

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council: A Council in Transition

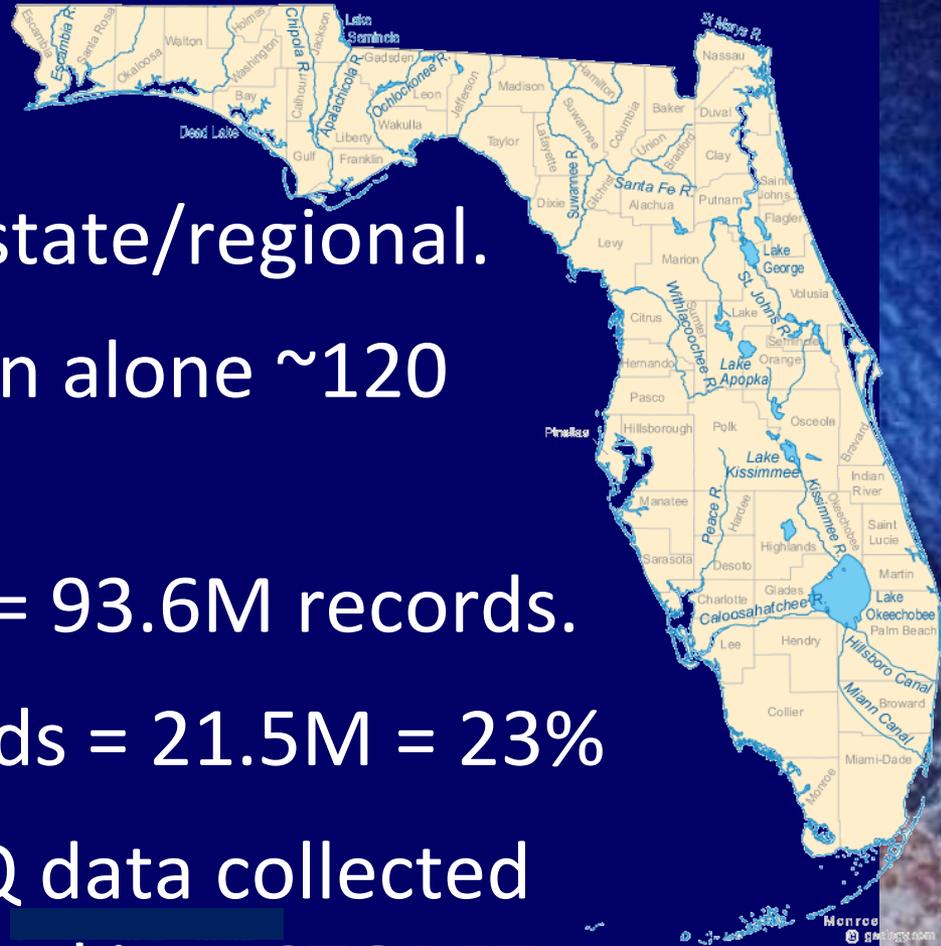
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- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- Gulf of Mexico Alliance

***Pretending to be Gail Sloane, FDEP**

Setting the Stage: Scale

- Monitoring carried out by ~200-225 entities, including 9 state/regional.
- Everglades restoration alone ~120 monitoring projects.
- Modernized STORET = 93.6M records.
- Florida STORET records = 21.5M = 23%
- Estimated 50% of WQ data collected in Florida is not entered into STORET



FWRMC History

- 2005 – 2006
 - A broad audience of stakeholders participated in preliminary meetings to organize a council.
- 2006
 - FDEP established FWRMC, a purposely-small, targeted, advisory Council
 - 10 Council seats
 - 4 Council charges

