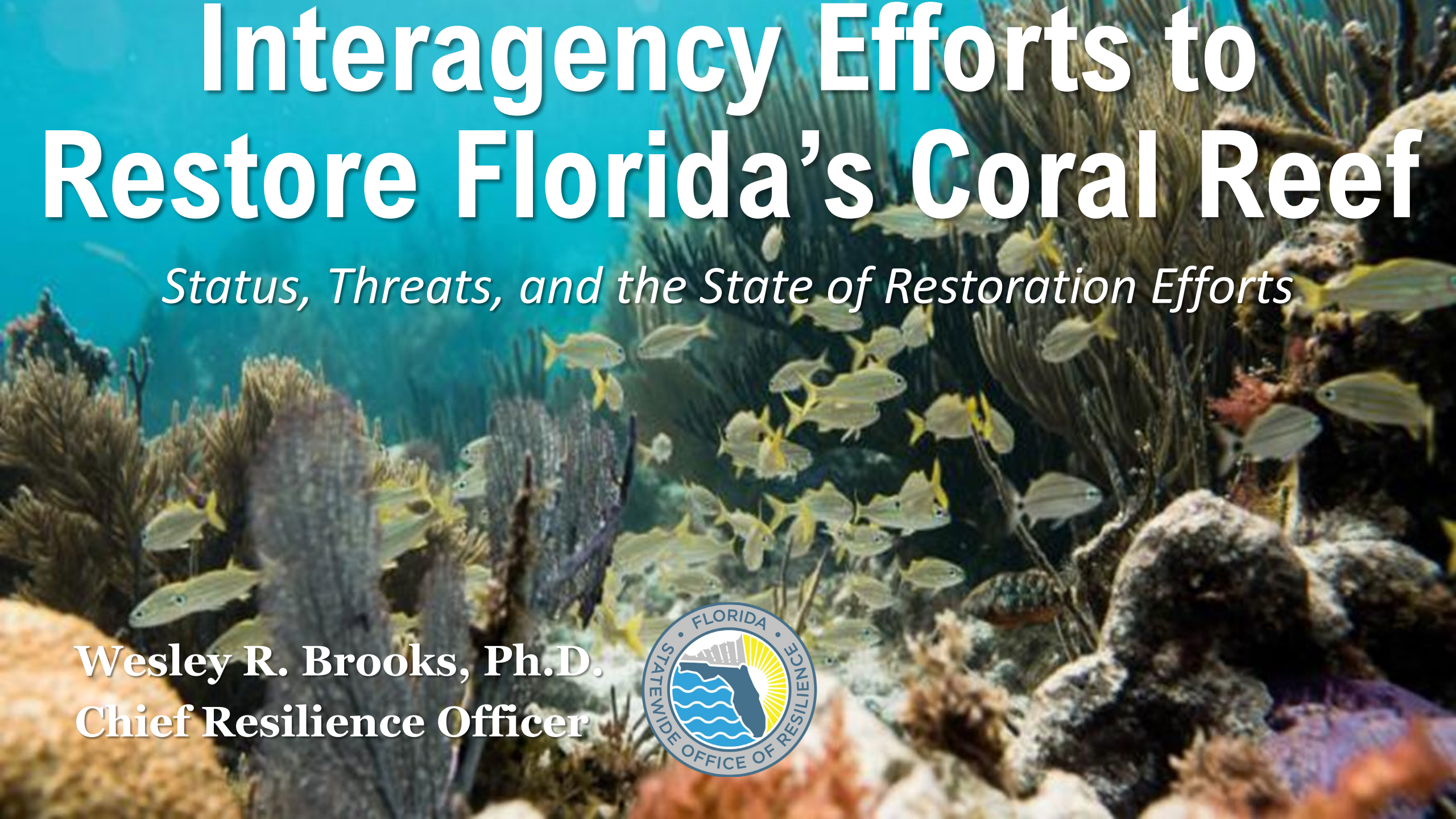
Interagency Efforts to Restore Florida's Coral Reef

Status, Threats, and the State of Restoration Efforts



Wesley R. Brooks, Ph.D.
Chief Resilience Officer

The Statewide Office of Resilience supports local communities

- Meet communities *where they are* through Regional Resilience Tours

- Assist and accelerate DEP implementation of the Resilient Florida framework
- Advance ongoing state ecosystem restoration efforts / lower barriers to use of nature-based features and natural infrastructure
- Facilitate partnerships to capitalize on strategic collaborations and funding opportunities

The Statewide Office of Resilience leads Interagency Coordination on flood resilience and mitigation efforts

UNDER GOVERNOR DESANTIS, THESE STATE AGENCIES ARE MANAGING PUBLIC INVESTMENTS OF:

