



FLORIDA KEYS WATER WATCH NEWSLETTER: JUNE



JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP!

We have created a **Florida Keys Water Watch Facebook group!**

Please join the group to share water quality news articles, upcoming events, photos, or to ask questions!

[www.Facebook.com/
FloridaKeysWaterWatch](http://www.Facebook.com/FloridaKeysWaterWatch)

CONTACT INFO:

Shelly Krueger,
FKWW Program Director

305 - 292 - 4501
Krueger-Shelly@MonroeCounty-FL.gov

Did you know?

No matter where you are in Florida you are never more than 60 miles from the ocean!

WHAT'S NEW?

Florida Keys Water Watch continues to grow! As of June 2016, we have 43 sites from Key West to Key Largo and more than 385 water quality data entries!

Shelly will be presenting a summary of these data at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program Technical Advisory Committee Data Workshop in Marathon on July 14.

We have updated the chemical testing instructions with an example of the dissolved oxygen test "golden color" and "light yellow" -- let Shelly know and she will send you a laminated copy.

Florida Keys Water Watch would like to thank you for your dedication completing your monthly water quality monitoring surveys!

If you would like a FKWW hat or visor, email Shelly and request them in orange, blue, or grey.

WHAT IS RECERTIFICATION?

You may have already received a recertification email from Georgia Adopt-A-Stream. To continue with the program, Shelly needs to recertify you once per year. Please call her or email and she will arrange a time to come out to your site and replace your dissolved oxygen reagents, calibrate pH meter and run through your water quality testing. You have up to 60 days after your original training date expires to be recertified.

After 60 days your GA-AAS login will expire unless you are recertified. Recertification is for the EPA-approved Quality Assurance/Quality Control plan. If you are due for re-certification, please contact Shelly!

THE HARMFUL AFFECTS OF MICROPLASTICS

Single-use plastics and plastic (polyethylene) "microbeads" are having harmful effects on our oceans and the species that they support. Single-use plastic items



like straws, shopping bags and water bottle-caps are some common items found during beach cleanups. These items do not decompose and instead just break down into smaller pieces. And as we all may love those super soft fleece blankets and throws, those fabrics are also made of plastics! Instead of the natural fiber fabrics like cotton and rayon, these blankets use synthetics such as, microfiber, polyester, nylon and polypropylene. Every time we wash these items, tiny plastic fibers go down the drain. This is the #1 type of micro-plastic found in the ocean. More than 8 trillion particles enter US aquatic habitats each day.

Please avoid using single-use plastics such as straws, plastic non-reusable water bottles and shopping bags!

Furthermore, those "scrubbing bubbles" found in toothpastes, facial scrubs, deodorants and even makeup are oftentimes plastic pieces, as well! When these microbeads go down the drain, they do not get removed in the wastewater treatment system. Thus, ending up in our oceans. Whereas the larger pieces of plastic are being eaten by animals like sea turtles and birds, potentially starving them to death, these microbeads are also consumed by plankton, fish and shellfish. A study published by researchers in the journal Science found that "larval fish (especially Perch) exposed to microplastic particles during development displayed changed behaviors and stunted growth which lead to greatly increased mortality rates." These animals mistake them as edible and toxins often stick to the surface of the plastics. ~Madison Dorman, UF Intern 2016

MICROPLASTICS



TOOTHPASTE "SCRUBBING BUBBLES"



PLASTIC "MICROBEADS"



GOOD NEWS!

The U.S. House on Dec. 7 passed the "Microbead-Free Waters Act" which, "prohibits the manufacture and introduction into interstate commerce of rinse-off cosmetics containing intentionally-added plastic microbeads." The act language, defines microbeads as "any solid plastic particle" less than 5mm in size intended for use as an exfoliant.

On December 28, 2015 President Barack Obama signed into law the ban on these tiny plastic particles! The ban will phase out the microbeads in consumer products over the next few years, starting with a ban on manufacturing the beads in July 2017.