



To protect and care for Southwest Florida's coastal ecosystems.

2021 State Legislative Priorities

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) is a non-profit, science-based organization that is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of Sanibel and Captiva islands, our watersheds, and surrounding waters.

Conservation

- SCCF supports statutorily dedicated funding for the **Florida Forever** conservation and recreation lands program. Land conservation is critical for supporting Florida's tourism and nature-based economy.

Ecosystem Restoration

- SCCF supports full funding for the construction of the **C-43 West Basin Reservoir**, with the goal of completing construction by 2023. We also support continued funding for design and implementation of a **Water Quality Treatment Component** for the reservoir. This project is essential for restoring clean freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee estuary.
- SCCF supports prioritizing funding and expediting the **Everglades Agricultural Area Reservoir and Stormwater Treatment Area**. The EAA Reservoir Project is critical for reducing the damaging high-volume discharges to the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries and rehydrating the Everglades.
- SCCF supports funding for the **Lake Hicpochee Phase II Project**. The project includes construction of a Flow Equalization Basin (FEB) that will provide an estimated 9,000 acre-feet of shallow storage for local stormwater and Lake Okeechobee regulatory releases that would otherwise go into the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

Water Quality

- SCCF supports **updating statewide stormwater standards** for development to reduce runoff of pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids to protect water quality.
- SCCF supports **reinstatement of the Works of the District** permitting program in the Lake Okeechobee, Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie watersheds to help control pollution at the source.
- SCCF **opposes** continued funding for **M-CORES** due to water quality and wildlife habitat impacts that will result from the project.

Harmful Algal Blooms

- SCCF supports implementation and funding of the **Blue-Green Algae Taskforce** recommendations to address nutrient sources and innovative technologies to mitigate blooms.
- SCCF supports **FWC's Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force** and funding for research and monitoring of red tide and other harmful algal blooms in Florida's coastal waters.

Protection of Home Rule

- SCCF supports **Home Rule** and opposes any statewide pre-emption policies that would restrict the ability of local governments to regulate land use and protect natural resources.

Local Projects

- SCCF supports \$750k in funding for the **Sanibel Phase 4 Sewer Expansion Project**.