



Turbidity Criterion

- DEP conducted an extensive literature review of turbidity effects on coral species
- Clearly conclude from literature that 29 NTU is not protective of corals/hard bottom
- However, there is insufficient data to establish a numeric criterion
 - Criteria cannot simply be incremental improvement
 - Must demonstrate that criterion is protective
- DEP is proposing a narrative criterion to protect corals based on maintaining background conditions



Turbidity Narrative

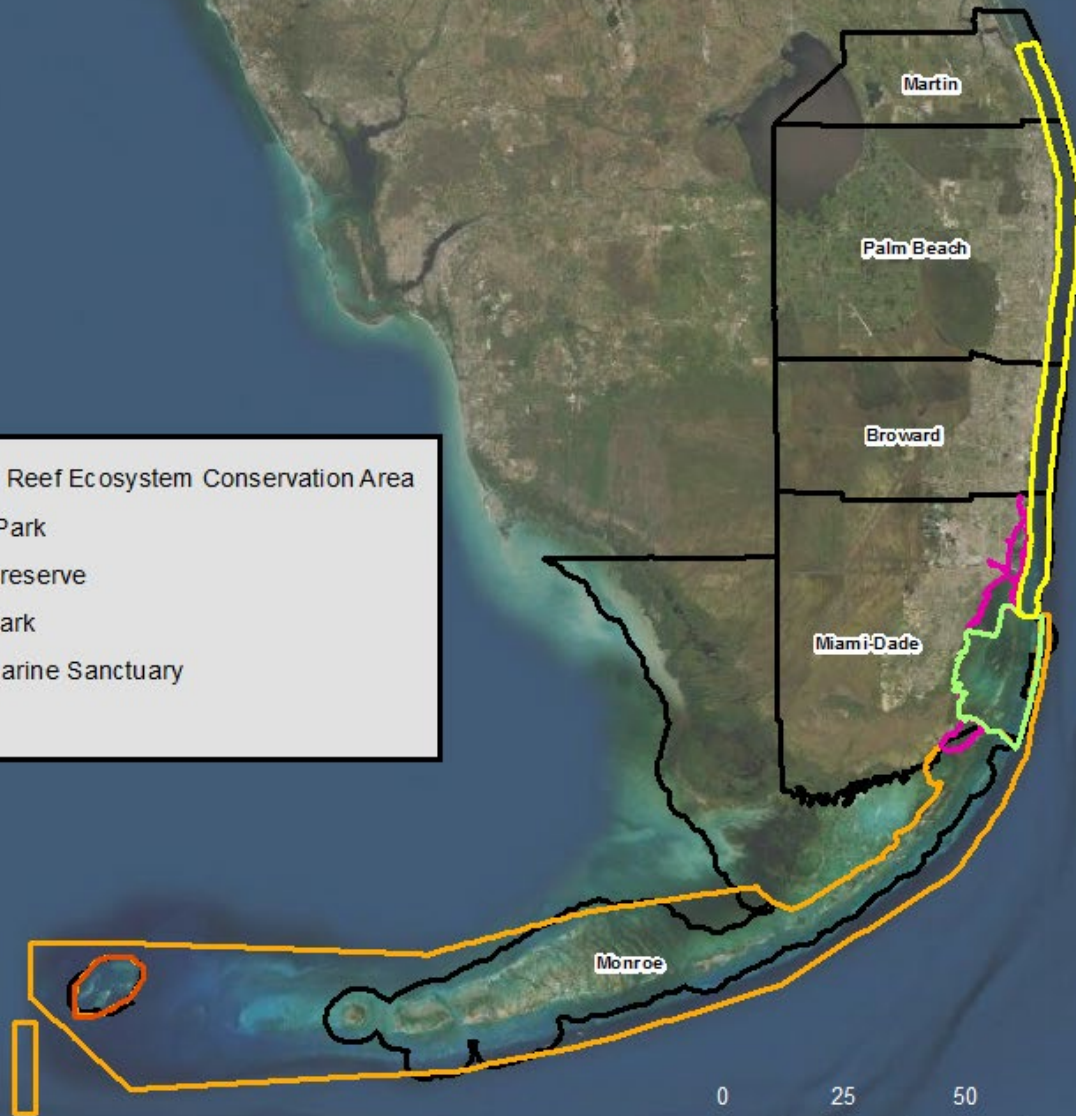
62-302.530(70)(b), F.A.C.

- Turbidity shall not be increased above background conditions within the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, Biscayne Bay National Park, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary excluding canals, and Dry Tortugas National Park, as shown on the map titled "[Florida Reef Tract](#)", July 2019, which is incorporated by reference herein, or other areas of the state where coral reef and hardbottom communities are currently found. For the purposes of evaluating this criterion, background conditions shall take into account the natural variability of turbidity levels and shall be established following the methods described in the document [Implementation of the Turbidity Criterion for the Protection of Coral Reef and Hardbottom Communities](#), dated September 2019, which is incorporated by reference. Note: criterion only applies within predominately marine Class II and III waters.
- Coral reef and hardbottom will be defined in rule

Florida Reef Tract



-  Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area
-  Biscayne Bay National Park
-  Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve
-  Dry Tortugas National Park
-  Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
-  Counties





Implementation Document

- Implementation document adopted by reference
- Addresses application in permits (dredging and beach nourishment) and Impaired Waters Rule (IWR)
- For permits, document describes
 - Establishment of pre-construction background condition
 - Data sufficiency
 - Calculation of permit limits (natural background variability) based on the natural background turbidity range during normal tidal cycles



Impaired Waters Rule Implementation

Paragraph 62-302.530(70)(b), F.A.C.

- DEP will assess the attainment of the turbidity criterion for coral reefs and hardbottom communities in the IWR at same time as Reasonable Assurance Document (RAD) assessment
- Only waters where coral and hardbottom communities are known to occur or potentially occur are subject to these turbidity assessment provisions
 - Florida Reef Tract
 - Open coastal waters within Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River, and Brevard (to Cape Canaveral) counties



Schedule

- DEP held public workshops on Triennial Review, including turbidity, on November 4-8, 2019
- Triennial Review written comment period through Nov. 22
- Comments or Questions to Kenneth Weaver at
 - Kenneth.Weaver@FLORIDADEP.gov, or
 - 2600 Blair Stone Road, Mail Station 6511, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2400
 - Phone: 850-245-8414
- Will decide whether another round of workshops is needed based on comments received
 - Could potentially break turbidity out for additional work and stakeholder engagement



More Information

- Triennial Review Webpage:
<https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-standards/content/triennial-review-water-quality-standards>
- **Click to Subscribe** for Future Water Quality Standards Announcements
 - Receive email announcements about water quality standards rule updates
 - Rulemaking
 - Public meetings and workshops
 - Webpage updates