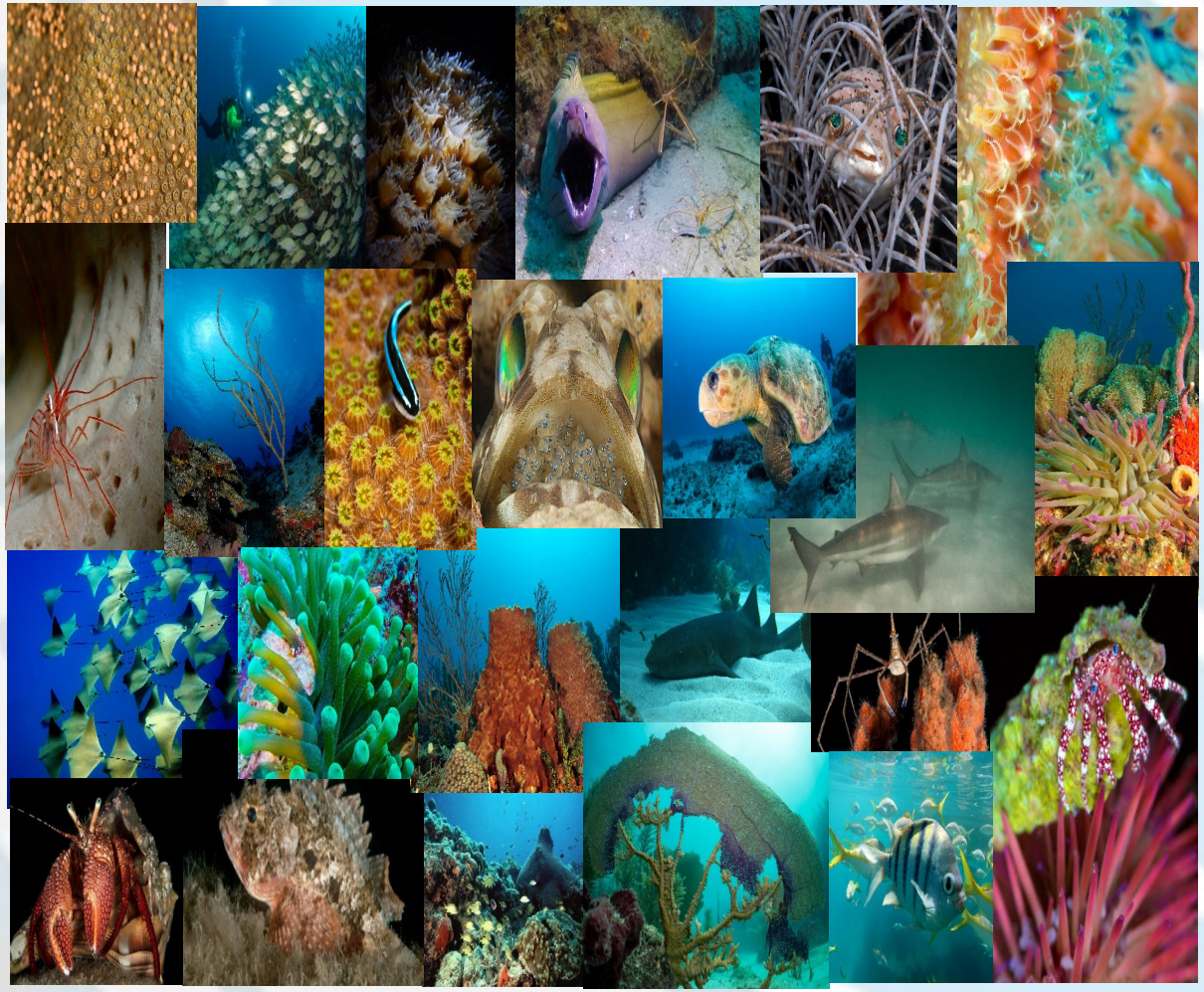
>$9 BILLION IN RESILIENCE

&

>$6.5 BILLION IN WATER QUALITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION

