



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Task Force Meeting Nov 15, 2023

Report on WG/SCG Activities

James Erskine, FWC, WG Chair
Lawrence Glenn, SFWMD, SCG Chair

WG/SCG Joint Meetings

- Member discussion opportunities, current events, project updates, and technical presentations on topical subjects.
 - January, March, May, September 2023
 - **Upcoming:** Proposed 2024 schedule

Task Force Sponsored Public Engagement Workshops

- Create opportunities for the public to engage with scientists, planners, and technical teams in a public setting.
- Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)
 - September 2023: Public Engagement Workshop
 - November 2023: IDS presented to Task Force



Task Force Sponsored Public Engagement Workshops

- RECOVER Vegetative Hammocks
 - SCG Sponsored (2-days)
 - Findings transmitted to partners



Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team

- Principal advisory body to the WG/SCG for issues impacting Florida's Coral Reef and associated resources.
- Meetings: Quarterly (4 to date)
- Field Trip: CERP's Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Project to view land/water interface and current/planned restoration efforts.
 - Hosted by the South Florida Water Management District and Miami-Dade County



Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team

- Focus on water quality monitoring:
 - Developed a database of relevant programs
 - Provided the final draft Unified South Florida Everglades Restoration Monitoring Framework for Florida's Coral Reef to the WG/SCG for consideration

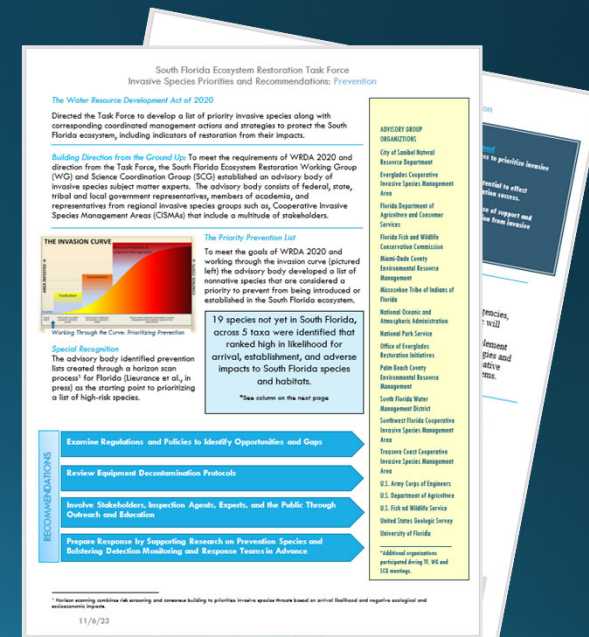


Florida's Coral Reef Coordination Team

- The **Monitoring Framework** outlines 10 coordinated actions to structure data collection efforts to help answer the following questions that reflect the Task Force's 3 strategic goals:
 - Can we detect changes in nearshore water quality as a result of Everglades restoration and distinguish those changes from other causes? (Goal 1: Get the Water Right)
 - Do those changes affect Florida's Coral Reef?
(Goal 2: Restore, Preserve & Protect Natural Habitats and Species)
 - Do subsequent ecosystem responses manifest in measurable benefits for neighboring human communities?
(Goal 3: Foster Compatibility of the Built and Natural Systems)

Invasive Species Advisory Body

- Co-Chairs working closely with the subject matter experts to provide guidance and direction.
- Integrating Task Force Ecological Indicators and RECOVER Performance Measures.
- Expand to include all regions of the South Florida Ecosystem.



WG/SCG Planning Sessions, recap

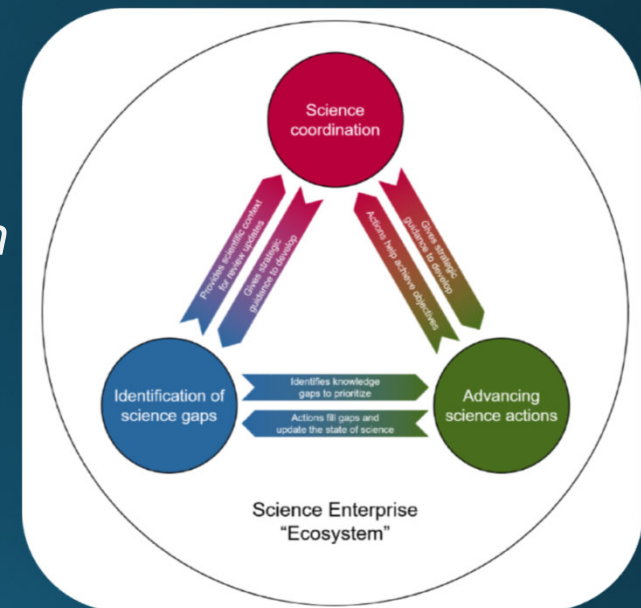
- Winter – Spring 2023: Conducted a brainstorming and refinement session on the goals and objectives for the coming years.
- Process highlighted progress and identified areas for focus
- Topics identified included:
 - Identifying gaps and thinking about the next steps
 - Impacts on ecological indicator species
 - Inventory of ongoing science and research & looking inward at agency capabilities and resources