FWRMC

FDEP

FLERA

DACS

FWC

**Florida Water Resources
Monitoring Council**

DOH

FDEP Chair & Liaison

NFWWMD

SJRWMD

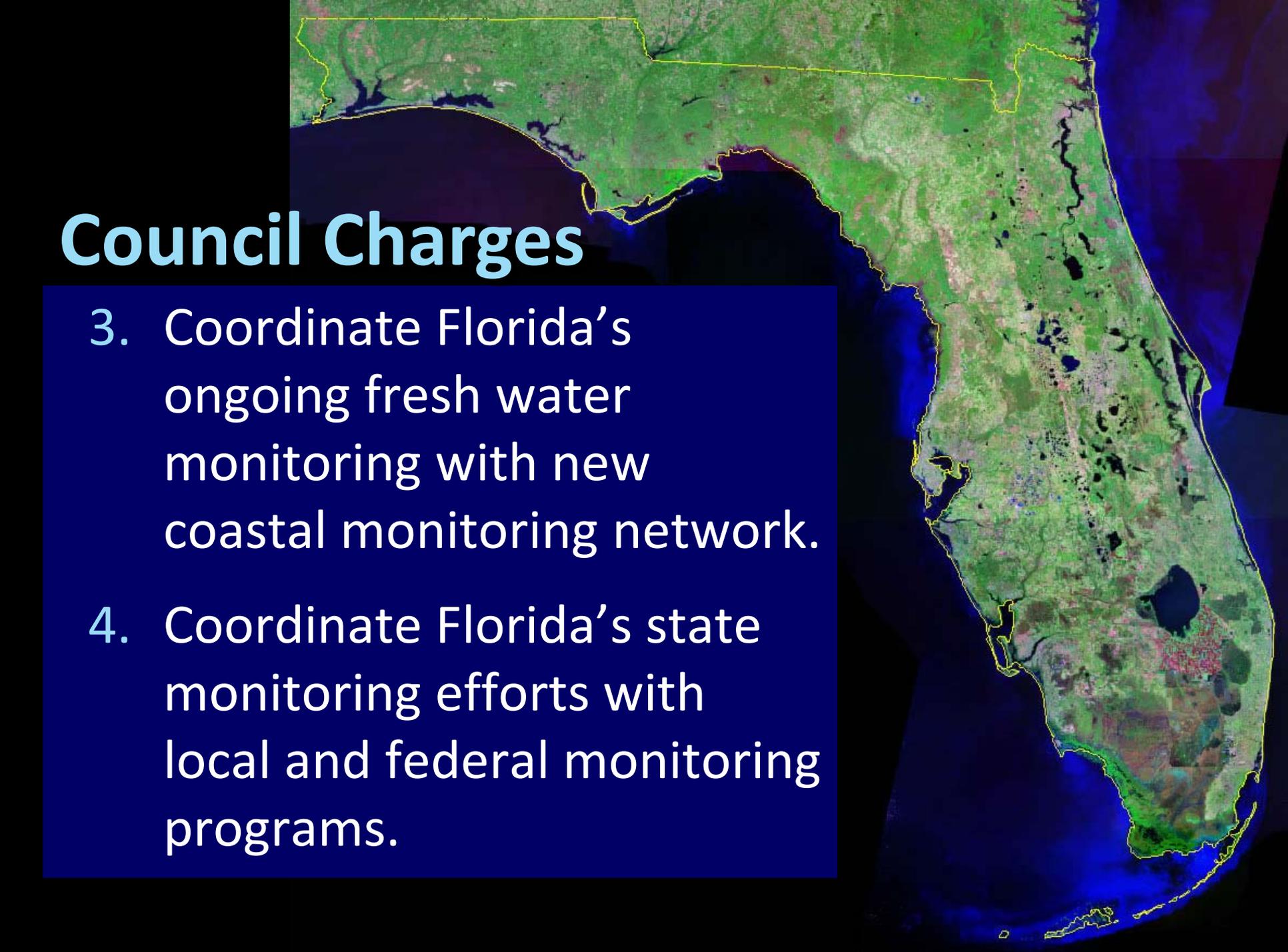
SRWMD

SWFWMD

SFWMD

Council Charges

1. Develop water resource metadata standards for adoption by state agencies.
2. Support development of a replacement for STORET for sharing WQ data.

A satellite-style map of the state of Florida, outlined in yellow. The map shows various geographical features like rivers, lakes, and urban areas. The background is dark blue, suggesting the ocean.

Council Charges

3. Coordinate Florida's ongoing fresh water monitoring with new coastal monitoring network.
4. Coordinate Florida's state monitoring efforts with local and federal monitoring programs.

