

James Murley, Chief Resilience Officer, Office of Resilience, Miami-Dade County

John Pistorino, P.E., Principal, Pistorino and Alam

Alyce Robertson, Executive Director, Downtown Development Authority

Steve Sauls, Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit Steering Committee Member

Tiffany Troxler, Ph.D., Director of Science, Sea Level Solutions Center, Florida International University

Biscayne Bay Actions Steps to Recovery

Benchmark

Immediate (I) Less than one year	Short-Term (S) Between one and three years	Mid-Term (M) Greater than three years	Actions highlighted in yellow are completed or in progress
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Action Type

Actions that can be accomplished administratively within the County	Actions that require additional policy considerations	Actions that require further collaboration at the municipal, state, or federal level
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WATER QUALITY

BENCHMARK

1A	Establish science-based, pollutant load reduction goals and interim targets	Short-Term (S)
1B	Develop, implement and continuously monitor and demonstrate progress toward meeting 1A's pollutant load reduction goals and interim targets	Short-Term (S)
1C	Activate additional Department of Regulatory and Economic Resources' (RER) resource management functions	Immediate (I)
1D	County should conduct an immediate assessment of land-based hotspot areas prioritized based on existing, known impairments	Immediate (I)
1E	Review, develop (as needed), implement and enforce local ordinances and policies to attain pollution load reduction goals set forth in the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)	Short-Term (S)
1F	Coordinate, staff and provide an annual budget for comprehensive, centralized Biscayne Bay Watershed data and research coordination and data management infrastructure	Immediate (I)
1G	Undertake and secure funding for new pilot projects and research projects focused on reducing pollutant loads	Immediate (I)
1H	Elevate and further amend the Comprehensive Develop Master Plan (CDMP) to further include Biscayne Bay watershed management planning elements	Mid-Term (M)
1I	Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment for Biscayne Bay	Short-Term (S)
1J	Initiate and fund studies that illuminate specific knowledge gaps for application toward watershed restoration	Immediate (I)
1K	Pass a county-wide fertilizer ordinance	Short-Term (S)
1L	Increase compliance of all marinas and commercial operations along waterways	Immediate (I)
1M	Continue to monitor the progress of the October 7th, 2015 Consent Agreement between FP&L and Miami-Dade County	Immediate (I)

GOVERNANCE

2A	Establish by ordinance a Biscayne Bay Watershed Management Board (WMB)	Immediate (I)
2B	The Mayor should appoint a Chief Bay Officer (CBO) and request funding for the position	Immediate (I)
2C	The WMB will, with technical and community recommendations, review, recommend funding for and implement the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)	Short-Term (S)
2D	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the SFWMD	Immediate (I)
2E	Enable the alignment and coordination of County departments that takes a holistic, comprehensive approach to Biscayne Bay recovery and resilience	Immediate (I)
2F	Develop a formal partnership in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Miami River Commission	Immediate (I)

INFRASTRUCTURE

BENCHMARK

3A	Increase compliance with existing laws to result in the immediate connection of ~12,000 properties to the sewer system	Short-Term (S)
3B	Develop and enforce septic system design criteria with design parameters	Short-Term (S)
3C	Initiate a mandatory septic system registration and inspection program	Mid-Term (M)
3D	Undertake immediate efforts to identify and eliminate all root causes of Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO) including inflow and infiltration. Accelerate sewer infrastructure maintenance and upgrades	Short-Term (S)
3E	Develop and expedite a Condition Assessment and Asset Management Action Plan to document the condition of the County's wastewater system assets and certify all historical "As Built's" and/or those not already certified with a focus on identifying horizontal and vertical locations of main wastewater transmission lines	Short-Term (S)
3F	Enforce the existing code and update the stormwater design criteria to improve effectiveness and include advances in stormwater treatment technologies	Short-Term (S)
3G	Develop a plan to prioritize the retrofitting of stormwater infrastructure within basins with the most substantial water quality and/or habitat degradation issues	Short-Term (S)
3H	Eliminate direct and indirect stormwater discharges to Biscayne Bay	Mid-Term (M)
3I	Set policy that all As-Built's/Record Drawings are done and certified by a Florida Professional Surveyor and Mapper qualified and registered to do work in Miami-Dade County	Short-Term (S)
3J	Set policy to require during the design phase of future construction that all existing utilities are designated and located vertically and horizontally	Short-Term (S)
3K	Ensure that new infrastructure projects to address coastal flooding and storm surge that are cost-shared by the County adhere to the recommendations of this Task Force and prioritize Biscayne Bay health and resilience	Short-Term (S)

WATERSHED HABITAT RESTORATION AND NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

