

"BATTERED"

Visual	Audio	Facts
	Reporter: It is hurting our wildlife. It is crippling our businesses	RED TIDE IS TOXIC TO FLORIDA WILDLIFE
		Algae Blooms Are Toxic To Florida's Wildlife. "The algal blooms in Lee county is putting the hurt on wildlife. The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) has been busy treating animals because of Red Tide. 'We are definitely extending beyond what we normally see,' Dr. Heather Barron from CROW said. 'We're getting a lot of birds and an unusual amount of sea turtles.' Dr. Barron said Red Tide and the blue-green algae blooms could be harmful for wildlife. Red Tide is a threat to sea birds, fish, and turtles. However, the green algae targets fresh water animals like ducks. 'It can be toxic to wildlife, people, and domestic animals,' Dr. Barron said. Red Tide and green algae are different types of algal blooms. They both could contain different toxins. Green algae has a neurotoxin and and a liver toxin that could give animals some trouble." [WFTX Fox 4 News, 7/3/2018]
		Florida Red Tide Produces Brevotoxins, Which Can Kill Fish, Birds, Sea Turtles, Mammals And Other Marine Animals. According to Mote Marine Laboratory: "Karenia brevis, the Florida red tide organism, kills fish by producing a potent toxin (called brevetoxin) that affects the central nervous system of the fish. The toxin can also affect birds, sea turtles, mammals and other marine animals." [Mote Marine Laboratory: Florida Red Tide FAQs accessed 9/25/2018]
		By Mid-August, 2018, Red Tide Was The Suspected Cause Of Death For Over 100 Manatees In Florida Waters. On August 20, 2018, the Tampa Bay Times



reported: "The number of manatee deaths in Florida this year has already exceeded the total for all of 2017. Blame Red Tide, which is suspected of killing more than 100 of them. So far, 554 manatees have died in 2018, with four months left to go. Last year's total was 538. As of Aug. 18, the most recent date for the running total, the Red Tide bloom had been verified as the cause of death for 29 manatees, and was suspected of killing another 74. That makes a total of 103 that appear to have fallen prey to the lingering toxic algae. Most of the suspected or confirmed Red Tide victims were found dead in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties, but one recently turned up floating in Terra Ceia Bay in Manatee County." [Tampa Bay Times, 8/20/2018]

AND CRIPPLING FLORIDA BUSINESSES

Bait Company Owner Brian Hayhurst On Fishing In Red Tide Areas: "The Catch Will Be Dead By The Time It Is In The Boat." In an August, 2018 story on the business impacts of red tide in Florida, the Naples Daily News reported: Brian Hayhurst, owner of Serenity Bait Company, 2365 Davis Blvd. in East Naples, said there's plenty of bait and fish deep down in the water, but as soon as you pull the traps or lines up through the bloom on the water's surface, the catch will be dead by the time it is in the boat." [Naples Daily News, 8/20/2018]

Vacation Properties Seeing Business Down 65%, Losing As Much As \$20,000 Per Day Due To Red Tide. In a September, 2018 story on businesses impacted by red tide, the Sarasota Herald Tribune reported: "Jackie Mauck, resort manager at Siesta Key Bungalows, estimates that business is down 65 percent from the norm this time of year. As people keep canceling reservations and new ones fail to trickle in, her workplace cut back on her hours and laid off a housekeeper. Mauck added



