Biscayne Bay Summit News - May 2020
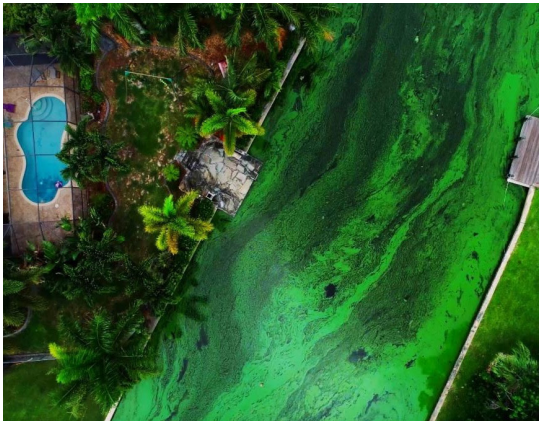
1 message

Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit Coalition <biscaynebaysummit@gmail.com>   Thu, May 14, 2020 at 1:29 PM
Reply-To: biscaynebaysummit@gmail.com
To: emilio@soptechint.com

May 2020

'Clean Waterways Act' passes Florida Senate; what does it mean for the state?

Lawmakers are trying to make sure another water crisis doesn't happen to our state again. A new bill aims to make our waterways cleaner and keep them that way. Florida Gulf Coast University professor Dr. Mike Parsons sits on the state's blue-green algae task force. Parsons says he thinks "it's a good first step in terms of addressing our water quality issues." He's talking about Senate Bill 712, also known as the "Clean Waterways Act." It lays out a road map for issues like onsite sewage, inspections for growers, and water quality monitoring.

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A win for the Everglades in Miami-Dade is a win for Biscayne Bay!

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has said that the Tollway would pose substantial and unacceptable adverse secondary impacts on the Greater Everglades. Van Wyck ruled the county's decision to approve the Tollway without these agencies' approval violated the law. She also found that the Tollway extension would destroy wetlands critical to threatened or endangered species and conflict with the county's policy to protect and enhance areas that recharge the West Wellfield. Wetlands are critical for

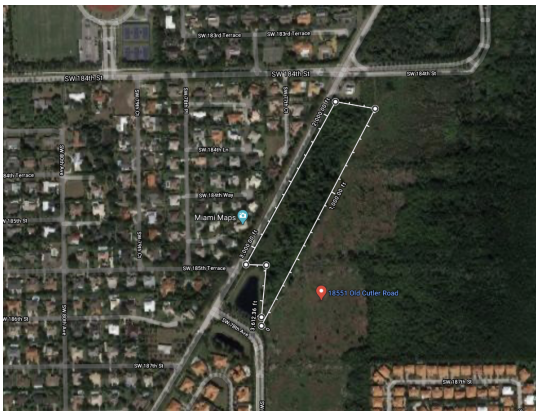filtering runoff that can eventually flow to and discharge to Biscayne Bay, via surface water or groundwater.

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2020 Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan Released

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program (MDP) recently released the new 2020 Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan! This document is the result of a productive and collaborative effort between the MDP and local, state, and federal governments; nonprofits; industry; and academic institutions.
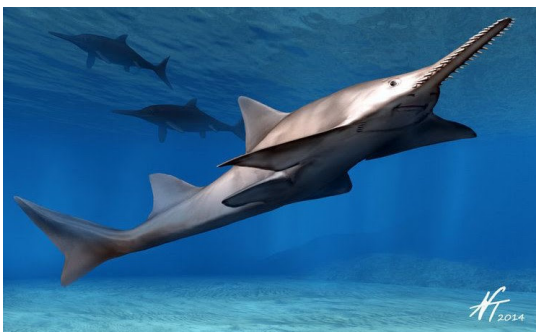
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Cutler Bay Council Purchases 8.45 Acres for Conservation and Resiliency Purposes

During the Town of Cutler Bay's Virtual Council Meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2020, the Town Council unanimously voted to approve the purchase of an 8.45 acre property located at 18551 Old Cutler Road from Cutler Properties, LC, for $8.45 million—with the vision to preserve the vacant land for its environmental value, to further the Town's resiliency efforts, and to prevent any development from occurring on it.

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Is rare fish sighting in Biscayne Bay a sign nature is rebounding? It's an Earth Day question!

From his 44th-floor condo overlooking Biscayne Bay, Scott Ziegler spotted two strange-looking fish swimming together. They were light-brown, had long bills bristling with teeth and calmly meandered right by the seawall near Margaret Pace Park.

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Help Coral Gables City Keep The Bay Blue And Clean

Biscayne Bay and our canals are extremely sensitive to excess nutrients, so it is important to keep these nutrients out of the water. Based on this fact, the City of Coral Gables is leading by example by ceasing the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous from June 1 through September 30 each year.

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Scientific evidence supports fertilizer regulation in South Florida.

Residential lawn fertilization is estimated to be the second-largest source of household nitrogen in the United States. Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers can pollute waterways.
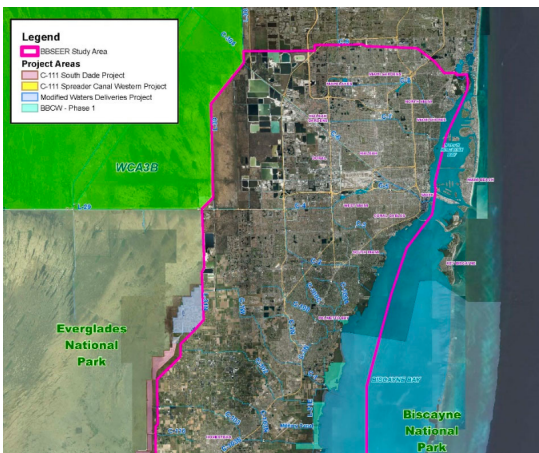
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Land purchase finalized to prevent Everglades oil drilling

A deal to prevent oil drilling in the Everglades was finalized Monday, with the state of Florida's purchase of land from a family that had obtained permits for an exploratory well. The state paid $16.56 million for 20,000 acres in western Broward County owned by the Kanter family of Miami, whose drilling plan had ....

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Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands Update

For the past several years Miami-Dade County, municipalities and stakeholder groups have been advocating to expedite the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) project. Earlier this year the leadership of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Jacksonville District (USACE) have agreed to move the project forward. The BBCW Phase 1 of the project is moving forward and construction is estimated to be completed by 2023. As for BBCW Phase 2, the agencies decided to combine the Project Implementation Report (PIR) for BBCW Phase 2 & C-111 Spreader Canal. Therefore, the project has been renamed as the **Biscayne Bay and Southeastern Everglades Ecosystem Restoration** project (BBSEER).

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The Biscayne Bay Summit News is a monthly newsletter promoting post-Summit news, including restoration and preservation initiatives being planned or initiated by key Biscayne Bay Stakeholders.

Interested in collaborating with this Newsletter?
We hope so! This is a collaborative project in which you are the editor!
Click on the link below for the **Online Submission Form**

ARTICLE SUBMISSION FORM

Biscayne Bay Marine Health Summit Coalition
The purpose of the Biscayne Bay Marine Health Coalition is to establish collaboration amongst diverse stakeholders in order to create an effective Action Plan for reducing pollutants in Biscayne Bay as well as Miami-Dade's canals and rivers.

Founder & Project Coordinator: Luiz Rodrigues
Steering Committee Members: Albert Gomez, Camila Quaresma, Dave Doebler, Emilio Lopez, Irela Bagué, Patrick Shearer, Scott Strippling, Steve Sauls and Tiffany Troxler.