



Blue-Green Algae Task Force **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force – December 10, 2019

Dr. Tom Frazer, Chief Science Officer, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

PROCESS



- Advisory body, appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis, to aid the Department of Environmental Protection in fulfilling its mission to protect, conserve and manage the state's natural resources and enforce its environmental laws.
- The task force, through its discussion and deliberations, provides guidance and specific, science-based recommendations with the goal of expediting improvements and restoration of Florida's waterbodies that have been adversely affected by blue-green algae blooms.
- Public meetings to date have focused on the issue of nutrient over-enrichment and blue-green algal blooms.
- The Task Force will continue to meet and discuss additional topics important to addressing blue-green algal blooms.

BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS



A more strategic approach to achieve restoration goals.

- Need for regional storage and treatment infrastructure in South Florida watersheds
- Consider land use changes, legacy nutrients and downstream impacts
- Targeted approach to project selection
- Evaluation of project effectiveness through monitoring



AGRICULTURE AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Increased compliance, improved record keeping and data collection.

- Increase BMP enrollment
- Improved records and additional data collection
- Accelerate updates to BMP manuals

HUMAN WASTE - ONSITE SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS



Broader regulatory oversight to ensure that onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems are protective of both the environment and human health.

- DEP to develop a more comprehensive regulatory program
- Post-permitting septic tank inspections
- Expanded protections for vulnerable areas in the state
- Septic to sewer conversions

HUMAN WASTE - SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOWS



Minimize SSO events through infrastructure improvements

- Emergency back-up capabilities
- Proactive approach to infiltration and inflow issues

STORMWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS



Revise and update stormwater design criteria and implement an effective inspection and monitoring program.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND APPLICATIONS



Invest in a diverse portfolio of technologies to aid in the prevention, cleanup and mitigation of blue-green algae blooms.

- Cost-efficient, environmentally safe and scalable
- Focus on prevention
- Invest also in technologies that lead to improved detection, monitoring and forecasting of blooms

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS AND PUBLIC HEALTH



Transparent and consistent communication regarding algal blooms and public health.

- Regular and proactive sampling for algal toxins
- Science needed to understand the effects of acute and chronic exposure to toxins
- Improved interagency coordination and communication

SCIENCE-BASED DECISION MAKING, DATA NEEDS AND MONITORING PROGRAMS



Development of an expanded and more comprehensive statewide water quality monitoring strategy.

- Focus on informing restoration project selection, implementation and evaluation



Thank You