

# History of the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force

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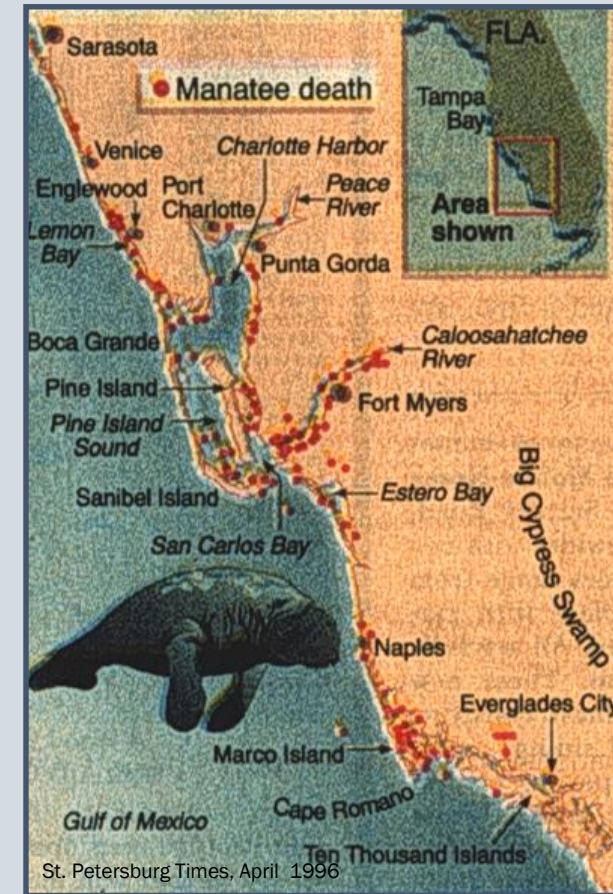
Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

HAB Task Force Meeting September 19, 2019



Fall 1997:

- following the 1996 red tide/manatee mass mortality event and the eastern seaboard fish kill events, DEP and DOH established the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force (HABTF) and Technical Advisory Group (TAG)



## Chapter 370 Florida Statutes:

*There is established a Harmful-Algal-Bloom Task Force for the purpose of determining research, monitoring, control, and mitigation strategies for red tide and other harmful algal blooms in Florida waters. The Florida Marine Research Institute shall appoint to the task force scientists, engineers, economists, members of citizen groups, and members of government.*

- >50 members from state, local, and federal governments, academia, private industry and labs, and citizens groups
- 50% members represent Florida state agencies (FWC, DEP, DOH, FDACS, WMDs)
- 15 member TAG to summarize HAB issues for HABTF review
- HABTF to make recommendations by 1 October 1999, for using funds as provided in this act

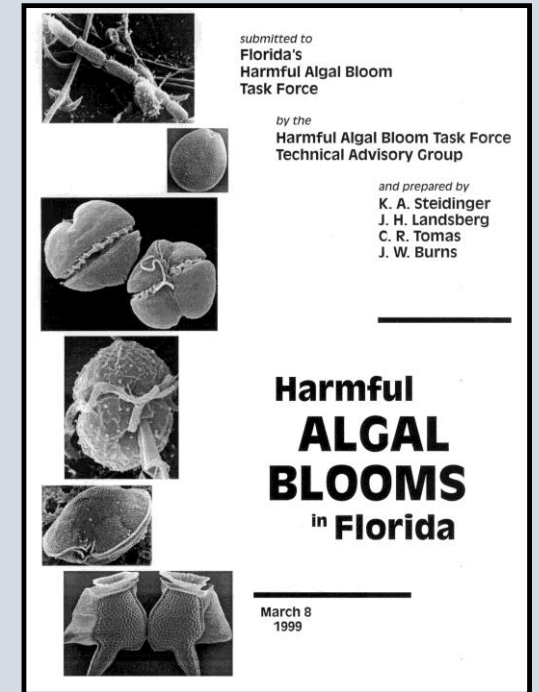


# 1999 HAB Task Force White Paper

## *Background, Resource Impacts, Public Health Impacts, Economic Impacts, Recommendations for Action*

### Priority HABs

- Red tide
- *Pfiesteria*-like species
- Ciguatera
- Toxic cyanobacteria
- Tumor-promoting harmful algae
- Macroalgae



- White Paper submitted to State Legislature
- Creation of statutes F.S. Ch. 370.06092 and F.S. Ch. 370.06093



The 1999 Florida Legislature formalized the TF to serve as an advisory body to the FWRI director and set four tasks:

- Determine status and adequacy of (HAB) information for monitoring physical, chemical, biological, economic, and public health factors
- Develop research and monitoring priorities (including detection, prediction, mitigation, and control)
- Make recommendations for research, detection, monitoring, prediction, mitigation, and control
- Develop recommendations for implementation of local response plans to predict, mitigate and control the effects of HABs



- 1998-2001: State funds \$3M for HAB Task Force priorities
- Statute authorized FWRI implementation of cooperative HAB program and spending on specific marine and estuarine topics if monies were appropriated or if FWRI received federal grants (F.S. 370.06093)
- 2000-2001: 35 members reappointed to HABTF
- 2002: last official meeting of the HABTF and specific appropriation of funds





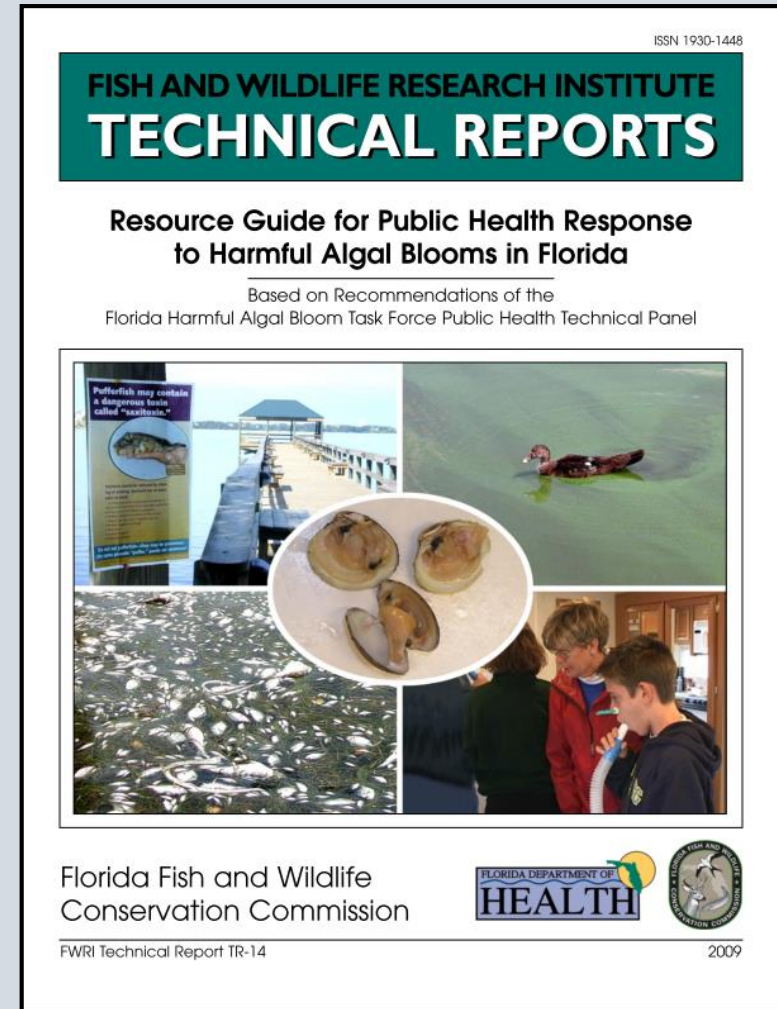
# Outcomes and products (1)

- 16 funded projects (1998-2001): RT, CyanoHABs, other priority HABs (Pfiesteria-like organisms, macroalgae, ~583K)
  - Red tide (\$1.5M):
    - applicability/efficacy of control/mitigation methods
    - economic and human health impacts
    - rapid toxin detection in shellfish
    - dead fish removal
    - ECOHAB support
  - Cyanobacteria (~\$683K):
    - toxic spp. ID, survey, and detection
    - fish pathology
    - public health education
    - automated instrumentation



## Outcomes and products (2)

- FWC-FWRI created the HABTF Public Health Technical panel with funding from CDC/FDOH (2003-2006)
- Multi-collaborative research grants
- Multi-agency integrated response efforts
- FWC/FDOH technical report resource guide (2009)





## Other outcomes and products:

- Cyanobacteria workshop: Cyanotoxin Detection and Quantification and Instrumentation (2001)
- FDOH conference: Health Effects of Exposure to Cyanobacteria Toxins: State of the Science (2002)
- Interagency CyanoHAB response coordination network (FDOH centralized database/reporting)
- Recreational shellfish harvesting group
- IRL Biotoxin and Aquatic Animal Health WG (2003-2008)
- RT control and mitigation grant program panel (2007-2009)