Florida's Coral Reef

Elemental to SE FL's biological & ecological character



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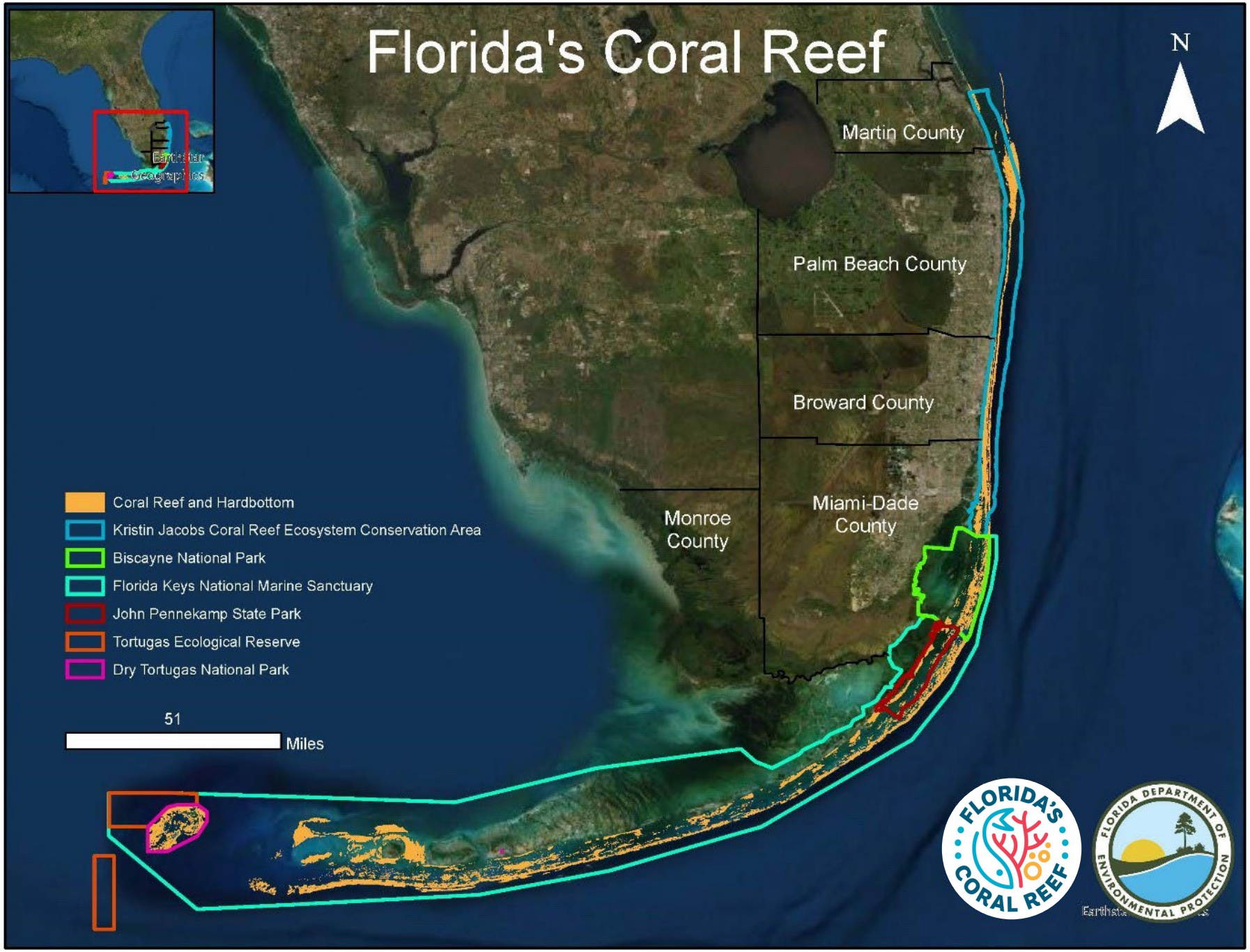
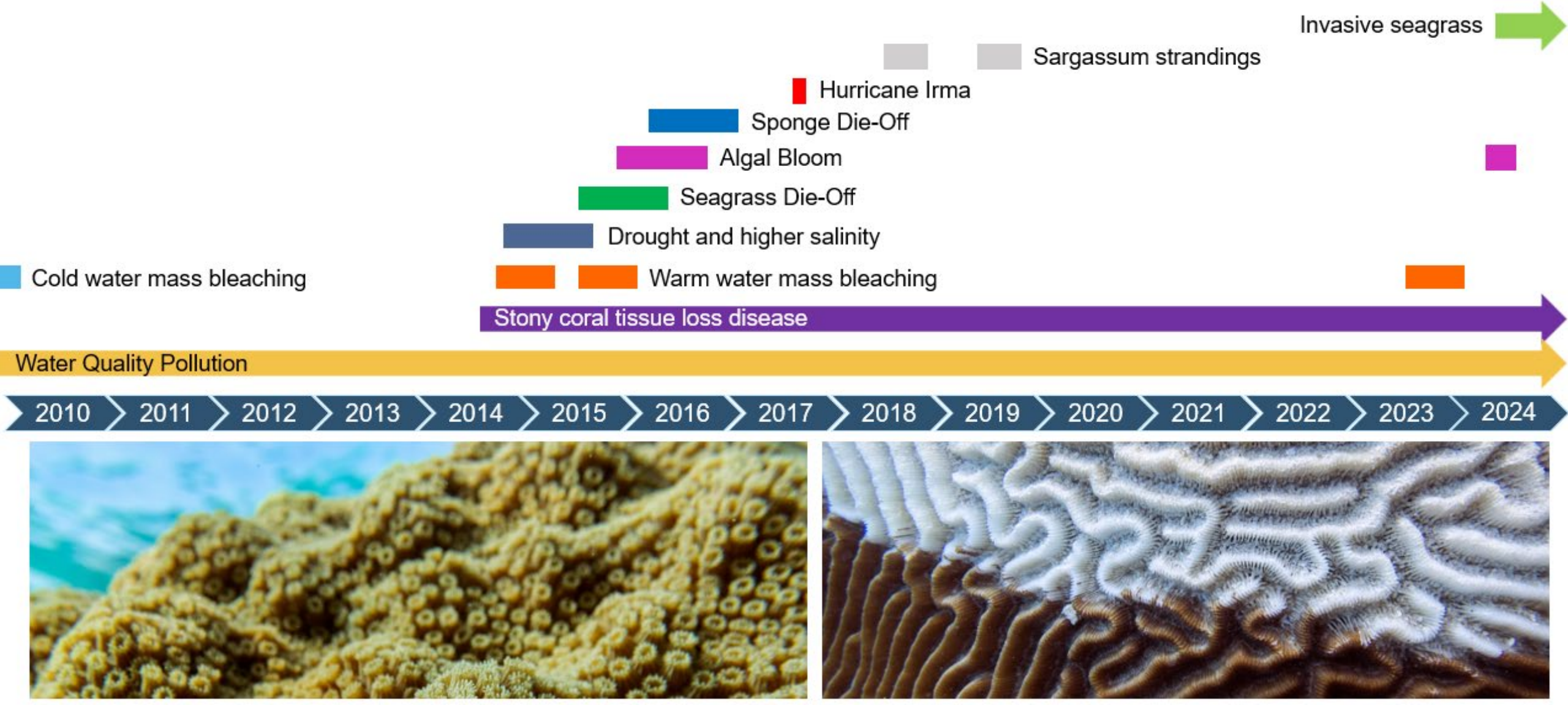
Essential Natural Infrastructure for SE FL

- **Fisheries Habitat**: Providing 3,787 jobs and $456.2 million/year in economic output.
- **Tourism:** Annually supporting 71,000 jobs and $6.3 billion in sales and income.
- **Shoreline Protection**: Providing protection for 5,600 people and $675 million in economic activity – over $1 billion in severe storm events.


Florida's Coral Reef
N
Martin County
Palm Beach County
Broward County
Miami-Dade County
Monroe County
Coral Reef and Hardbottom
Kristin Jacobs Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area
Biscayne National Park
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
John Pennekamp State Park
Tortugas Ecological Reserve
Dry Tortugas National Park
51
Miles
FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

