



SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE



LEADERSHIP • PARTNERSHIP • RESULTS

Working Group/Science Coordination Group Priorities - Update

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Working Group/Science Coordination Group (WG/SCG) Priorities

- The WG/SCG priorities were discussed at their June 20, and September 19, 2019 meetings.
- Today we are providing updates on a recent Task Force sponsored stakeholder workshop, two ongoing intensive priority efforts, and two new starts:
 - Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS) public workshop
 - Invasive Exotic Species – Strategic Action Framework
 - System-wide Ecological Indicators
 - CISRERP VII Recommendations
 - Understanding Freshwater Flows to Florida Bay (GEMM)

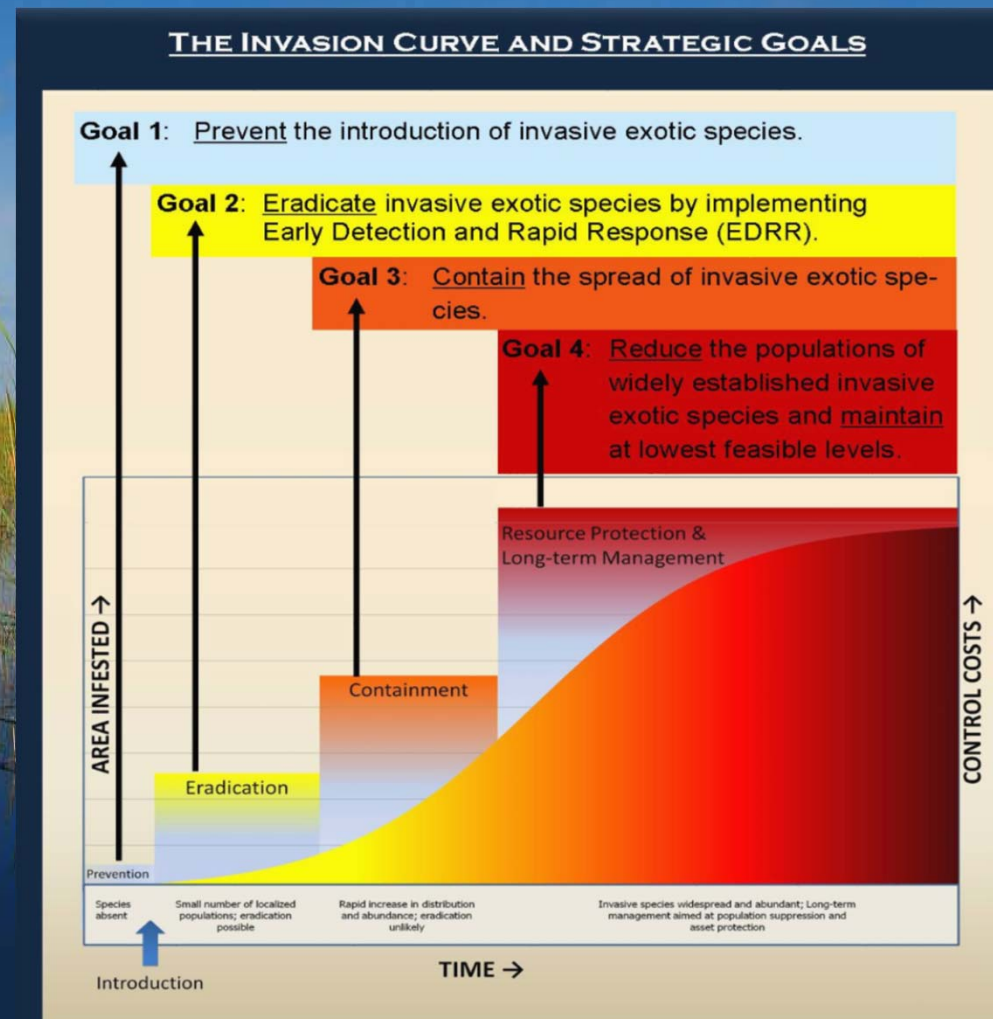
Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS)

- The Task Force directed the Working Group to host a public workshop on the IDS.
- Held on September 19, 2019.
- Facilitated by the Working Group and OERI.
- Approximately 40 participants: Members of the public, NGOs, local government staff and elected officials, and other stakeholders.



