GETTING THE WATER RIGHT: ECONOMIC LINKS BETWEEN EVERGLADES RESTORATION AND THE FLORIDA KEYS

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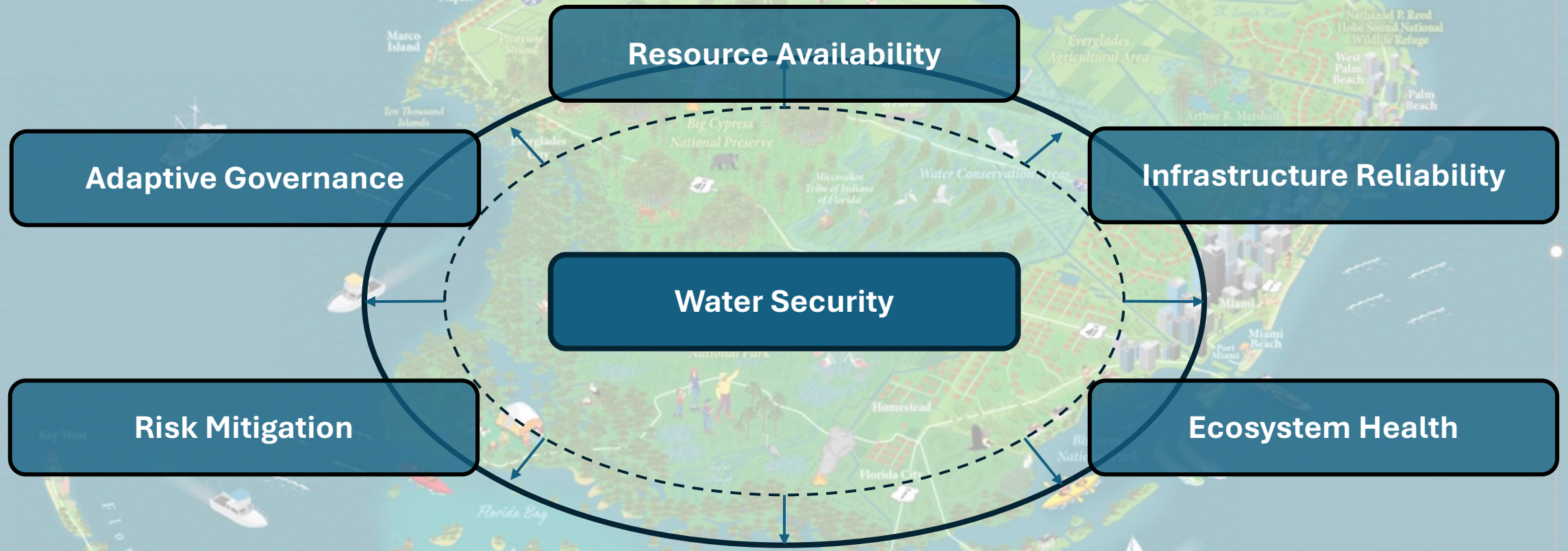
The Everglades Foundation

Healthy natural capital underpins the economy and tax base. Investment in restoration and management is an economic strategy for resilience.

Water security is a joint condition delivered by getting the water right (*QQTD*).



