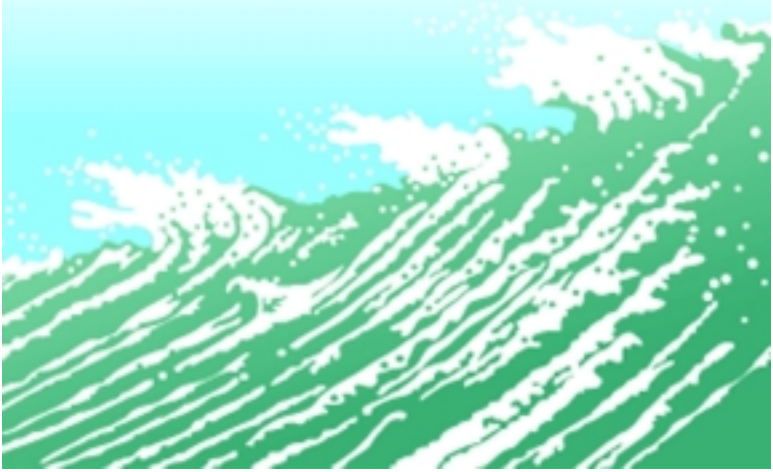
The Carbon Dioxide 'Sponge'

Biscayne Bay, along with the rest of the worlds oceans and seas, plays an important role in slowing the global warming expected to occur as the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases. Without major water bodies to act like sponges to soak up carbon dioxide, the annual carbon dioxide build-up in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels would increase by 50 percent. Each time a wave breaks, the temporary whitecap and its plume of spray acts as a vent, allowing the transfer of carbon dioxide from air to the waters of Biscayne Bay that absorb it.



Biscayne Bubbles

Sea Grant Florida

NOAA

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Graphic: Milton Moore/The Day