Data Challenges

- Encourage organizations to share data/information with others
- Facilitate information exchange by associating metadata with all data collected
- Use metadata to combine data from different programs and distinguish data that is appropriate for the users' purposes

Monitoring Program Challenges

- Identify and describe present monitoring programs
- Identify whether monitoring goals and programs are sufficiently similar to allow coordination of efforts and potential cost benefit
- Fill gaps in monitoring and determine where expansion of existing programs is more cost effective than adding new programs

Monitoring Coordination Challenges

- Monitoring is designed to address goals of host program.
- In general, coordinating monitoring requires identifying:
 - a) where goals of programs overlap, and/or
 - b) where sampling regime/methods of programs are compatible.

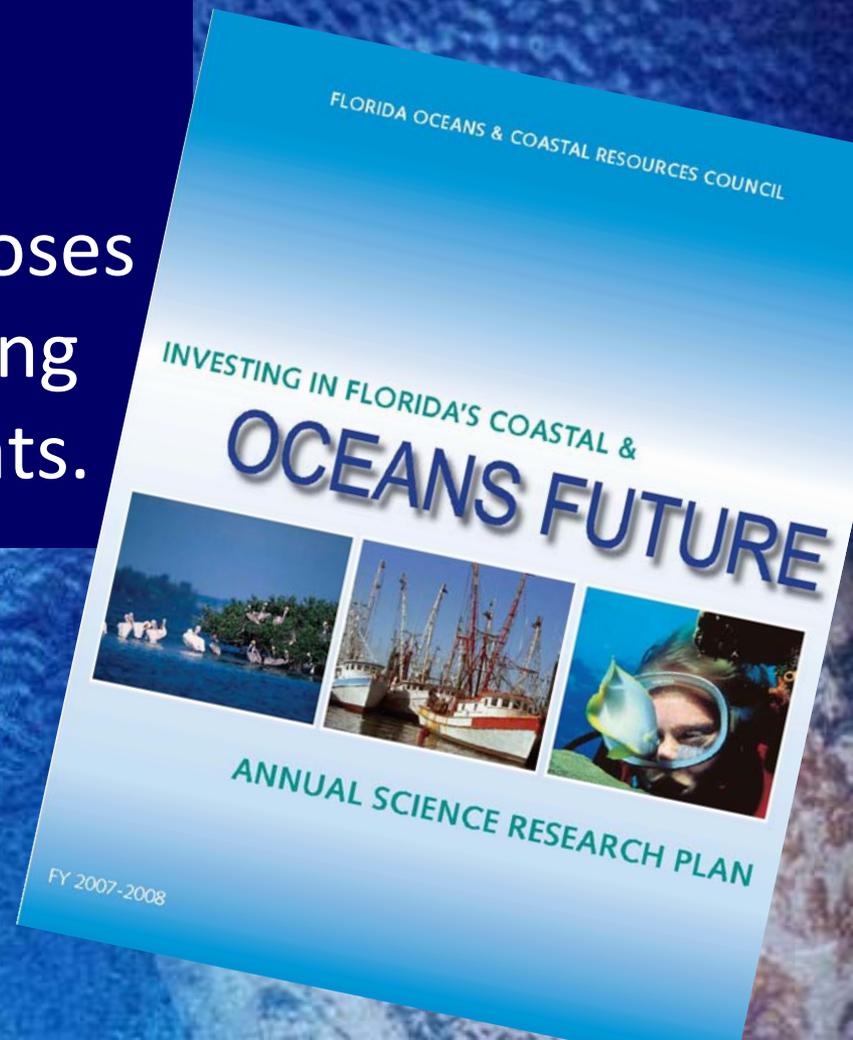
Monitoring Coordination Challenges

Coordination of freshwater and estuarine monitoring programs:

- Freshwater monitoring often doesn't support downstream estuarine needs, partly because timing of sampling often much different (driven by differing program goals)
- Often are physical gaps in sampling between the two monitoring regimes (also driven by differing program goals).

