



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative

Acting above to protect what's below.

www.southeastfloridareefs.net

CORAL GRIEF

Take the initiative:
enjoy and protect our reefs

CORAL RELIEF



Stand of elkhorn coral (*Acropora palmata*) off of Broward County, Florida in June of 1999 and June of 2000. Elkhorn and staghorn coral (*A. cervicornis*) are listed as threatened species under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. Research has found that both species have declined by 97% in the Florida Keys, Dry Tortugas, Belize, Jamaica and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [Boulton R, et al. (2005) *Atlantic Acropora Status Review. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association 202 pp.*]



Lack of Awareness and Appreciation
The dumping of household chemicals onto lawns and down storm water drains compromises the water quality in our waterways and negatively impacts our nearshore coral reefs.



Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction Impacts
Vessel groundings and coastal construction activities like beach renourishment and dredging can abrade, crush or bury delicate coral reefs.



Land-Based Sources of Pollution
Treated wastewater outfalls, storm water and agricultural runoff increase turbidity, nutrients and other coastal water pollutants, which are harmful to coral reefs.



Fishing, Diving and Other Uses
Physical contact from anchors, fishing gear and dive equipment can scrape, dislodge and crush fragile corals.

The images presented on this exhibit for Coral Grief and Coral Relief represent only a few examples of the negative or positive actions that affect coral reefs.

Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) Vision Statement

To develop an effective strategy to preserve and protect southeast Florida's coral reefs and associated reef resources, emphasizing balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all interested parties.



Composed of millions of tiny animals, coral reefs can grow to spectacular size and contain a tremendous variety of shapes and forms. Coral reefs provide habitat for marine life, possess incredible natural beauty, protect our shorelines from storm damage, contribute to our economy, and provide people with a source of food.

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Use nautical charts and mooring buoys to avoid coral reefs when boating. Where no moorings are available, anchor in a sandy spot.



Become a volunteer! Participate in a beach or reef cleanup. Keep trash out of oceans and landfills by recycling. Report illegal dumping - contact the Florida Statewide Warning Point at 1-800-320-0519.



Swim well above reefs and avoid any contact with corals by your body or equipment when swimming, diving, spearfishing or lobstering. It is never appropriate to harass marine life.



When fishing, obey size and catch limits, use appropriate measuring guidelines, and safely release fish that can't be kept. Learn more at:

www.myfwc.com/marine
www.flseagrant.org



Do your part to keep our waterways and ocean clean by taking unwanted household chemicals to a household chemical collection center. Never dump anything down storm drains.

