

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

- 4 objectives:
 - Develop water-quality data and metadata standards for adoption by state agencies.
 - Support development of a replacement for STORET for sharing WQ data
 - Mesh ongoing fresh water monitoring with new coastal monitoring network.
 - Coordinate Florida's monitoring efforts with federal programs.

A satellite map of the state of Florida, showing land in shades of green and brown, and water in dark blue. The map is overlaid with a yellow outline of the state's coastline. Various coastal features, including bays, rivers, and marshes, are visible. The text 'Coastal Monitoring in Florida' is prominently displayed in large, bold, yellow letters on the left side of the map. Below it, the name 'Steve Wolfe' and his affiliation 'Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection' are written in white text.

Coastal Monitoring in Florida

Steve Wolfe
*Florida Dept. of
Environmental Protection*

Florida Coastal Monitoring

(DEP Secretarial Strategic Priority)

Five linked pieces support effort to implement coastal monitoring:

- A. Coastal Monitoring TAG
- B. Oceans and Coastal Resources Council
- C. Water Resources Monitoring Council
- D. Existing local and regional monitoring programs
- E. DEP and FWC statewide monitoring

A. Coastal Monitoring TAG

- 1) Interagency TAG assembled to create a Monitoring Framework (draft completed 12/06)**
- 2) Framework lays out goals and general approach.**

A. Coastal Monitoring TAG

The goals were to arrive at a monitoring network that, at a minimum, provides information about both status and trend. The network is based on the Management Needs of the member agencies and will provide an annual “Report Card” of easily understood information about the status and trends of coastal water resources for each of the “Reporting Areas” that are identified.

Coastal Monitoring Framework

- Incorporates physical, chemical, and biological measures of water quality and system health.
- Includes large-scale and small-scale status and trends monitoring.
- Does not expect existing programs to divert from their own agency goals.

Coastal Monitoring Framework

- Initiates monitoring of each area with 1-yr intensive effort (if no existing data), to provide cost-effective monitoring design by targeting key areas.
- Uses existing monitoring efforts where practical, expanding them to fill gaps in overall monitoring if possible.
- Provides annual report to public on status and trends at state, regional, and local scales.

1. Coastal Monitoring TAG

Planning for
implementation
underway



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B. Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council

- Created by Florida Legislature to recommend research priorities.
- Submits Annual Science Research Plan
- Identified ‘tools’ needed to support research – Mapping, Monitoring, Modeling
- Dubbed the “3Ms”

07-08 Science Research Plan

Funding Recommendations

1. Council Operations
2. Integrated Data Management and Dissemination
3. Coastal Ocean Observing
4. Coastal and Ocean Research

07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

1. Council operations - \$484K

Includes:

- Annual Research Plan
- Research Review
- Resource Assessment

07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

2. Integrated Data Management and Dissemination - \$600K

Requires establishing data and metadata standards and improving handling and storage of data.

Integrated Data Management and Dissemination

- *Data Focus Area 1: Enable more effective use of present and future data by establishing data-exchange (metadata) standards and requiring their adoption by appropriate state entities.*

Integrated Data Management and Dissemination

- *Data Focus Area 2: Establish means for comprehensive management of assessment, monitoring, real-time, and historical data, including support of researchers, storage and archiving of data, and easy access to data.*

07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

3. Coastal Ocean Observing – <\$1.5M

Design and establish real-time interdisciplinary observing systems for Florida waters and contiguous waters important to and affecting the Florida coastline.

Initiate installations in coordination with the regional associations that have been established in the southeastern U.S., Gulf of Mexico, and State of Florida and with the Florida Coastal Monitoring Framework. A system implementation, funding, and expenditure plan should identify opportunities to leverage funds and work in cooperation with federal agencies and programs to maximize opportunities for the state's receipt of federal funds.

07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

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07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

4. Top 20 Research Components - \$9M

Priority research in Water Quality, Ocean and Coastal Ecosystems, and Tools and Technology.

Fund research proposals that address the top 20 priorities of the Research listed below. Proposals will be solicited and projects selected for funding through an open process based upon scientific excellence and responsiveness to the research priorities and associated resource-management needs.

07-08 Science Research Plan – *Funding Recommendations*

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B. Florida Oceans and Coastal Resources Council

Monitoring is high priority in Annual Research Plan.

- 10 of 20 Research Components in the list support or involve monitoring.

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4. Existing Local / Regional Monitoring

- City, county, and WMD monitoring exists for many nearshore and estuarine areas.
- Federal agency programs ongoing in some areas
- Those that are compatible or willing to become compatible with monitoring network standards will be part of Monitoring Framework