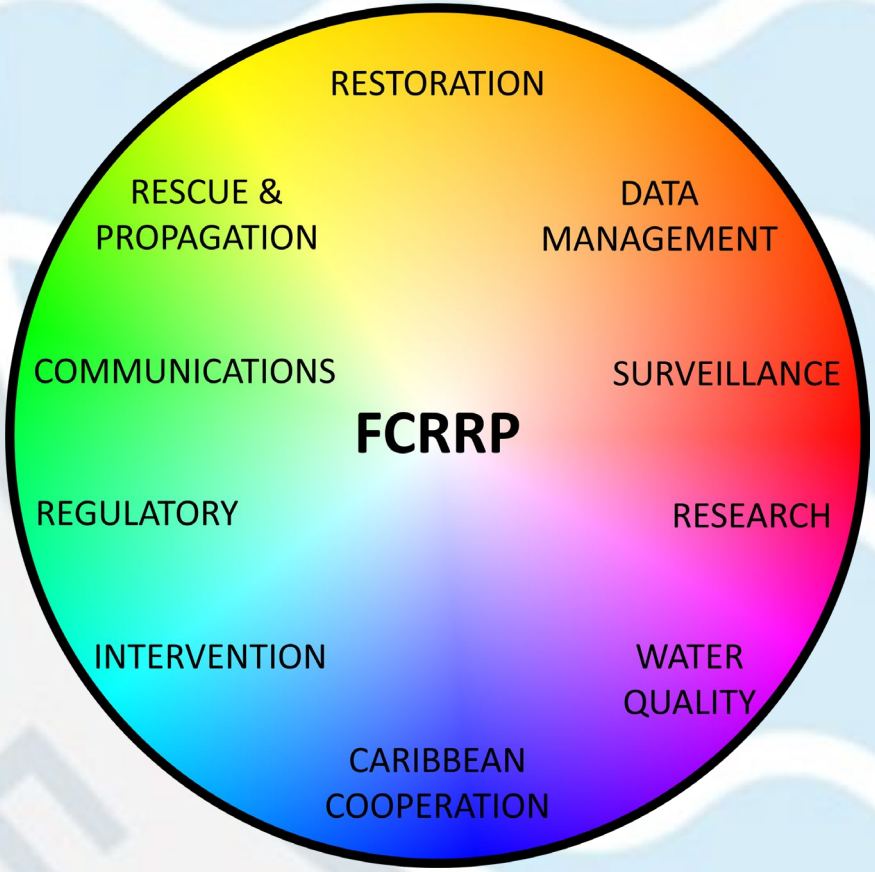
Florida's Coral Reef

RECENT ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIOLOGICAL STRESSORS



Management Coordination

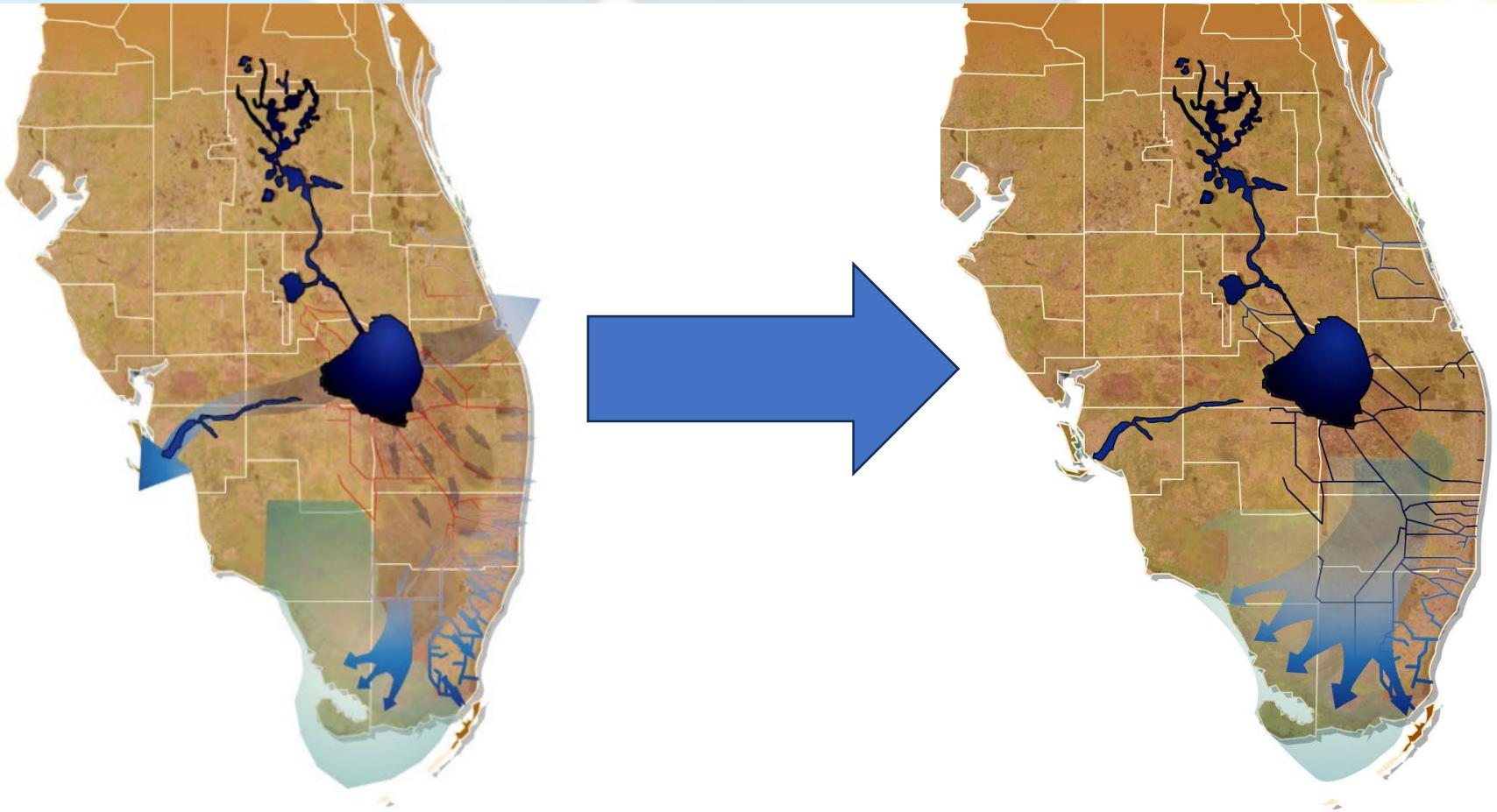
SCTLD Response Team + Florida's Reef Resilience Program =



