

Ecosystem-based science in south Florida

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SEFSC and AOML, in addition to other NOAA partners at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, have been collaborating on research to investigate the effects of Everglades Restoration on the downstream marine ecosystem since the mid-1990s. This collaboration has included serving on joint committees, co-staffing the Department of Commerce representative to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, developing joint research projects, and co-authoring peer-reviewed publications on the south Florida ecosystem and its reliance on the upstream Everglades. Currently, there is an ongoing collaboration aimed at understanding how Everglades Restoration and climate change are likely to affect the habitat for commercial and recreationally important fishery species, as well as their key prey items. Moreover, there was a recent publication with co-authors from each facility that used habitat suitability index models to evaluate the likely impact of climate change on habitat for key juvenile fishery species and their prey items.

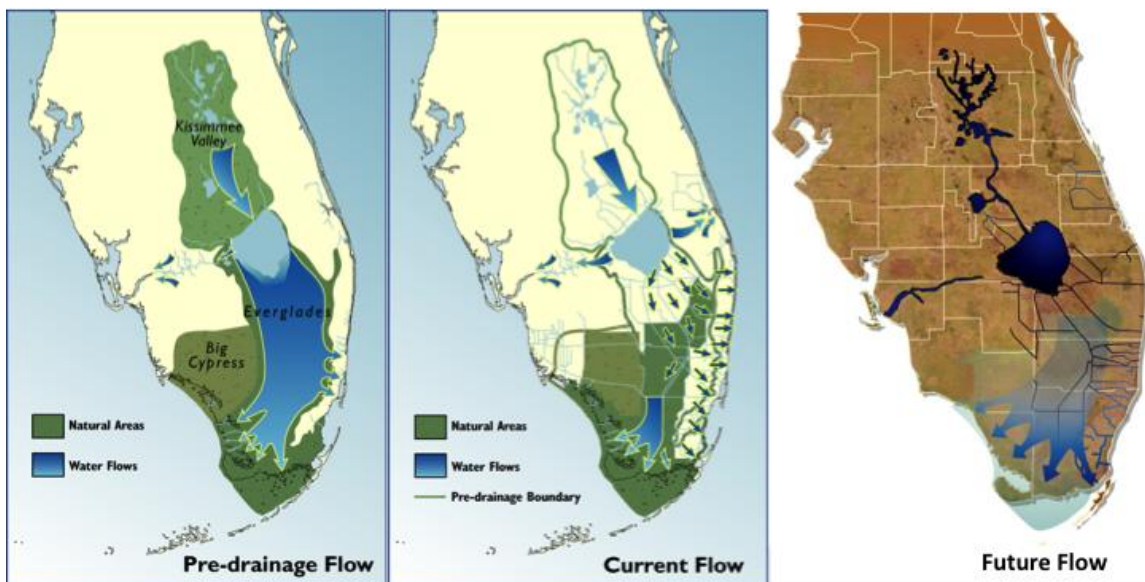


Figure: Depiction of the Everglades ecosystem prior to land reclamation and associated drainage (left panel), under current hydrological conditions (center panel), and the idealized future flow after the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan has been implemented (right panel).