SCG – Science Plan

National Academies – 9th Biennial Review

The Role of a Science Plan in Everglades Restoration

- Science aids decision making
- Requires synthesis and analysis of monitoring data
- Identifies critical knowledge gaps
- Science used to refine modeling tools
- Identifies uncertainties that could hamper restoration progress
- Magnitude of science needs requires multiple organizations

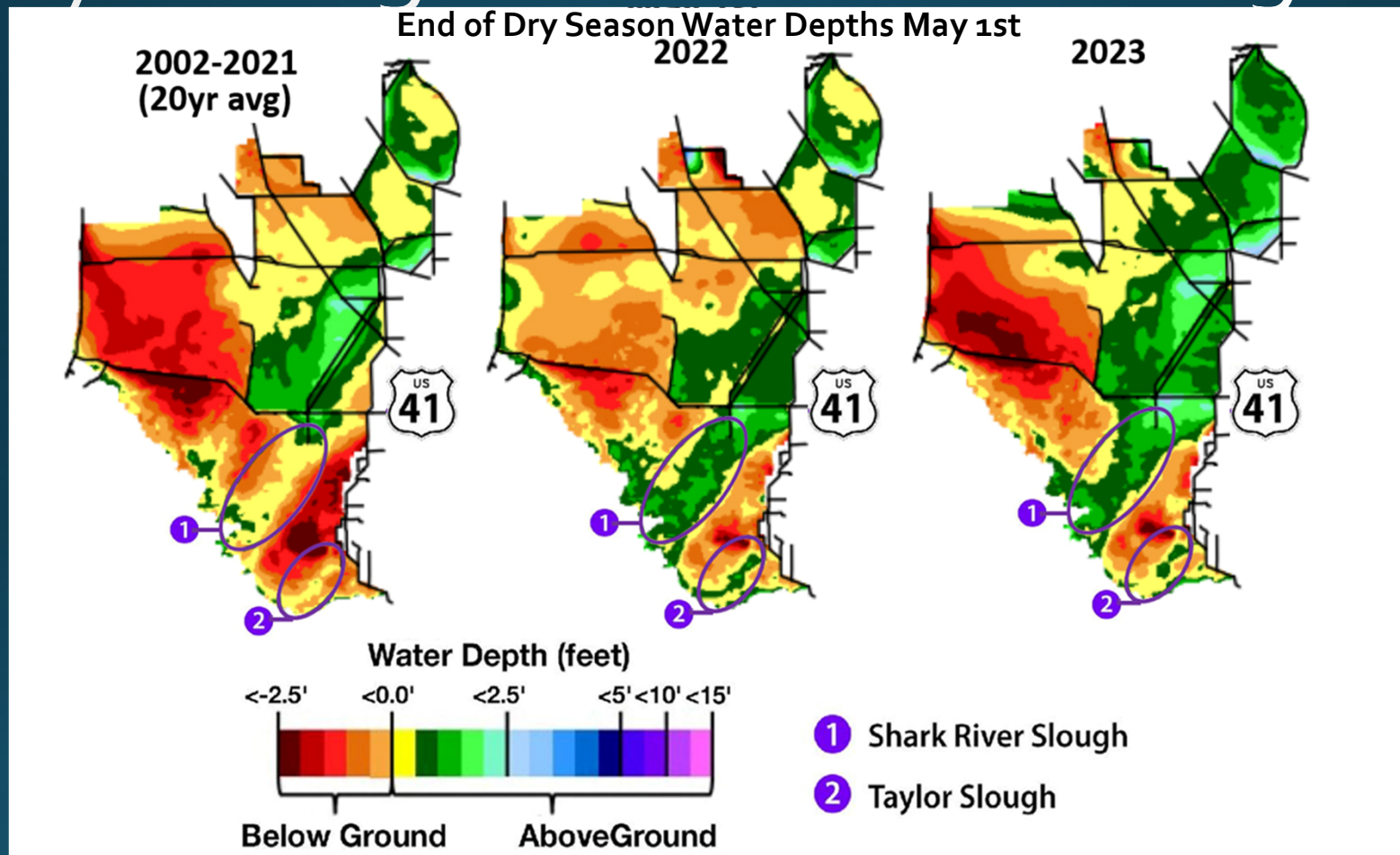


SCG – Science Plan

"A science plan identifies science actions that are recognized as multi-group priorities and are feasible to implement and perform – gathering and coordinating scientists, managers, and policy makers around a common set of priorities no single organization has the capacity to address on its own."

- SCG - Plan for Coordinating Science 2010
- Supporting RECOVER's effort to update the CERP MAP through workshops and leveraging information
- Invasive Species prioritization next steps include assessment of impacts on ecology and indicator species
- Guide resource investment across multiple agencies

Rehydrating the Southern Everglades



Two Key Locations: Shark River Slough and Taylor Slough

Discussion



Kissimmee Billie Slough Headwaters