		that her hotel's owner had dismissed the possibility of applying for the state's bridge loan program. Six months was too little and 18 percent too high to risk during a time when her business already is struggling, she said. Michael Holderness, who owns Siesta Key Beachside Villas and other rental properties in the area, echoed Mauck's concerns. He said his businesses are incurring losses of \$20,000 per day, forcing him to dip into his reserves for 2019 to stay afloat." [Sarasota Herald Tribune, 9/24/2018]
		After Blue-Green Algae Cost One Couple's Business \$100,000, They Moved Across Florida Only To Be Devastated By Red Tide. In August of 2018, CNN reported: "Toxic algae slime cost Rochelle Neumann's business more than \$100,000 two years ago. Red tide may close it for good. Neumann and her husband run Cortez Surf & Paddle in Cortez, Florida, a watersports rental and guided tour company. Just two years ago, they moved from Stuart, Florida, after the toxic algae slime that coated the waterways of the St. Lucie River killed their business there. 'We were closed for almost six months,' said Neumann. 'There were signs up everywhere saying do not touch the water.' After two major algae events in 2013 and 2016 cost the Neumann's more than \$100,000 in business, they picked up and moved to the other side of the state. But now they are facing another major threat from a marathon red tide algae bloom. The blooms off Florida normally start in October and end in winter, but this one has lasted for nine months and been devastating for marine life." [CNN, 8/15/2018]
<u>-</u>	orter: Florida is being ered by red tide	NBC Nightly News: "Florida Is Being Battered By Red Tide." In October of 2018, NBC Nightly News reported: "Florida is being battered by red tide, a yearly algae bloom that feeds on a variety of pollutants like fertilizer and wastewater. This year, one of the most powerful ever, killing fish and producing toxic air." [NBC Nightly News, 10/10/2018]



	ANNCR: But Rick Scott still won't	Scott Maxwell Column On Algae Crisis: "It Is, However, Fair To Blame Rick		
Rick Scott Won't Take	take responsibility	Scott." In a column on algae affecting Florida's coasts, the Orlando Sentinel's Scott		
Responsibility		Maxwell wrote: "You can't treat your state like a toilet bowl and then get surprised		
		when it backs up. So when I watch politicians scurry to pollution sites with cameras		
		in tow, acting shocked and outraged, they seem just as daft as that guy who can't		
		figure out why his scalded hand hurts. Who is most to blame? Well, some		
		Democrats want to blame all Republicans. But that's not fair. Some Republicans		
		have been enviro-champions, especially in the state senate. It is, however, fair to		
		blame Rick Scott. This governor has undermined our natural resources for eight		
		straight years. The data is trackable. Under Jeb Bush and Charlie Crist, the state		
		opened 1,000 to 1,500 cases a year to crack down on bad environmental actors.		
		Under Rick Scott, the number is closer to 250." [Orlando Sentinel/Scott Maxwell		
		column, 7/27/2018]		
		WFLA News Channel 8: "Governor Scott Blames Crisis Of Toxic Algae, Red		
		Tide On Congress." In an August 10 article, titled "Governor Scott Blames Crisis		
		Of Toxic Algae, Red Tide On Congress," WFLA News Channel 8 reported: "In a		
		campaign stop in Tampa on Friday, Governor Rick Scott blamed Congress for		
		Florida's current environmental crisis. 8 On Your Side asked the governor directly		
		about his administration eliminating several agencies and cutting budgets and staff		
		as well as other environmental protections, but Scott did not respond directly to his		
		record." [WFLA News Channel 8, 8/10/18]		
	Reporter: The Governor refused	CBS Miami: Reporting On Rick Scott Visit To Stuart: "The Governor Refused		
	to speak to residents who wanted to share their concerns with him To Speak With Residents Who Wanted To Share Their Concerns." O 10, 2018, WFOR CBS Miami reported: "Governor Rick Scott was in Mark on Friday touring a river filled with toxic algae, but the Governor refused			
		with residents who wanted to share their concerns. He was at a marina in Stuart to		



announce \$700,000 dollars in federal funding to clean up toxic algae. But his tour boat departed from a different place than originally posted, which upset many who waited hours to try to speak with him. The toxic algae has caused problems for many people whose jobs depend on fishing and tourism. 'I'm particularly upset with Scott because every time you see him on TV he's jobs, jobs, jobs! And every time I turn around my friends are losing jobs, jobs, jobs, 'a local resident said." [WFOR CBS Miami, 8/10/2018]