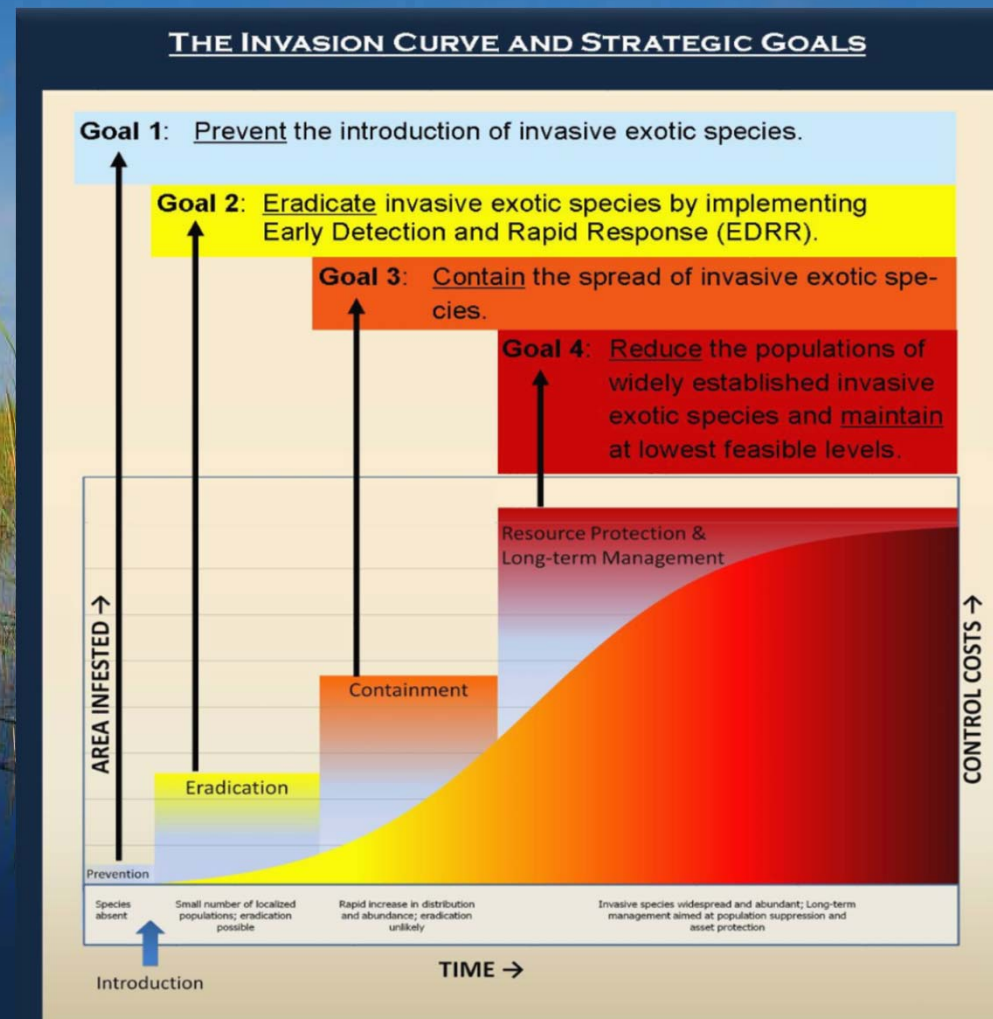
Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

- Updating the Task Force 2015 IES Framework document.
- Framework is organized by 4 strategic goals based on the 4 phases of the Invasion Curve.
- OERI will coordinate the update effort with Working Group/Science Coordination Group leadership and members.



