

# The Miami River-

The Miami River is 5.5 miles long and runs through the heart of Miami to Biscayne Bay. It is the busiest seaport in the state generating \$5 billion in business and employing more than 8,000. There are a total of 66 piers, wharves and docks on the Miami River. In 1998, 4,172 cargo vessels arrived to the Miami River to trade with more than 82 ports throughout the Caribbean and Central and South America. Commercial shipping industry is the most important business for the river followed by recreational boating construction and repairs. The Miami River also provides neighborhoods and parks to benefit residents and tourist.

The Miami River is the largest tributary to Biscayne Bay. The river must meet specific water quality standards to support a variety of marine plant and animal life within the bay. Having good sanitary sewers and storm water drainage systems is essential to improve water quality in the river. The dredging of the Miami River, scheduled to begin in the fall of 2002, will help to remove contaminated sediments on the river bottom and reduce polluted materials from reaching the bay.

