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## Biscayne Bay Task Force Report Recommendations

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### A Unified Approach to Recovery for a Healthy & Resilient Biscayne Bay

The report is finally out but when the [Biscayne Bay Task Force](#) began meeting last year, there is no way we could have predicted that our report would coincide with the recent fish kill, algae blooms, and be compounded by the challenges from the pandemic.

The Task Force was charged with developing a final report with recommendations to improve the health of Biscayne Bay. We held 18 meetings and heard 35 presentations from experts from State, County, municipalities, academia, and environmental organizations.

What we all confirmed is that the health of Biscayne Bay is in a state of emergency and at a tipping point towards irreversible ecological collapse. The Bay's watershed continues to be threatened by a lack of fresh water and nutrient pollution from storm-water runoff, sewage pipe breaks, septic systems, plastic pollution, and other contaminants.

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Thanks to the leadership of Commission Vice-Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa, her colleagues and the Mayor, the following policies have been adopted:

- [Created the new position of Chief Bay Officer](#) within the Office of the Mayor to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations in the BBTF report
- Urged the U.S. Congress and the Florida Legislature to prioritize [funding in the 2021 federal and state budgets to protect Biscayne Bay](#).
- [Declared a local State of Emergency for Biscayne Bay](#), under a resolution sponsored by Commissioner Esteban Bovo, and co-sponsored by Commissioners Jose Pepe Diaz, Sally Heyman, and Rebeca Sosa
- Urged the U.S. Congress and Florida Legislature to provide funding to assist local communities with the [elimination of septic systems](#), converting them to sewer connections to help maintain the health of our water system and the Bay

I would like to thank the members of the task force, the many presenters from local, state, and federal agencies, environmental organizations, academia, and the general public for helping to develop the report.

If we all commit to working together, Biscayne Bay will recover.



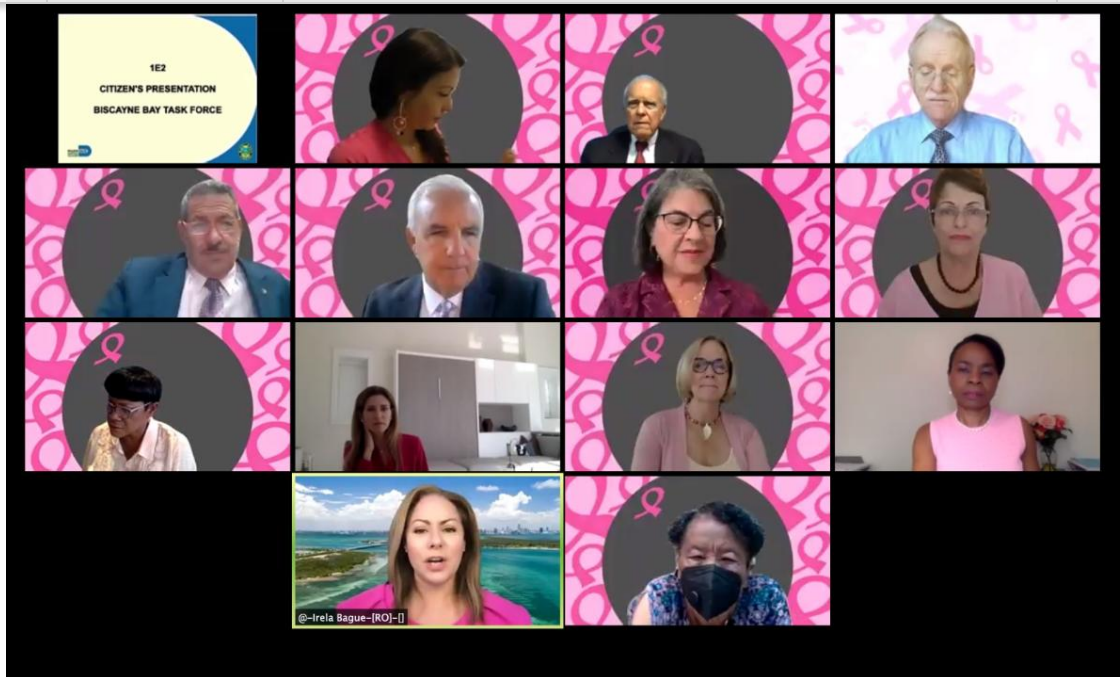
Irela Bague  
Chair of the Biscayne Bay Task Force