Structure:

2 leadership bodies
9 response teams
80+ agency, academic, NGO, & private partners

+ *Future Hydrological Changes…*

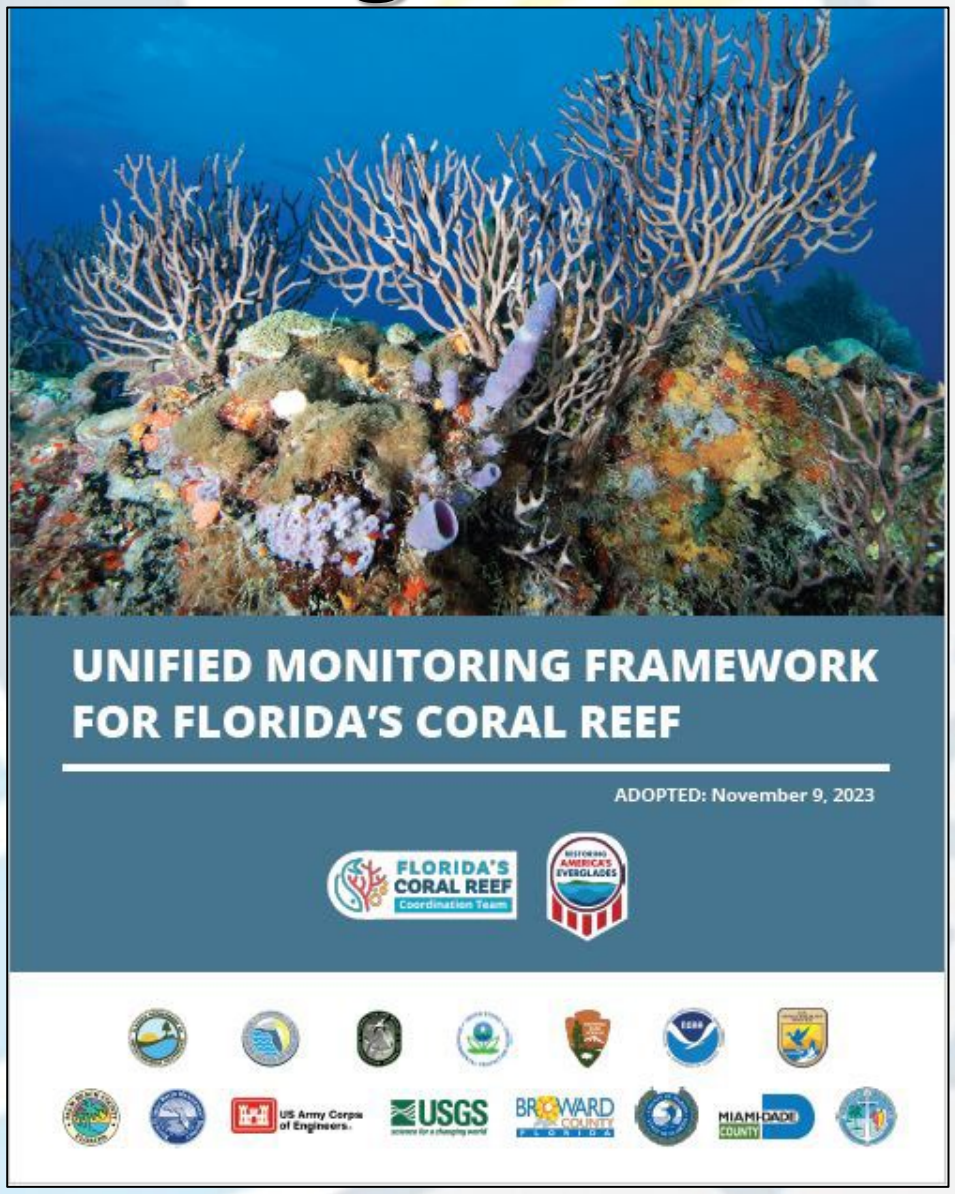


Integrated & Proactive Monitoring Coordination

FLORIDA'S CORAL REEF Coordination Team

Regionally integrate and coordinate management and restoration-related activities to conserve and restore Florida's Coral Reef and associated resources to protect, sustain, and enhance the South Florida ecosystem's ecological and aesthetic character, function, and resilience.

https://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/fcrct



Governor DeSantis issues EO-23-06
“Achieving *Even More* Now for Florida’s Environment”

Florida's Coral Reef Restoration & Recovery Initiative

The **FCR3 Initiative** aims to develop the **infrastructure**, **technology**, **skilled workforce**, and **logistics** necessary by 2050 to support the long-term recovery of no less than 25% of Florida's Coral Reef.

FCR3 Initiative

Agency Roles & Responsibilities

Lead FCR3 coordination and funding administration, place-based strategy development for site selections, detailed designs for selected sites, as well as local monitoring and oversight. Lead hybrid reef projects. Lead coral mitigation information sharing and permitting.

Lead species permitting for all coral restoration activities - continue oversight of partners holding >2,000 broodstock corals housed in land-based facilities in FL and nation. Lead genetic management of coral and reef-associated species. Co-develop and implement “propagation pipeline” and associated plans.

Provide high level oversight and vision; identify broader strategic opportunities. Lead the coupling/interrelating of in-water ecosystem restoration with tangible and observable above-water benefits to human communities and built infrastructure.

