

Millions of Floridians will visit beaches all over the state this summer. Living on a peninsula, everyone here is affected by the condition of the water which surrounds us.

What does it say about the health of that water – and our health – when [oysters in Tampa Bay](#) are found to contain “forever chemicals” and [fish in Florida](#) are testing positive for pharmaceuticals including antidepressants and pain relievers?

LINK: [https://www.fox13news.com/news/toxic-forever-chemicals-found-in-tampa-bay-oysters-study-finds?taid=62c6025c98fe3100014848cd&utm\\_campaign=trueanthem&utm\\_medium=trueanthem&utm\\_source=twitter](https://www.fox13news.com/news/toxic-forever-chemicals-found-in-tampa-bay-oysters-study-finds?taid=62c6025c98fe3100014848cd&utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=trueanthem&utm_source=twitter)

LINK: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CfhUaf1PZR-/?igshid=MDJmNzVkMjY=>

How are we doing when it comes to protecting coastal Florida?

While environmental groups continue the hard work of helping the Gulf of Mexico, its shoreline and animals recover from the devastating effects of 2010’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill, unimaginably, the Biden Administration wants to provide for the possibility of opening [new drilling leases in the Gulf](#).

LINK: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/01/biden-interior-dept-offers-option-for-new-oil-leases-in-gulf-of-mexico.html>

By 2050, it is expected there will be [more plastic trash in the ocean](#) than fish. Think about that. In response, California recently passed the nation’s [toughest restrictions on single use plastics](#). If California can do it, why not Florida? You can answer that question for yourself.

The Biden Administration may take a step in California’s direction by setting [limits on the amount of single use plastics](#) purchased by the federal government. The U.S. government’s procurement arm will study ways to purchase fewer single-use plastic products.

The United States federal government is the single largest consumer in the world, spending more than \$650 billion on products and services each year. Any meaningful reduction it makes in single use plastics when buying things could have a tremendous influence on the amount of plastic garbage in the ocean, gulf and coast around Florida.

LINK:

[https://biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/ocean\\_plastics/?utm\\_source=eoo&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=eoo1148&utm\\_term=Oceans&emci=989a61da-76fd-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=bf6cc6c7-37fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=2023608](https://biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/ocean_plastics/?utm_source=eoo&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=eoo1148&utm_term=Oceans&emci=989a61da-76fd-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=bf6cc6c7-37fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=2023608)

LINK: <https://www.cnn.com/2022/07/01/us/california-plastic-law-climate/index.html>

LINK: <https://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/3549057-biden-administration-eyes-limits-on-single-use-plastics-in-government-purchases/?emci=989a61da-76fd-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=bf6cc6c7-37fe-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=2023608>

Unusually large numbers of dead birds are washing ashore in northeast Florida, both from [a deadly flu](#) and [fatigue](#).

LINK: <https://www.audubon.org/news/north-american-birds-face-their-own-pandemic-latest-bout-avian-flu>

LINK: <https://www.jacksonville.com/story/news/local/2012/06/22/dead-birds-washing-ashore-st-johns-county/15863024007/>

---

How does the U.S. Supreme Court's recent decision to remove the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to limit greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel plants [impact Florida](#)? A good examination of federal climate policy and how the issue has become politicized in the state and at the federal level.

LINK: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2022/07/07/u-s-supreme-court-screw-up-shackles-the-epa-on-climate-change/>

---

This Change.org petition lists the dozens of [invasive plant species being sold at Home Depot](#). Why have invasive plants taken over? Why is it so difficult to buy natives? Big Box retailers like Home Depot and Lowes and the cheap, exotic, cut rate plants they continue to purchase from nurseries and sell to the public are a HUGE reason why.

LINK: <https://www.change.org/p/stop-home-depot-from-selling-invasive-plants>