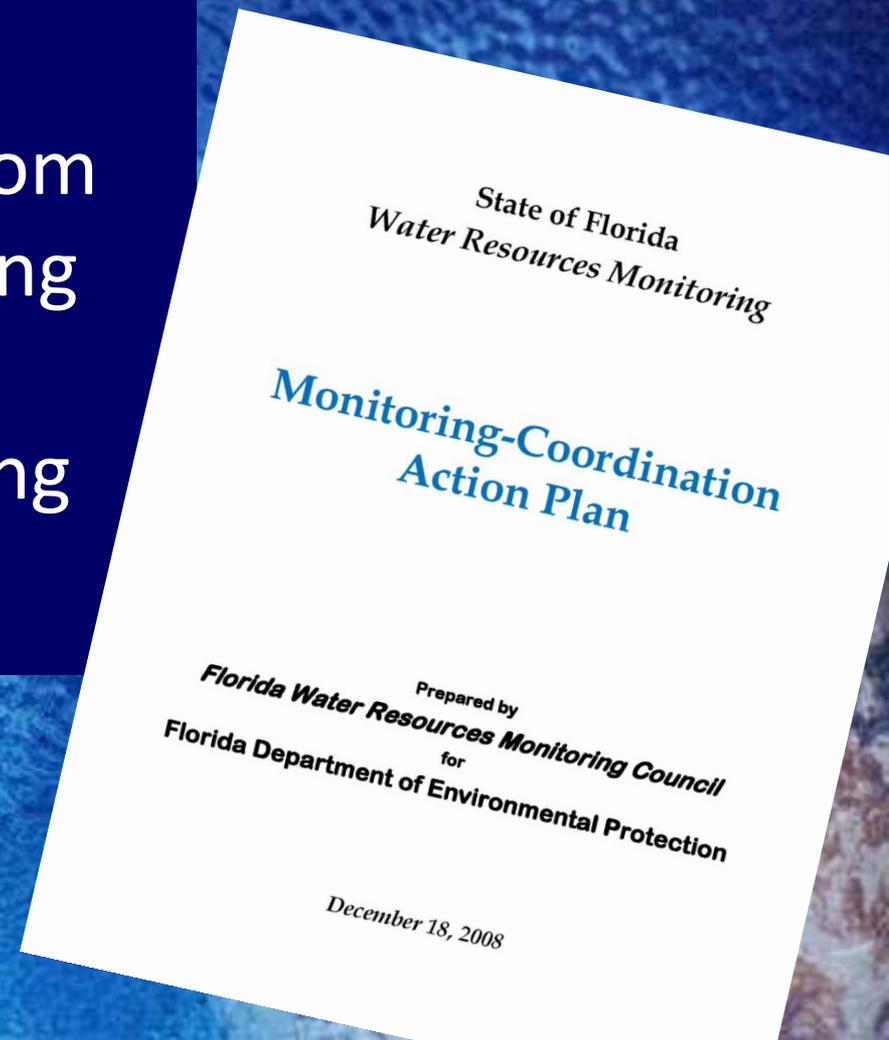
Work Products of FWRMC

- Developed draft metadata standard that allows assessment of data's suitability for user's purposes and accommodates existing metadata standard formats.



Work Products of FWRMC

- Monitoring-Coordination Action Plan
 - Provides consensus from participating monitoring agencies on how to address the overarching issues common to all.



Work Products of FWRMC

- Recommendation for new Council structure to oversee Action Plan implementation

– Tiered approach

- Statewide Council coordinated by FDEP
- Regional councils formed to engage monitoring stakeholders at a local level and whose Chairs sit on Statewide Council.

Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council

**Recommendations:
Oversight structure for implementing the
Monitoring-Coordination Action Plan**

November 20, 2008

SUMMARY - The Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council (FWRMC) recommends a three-tier oversight system for overseeing monitoring coordination. This consists of:

- a) **(Tier 1)** a statewide council responsible for overall guidance and strategies
- b) **(Tier 2)** five regional organizations composed of the monitoring entities working within the geographic boundaries of each of the five water management districts, and
- c) **(Tier 3)** sub-regional groups as needed to achieve regional monitoring goals.

