

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members

AGENDA ITEM 12

From: Staff

Date: February 17, 2017 Council Meeting

Subject: Coral Reef Conservation Program Presentation by Joanna Walczak, Southeast Regional Administrator for the Florida Coastal Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Introduction

Council has invited Joanna Walczak, Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast Regional Administrator of the Florida Coastal Office to discuss the State's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and current activities of Southeast Florida's Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI).

Southeast Florida's reefs support a rich and diverse assemblage of stony corals, octocorals, macroalgae, sponges, and fishes. They span from the northern border of Biscayne National Park in Miami-Dade County to the St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County. The CRCP coordinates research and monitoring, develops management strategies, and promotes partnerships to protect the coral reefs, hardbottom communities, and associated reef resource of southeast Florida.

The SEFCRI includes a team of 64 diverse stakeholders across this four-county southeast region whose main task is to recommend coral reef conservation and resource management strategies to the CRCP Manager.

Recommendation

For information only.