THE EVERGLADES FOUNDATION

FOREVERGLADES
CLEAN WATER
ECONOMY

16 Counties of Greater Everglades

Businesses: 400,000
Jobs: 7.6 Million
GDP: $791 Billion

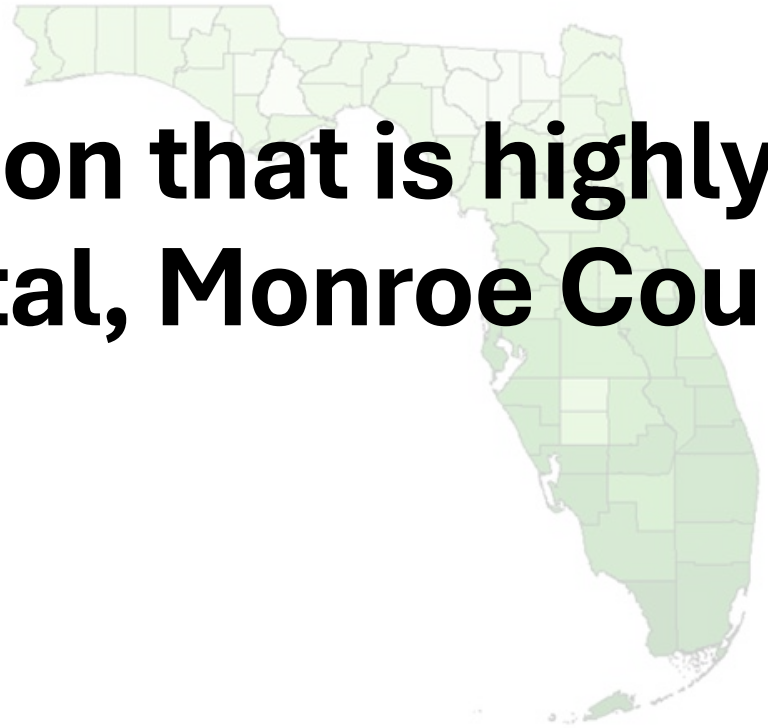
Clean Water Economy Direct Contribution

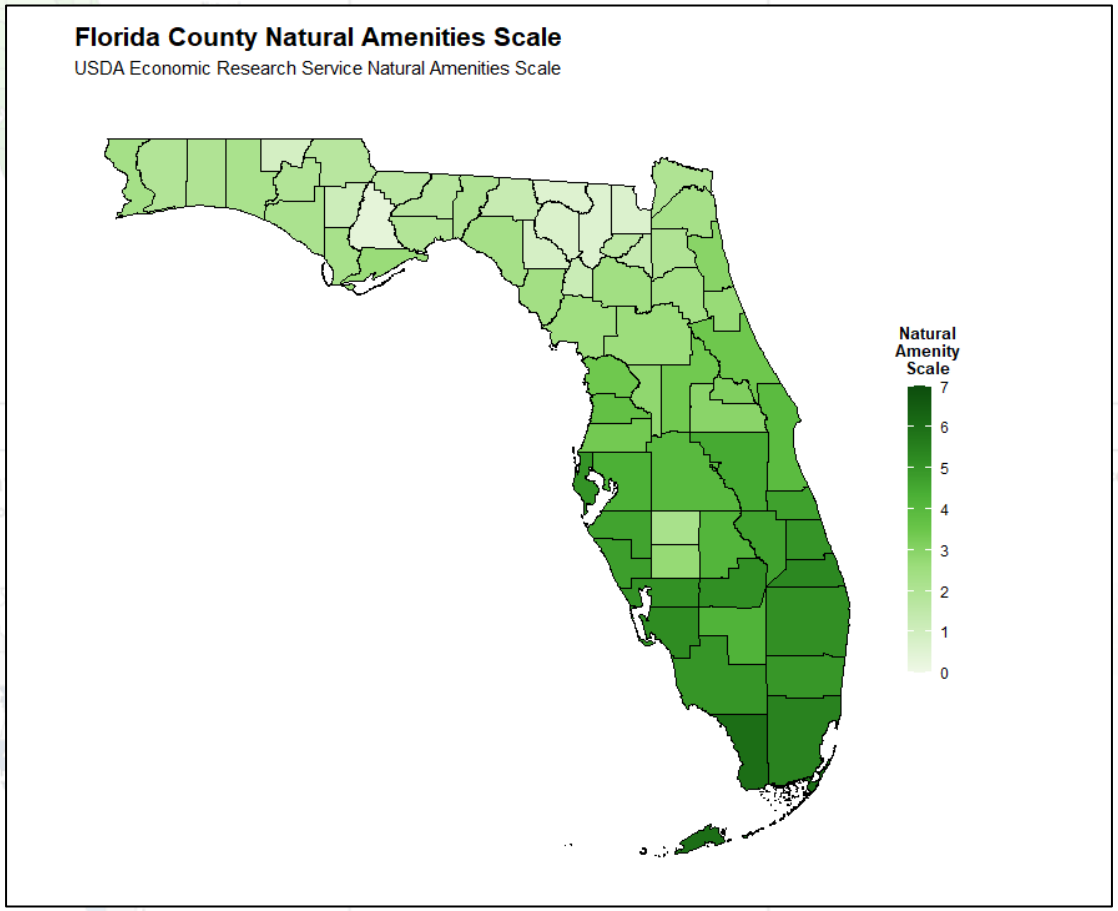
Businesses: 84,000
Jobs: 2.03 Million
GDP: $223.5 Billion

