



REstoration, COordination, VERification (RECOVER)

**Potential for integration between South
Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and
RECOVER reporting**

**Laura Brandt
RECOVER Executive Committee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**September 28, 2021
Joint Working Group and
Science Coordination Group
Meeting**



Presentation Purpose

Initiate discussions between RECOVER and SCG/WG on system-wide ecological indicator report integration for 2022 and 2024

Identify one or two representatives of the Task Force/Working Group/Science Coordination Group to work with RECOVER to develop an integration plan



Issues and Challenges

- Multiple reporting mechanisms
 - Potential conflicting messages
 - Workload
- Challenges
 - Different authorities
 - Different audiences
 - Different timing



South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Ecological Reporting

- Purpose from WRDA 1996
 - Progress made toward the restoration
 - Subsequent GAO reviews
- How has it been done?
 - Eleven **system-wide** ecological indicators
 - Judge system-wide performance of CERP and non-CERP projects toward achieving restoration goals
 - Ecological indicators section in biennial report to Congress
 - Full System-wide Ecological Indicators for Everglades Restoration report
 - Some ecological reporting in project sections



RECOVER Reporting

- Purpose from Programmatic Regulations
 - Assessment of whether the goals and purposes of the Plan are being achieved
 - Includes whether the interim goals and interim targets are or are likely to be achieved
- How has it been done?
 - System status report (SSR)
 - 2019- Report card
- Wording on purpose from SSR
 - Documents the measurement of ecological indicators and performance measures and their application to assess conditions in the Everglades' ecosystems
- Wording from report card
 - The report card provides a transparent, timely, and geographically detailed assessment of the Everglades status measured by the defined ecosystem indicators and performance measures of the CERP



Other CERP Reporting

- CERP Report to Congress
 - Purpose from WRDA 2000
 - Benefits to the natural system and the human environment. Progress toward interim goals and interim targets
- Independent Scientific Review
 - Purpose from WRDA 2000
 - Includes an assessment of ecological indicators and other measures of progress in restoring the ecology of the natural system, based on the plan



Timing

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
SFERTF		Green		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow
RECOVER	Green					Blue					Blue	
CERP Report to Congress		Green					Blue					Blue
CISRERP		Green		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow		Yellow

Last Report
 Next Report No later than date
 Next Report hard deadline



Indicators

Interim Goal Title	SFERTF Indicator
Eastern Oyster	Eastern Oysters
Lake Okeeshobee Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Zone Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
Lake Okeechobee Emergent Aquatic Vegetation (EAV)	Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Zone Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
Water Levels/Lake Stage	
Spatial Extent of Vegetation Communities	
Ridge and Slough Pattern	
Tree Island Suitability Index	
Marl Prairie	
Hydrologic Surrogate for Soil Oxidation	
Aquatic Fauna	Fish and Macroinvertebrates
Alligators	Crocodylians (American Alligators & Crocodiles)
Wading Birds	Wading Birds (White Ibis & Wood Stork)
Apple Snail (Everglades Snail Kite)	
Salinity Patterns	
Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV)	Florida Bay Submersed Aquatic Vegetation
Juvenile Pink Shrimp	Juvenile Pink Shrimp
American Crocodile	Crocodylians (American Alligators & Crocodiles)
Juvenile Spotted Seatrout	
	Invasive Exotic Plants
	Periphyton
	Southern Coastal Systems Phytoplankton Blooms
	Wading Birds (Roseate Spoonbill)



Asks to Science Coordination and Working Groups

- Is integration of **system-wide** responses desired?
- Is integration feasible given the reporting requirements of SFERTF?
- If integration of reporting on system-wide responses is desired RECOVER would like one or two people representing the Task Force, Working Group, Science Coordination Group to help RECOVER develop the integration process
- Timeline: Develop process by November 1, 2021





Discussion

