

Water Quality Monitoring

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Project Information

Biscayne Bay Monitoring




MAP IT!


Field Project Managers: Pasquale Fricano

Project Codes: BISC

Project Description:

Project BISC is monitored by 2 entities: Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and Florida International University (FIU). The entities monitor different parts of Biscayne Bay with the same goal to determine water quality and provide data to District staff and outside agencies. The program with DERM consists of monthly surface water monitoring in Biscayne Bay and tributaries. Routine monitoring was initiated in order to detect spatial and seasonal trends, determine impacts on the health of the bay ecosystem and identify areas of degradation. The project is funded as part of the Biscayne Bay Surface Water Management and Implementation (SWIM) Plan. The program with FIU is part of an integrated monitoring network known as the South Florida Coastal Water Quality Monitoring Network (SFCWQMN). The network is imperative for detecting water quality impacts on the coastal regions of South Florida including Ten Thousand Islands, Florida Bay, Rookery Bay, Biscayne Bay and the Southwest Florida Shelf (discontinued 10/1/07). The data generated from this effort are used to examine water quality trends along the Florida coast as well as address issues concerning freshwater inflow, water clarity, salinity and nutrient availability patterns. These goals are an essential component in restoring the south Florida estuarine and coastal ecosystems. Each of the BISC stations are monitored monthly for ions, nutrients, biological and bacteriological parameters. Monitoring also fulfills requirements for the following mandate/permits: 1) Biscayne Bay MFLs 2) Water Resources Development Act 2000 3) CERP Implementation 4) Water Reservations 5) Clean Water Act (TMDL's) and 6) Biscayne Bay SWIM Plan . The data collected from BISC are included in SFCWQMN reports compiled by FIU as well as the SF Environmental Report.

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