Clean Water Economy Direct, Indirect, and Induced

Jobs: 3.06 Million
GDP: $329.9 Billion

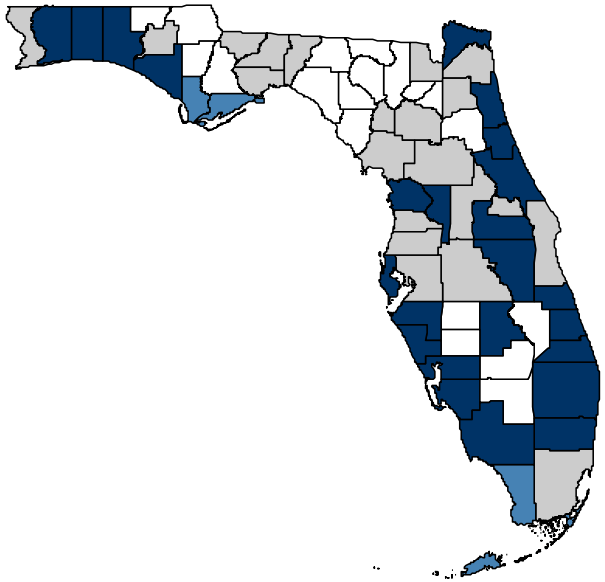
Within a region that is highly reliant on its natural capital, Monroe County stands out.




Florida County Natural Amenities Scale
USDA Economic Research Service Natural Amenities Scale
Natural Amenity Scale
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0

