

Kay Davy
Fishery Biologist
&
Jocelyn Karazsia
Ecologist

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

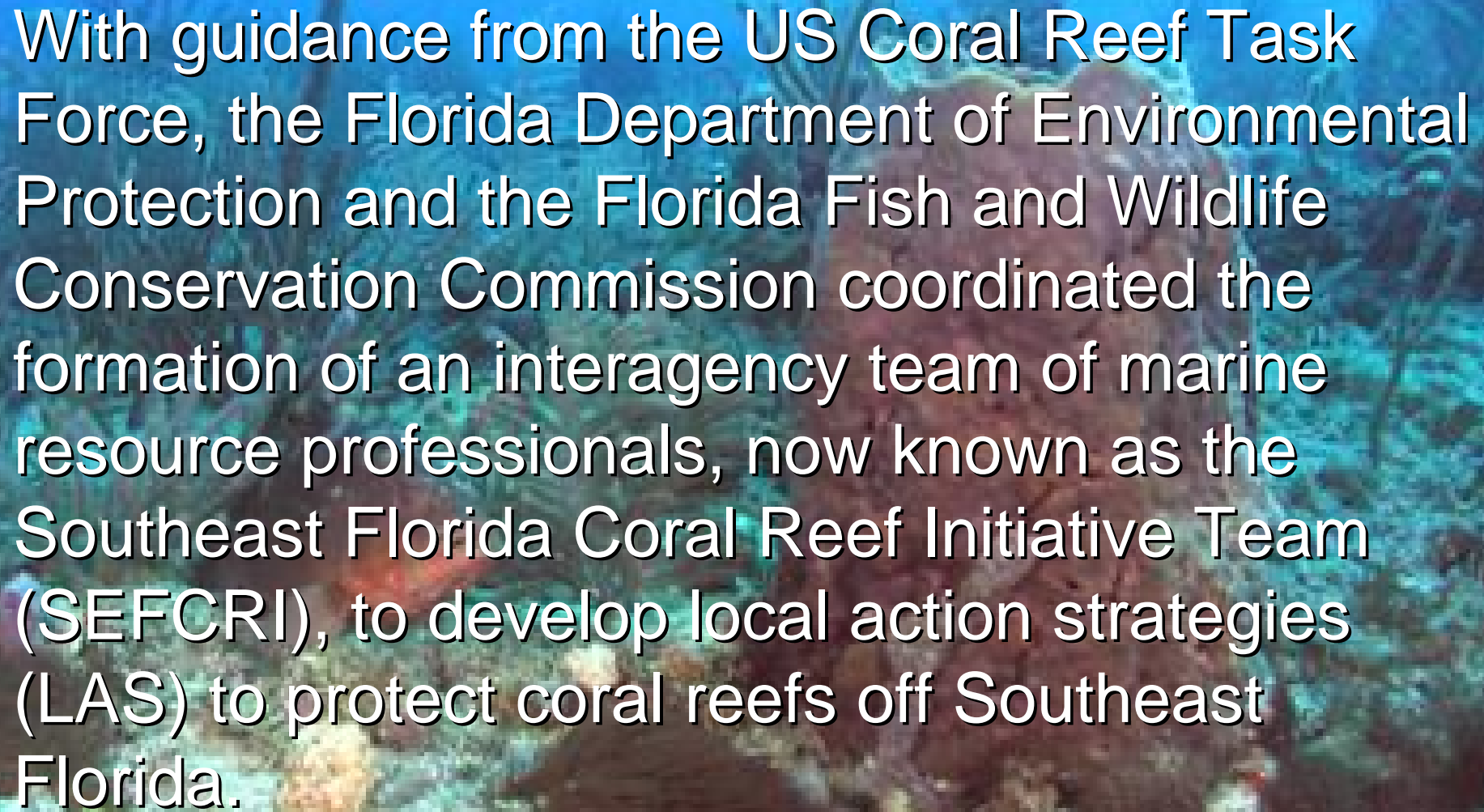
Habitat Conservation Division

Charleston, SC & Miami, FL



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Local Action Strategy



The background of the slide is a detailed underwater photograph of a coral reef. The scene is filled with diverse coral species, including branching and table corals, in shades of brown, green, and orange. Numerous small, colorful fish are scattered throughout the water column, adding to the rich biodiversity of the reef. The lighting is bright, highlighting the textures and colors of the marine life.

With guidance from the US Coral Reef Task Force, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission coordinated the formation of an interagency team of marine resource professionals, now known as the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative Team (SEFCRI), to develop local action strategies (LAS) to protect coral reefs off Southeast Florida.

Florida LAS

lower Martin County to
Florida Keys National Marine
Sanctuary





SEFCRI Focus Areas of Concern:

1. Awareness & Appreciation
2. Land-Based Sources of Pollution
3. Fishing, Diving, and Other Uses
4. Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts

LAS Action Plan

- Each focus group developed a list of projects, based on threats to coral ecosystems, that could be implemented and completed within a three-year period
- Drafts of the LAS action plan were presented for review to local stakeholders during four public meetings
- Comments and suggestions from the public were used to further develop and refine the LAS

Awareness & Appreciation Action Plan

- Most people are not even aware that SE Florida has coral reefs north of the Keys...
- 38 projects were developed to make the public aware of the contributing causes of reef degradation and how they can help reefs



Land-Based Sources of Pollution Action Plan

- Developed 33 projects to characterize the condition of the ecosystem, determine the sources of pollution, and ways to reduce land-based sources of pollution



Extensive staghorn patch off Broward Co.

Fishing, Diving, and Other Uses Action Plan

- Developed 50 projects to identify direct extractive and indirect impacts, lack of compliance with regulations, and improper artificial reef construction and deployment



Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts Action Plan

- developed 27 projects to identify ways to protect coral reefs from industry and construction impacts such as anchoring, groundings, and installation of cables, pipelines, and outfalls; develop a habitat restoration plan to address impacts; and promote compliance with regulatory conditions



- Year 2
- Although the LAS projects have been designed to be completed within a 3-year period, project implementation and success is dependent on securing appropriate levels of support

