

*South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force*

# The Science Coordination Group Update

August 30, 2005

Rock Salt  
Science Coordination Group  
Vice Chair



[www.sfrestore.org](http://www.sfrestore.org)

# Current Priorities

- Continue Development of “System-wide” Indicators
- Conduct Independent Scientific Reviews
  - Phase I Plan to Coordinate Science
  - Proposed “System-wide” Indicators
- Develop Plan to Coordinate Science Phase II



# “System-wide” Indicators – Vital Signs

- A draft suite of ecological indicators have been approved by the SCG
- They include 10 RECOVER indicators, plus 2 additional indicators that are under development (Exotics/Vegetation Mosaic; and Contaminants-this indicator is probably 1-2 years from first complete draft)
- The suite of indicators will be reviewed as a group and not for technical peer review; the RECOVER indicators have already received technical peer review
- The exotic plant indicator is new and will receive technical peer review
- A thorough documentation will be done for each indicator and for the suite of indicators as preparation for use by the reviewers.
- The exotic plant indicator will be a comprehensive document that provides a resource suitable for technical scientific review
- Draft review questions for the suite of system-wide indicators to guide the reviewers have been developed and are out for comment to the SCG
- Built system indicators sub team has an initial working-set of indicators identified



# Ecological Indicators

1. Periphyton-Epiphyton (RECOVER)
2. Fish & Macroinvertebrates (RECOVER)
3. Big Wading Birds (Spoonbill, Woodstork, White Ibis)  
(RECOVER)
4. Eastern Oysters (RECOVER)
5. Juvenile Pink Shrimp (RECOVER)
6. Florida Bay Algal Blooms (RECOVER)
7. Florida Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (RECOVER)
8. Lake Okeechobee Littoral Zone (RECOVER)
9. American Alligator (RECOVER)
10. American Crocodile (RECOVER)
11. Exotic Plants/Vegetation Mosaic (in development)
12. Contaminants (Needs development)



# Independent Scientific Review

- Proceeding with effort to complete Independent Scientific Review of Phase I of the Plan for Coordinating Science
- Draft reviewer guidelines and questions are currently being circulated for comment to develop final questions for Battelle review



# Status of Plan to Coordinate Science Phase II

- **Conceptual Ecological Model NEEDS and GAPS**
  - Workshop held August 16 – 17<sup>th</sup> to develop needs, gaps and actions for the Greater Everglades, Southern Estuaries and Northern Estuaries CEMs
  - Next workshop will be held September 14-15 in Fort Lauderdale on the Loxahatchee Watershed and the Total System CEMs
- **Quality Assurance, Information Sharing and Progress Tracking**
  - Subgroups are currently developing these sections



# Timeline

Action	Lead	Milestone
Completion of suite of system-wide indicators (Ecological & Built System)	SCG	3/06
Development of Exotic Plant Indicator	SCG	1/06
Phase II Conceptual Ecological Model Needs, Gaps, and Actions	SCG/ Recover	12/05 – 1/06
Quality Assurance, Data Sharing and Progress Tracking	SCG	3/06
Complete review of Phase I	SCG/ Battelle	12/05
Complete Phase II of the PCS	SCG	9/06



**Thank you.**

**Are there any questions?**

