

THE PAST 10 YEARS OF WATER QUALITY RESEARCH ON THE INDIAN RIVER LAGOON: AN ONGOING REVIEW

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The Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is a subtropical estuary situated along south Florida's Atlantic coast. Scientific literature on the lagoon has been published since the early 20th century, but research concerning the health of the lagoon has increased as the ecosystem reaches what scientists are referring to as a 'potential crash' because of Harmful Algal Blooms caused by poor water quality. The goal of this study is to provide a state-of-the-art review on the most recent 10 years of published research about the IRL's water quality challenges. The review focused on analyzing metrics related to discipline and field of the study, major outputs or scientific contributions, pollutant source from point or non-point sources, and who overall has been contributors in the last two decades of IRL focused published research. These metrics were collected from peer-reviewed documentation with the keywords 'Indian River Lagoon', 'Water Quality', and 'Harmful Algal Blooms' collected from Google Scholar and Scopus between the years 2013 and 2023. Expected outcomes from this review will identify which areas of study might have been overlooked, highlight major scientific progress, provide insight into who the research stakeholders are in each field, and open a discussion on where efforts could be more focused in future research to improve efficiency in combating the water quality challenges. It will also serve as a resource to stakeholders interested in specific challenges regarding the IRL by informing them of the past and ongoing research contributors working in those areas.

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