



NCCOS

NATIONAL CENTERS FOR
COASTAL OCEAN SCIENCE

SOUTH FLORIDA Clean Coastal Waters Act 2021

IWG-HABHRCA

SOUTH FLORIDA HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS AND HYPOXIA ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN



SCIENCE SERVING COASTAL COMMUNITIES



IWG-HABHRCA

- Est. 1998 as an “interagency task force”
 - ◆ Reauthorized in 2014 under the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research Control Amendments Act
- Mandated to respond to legislative requirements of HABHRCA
 - ◆ Develop actions plans, reports, & assessments
 - ◆ Communicate & coordinate with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies related to:
 - Monitoring, addressing, limiting, and mitigating HABs & Hypoxia
 - ◆ Advises SOST on research directions
- Co-Chaired by NOAA (David Kidwell) and EPA (Deborah Nagle)
 - ◆ 80 members; 12 agencies



South Florida Clean Coastal Waters Act

Passed June 16, 2022 → Amends HABHRCA, 1998

Ensure an integrated Federal assessment of and plan for addressing these blooms in a highly managed aquatic ecosystem.

S. 66 Requires Task Force to:

- Conduct an integrated assessment examining HABS and Hypoxia in S. FL
- Develop a plan to reduce, mitigate, and control HABS & Hypoxia in S. FL





Definition of South Florida



- All lands and waters within the administrative boundaries of the South Florida Water Management District
- Regional coastal waters, including Biscayne Bay, the Caloosahatchee Estuary, Florida Bay, Indian River Lagoon, and St. Lucie River Estuary
- Florida Reef Tract

S. Florida Mandated Reports

Integrated Assessments

- 1) Interim Integrated Assessment—540 days after enactment
Dec 8, 2023
- 2) Finalized Integrated Assessment—3 yrs after enactment
June 16, 2025

Action Plan

- 3) Reducing, mitigating, and controlling HABs and hypoxia in South Florida—3 yrs plus 180 days after enactment
Dec. 14, 2025



Mandated Report Requirements

Integrated Assessment(s):

- Examine the causes, consequences, and potential approaches to reduce HABs and hypoxia
 - ◆ status of, and gaps within: current research, monitoring, management, prevention, response, and control activities

Action Plan:

- Address the monitoring needs
- Develop a timeline and budgetary requirements
- Identify requirements for the development and verification of HAB and Hypoxia Models
- Propose plan to implement a remote monitoring network and early warning system for alerting local communities in the region to HAB risks that may impact human health

★ Biennial Progress Reports



Timeline for South Florida HAB and Hypoxia Interim Report

December 2022—Receive input from key groups

January 2023—NOAA library literature searches

January-April—incorporate information in $\frac{3}{4}$ draft

May/June 2023—in person public forums comment on $\frac{3}{4}$ draft

June, 2023—revise, based on input

July, 2023—NOAA review

Aug, 2023—All federal agency review

Nov./December, 2023—Submit Interim Assessment to Congress





Key Groups

→ Federal Agencies

- ◆ NOAA, EPA, USDA, CDC, USGS, USACE, USCG, NASA

→ State Agencies

- ◆ Florida Department of Health, FL. DEP, FL Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services, S. FL Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, Blue-Green Algae Task Force, Red-Tide Task Force, FL FWC, S. FL Water Management District

→ Regional Research Consortia

- ◆ GCOOS, SECOORA

→ Academia

- ◆ University of Florida IFAS, FL Sea Grant

→ NGOs

- ◆ CHNEP, IRLNEP

→ Native Tribes





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Engage With Us!

We are currently collating HAB & Hypoxia information and activities pertaining to South Florida.

If you have any relative knowledge or efforts regarding this area of expertise including:

- Reports
- Action Plans
- Strategies

Or other materials you would like us to know about..

Please contact us; we would love to incorporate your subject matter





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THANK YOU!