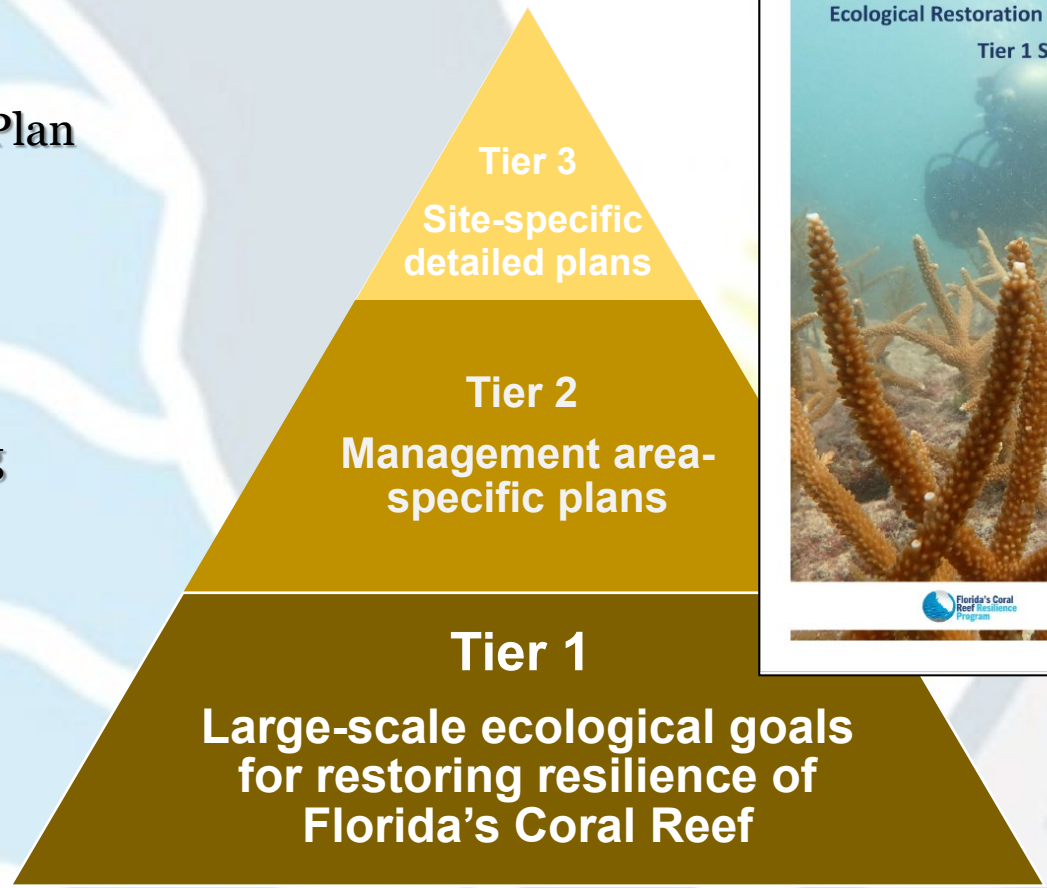
FCR3 Initiative

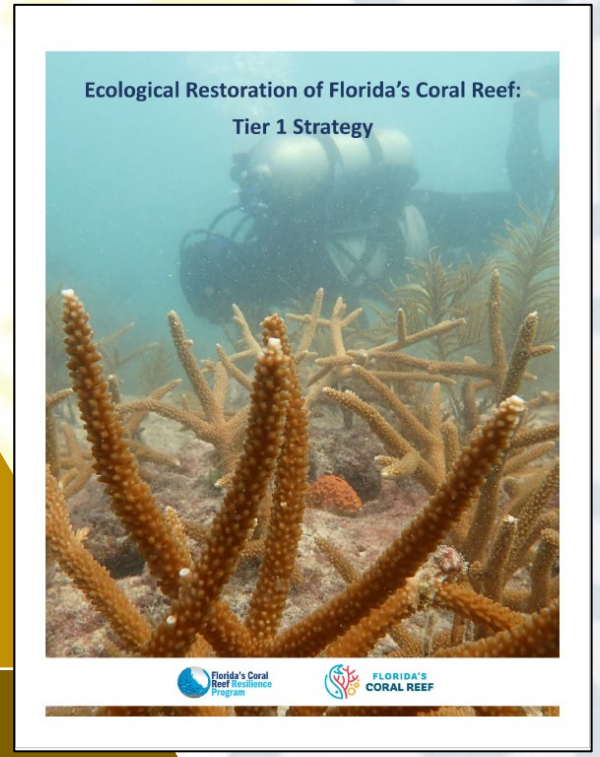
Strategically Augmenting Coral Reef Restoration Capacity, Capability, and Success

Phase I (FY23-26):
- In-State Facilities Expansion
- **Strategy Development**
- Science, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management Plan
- **Restoration Site Selection**
- Reinforce Existing Restoration Efforts
- Workforce Development

Phase II (FY27-35):
- Construction of New and Maintenance of Existing Facilities
- Refine Training Curriculum
- Maximizing Efficiency
- Workforce and Volunteer Optimization