High recreation-concentration counties, Florida, 2025

Based on USDA ERS 2025 County Typology Codes



High recreation concentration: Urban

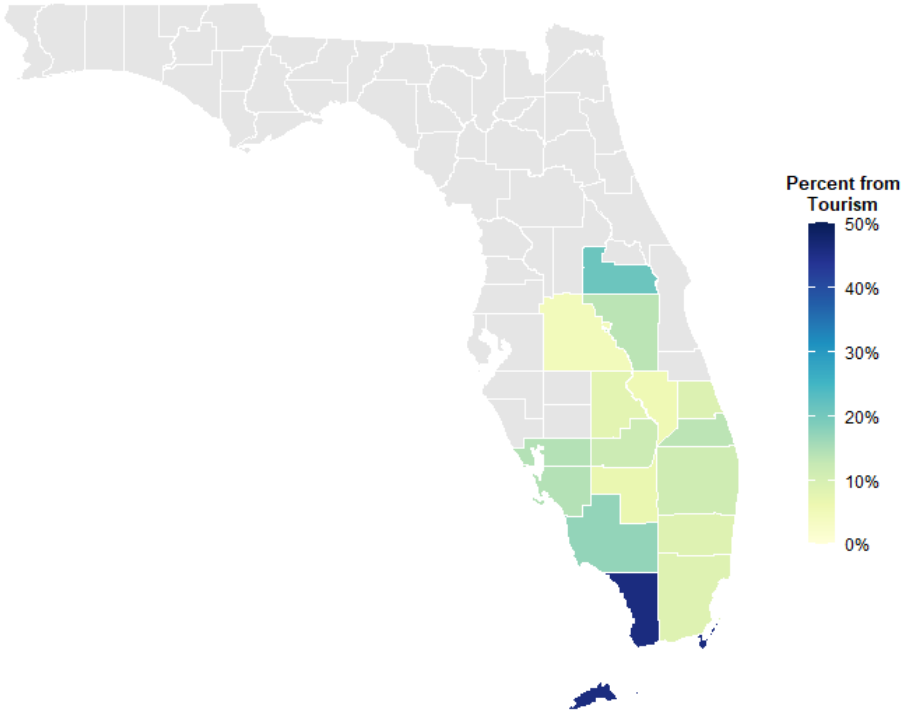
High recreation concentration: Rural

Not high recreation concentration: Urban

Not high recreation concentration: Rural

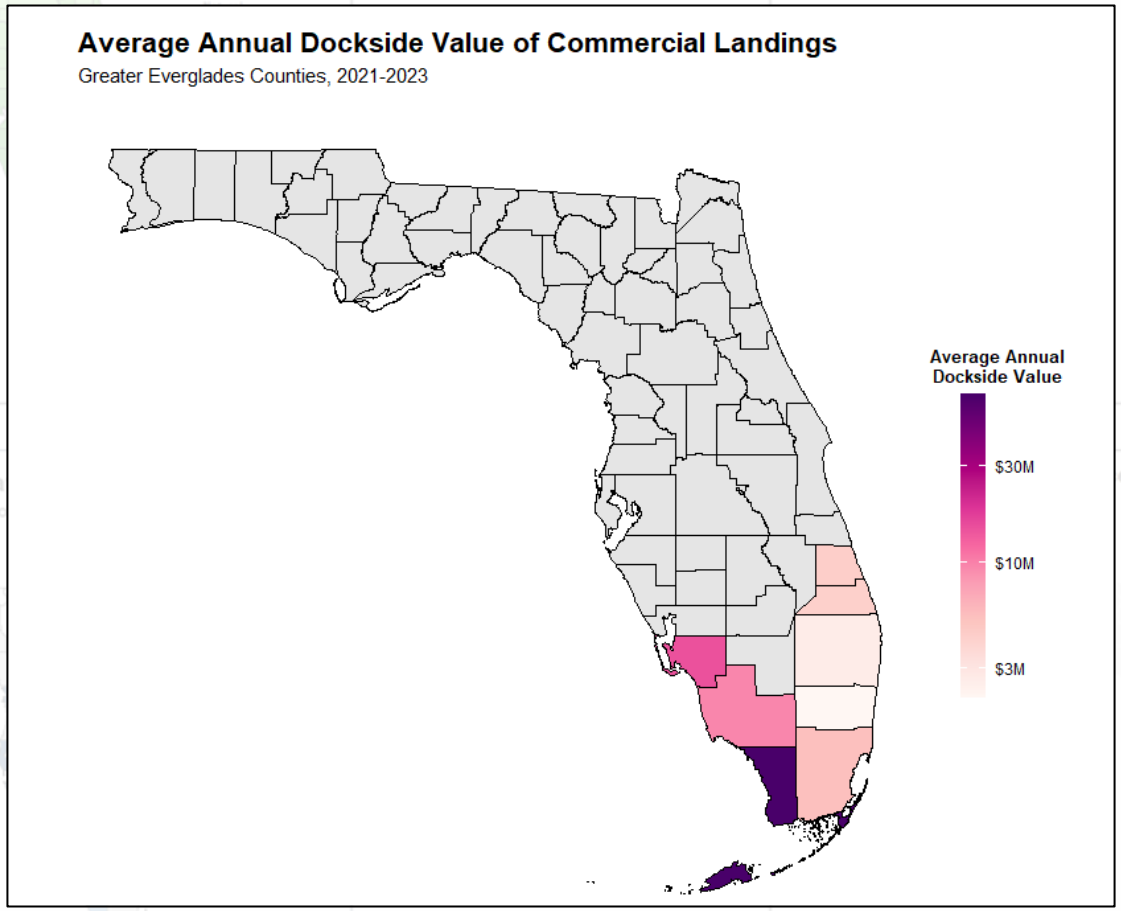
Tourism and Recreation as Percent of Total Revenue