Invasive Exotic Species Strategic Action Framework

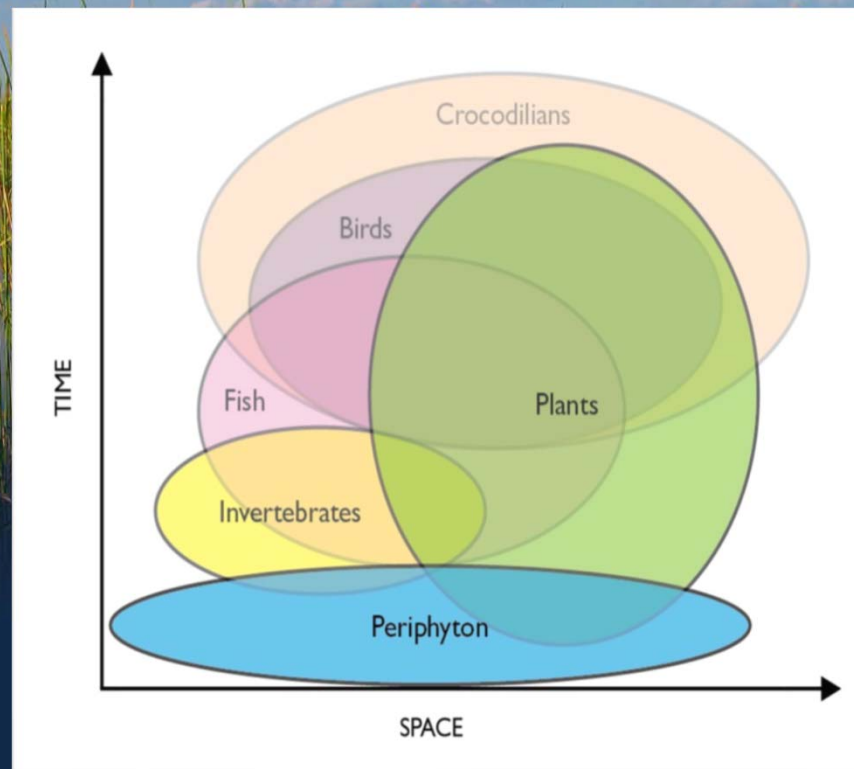
- Many new efforts underway since the Framework was first developed.
- Will review and update the document as needed, including the Case Studies, priority actions, cross-cut budget, and the web-based Framework.



System-wide Ecological Indicators

- The current suite of 11 indicators were chosen based upon their collective ability to comprehensively reflect ecosystem response in terms of space and time:

- Invasive Exotic Plants
- Lake Okeechobee Nearshore Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Eastern Oysters
- **Crocodilians (American Alligators and Crocodiles)**
- Fish & Macroinvertebrates
- Periphyton



- Wading Birds (White Ibis & Wood Stork)
- Southern Coastal Systems Phytoplankton Blooms
- Florida Bay Submersed Aquatic Vegetation
- **Juvenile Pink Shrimp**
- Wading Birds (Roseate Spoonbill)

System-wide Ecological Indicators

- **Issue:** Assessing the current indicators to determine whether they are still appropriate, have sufficient data, cover the right geographic area, are able to detect trends, etc.
- **Basic policy questions:** (1) How is the report being used?
(2) How can we improve its utility?
- **One-on-one Manager Interviews** (Laura Brandt, FWS & Allyn Childress, OERI): Feedback on the purpose and utility of the System-wide Ecological Indicator Report.
- **Longer-term process, looking toward incorporation into the 2022 Biennial Report.**

Committee on Independent Review of Everglades Restoration Progress (CISRERP)

- Congressionally mandated study of the CERP under WRDA 2000, funded by the USACE, SFWMD, DOI.
- “The panel shall produce a biennial report to Congress, the Secretary, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor that includes an assessment of measures of progress in restoring the ecology of the natural system.”
- Biennial Reports providing: (1) Assessment of progress in restoring the natural system, (2) Evaluation of specific scientific and engineering issues that may impact progress in achieving natural system restoration goals, and (3) review of monitoring and assessment protocols to be used for evaluation of CERP progress.