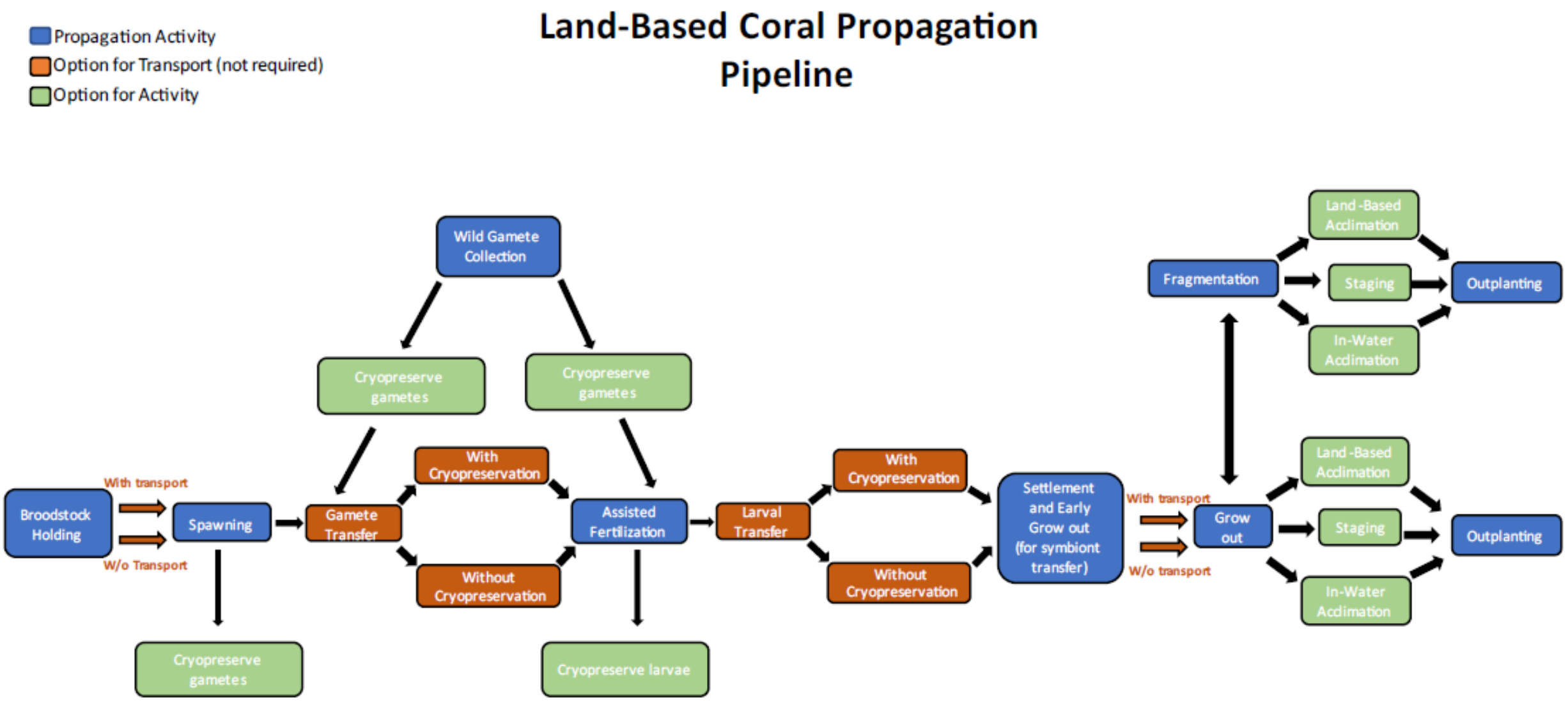
Phase III (FY36-50):
- Sustaining Facilities and Operations
- Expansion and Monitoring
- Maximizing Peoplepower





FCR3 Initiative

Strategically Augmenting Coral Reef Restoration Capacity, Capability, and Success



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Objective: An initial expansion of in-state facilities to hold and propagate Florida's SCTLD Rescue Corals and enhance existing propagation capacity.

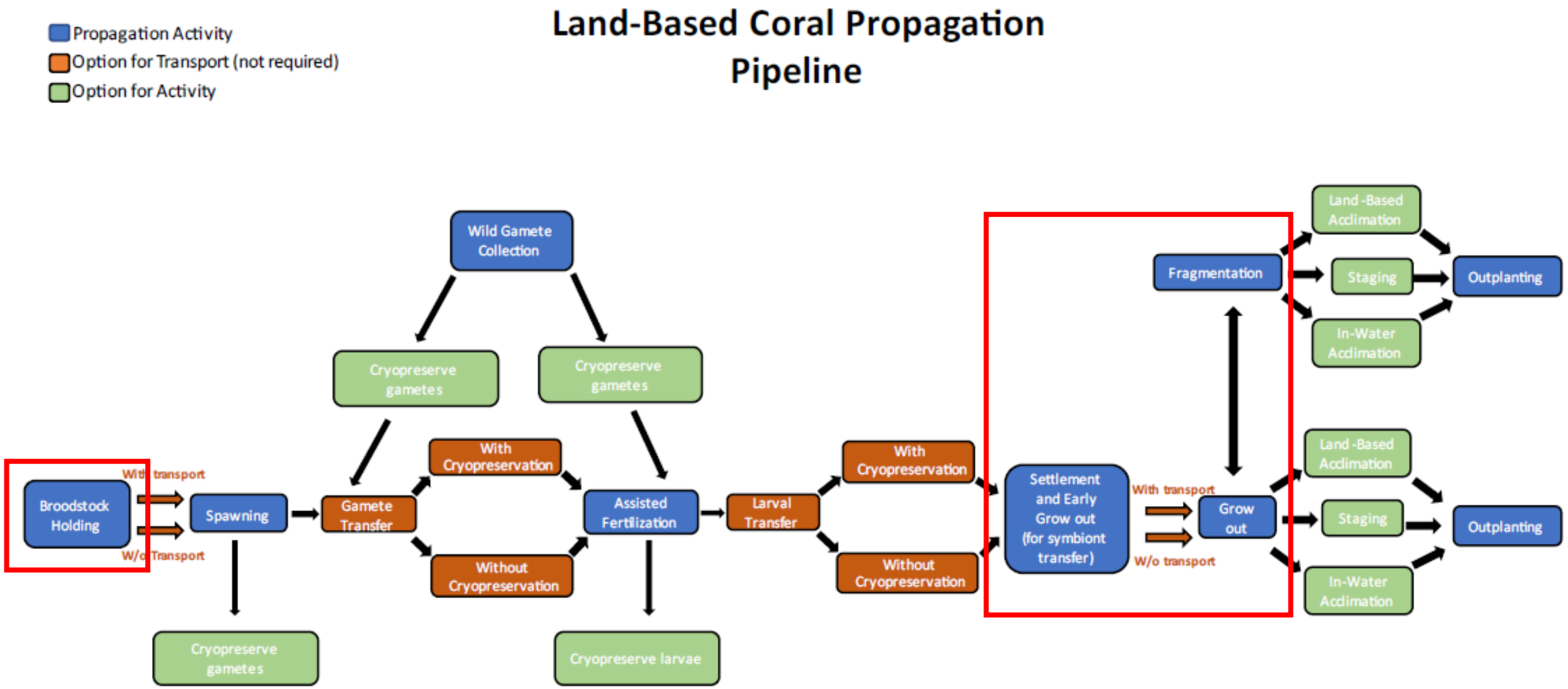
Proposed Metrics:

- # and size of new tanks
- Size of expanded facility area
- # of corals grown to outplant size (15 month+)

Funding: FCR3 Grants supplemented with Coral Resilience funding for efficiency research.