Florida Department of Revenue, 2024

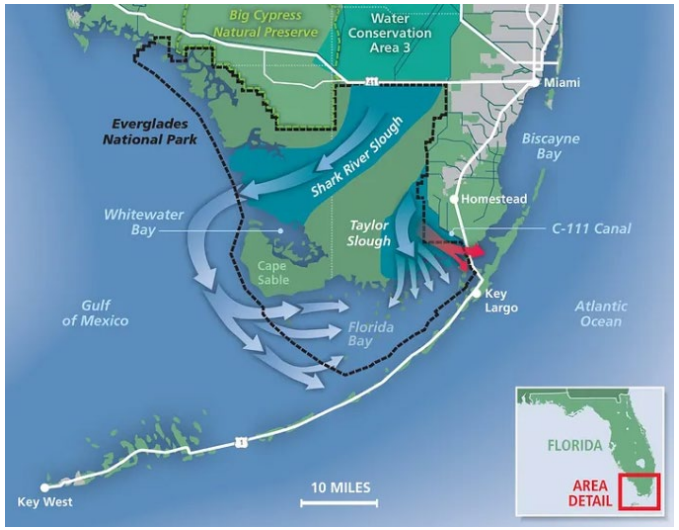


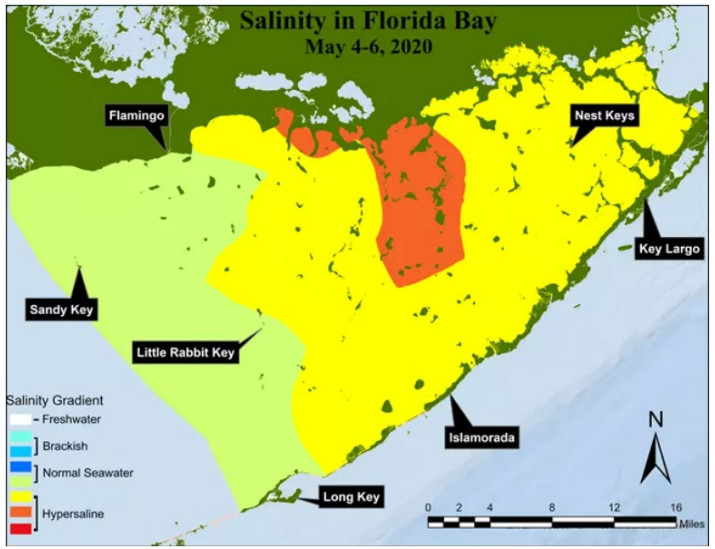
Average Annual Dockside Value of Commercial Landings

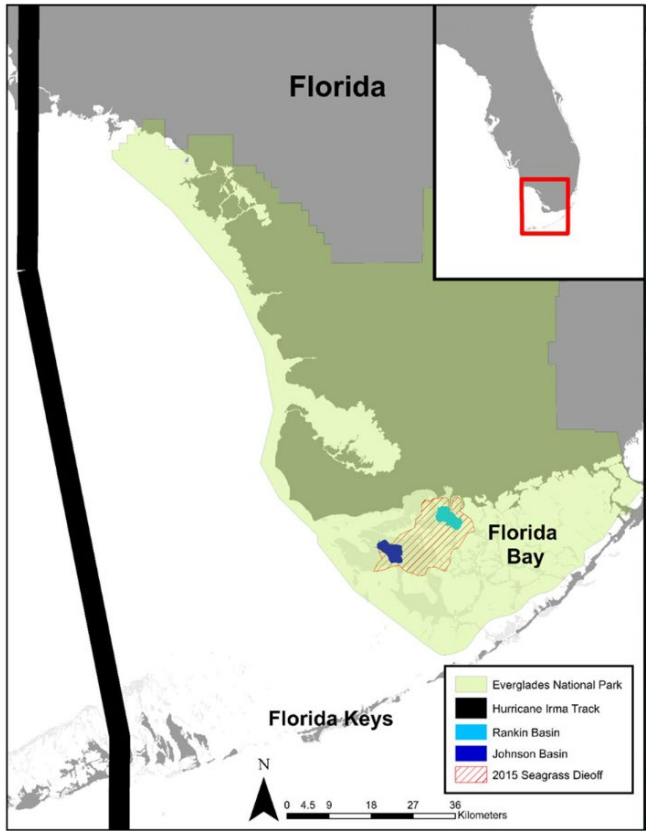
Greater Everglades Counties, 2021-2023



Getting the Water Right is a critical enabling condition for Florida Bay conditions and connected to reef resilience







Rodemann et al. (2021)

Tourism & Recreation

- FKNMS Nature Based Tourism responsible for **roughly $4.4 billion in economic output annually (**TBD Economics 2019)
- Avid repeat visitors willing to pay $207 per person per day of snorkeling (Park et al 2002)

Coastal Protection

- coral reefs were found to avert about **$675 million** in property damage and economic losses each year (Reguero et al 2021)
- Storm protection from mangroves valued at $7250 ha/year ($2023) (Sun & Carson 2020)
- Frood protection from freshwater wetlands valued at $3500 ha/year ($2023) (Druckenmiller and Taylor 2021)

