



**Greater Ft. Lauderdale Dive Association**

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TO: USCRTF

Date: February 13, 2009

GFLDA is an organization of dive operators and dive shops throughout Broward County. We have been actively involved with SEFCRI since conception.

Many of our concerns this year are the same ones brought to you in past years. Reefs are being buried under sand and sediment from beach and dune projects.

Inland waterways and inlets that have become drain fields for agriculture runoff and pollution also contributing to massive algae blooms.

We have a fishery near collapse due to over fishing and lack of protection.

Outfall pipes that dump millions of gallons of partially treated sewage on our reefs contributing to algae blooms that smother the reefs. Legislation has been passed mandating that the outfalls have to be AWT in 10 years. This date needs to be moved up. Infrastructure has to be put in place to meet this mandate. This needs to be done as soon as possible.

Being a navigator for SEFCRI I do realize that many of these issues are being addressed. My fear is that implementation of a management plan has been moving too slowly. Our efforts may be too little too late. We need a marine managed area with a comprehensive management plan that includes water quality monitoring, an adequate coral monitoring program, and a rapid response to events such as bleaching, diseases and algae blooms.

We will continue to support SEFCRI's efforts, but we sincerely hope that in the near future some steps be taken to apply pressure to the agencies that do have regulatory authority to take action. We can't wait 5 more years.

We are looking forward to new leadership from the Task Force and its members.

Our livelihood depends on sustainable reefs.

Sincerely

William J Torode  
Pres. GFLDA