

Southeast Florida Action Network

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Coral Reef Conservation Program



2022 in Review

866-770-SEFL (7335)

SEAFAN.NET

The Southeast Florida Action Network (SEAFAN) is a citizen reporting and response system with the goal of improving the protection and management of Southeast Florida's offshore coral reefs. The program enhances marine debris cleanup efforts; improves response to vessel groundings and anchor damage; and provides early detection of potentially harmful biological disturbances.

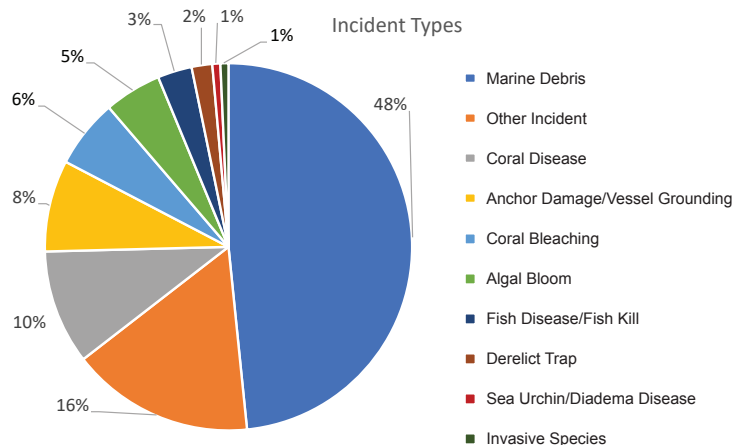
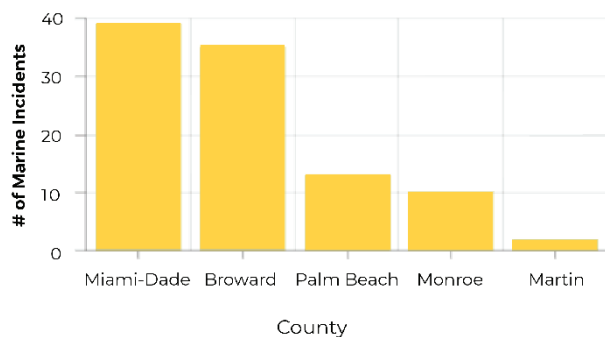
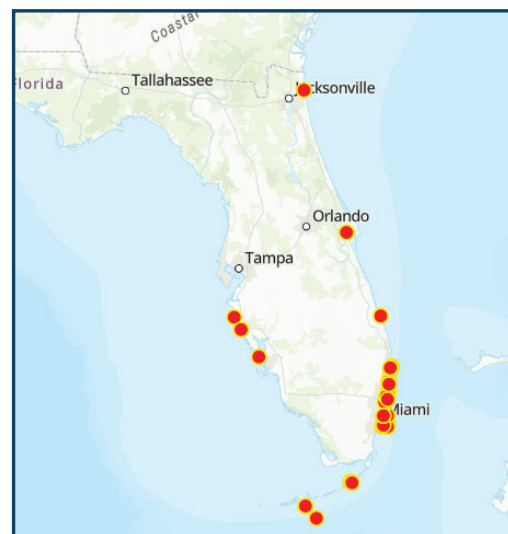
The 2022 newsletter highlights all the reports made throughout the year and includes a locator map to show the impact that SEAFAN has had across the state. Learn about the 2022 events that SEAFAN participated in and where to find us in 2023; a success story thanks to the help of our partners; the top SEAFAN reporter of the year; and the most commonly reported incident.

Incident Types

Each red dot on the map represents an incident response in 2022. The pie graph below indicates the percentage of incident types, and the bar graph indicates the number of incidents reported per county.

Marine debris reports are used to coordinate future cleanup efforts, and reports of possible biological events (e.g., fish kills, coral bleaching) are tracked to determine spatial extent and duration of the incident. If necessary, vessel grounding or anchor damage reports are followed by [site assessments and response efforts](#).

SEAFAN works with other agencies and regional and federal partners to find the source and resolve the issue in our efforts to protect Southeast Florida's coral reefs and treasured marine ecosystem.



Outreach Events

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) participates in several outreach events on a yearly basis to educate the public about [Florida's Coral Reef](#) with an emphasis on the importance of reporting certain marine incidents, benefits of SEAFAN and how to use it. Some of the many great events that SEAFAN was promoted at in 2022 were:

- The annual Tortuga Music Festival on Fort Lauderdale Beach.
- The Pompano Beach Pier cleanup.
- The Fort Lauderdale International Boat show.
- Vamos a Pescar in Miami-Dade County.
- Lagoon Fest in West Palm Beach.

SEAFAN has already attended multiple events this year and looks forward to joining many more. You will find SEAFAN joining Fill A Bag beach cleanups in Miami-Dade; the Fort Lauderdale beach cleanup team in Broward County; the Frost Museum of Science volunteers with MUVE (Museum Volunteers for the Environment); the Deerfield Beach cleanup; and other events.

Our 12th Annual Reef Cleanup events will be taking place this summer in partnership with several local dive shops. Keep an eye out for upcoming schedules. You can find additional scheduled cleanups on the [Shore-Based Beach Cleanups](#) page of the DEP website.



SEAFAN SUCCESS STORIES

In October 2022, Palm Beach County staff reported a 2,000-pound marker buoy on the beach with a "B" as the only identifying marker. DEP and its partner network helped identify the buoy owner as Dry Tortugas National Park.

The navigational marker buoy had drifted away during Hurricane Ian and landed on Jupiter Beach, Florida. Staff from partner agencies such as the national park, DEP, Palm Beach County, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Nova Southeastern University worked together to remove the marker buoy.

It was carried by straps to reduce impacts to turtle nesting sites on the beach and put on a whale rescue carrier. Staff from USGS and the university transported the buoy back to the national park where it was reinstalled as a navigational marker. This partnership effort significantly reduced the agencies' cost for removal and disposal.



SEAFAN has also successfully collaborated with [Mote Marine Laboratory](#) by combining reporting systems. Marine incidents in Monroe County can now be reported to SEAFAN, and SEAFAN reports can be viewed on Mote's Beach Conditions and Reporting System map at [VisitBeaches.org](#).

SEAFAN representative, Lara Bracci, hosted a presentation for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and provided outreach materials to promote SEAFAN in Monroe County, the newest addition to our region.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2022

Top SEAFAN reporter of 2022: Maddie Kaufman
Most common report: Marine Debris

PARTNERS



**FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY**

Thank you, SEAFAN reporters, for a great 2022 season! We greatly appreciate your continued efforts to submit marine incident reports. Summer is approaching, so whether you are boating, diving or at the beach, remember to look out for marine debris and other marine incidents to help us improve and protect Southeast Florida's marine ecosystem.

With every report you, will receive a certificate and might be featured in the next newsletter!

For more information, visit [SEAFAN](#) and [Florida's Coral Reef](#) to report incidents and learn more about how you can help!

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1277 N.E. 79th Street Causeway, Miami, FL 33138**