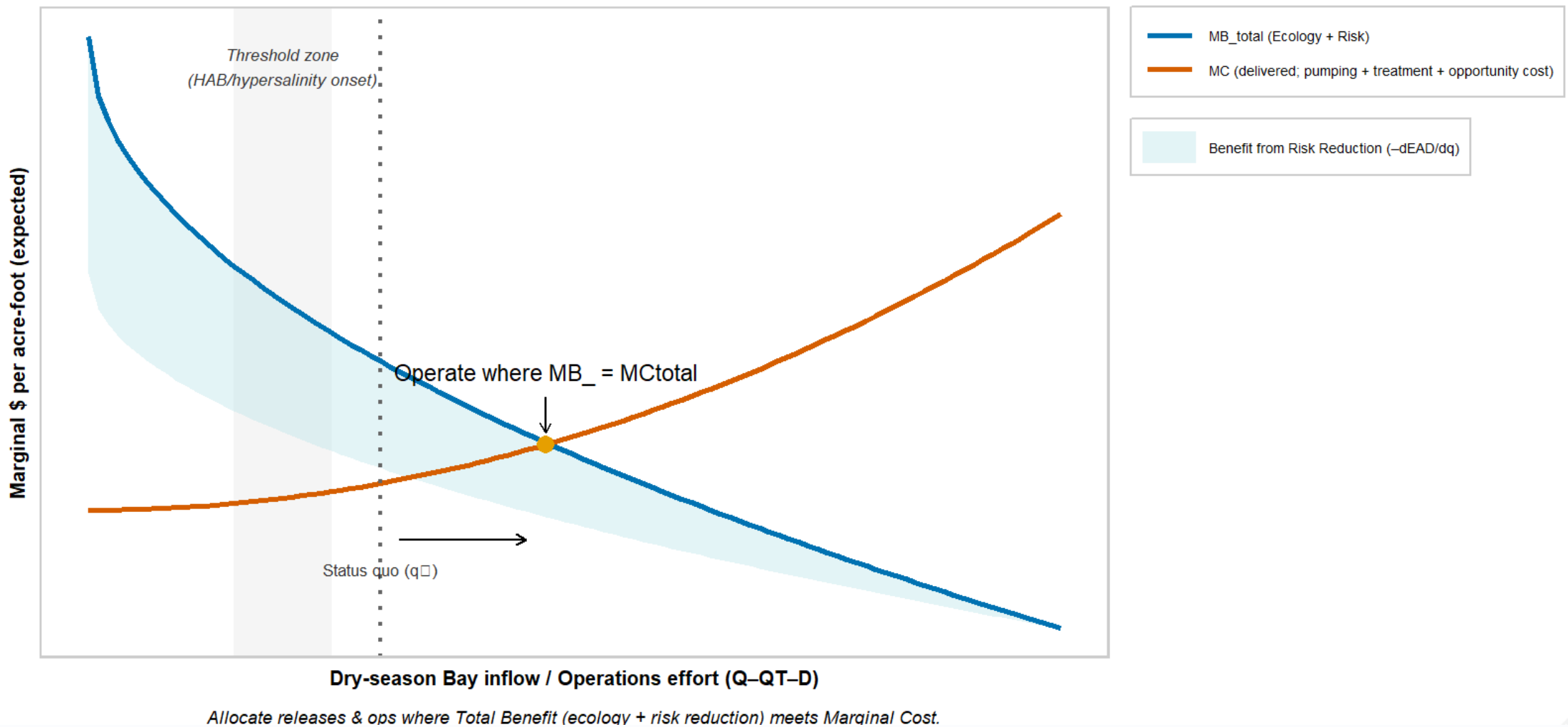
Fisheries and Nurseries

- recreational anglers in Florida Bay anglers: **$439 million per year** in economic activity (Stainback et al 2019)
- **$69 million per year** in economic fishing value **lost** due to reduced freshwater inflows (Brown et al 2018)

Drinking Water Supply

- **87–90%** potable water from the Biscayne Aquifer via FKAA; **~17.8 MGD**

Getting the Water Right = tuning **Quantity, Quality, Timing, Distribution** to maximize net benefits and reduce risk.



The Roadmap:
The Case for Restoration and Protection

The Asset
The Value of the Everglades

The Problem
Degradation of the System

The Solution
Restoration and Protection