

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

The Science Coordination Group Update

Working Group Meeting
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Current Priorities

- Develop “System-wide” Indicators
- Conduct Independent Scientific Review
 - Phase I Plan to Coordinate Science (Completed)
 - Proposed Suite of System-wide Indicators
 - Exotic Plant Indicator
- Develop Plan to Coordinate Science Phase II



16 Indicators Selected by SCG for 2006 & 2008 Biennial Reports

- # 1-12 are Ecological Indicators
- # 13 – 16 are Restoration
Compatibility Indicators (Goal 3)
 - Additional Restoration
Compatibility Indicators are being
evaluated



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1	Periphyton-Epiphyton	2006	RECOVER
2	Fish & Macroinvertebrates	2006	RECOVER
3	Big Wading Birds (Woodstork [2008], White Ibis [2008], Roseate Spoonbill [2006])	2006 - 2008	RECOVER
4	Eastern Oysters	2006	RECOVER
5	Juvenile Pink Shrimp	2006	RECOVER
6	Florida Bay Algal Blooms	2008	RECOVER
7	Florida Bay Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	2008	RECOVER
8	Lake Okeechobee Littoral Zone	2006	RECOVER
9	American Alligator	2008	RECOVER
10	American Crocodile	2008	RECOVER
11	Exotic Plants	2006	SCG/RECOVER
12	Vegetation Pattern/Mosaic (including uplands & wetlands)	2008	SCG/RECOVER
13	Contaminants (excluding Mercury & Nutrients)	2008 - 2010	SCG
14	Water Volume	2006	SCG/RECOVER
15	Salinity Intrusion	2006	SCG/RECOVER
16	Flood Protection – South Dade Agriculture	2006	RECOVER



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Independent Scientific Review

- Phase I of the Plan for Coordinating Science has been reviewed
- Battelle was contracted to complete the review
- Summary of key recommendations from Battelle review



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- 1. Add simplified format elements to improve the communications of complex ideas**
- 2. Make sure the needs, gaps and especially actions are in clear plain English and ensure the actions are stated as real actions with identifiable expectations**
- 3. Assess the risk of the gaps to restoration among all the regions, the more regions with the same or similar gaps the greater risk of impacting restoration (exotics are a good example)**
- 4. Develop better accountability among the task force members for the actionable items**
- 5. Develop quality protocols including independent scientific review, information sharing and progress tracking for TF**
- 6. Develop a small but robust set of indicators for health of the system**
- 7. Discuss possible means of addressing uncertainty in the science and applications**
- 8. Better define the science / management interface issues and applications**



Independent Scientific Review

- Exotic Plant Indicator – Peer Review of new indicator for technical soundness
- Suite of System wide indicators – Independent Scientific Review of suite for integration, complementarity, gaps, & value in helping determine restoration success



Status of Plan to Coordinate Science Phase II

- Conceptual Ecological Model NEEDS and GAPS
 - Needs, Gaps & Actions development by Recover Teams completed
 - Consolidated Needs final draft completed
 - Consolidated Gaps in final review and revision
 - Actions still in review and revision



Needs - Northern Estuaries Example

Consolidated Need-NE-1

To understand and characterize the current and historical spatial distribution, conditions, and ecological relationships among Northern Estuaries:

submerged substrates

SAV

associated benthos

oysters

Fish

Supporting Unconsolidated Needs

✓To understand and evaluate the spatial extent of SAV (macrophyte) in the *Northern Estuaries*.

✓To understand and predict the extent of SAV beds as related to suitable substrate (assessment of both suitable and non-suitable substrate for SAV, with specific reference to Lake Worth Lagoon), and how SAV changes as sediment regimes change.

✓To understand and predict the relationship between fish populations (fauna) and bottom types (i.e., sediment types, vegetation, oysters etc.) in the Northern Estuaries.

✓To understand and predict how the changes in oyster reefs affect the associated floral and faunal communities inhabiting them and the associated populations/communities.

✓To understand the current ecology of the NE and how it has changed from the historical assessment done 30 years ago.



Action Timeline

Action	Lead	Milestone
Peer review of exotic plant “indicator”	SCG	2/06
Independent Scientific Review of Suite of Indicators	SCG	3/06
Phase II Needs, Gaps & Actions	SCG/ Recover	5/06
Quality Assurance, Data Sharing and Progress Tracking	SCG	4/06
Complete Phase II of the PCS	SCG	9/06



Thank you.

Are there any questions?