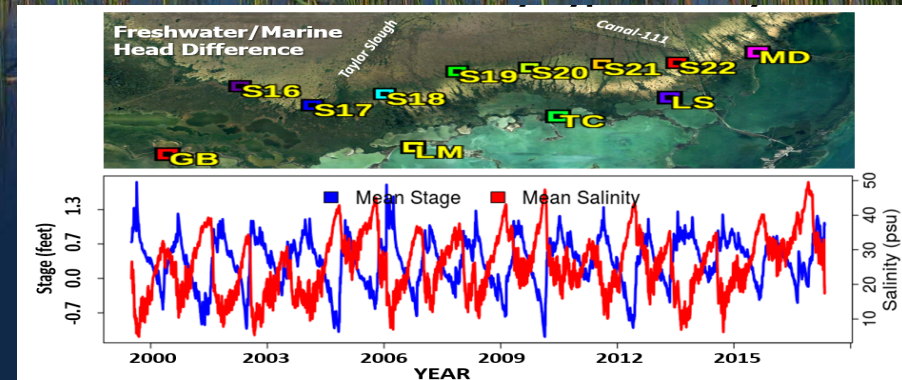
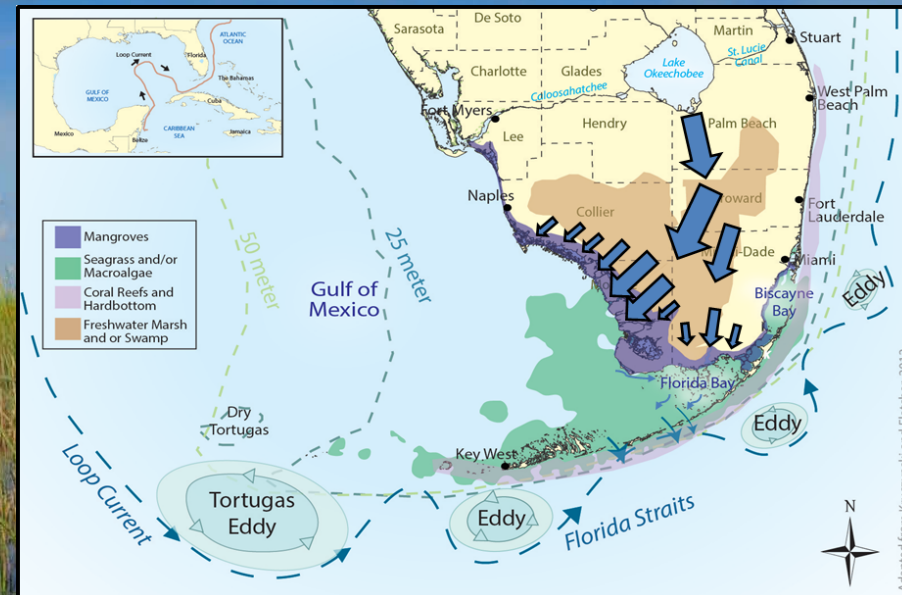
Summary of CISRERP VII Recommendations (2018 Report)

- Impressive project planning in the last 2 years.
- Vision for CERP storage becoming clear; storage in Lake Okeechobee remains unresolved.
- Mid-course assessment should be conducted to analyze the projected CERP outcomes in context of future stressors.
- Rigorous assessment of latest CERP plans to examine their integrated performance under future climate and SLR scenarios.
- Time is right; Needed to inform robust decisions on planning, sequencing, adaptive management
- Improvements recommended for monitoring to provide more useful information for decision making.



Understanding Freshwater Flows to Florida Bay

- Restoration of more natural salinities in Florida Bay requires additional freshwater inflows.
- The sources, seasonality, timing and spatial distributions of these inflows, are poorly understood.
- Development of a comprehensive Florida Bay water budget is required to understand the salinity patterns of Florida Bay.
- A new effort is needed that links regional/subregional hydrologic models of Everglades flow, stage, and seepage with a coastal Florida Bay hydrodynamic model (GEMM).





Questions?