

# Transportation & Infrastructure

## Move Boats Across Land & Sea, Invest in Boating Facilities & Waterways Access

Marine manufacturers need a 21<sup>st</sup> century infrastructure system to easily transport product and consumers across the nation's land and waterways.

**35,000** MARINE BUSINESSES  
AND  
**142 MILLION** BOATERS  
**DEPEND ON IT!**

## Waterway infrastructure is critical to recreational boat access and safe operation of vessels. A reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) needs to factor in the following:

- ▶ Increased recognition for economic development in Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) project prioritization.
- ▶ Streamlined permitting for ACOE projects, including State Programmatic General Permits (SPGPs), to allow for more efficient buildout of boating infrastructure projects.
- ▶ Support for low tonnage and shallow draft channels, which are essential for recreational boaters and coastal development.
- ▶ A study on new efforts to combat Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and a survey of state best practices.

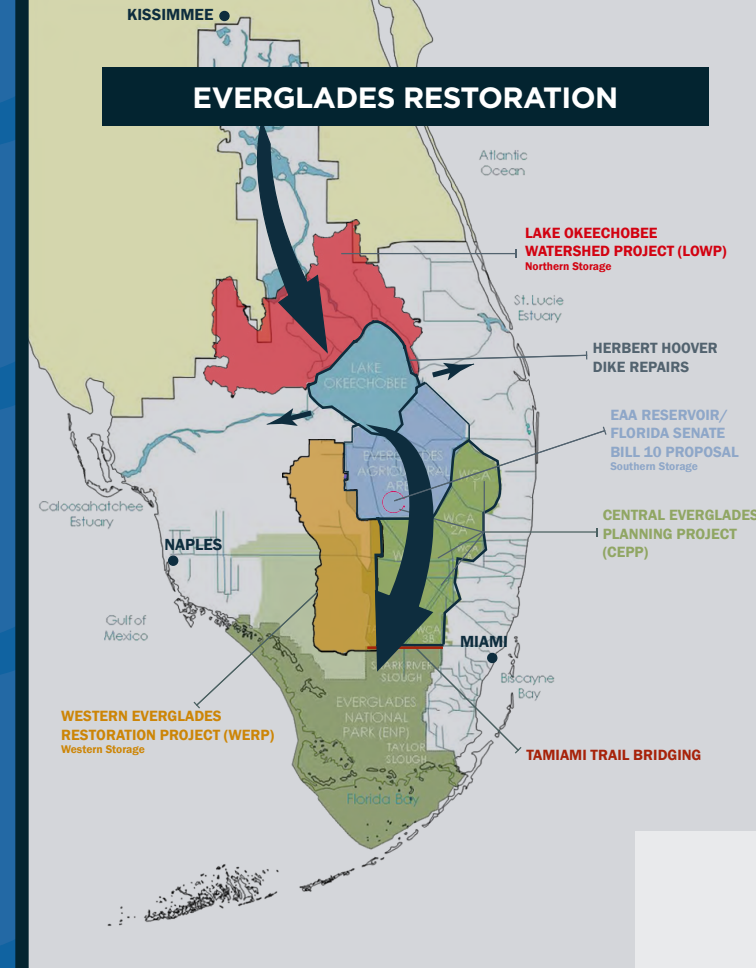
### ACTIONS FOR LEADERS TO TAKE

- 1 Pass WRDA reauthorization that addresses recreational boating needs.
- 2 Appropriate \$150 million in Operations and Maintenance accounts for the ACOE to dredge the Intracoastal Waterway and other vital recreational boating channels.
- 3 Provide \$200 million in federal matching dollars for Central Everglades Restoration Projects (CERP) in the FY19 budget.

### WHAT IS THE INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY?

The "Route 66 for Boaters"— a 3,000-mile waterway running from Boston to the southern tip of Florida, then following the Gulf Coast to Texas.

- ▶ 13,000 recreational boats transit the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) each year.
- ▶ Recreational use of the ICW pumps \$7.9 billion into local economies.
- ▶ Water depths as low as six feet impede access for both recreational and commercial boats.
- ▶ Currently, recreational use of the ICW is not counted towards overall economic value—including this segment could better prioritize resources.



- The Everglades system is a key ecological and environmental source of water and recreation for nearly 1 million Florida boaters.
- Everglades restoration and the southerly flow of water from central Florida to Florida Bay should be a priority for the federal government and state of Florida.