

Southeast Florida Action Network

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program

2023 in Review



866-770-SEFL (7335)

SEAFAN.NET

The Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a citizen reporting and response system with the goal of improving the protection and management of Southeast Florida's offshore coral reefs and marine ecosystem. The program enhances marine debris cleanup efforts, improves response to vessel groundings and anchor damage and provides early detection of potentially harmful biological disturbances.

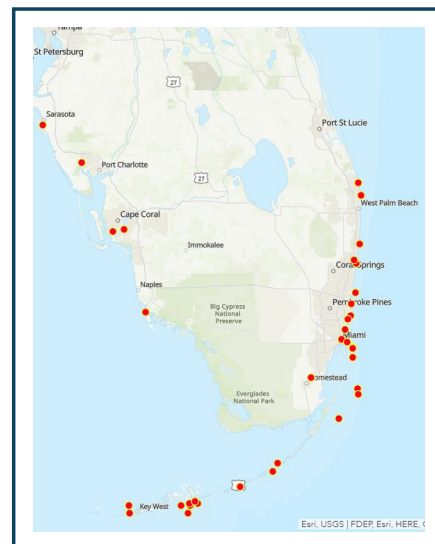
The 2023 newsletter highlights the different locations and types of reports that were made this year. Additionally, it highlights the numerous outreach events that SEAFAN participated in and collaborative efforts with our partners. This newsletter also highlights success stories, who our top SEAFAN reporter is for 2023 and the most reported incident.

Incident Types

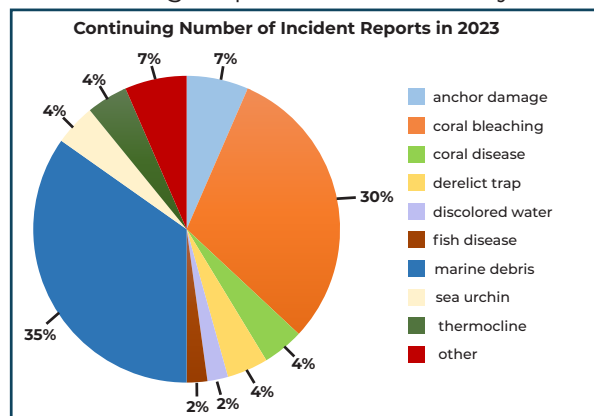
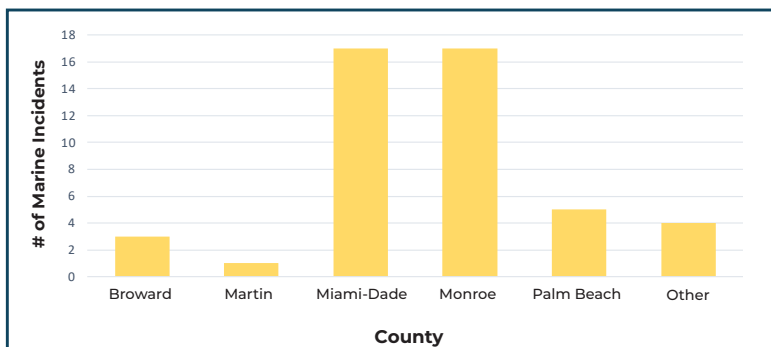
Each red dot on the locator map represents an incident that was reported in 2023.

The pie graph below indicates the types of incidents and the percentage in which they were reported this year. Marine Debris and Coral Bleaching are the top two incidents reported. These numbers help us recognize what types of occurrences are impacting South Florida the most, allowing us to take action as needed.

The bar graph indicates the number of incidents reported per county. Although our jurisdiction comprises the northern third of Florida's Coral Reef, our partnership with Monroe County allows their reporting through SEAFAN. As you can see on the bar graph below, Monroe has the highest percentage of reports in 2023, with Miami-Dade closely following. After reviewing the data, we can determine which incidents are more abundant in each county and locate the source of the problem.



Marine debris reports are used to coordinate future cleanup efforts. Other reports of possible biological events (e.g., fish kills and coral bleaching) are tracked to determine spatial extent and duration of the incident. If necessary, vessel grounding or anchor damage reports are followed by [site assessments and response efforts](#).



SEAFAN SUCCESS STORIES

In August of 2023, there was a SEAFAN Marine Debris report of a large net that was called in over the radio in Indian Key channel. DEP partnered with Florida Sea Base and Lignumvitae State Park in Monroe County on a cleanup project and removed the reported 500 lb. net from the water. Trapped inside was a small shark about 2 feet in length and was freed when the net was removed. A net of this size can cause mortality to multiple marine species and serious damage to coral reefs.



Marine Debris



Vessel Groundings



In June of 2023, a SEAFAN report was sent in by a citizen visiting Florida. After noticing a large but shattered sailboat washed ashore on Palm Beach, she found SEAFAN via an internet search on DEP's website.

The report was shared with our partner agencies including Palm Beach County, Florida Fish and Wildlife as well as other DEP offices and the surrounding condominiums of the private beach this vessel washed ashore on.

The owner of this vessel was contacted and after parameters were implemented for safe removal, avoiding turtle nests and possible destruction of marine habitat, the vessel was removed. A site check took place by DEP's Coral Reef Conservation Program staff to ensure there was no damage made to the nearshore hardbottom or possible surrounding habitat.

For easy access to the SEAFAN report form scan the QR code below.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2023

Top SEAFAN reporter of 2023: Bonnie Waxman

Most common report: Marine Debris

PARTNERS



**FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY**

Thank you, SEAFAN reporters, for a great 2023 season! We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to submit marine incident reports. Whether you are boating, diving or at the beach, remember to look out for marine debris and other marine incidents to help us improve and protect Southeast Florida's marine ecosystem.

With every report you will receive a certificate and might be featured in the next newsletter!

For more information, visit [SEAFAN](#) and [Florida's Coral Reef](#) to report incidents and learn more about how you can help! For additional questions, regarding SEAFAN, you can contact [Lara Bracci](#).

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