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Watch the Miami-Dade County Commission Discussion - Item 1E2



## Update: Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration study (BBSEER)

*Following years of hard work and advocacy, we are pleased with the progress the state and federal government have made on the **Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW)** project now renamed **Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration study (BBSEER)**. We look forward to the upcoming meetings and providing our comments to help improve and conserve Biscayne Bay and Biscayne National Park which are all part of the southern Everglades ecosystem.*

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the initial scoping phase of the preparation of an integrated Project Implementation Report (PIR) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the Biscayne Bay and

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Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) is the non-federal sponsor of this Feasibility Study.

The BBSEER Feasibility Study is focused on formulating plans to restore parts of the south Florida ecosystem in freshwater wetlands of the Southern Glades and Model Lands, the coastal wetlands and subtidal areas, including mangrove and seagrass areas, of Biscayne Bay, Biscayne National Park, Manatee Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound. These areas have been affected by over-drainage and by damaging freshwater releases from canals, such as the C-111 Canal.

The Corps invites the participation of federal, state and local agencies, Native American Tribes, interested parties and individuals to provide comments and to identify any issues or concerns during this public scoping period.

#### **Please submit scoping comments**

to [BBSEERComments@usace.army.mil](mailto:BBSEERComments@usace.army.mil) by **October 1, 2020**. All scoping comments should include “BBSEER Scoping Comments” in the subject line.

The Corps will host **two BBSEER virtual public scoping meetings**, and **pre-registration in advance is required for each meeting**. [Click here for the registration link and more information.](#)

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## Local 10 Special: Saving Biscayne Bay



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plaguing the bay and the solutions needed towards restoring its health.

[Watch "Saving the Bay" - WPLG Local 10](#)

## North Bay Village Marches for the Bay



In response to the recent fish kill and algae incident on Biscayne Bay, the City of North Bay Village led a March for the Bay followed by a community clean up. Elected officials from all levels of government, environmental organizations, and concerned citizens came together to raise their voices and bring attention to the critical need to improve the Bay's health.

[Check out our Twitter Thread for a play by play of the day.](#)

[March for the Bay](#)

## The Time for Action is Now!

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### Biscayne Bay

Biscayne Bay is a sub-tropical shallow estuary that is home to two state aquatic preserves, a critical wildlife area, a national park and national marine sanctuary. Due to its unique habitat, Biscayne Bay is designated an aquatic park and conservation area by Miami-Dade County. Cradled by the mainland to the west and barrier islands to the east, its 428 square miles continue to be a source of sustenance and economic vitality, while also providing for countless recreational opportunities enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Its spectacular natural beauty is widely recognized and enjoyed by nearly 2.8 million residents and millions of visitors every year.

Source: Biscayne Bay Task Force Report



Take Individual Action Now

Join the Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit (BBMHS)

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Join the Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit Coalition (BBHMS). BBHMS helps addresses potential solutions to reduce pollution and debris flowing into Biscayne Bay. Learn more about last year's 2019 Summit and recommendations below:

[Join the Coalition Here](#)

### Volunteer Your Time To Help Biscayne Bay



**Volunteers cleaning up our neighborhoods, shorelines, and waterways**  
**FIND or HOST an event**

Learn more about volunteering opportunities here:

<https://www.volunteercleanup.org/>

Follow them on Facebook:

[@volunteercleanup](#)



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## FIU Webinar: The Death of Biscayne Bay: What is happening? What can be done?



[View Webinar](#)

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### Additional Biscayne Bay Coverage

This is an emergency - we must act now to save our beautiful Biscayne Bay | Opinion by Rebeca Sosa

[Read Here](#)

Miami View Show featuring Irela Bagué talks to Oscar Musibay on how we can help Biscayne Bay recover.

Presented by Miami's Community Newspapers

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Findings On How to Save Biscayne Bay

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