

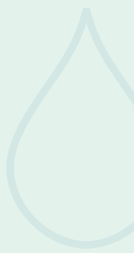
2023 Legislative Priorities



Florida Oceanographic Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring Florida's coastal ecosystems. Through research, education and advocacy, Florida Oceanographic works to preserve Florida's marine and estuarine environments, promote coastal stewardship, and foster healthy ecosystems. Dedicated advocacy efforts focus on stopping pollution within watersheds and eliminating harmful freshwater releases to coastal estuaries while advocating for the protection of coastal ecosystems.

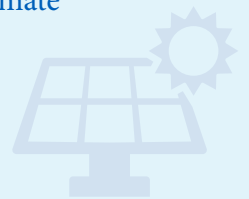
Water Quality

- Implement the Blue Green Algae Task Force Recommendations including BMP updates and enforcing BMAPs and TMDLs to stop pollution in Florida's watersheds. *(State)
- Promote watershed restoration and water storage opportunities that naturally filter water moving into the estuaries and coastal systems. (State + Federal)
- Continue to fund and promote septic to sewer conversion including grant funding for community adoption. *(State)
- Enact a rapid response plan for algae blooms to protect human health and safety. (State)



Climate Action

- Prioritize renewable energy projects in Florida. *(State + Federal)
- Retain net metering and the expansion of solar generated energy. (State)
- Ensure no new oil and gas exploration projects and phase out current projects. (State + Federal)
- Reduce single-use plastic use and production. *(State + Federal)
- Support progress on the Ocean Climate Action Plan. *(Federal)
- Incentivize climate smart agricultural practices and funding in the 2023 Farm Bill. (Federal)



Everglades Restoration

- Continue Everglades funding, implementation, and operations that lead to successful restoration and increase habitat quality. (State + Federal)
- Expand existing dispersed water management and water farming programs to control runoff pollution. (State + Federal)
- Demand equitable use of STAs with operational management prioritizing water flowing south from Lake Okeechobee. (State)
- Remove price supports for the Sugar Industry in the 2023 Farm Bill. (Federal)



Resilience

- Support nature-based infrastructure projects that will buffer coastlines from storm surges and flooding while restoring coastal habitat. (State + Federal)
- Increase staff and resources devoted to permitting agencies for improved permitting efficiency. (State)
- Fund land acquisition that would increase water storage and provide flood protection to communities. (State)
- Enhance protection and restoration of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract. (State)



Home Rule



- Support the ability of local government to govern under home rule to address specific environmental issues with tailored protections.

*Denotes legislation proposed in a previous session