



# Everglades Coalition

1000 Friends of Florida  
Arthur R. Marshall Foundation  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Society of the Everglades  
Audubon of Southwest Florida  
Caloosahatchee River Citizens  
Association / Riverwatch  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Clean Water Action  
Collier County Audubon Society  
Conservancy of Southwest Florida  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Ding Darling Wildlife Society  
Earthjustice  
Environment Florida  
Everglades Coordinating Council  
Everglades Foundation  
Everglades Law Center  
Florida Conservation Alliance  
Florida Defenders of the Environment  
Florida Keys Environmental Fund  
Florida Native Plant Society  
Florida Oceanographic Society  
Florida Wildlife Federation  
Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall  
Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Everglades  
Hendry Glades Audubon Society  
Institute for Regional Conservation  
Izaak Walton League Florida Division  
Izaak Walton League Florida Keys Chapter  
Izaak Walton League Mangrove Chapter  
Izaak Walton League of America  
Last Stand  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
Loxahatchee River Coalition  
Martin County Conservation Alliance  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
Ocean Research & Conservation Association  
Reef Relief  
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation  
Save It Now, Glades!  
Sierra Club  
Sierra Club Broward Group  
Sierra Club Calusa Group  
Sierra Club Central Florida Group  
Sierra Club Florida Chapter  
Sierra Club Loxahatchee Group  
Sierra Club Miami Group  
Snook and Gamefish Foundation  
South Florida Audubon Society  
Tropical Audubon Society  
The Urban Environment League of  
Greater Miami

## **A Resolution of the Everglades Coalition in Support of the Establishment of a Marine Reserve in Biscayne National Park to Promote Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation and Enhancement**

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is a national treasure, protecting part of the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the longest stretch of mangrove forest remaining on Florida's east coast, providing habitat and nursery grounds for important commercial and recreational fish, shellfish, and crustaceans, and offering refuge to many endangered species;

WHEREAS, Biscayne is the largest marine park in the National Park System, established by Congress to protect "a rare combination of terrestrial, marine, and amphibious life in a tropical setting of great natural beauty" for present and future generations;

WHEREAS, Biscayne Bay is closely linked to the greater Everglades ecosystem, directly connected to the waters of Florida Bay and receiving much-needed freshwater inflows from the Everglades;

WHEREAS, coral reef health and fish populations in Biscayne National Park have been on the decline for decades due to many cumulative stressors, including acidification, warming seas, over-fishing and over-use, leaving some species populations on the verge of collapse;

WHEREAS, Biscayne National Park is in the process of updating its General Management Plan, which will guide park management over the next 20 years and is considering the creation of a marine reserve as an alternative to protect the park's severely threatened coral reef ecosystems;

WHEREAS, marine reserves are a science-based tool used to protect coral reef ecosystems and fish populations, reducing impacts from marine debris and damage to coral reefs, and providing areas where different types of recreational users can enjoy marine resources without interference from extractive activities.

*Therefore, be it resolved:*

The Everglades Coalition, with 55 organizations dedicated to the full protection and restoration of America's Everglades, is in support of the creation of a marine reserve within Biscayne National Park in order to ensure the conservation and protection of Biscayne's incredible marine resources for the benefit of all Americans for generations to come.

*Cara Capp*

Cara Capp  
National Co-Chair

Jason Totoiu  
State Co-Chair