Florida Coastal Monitoring

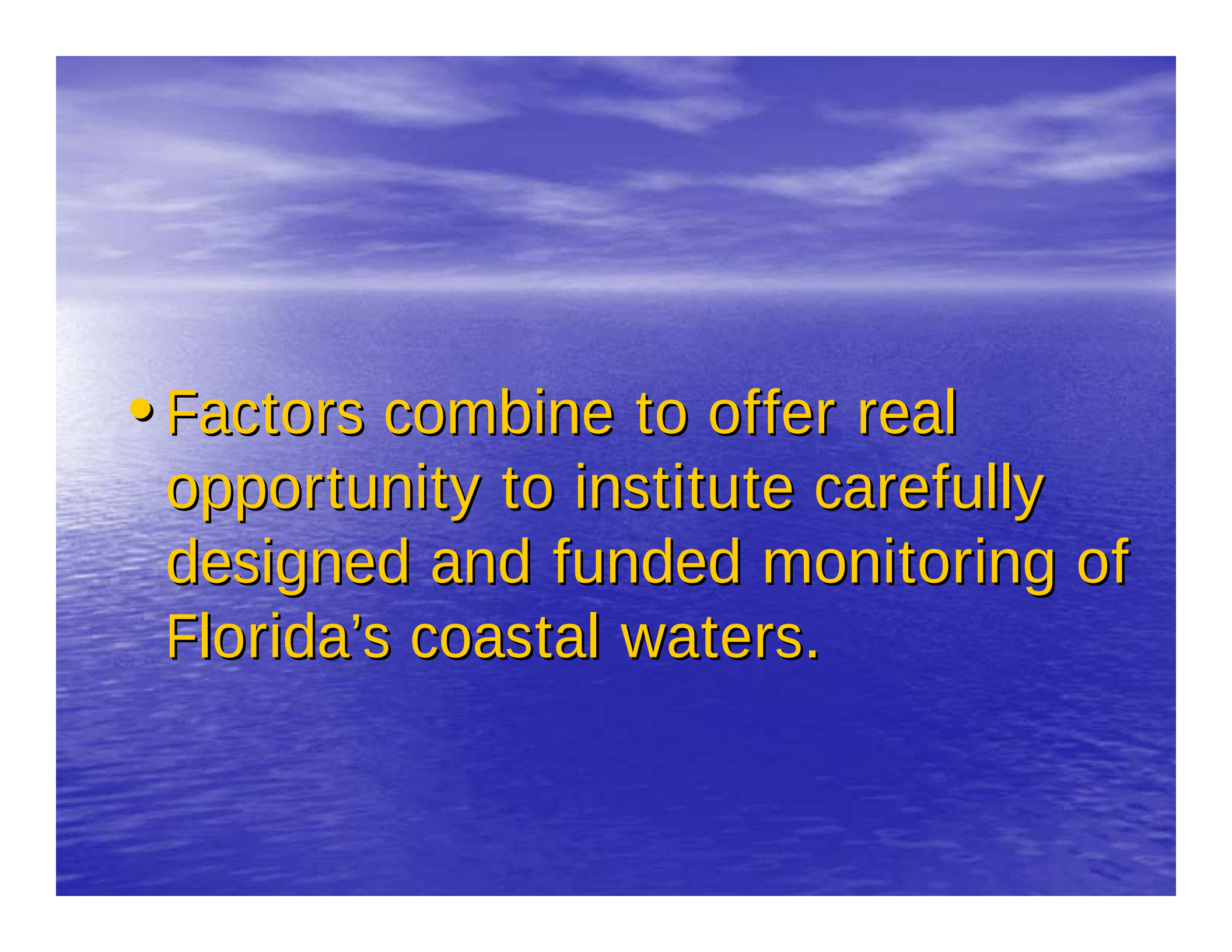
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5. CAMA & FWC Statewide Monitoring

- Both agencies have existing monitoring in areas around the entire state
- CAMA APs, NERRs, and Keys Preserve cover significant portion of nearshore Florida.
- FWC has field stations at multiple locations
- Combined agency's assets are situated to handle monitoring for gaps between existing programs.

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- Factors combine to offer real opportunity to institute carefully designed and funded monitoring of Florida's coastal waters.

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast blue ocean meeting a blue sky at a distant horizon. The sky is filled with soft, wispy white clouds. The ocean surface is covered in gentle ripples, reflecting the light from the sky. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue.

In short:

**Coastal monitoring is
finally a big deal.**



Resource Assessment Information Portal

Resource Assessment Portal

- Required of Oceans Council
- “a comprehensive oceans and coastal resource assessment that shall serve as a baseline of information to be used in assisting in its research plan. The Resource Assessment must include:”

Resource Assessment Portal

- “(a) Patterns of use of oceans and coastal resources;
- (b) Natural resource features, including, but not limited to, habitat, bathymetry, surficial geology, circulation, and tidal currents;
- (c) The location of current and proposed oceans and coastal research and monitoring infrastructure;
- (d) Industrial, commercial, coastal observing system, ships, subs, and recreational transit patterns; and
- (e) Socioeconomic trends of the state's oceans and coastal resources and oceans and coastal economy.”

Resource Assessment Portal

- The Oceans Council ... recommends to the Legislature a GIS-based application, similar in concept to the Florida Water Atlas but computer-based, interactive, and continually updated from local, state, and federal information sources.

Resource Assessment Portal

- The Resource Assessment will form the core of the Council's Integrated Data Management strategy for handling science data in Florida and the portal for scientists, managers, policy makers and the general public to access those data. It will also be linked to real-time data collection in existing systems such as the Integrated Ocean Observing System.



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