4A	Develop ecologically acceptable living shoreline design options that are consistent with the existing Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Act	Immediate (I)
4B	Raise awareness of the value of mangroves through a homeowner education campaign	Short-Term (S)
4C	Increase enforcement of existing rules for protecting existing mangroves and mangrove shorelines	Short-Term (S)
4D	Identify vulnerable properties along the coastline and partner with municipalities to focus on public properties and private property owners to create a voluntary Mangrove Protection and Restoration Zone Program	Short-Term (S)
4E	Prioritize existing and identify new green and blue infrastructure approaches and restoration projects	Immediate (I)
4F	Continue to work with SFWMD and to have the State of Florida allocate the funds necessary to ensure the timely commencement of construction of the Cutler Flow Way in accordance with the project timeline in the Integrated Delivery Schedule	Immediate (I)
4G	Continue to advocate for funding to support the Biscayne Bay Southern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (BBSEER) project (also known as the BBCW / C-111)	Mid-Term (M)
4H	Establish seagrass targets and maintenance requirements	Short-Term (S)
4I	Accelerate green infrastructure solutions for flooding, resiliency and water quality	Short-Term (S)

MARINE DEBRIS

5A	Create a comprehensive marine debris prevention, reduction, and removal program within DERM and to adequately fund and staff the program	Short-Term (S)
5B	Establish a marine debris working group to promote collaboration on ways to reduce marine debris	Short-Term (S)
5C	Through the Miami-Dade County Police Department, direct the Marine Patrol Unit to prioritize its commitment to the enforcement of all applicable laws having a nexus to the environmental health of the Bay and its tributaries	Short-Term (S)
5D	Conduct an analysis of marine debris in Biscayne Bay	Short-Term (S)
5E	Adopt a target maximum input level policy for trash	Short-Term (S)
5F	Evaluate the various existing stormwater outfall systems throughout the county to determine their effectiveness at preventing debris from entering Biscayne Bay	Mid-Term (M)
5G	Identify and establish dedicated and recurring funding sources to pay for marine debris prevention and removal activities	Immediate (I)

**We know that
what happens
on the land
ends up in
our bay.**

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

BENCHMARK

6A	Create a multi-lingual, multi-media campaign and educational outreach program	Immediate (I)
6B	Leverage the funding in the Community Based Organization grant program to create a special focus on Biscayne Bay education	Short-Term (S)
6C	Conduct an educational campaign to inform the public on the proper and improper ways to dispose of trash and the impacts of littering and marine debris to the health and management of Biscayne Bay	Immediate (I)
6D	Implement policies to reduce the amount of locally generated plastic marine debris	Short-Term (S)
6E	Build upon and increase volunteer clean-up activities county-wide	Immediate (I)
6F	Develop environmental sustainability and "plastic free" best practices	Short-Term (S)
6G	Support a "Living Laboratory for Bay Health"	Short-Term (S)
6H	Develop and implement a contractor and lawn care industry training program	Short-Term (S)
6I	Expand the scope of Bayanza to add year-round activities and collaborate on Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit activities.	Immediate (I)

FUNDING

7A	Collaborate with the Miami-Dade Legislative Delegation and the Congressional Delegation to secure annually appropriated funds to support Biscayne Bay watershed restoration	Immediate (I)
7B	Immediately engage in the legislative process to designate a Biscayne Bay License Plate	Immediate (I)
7C	Immediately enter into a cost-share partnership with SFWMD	Immediate (I)
7D	Collaborate with Florida Inland Navigational District (FIND) to immediately identify projects that will improve water quality and restoration of the Biscayne Bay watershed	Immediate (I)
7E	Leverage municipal financial resources through interlocal agreements to supplement County funds	Short-Term (S)
7F	Develop a mechanism to collaborate with municipalities and work with the development community	Short-Term (S)
7G	Direct the preparation of a report of potential funding sources by the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs	Immediate (I)

**As a community,
we can stop pollution,
creating a healthier,
more resilient Biscayne Bay.
Together we can explore solutions
that will help Biscayne Bay
and the surrounding areas
become more beautiful,
natural spaces for us all,
forever.**



Biscayne Bay Task Force Accomplishments



Advocated

“Protect Biscayne Bay”
specialty license plate
for education & conservation



Partnered State of Florida

\$20 Million – 50/50 Cost Share
\$20 Million – 2021 FDEP Grants



Enacted

Fertilizer Ordinance
May 15th – Oct 31st



Created

Biscayne Bay Website
Bay Health Report Card



Established

Biscayne Bay Watershed
Management Advisory Board



Removed

48 Derelict Vessels and
large marine debris



Created

Bay Watch Campaign to
report bay related issues
Baywatch@miamidade.gov



Partnered

SFWMD Update to
2005 Biscayne Bay
Economic Study

What Can You Do to Help Biscayne Bay Today?



Reduce your use
of single-use
plastics



Pick up your
pet's waste



Participate in
local clean ups



Only flush toilet
paper down
the toilet



Do not litter



Use
reef-safe
sunscreen



Reduce your use
of fertilizers,
pesticides,
& hazardous
materials



Practice
responsible boating
- slow down and
don't litter

WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE BISCAYNE BAY

Biscayne Bay information & updates:
www.miamidade.gov/biscaynebay

Contact: chiefbayofficer@miamidade.gov

**Report pollution, fish kills or algae blooms
on Biscayne Bay: Baywatch@miamidade.gov
or call 305-372-6955**