

Adopted Suggestion

Include more direct language articulated in Task Force Strategic Objective 2A2 as justification for the Team in the Background section

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- 9 **2. BACKGROUND:** In response to the recent losses of large, framework-building corals due to
- 10 Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), which followed decades of concerning declines in
- 11 coral cover along Florida's Coral Reef, an ad hoc Florida SCLTD Response effort led by the
- 12 State of Florida and federal agencies was launched in 2017 involving dozens of partners from
- 13 government, academic, non-profit, and private organizations. While the Florida SCLTD
- 14 Response focuses narrowly on establishing the cause of SCTLD, identifying effective
- 15 interventions, and conserving the genetic diversity of Florida's corals, a formal mechanism for
- 16 effectively coordinating federal, state, and local interests in the complex task of restoring
- 17 Florida's Coral Reef is lacking.

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19 As ecologically and economically important components of the South Florida ecosystem,

20 Florida's Coral Reef and associated patch reef, hardbottom, and seagrass resources should be

21 restored, preserved, and protected consistent with Task Force Strategic Goal 2A2. The

22 implementation of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and other

23 region-wide restoration activities may have significant impacts (positive or negative) on

24 Florida's Coral Reef and its restoration pote:

25 and SCTLD response interventions, through

26 quantity, distribution, and timing to near

27 ecosystem. Meanwhile, large-scale restoration

28 unparalleled opportunity to enhance the

29 Everglades, and to insulate billions of dollars


30 restoration from future impacts associated with

31 successful restoration of these two interconnected

32 ecosystem can only be accomplished through focused, formal coordination among local, state,

33 and federal agencies, and must be informed by consultation and public engagement with a

34 diverse group of stakeholders.



Consistent with Task Force Strategic Objective 2A2, which promotes the protection of Florida's Coral Reef, including through restoration of more natural timing and delivery of freshwater flows to coastal estuaries, coral reef habitat and associated patch reef, hardbottom, and seagrass resources are recognized as ecologically and economically important components of the South Florida ecosystem. The implementation of

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Include additional representation from NOAA

99 5. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Team consists of 9 voting members and 9 non-voting members.

100
101 a. The VOTING membership shall consist of (1) a member of the Working Group designated
102 as Chairperson, and 8 designated representatives from the following agencies and governments
103 authorized to represent that agency's or government's interest on matters pertaining to the
104 responsibilities of the Team:

105
106 **Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.**

107 (2) National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Florida Keys National
108 Marine Sanctuary.

109 **Department of the Interior.**

110 (3) National Park Service, South Florida Natural Resources Center.

111 (4) Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

112 **Environmental Protection Agency.**

113 (5) Region 4, Water Division, South Florida & Everglades.

114 **Florida Department of Environmental Protection.**

115 (6) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection.

116 (7) Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration.

117 **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.**

118 (8) Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

119 (9) Division of Marine Fisheries Management.

99 5. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Team consists of **10** voting members and **10** non-voting members.

100
101 a. The VOTING membership shall consist of (1) a **state** member of the Working Group
102 designated as Chairperson, and **9** designated representatives from the following agencies and
103 governments authorized to represent that agency's or government's interest on matters
104 pertaining to the responsibilities of the Team:

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106 **Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.**

107 (2) National Ocean Service, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Florida Keys National
108 Marine Sanctuary.

109 **(3) Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, Atlantic Oceanographic and
110 Meteorological Laboratory.**

111 **Department of the Interior.**

112 (4) National Park Service, South Florida Natural Resources Center.

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99 5. **MEMBERSHIP:** The Team consists of **10** voting members and **10** non-voting members.

120
121 b. The NON-VOTING membership shall consist of (1) the OERI Executive Director as a
122 Special Advisor, and 8 designated representatives from the following agencies and
123 governments authorized to represent that agency's or government's interest on matters
124 pertaining to the responsibilities of the Team:

125 **Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.**

126 (2) Jacksonville District, Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch.

127 **United States Geological Survey.**

128 (3) Natural Hazards Mission Area, St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center.

129 **South Florida Water Management District.**

130 (4) Water Resources Division.

131 **County environmental resource agencies.**

132 (5) Broward County.

133 (6) Martin County.

134 (7) Miami-Dade County.

135 (8) Monroe County.

136 (9) Palm Beach County.

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(2) National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers.

(3) Jacksonville District, Planning and Policy Division, Environmental Branch.

United States Geological Survey.

(4) Natural Hazards Mission Area, St. Petersburg Coastal and Marine Science Center.

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99 5. MEMBERSHIP: The Team consists of 10 voting members and 10 non-voting members.

141 c. Designations for members shall be made by an appropriate authority within each agency to
142 the Executive Director in writing.

143
144 d. Designees may name an alternate in the event they are unable to attend a meeting, in full or
145 in part, by notifying the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson prior to or during that meeting.
146 Alternates in attendance are not proxies and may not vote on any matter before the group.

147
148 e. The Working Group shall select one of its members to serve as Chairperson of the Team.
149 The voting members of the Team shall nominate and recommend a Vice Chairperson subject
150 to Working Group approval. The Vice Chairperson may not represent the same level of
151 government (state or federal) as the Chairperson. The terms of the Chairperson and Vice
152 Chairperson shall not exceed two years unless otherwise approved by the Working Group. The
153 Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chair in the absence of the designated Chairperson.

141 **c. The listed subagency representation for federal and state agencies designated as (a)**
142 **voting and (b) non-voting members are optional recommendations for developing a well-**
143 **rounded Team.**

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146 the Executive Director in writing.

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149 in part, by notifying the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson prior to or during that meeting.
150 Alternates in attendance are not proxies and may not vote on any matter before the group.

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152 f. The Working Group shall select one of its **state** members to serve as Chairperson of the
153 Team. The voting members of the Team shall nominate and recommend **one of its federal**
154 **members with voting responsibilities to serve as** Vice Chairperson subject to Working
155 Group approval. The terms of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson shall not exceed two years
156 unless otherwise approved by the Working Group. The Vice Chairperson shall serve as Chair
157 in the absence of the designated Chairperson.

Other Suggestions/Concerns

Allow the Chairperson to be selected from the Working Group or Science Coordination Group

Expand Team membership to include scientists from academia

Concerns that the Charter may limit the group's flexibility to act because of rules requiring official meetings and quorum

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