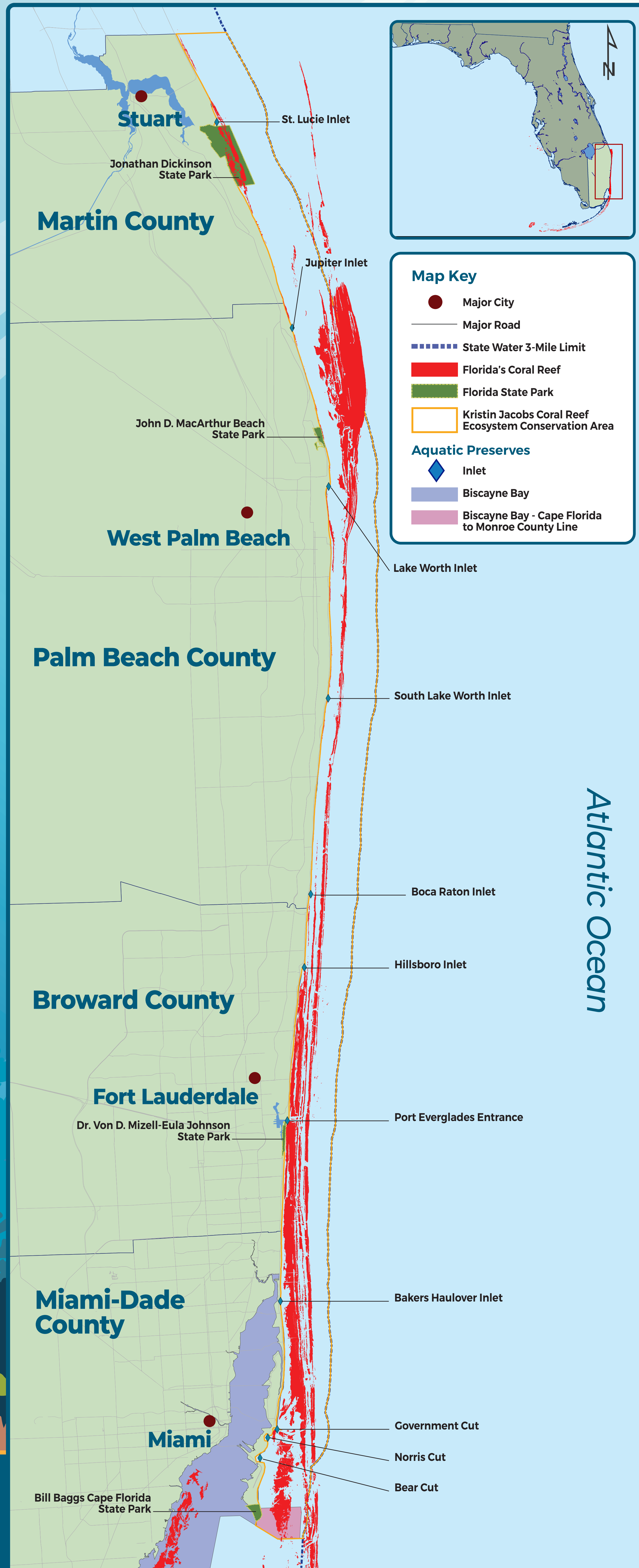


# Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area



The Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area, formerly known as the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative region, was officially established on July 1, 2018. This conservation area, also referred to as the Coral ECA, is the northernmost section of Florida's Coral Reef and runs 105 miles from the St. Lucie Inlet to the northern boundary of Biscayne National Park.

The Coral ECA is part of the only barrier reef system in the continental United States and is home to more than 6,000 species of marine life, including fish, stony corals, soft corals, sponges and other marine invertebrates.

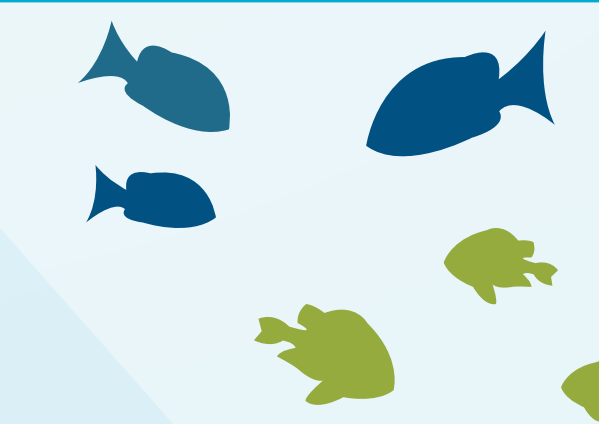


## Did You Know?

- Corals may look like rocks or plants, but they are in fact animals, closely related to jellyfish and sea anemones.
- Reef growth is extremely slow. An individual coral colony may grow only ½ inch to 7 inches (1 cm to 18 cm) a year, depending on the species.
- Coral reefs in Southeast Florida generate \$5.7 billion in local sales and support 61,000 jobs every year (as of 2022).

