

Sutton, Kaitlyn

From: Alive Florida <aliveflorida@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2019 10:40 AM
To: Sutton, Kaitlyn
Cc: info@bullsugar.org
Subject: Alive Florida: Our story / Form letter: Triennial Review of Florida's Water Quality Standards

Dear Kaitlyn,

Hi My name is Brady. I am a citizen of Florida, Born in Fort Walton, FL, now living in Panama City Beach FL. My dad was at different times a recreational fisherman, commercial fisherman, shrimper, chef (on commercial fishing vessels), tournament angler (and winner), bait store owner (2 locations). Fishing and water are a family tradition and, as a Biologist, Chemist and Masters-level Social Worker, I am also an avid sportsman and enthusiast of Florida and water.

As a resident of the panhandle, a couple unusual Red Tide events and the loss of countless fish in our area, specifically the Crooked Island Sound estuary led to my awareness and now deep interest in the water challenges presented by central and south Florida, Lake Okeechobee and discharges in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers, with which hopefully and unfortunately we are all now familiar.

I founded Alive Florida, which is little more than an informational Facebook business Page. I comb, edit, and share everything that I can along with adding any unique points of view or resources that I discover and/or create, and if I could do more I would.

Briefly, I will note as not to distract, digress or be-labor, here is how I see it--Sugar farming is the chief (but not only) cause of the problems as well as the chief (but not only) cause of the barriers for change. Like the Speckled Trout which was the "keystone"/umbrella species fueling my passion to get involved, I see this industry as the keystone/umbrella culprit in effectively bringing about change. Like a a foundation built on shifting sand, I see sugar in every way (economically, politically, from a diet perspective, public health and disease-prevention-wise) as a primarily salient fallacy in the argument for, and process (impediment), of change.

Without saying more about what I have learned, believe or wish re: the above, I will get to the point: Please do whatever it takes to protect our water and help it thrive; Moreover, please do whatever we can to move it to optimal natural balance and wellness as well as maximum biodiversity--this is the real keystone/umbrella of/for us all.

Do I know if the 2016 EPA water quality draft (below) is good/ideal versus just a work-around of the real issues, although one which may be very useful and effective? No, I do not. Just please know, that it means everything to me/US if you do whatever helps us and our water to be truly well.

Sincerely,
Brady, Alive Florida (form response below)

Dear Official, Please adopt the 2016 EPA draft recommended water quality criteria of 4 micrograms per liter for microcystin and 8 micrograms per liter for cylindrospermopsin to best protect recreational users and restore Florida's imperiled waters.