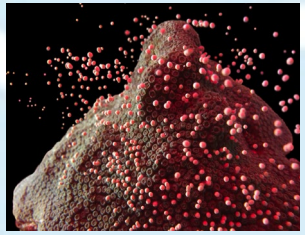
FCR3 Initiative

Strategically Augmenting Coral Reef Restoration Capacity, Capability, and Success



State Appropriations
FY24-25

$9,500,000 – FCR3 Grants (DEP)


Species list for propagation during 2024-25

High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Colpophyllia natans	MALI	ALAM
Diploria labyrinthiformis	MANG	DCYL
Montastraea cavernosa	MAUR	DSTO
Pseudodiploria strigosa	MFER	EFAS
Orbicella faveolata	MLAM	FFRA
	OANN	MMEA
	PCLI	OFRA
		SBOU

Characteristics considered for species prioritization:

- More Resilient to Thermal Stress
- Major Reef Builders
- Likelihood of Extinction without Human Intervention
- Large-Scale Propagation vs. Research Needs
- High Growth and Survival Rates
- Species Diversity
- Interest in Propagation by Partners

FCR3 Initiative

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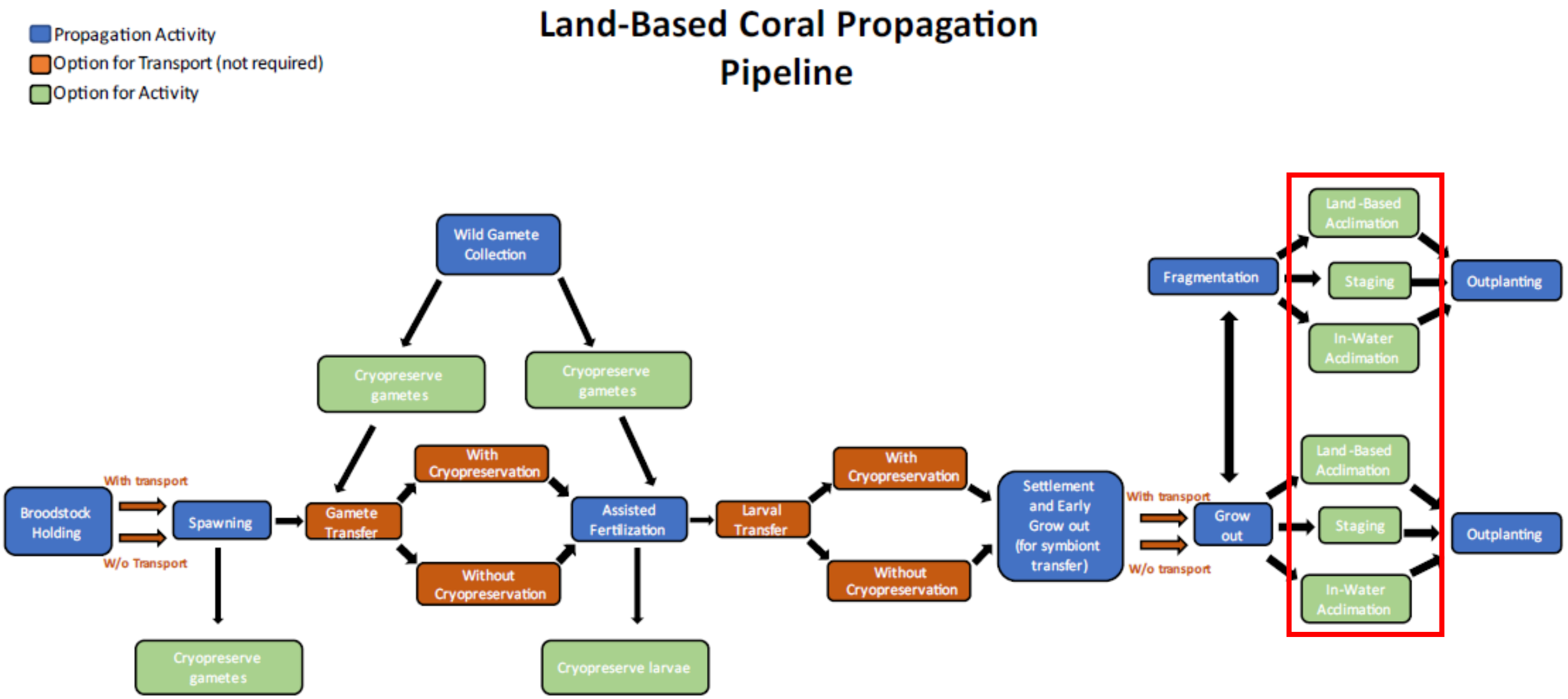
Design, construction, and staffing/operations of new "FCR3 Success Centers" in each county

FAU HBOI
ORA (Private) Coral Facility
4,200 sq ft - $2.5M

FLAQ Coral Conservation Complex - $4.5M

FCR3 Initiative

Strategically Augmenting Coral Reef Restoration Capacity, Capability, and Success



Thank you!

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