## Protecting Our Reefs

- The Coral Reef Conservation Program at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for managing the Coral ECA by balancing conservation with commercial and recreational use.
- The Florida Coral Reef Protection Act of 2009 makes it illegal to damage or anchor on coral or hardbottom.



## Report Marine Incidents to SEAFAN!

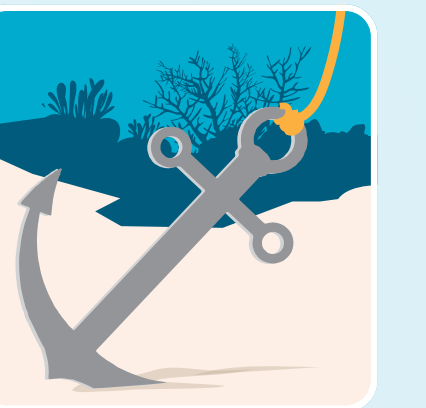
The Southeast Florida Action Network is a marine incident reporting and response program dedicated to protecting the Coral ECA. Go online at [SEAFAN.net](http://SEAFAN.net) to report anchor damage, coral disease or other marine incidents. No special training is required!



## How You Can Help

### Practice Safe Anchoring

- Use a public mooring buoy, or anchor in sandy areas using Florida's Coral Reef Locator available at [FloridaDEP.gov/CoralReefLocator](http://FloridaDEP.gov/CoralReefLocator).



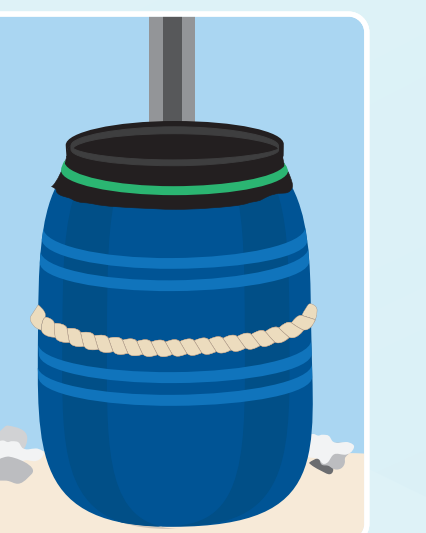
### Dive Responsibly

- Keep our reefs protected by not touching these animals with your hands or equipment.



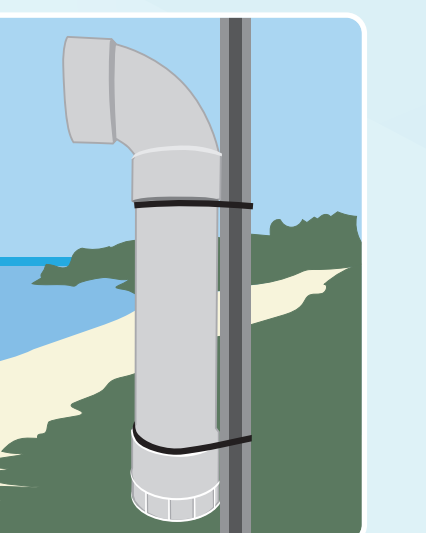
### Reduce Marine Pollution

- Be sure to return home with anything you brought with you. Dispose of trash properly onshore.



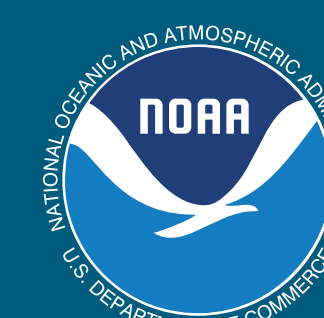
### Reel In and Recycle

- Don't leave unwanted fishing line behind. Find an onshore recycling bin and properly dispose of monofilament line.



### Fish Sustainably

- Familiarize yourself with FWC's recreational fishing regulations, and download the Fish Rules App to find regulations quickly and easily on the water.



Learn More About the Coral ECA, Find Resources and Get Involved.  
[FloridaDEP.gov/CoralECA](http://FloridaDEP.gov/CoralECA) to learn more.