Metamorphosis

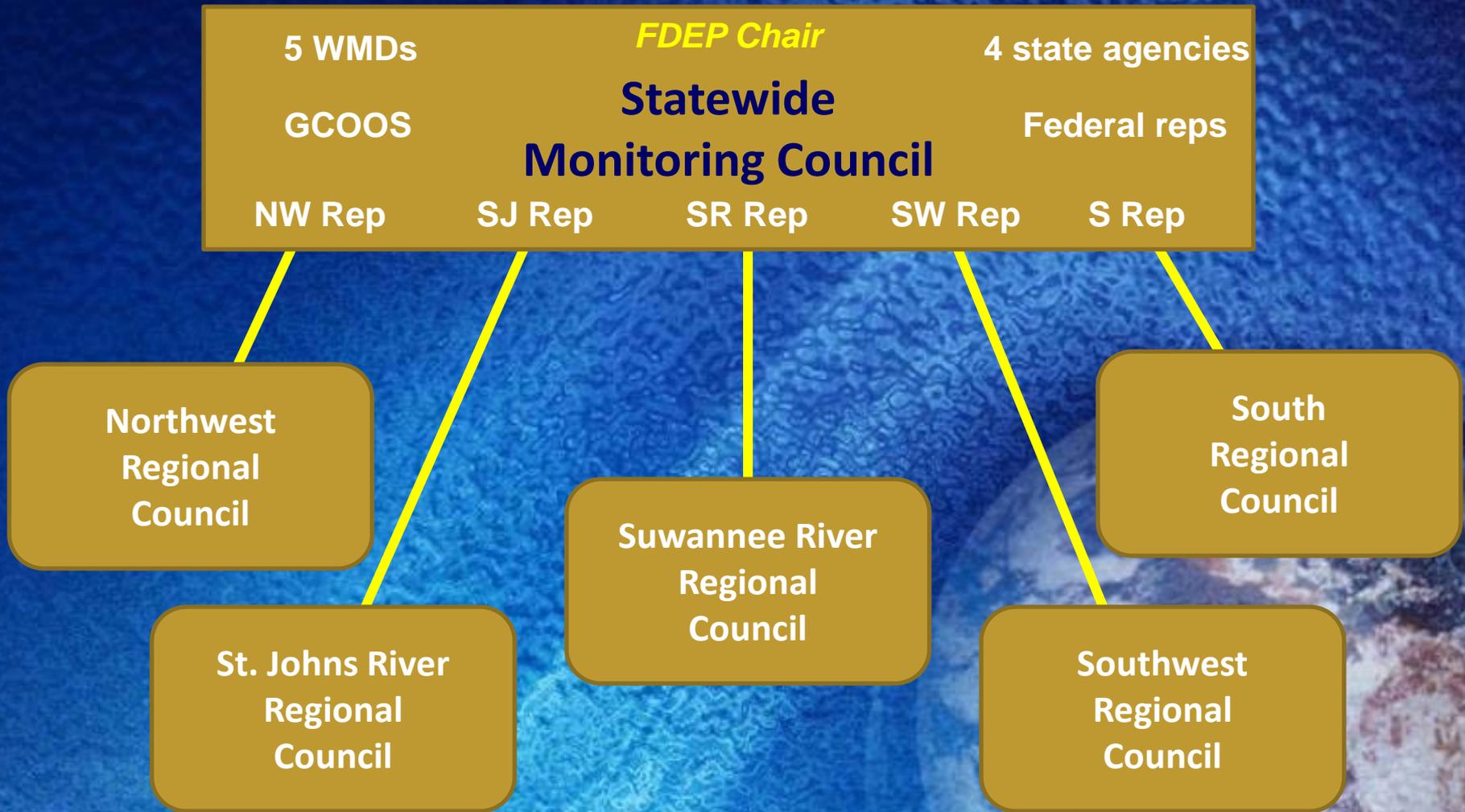
- Dissolved original Council
- Re-assignment of Council oversight within FDEP.



Re-emergence

- FDEP is in initial stages of establishing the new statewide council, following recommendations of first Council.
- FDEP has designated a Chair and Liaison positions to assist with Council efforts.

Re-emergence



Future Challenges and Opportunities

- Engage local and federal partners in next iteration of Council
- Tag-team with other efforts
 - We all have similar ideas about data sharing and accessibility to improve communication
 - Let's identify existing tools that accomplish our common goals
- Obtain dedicated funding, and agency backing including legislative support

Council Information

For additional information on background and accomplishments of FWRMC:

[www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/
WaterMonitoringCouncil](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/coastal/WaterMonitoringCouncil)

For additional information on new FWRMC:

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