Clint Barras

From: Tracy Gill - NOAA Federal <tracy.gill@noaa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:39 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients:
Subject: May 13 NOAA science webinar: A Water Quality Assessment of the South Florida Reef Tract

OneNOAA Science Seminar Series
Please share with NOAA and non-NOAA folks who might be interested; thanks!
Title: A Water Quality Assessment of the South Florida Reef Tract

Speaker: Dave Whitall, PhD, Senior Scientist, NOAA/NOS National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), Stressors, Impacts and Mitigation Division, Monitoring and Assessment Branch.

Sponsor: NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) science seminar series; coordinator is Tracy Gill.

When: Wednesday, May 13, 2020, 12-1pm EDT

Where: Via webinar - see access below

Remote Access: Please register at:
https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/whitall/event/registration.html
After registering, you will get a confirmation email with a link to the webinar.
Before the webinar, you must test your ability to use Adobe Connect at the following link:
https://noaabroadcast.adobeconnect.com/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm
Users should use either google, IE or Edge on Windows or Safari if using a Mac. Audio is over the computer, so adjust volume on your computer speakers or headset. Questions will be addressed in the chat window. This Webcast will be recorded, archived and made accessible in the near future. Questions? Email Tracy.Gill@noaa.gov

Abstract: Coral reefs are vibrant, productive ecosystems that face a variety of threats,including disease, temperature stress and pollution. In order to effectively manage coral reef resources, adequate data are required to assess status and track change in these systems. The state of Florida has over 100 linear miles of coral reefs north of Miami that, unlike the Florida Keys, have not historically had a continuous water quality monitoring program. Thanks to a robust new federal-state partnership water samples are being collected monthly at 115 sites and being analyzed for total suspended solids,nitrate, nitrite, ammonium, urea, total nitrogen, orthophosphate, total phosphorus and silicate. Targeted samples were collected around the inlets and WWTP outfalls (where present) to capture the sources of pollutants to the coastal waters. Samples were also taken at stratified random sites on the reefs in order to capture the ambient water quality characteristics of the reefs themselves. The inlets and outfalls stand out as clear (statistically significant) point sources of pollutants, but vary by pollutant, e.g. the outfall contributes primarily ammonium, whereas the inlets contribute TSS and phosphorus and oxidized nitrogen. The reef sites generally had lower levels of nutrients and TSS, but showed times of elevated pollutants, such as after storm events. The genesis of this monitoring program for the Southeast Florida Reefs would not have been possible without the federal-state partnership. The data will be useful to coastal managers for evaluating the efficacy of management actions and tracking water quality changes over time.

Bio: Dr. Dave Whitall is a coastal ecologist with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment. His expertise is in aquatic biogeochemistry, and pollution in marine ecosystems.

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