



Water quality in KW Harbor report, NEP grant opportunity and EPA seeking nominations for Local Advisory Council

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Good morning, Sharing some information– please forward to anyone that may be interested.

First item is report (attached) by Dr. Henry Briceno at FIU that evaluated Key West Harbor water clarity before and during the COVID Anthro pause period (sort of like Thanos' big snap) using WQPP water quality monitoring data! and remote sensing by Dr. Brian Barnes at USF.

Grant opportunity for our northern neighbors (see map below, Florida Keys not eligible). NEP Grant Program looking for projects to address HABs, habitat loss, and coastal erosion. Please see website for more details. <https://estuaries.org/initiatives/watershedgrants/>

Opportunity for local, environmentally aware, elected government officials to serve on EPA's Local Advisory Council (details below). Nominations are being taken now – deadline April 16. South Florida is the workshop for tackling current and emerging environmental concerns. Please forward the Local Advisory Council nomination request to any locally, elected official that you think may be interested in serving on the committee(s) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/05/2021-04624/local-government-advisory-committee-and-small-communities-advisory-subcommittee-request-for>

Best regards,

Steve

Preliminary Assessment of Surface Water Clarity Changes in Key West During the COVID 19 Anthro pause

Excerpt: There have been countless reports of improving water clarity during the COVID19 shut-down, and the ban on cruise-ship traffic in Key West, but no hard data has been presented to back-up those statements. We have attempted to detect changes in water quality during the COVID19 shutdown from measurements performed by Florida International University the last 25+ years in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

NPR Story: April 4, 2021: <https://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/economy-business/2021-04-04/are-key-west-waters-clearer-without-cruise-ships-new-study-says-yes>

National Estuary Program Coastal Watersheds Grant Program 2021 Request for Proposals

- Funding available - \$1M
- Award amount - \$75- \$250K (3-10 possible awards)
- Letter of Intent due June 7, 2021
- Full proposals by invitation only due September 20, 2021
- There is a match requirement.
- Projects must address one or more of the following priorities

Harmful algal blooms;
Loss of habitat; and/or
Flooding and coastal erosion

Areas in highlighted in red eligible



EPA Seeks Nominations for Local Government Advisory Committee

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Intergovernmental Relations invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to its Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) and Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS). LGAC and SCAS members and qualified nominees hold elected or appointed positions with local, tribal, state, and territorial governments. This notice solicits nominations to fill up to 30 memberships on EPA's LGAC and 10-15 on the SCAS throughout 2021.

Members of LGAC and SCAS will provide advice and recommendations on a broad range of issues related to our shared goals of promoting and protecting public health and the environment. These issues may include: Advancing environmental justice; ensuring access to clean air and water; reducing greenhouse gas emissions; bolstering resilience to the impacts of climate change; and limiting exposure to dangerous chemicals and pesticides.

To Learn more about the nomination process here <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/03/05/2021-04624/local-government-advisory-committee-and-small-communities-advisory-subcommittee-request-for>

be considered for 2021 appointments, nominations should be submitted by **April 16, 2021**.

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2 attachments

 **Key West Turbidity Report 3.31.21.pdf**
2974K

 **2021-CWG-RFP-3-31-2021-FINAL.pdf**
400K