



SCCF
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA
CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

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

2024 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 increased 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 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 continued funding to complete construction of the **C-43 reservoir and water quality treatment component**. This project is essential for restoring clean freshwater flows to the Caloosahatchee estuary.
- 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.
- SCCF supports **full funding for Everglades restoration** to keep projects on track with the Integrated Delivery Schedule (IDS). Everglades restoration is essential to improve the health of the Caloosahatchee.
- SCCF will strongly oppose any effort to limit, weaken or rollback wetland protection efforts defined in the Federal/State assumed 404 program.
- SCCF will strongly oppose introduction or expansion of mitigation programs that allow for the destruction of wetlands, mangroves, seagrass, or other fragile ecosystems.

Water Quality

- SCCF supports **updating statewide stormwater standards** for development to meaningfully reduce runoff of pollutants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and suspended solids to protect water quality.

- SCCF oppose weakening permitting requirements for development in wetlands, coastal high-hazard area and other sensitive locations to ensure that adequate protections remain in place for natural resources.

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.
- SCCF supports the reduction of manmade nutrients into our waterways through voluntary programs such as **BMPs** and **Septic to Sewer Conversions**, as well as enhanced regulatory protections for our waters.

Resiliency

- SCCF supports **protections to net metering** and other incentives to the implementation of roof-top solar for individuals
- SCCF supports the monitoring of the implementation of the **Resilient Florida Program** to ensure that grant funding is being spent thoughtfully on solutions to climate change
- SCCF continues to support a **ban on oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico** and a transition to energy sources that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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 local ordinances, such as fertilizer restrictions, to protect our natural resources.