Confronted By Criticism Over Red Tide, Rick Scott Fled Through Back Door From Campaign Event In Venice After 10 Minutes, Still Maintaining "We Did The Right Thing" On Water Quality. On September 18, 2018, Orlando Weekly reported: "Florida Governor Rick Scott lasted about 10 minutes at a restaurant this morning before crowds eventually booed him out the back door. Scott, who is currently running for Senate against Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson, was visiting Mojos Real Cuban in Venice, Florida, for a campaign stop when he was greeted by hundreds of protesters upset about the state's continuous red tide algae issues. According to Zac Anderson of the Miami Herald, Scott came in through the back door of the restaurant to find a crowded restaurant mixed with both supporters and angry protesters. Scott only stayed for about 10 minutes before trying to sneak out. When asked by a reporter at the event if he would've done anything differently in terms of Florida's water quality, he said, 'We did the right thing.'" [Orlando Weekly, 9/17/2018]

Rick Scott Canceled Naples Campaign Event Following Confrontation Over Red Tide. On September 18, 2018, the Naples Daily News reported: "Gov. Rick Scott's "Make Washington Work Bus Tour" was supposed to end Tuesday in his hometown of Naples, but his campaign canceled the event after red tide protesters



		confronted him in Venice. Naples Lumber and Supply, which Scott has praised in the past for creating jobs, was expecting the U.S. Senate candidate Tuesday morning, but Scott's regional political director Katie Larsen called the business about 5 p.m. Monday to cancel without explanation, a Naples Lumber representative said. The bus tour ended in Orlando instead." [Naples Daily News, 9/18/2018]
Over \$1 Million in Contributions from Big Polluters. – FL Dept. of State	ANNCR: Scott took over a million bucks from corporate polluters	 Rick Scott Has Received Nearly \$1.4 Million in Contributions From Big Sugar. [See table below on page 14] Red Tide Is Fueled By Pollution From Inland Sources, Particularly Fertilizers. In August of 2018, NBC News reported: "Pollution from inland sources, particularly fertilizers, can wash into the ocean and provide fuel for Karenia brevis. But the tiny creatures have many food sources. "These pollutants could be a part of the problem. We just don't know how much," said Richard P. Stumpf, an oceanographer who studies harmful algae at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration." [NBC News, 8/3/2018] Rick Scott Has Taken \$214,425 In Campaign Contributions From The Oil And Gas Industry. According to federal campaign finance records compiled by the Center for Responsive Politics and state campaign finance records compiled by the National Institute on Money in Politics, Rick Scott has received \$120,475 in state campaign contributions and \$93,950 in federal campaign contributions from the oil and gas industry. [OpenSecrets.org, accessed 10/22/2018; Followthemoney.org accessed 10/17/2018] Mote Marine Laboratory Scientist: Red Tide Bloom Is Likely Fueled By Climate Change. On August 23, 2018, NPR reported: "Although red tide is



		a natural phenomenon, this bloom is particularly extreme and damaging, and likely fueled by climate change, says Richard Pierce, senior scientist and program manager for ecotoxicology at the Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, Fla. 'What we're looking at is an environment that has been totally altered because of the dead fish decaying, they use up all the oxygen,' he tells Here & Now's Robin Young. 'It's not suitable for life.'" [NPR Here and Now, 8/23/2018] NBC's Jeff Corwin: Climate Change + Pollution = "These Events Can Be Incredibly Catastrophic To The Environment." In a segment for NBC Nightly News, biologist Jeff Corwin said: "The warming of our planet means the warming of the oceans, so when you mix that up with pollution, with sewage waste, with fertilizer runoff, these events can be incredibly catastrophic to the environment."
Scott "savaged the budgets from state water management." Sun Sentinel, 8/3/18	and savaged environmental safeguards.	Fred Grimm Column On Algae Crisis: "Meanwhile, Scott Savaged The Budgets Of The State Water Management Districts." In a column for the Sun Sentinel, Fred Grimm wrote: "In 2008, Gov. Charlie Crist fashioned an ambitious deal to buy 197,000 acres from U.S. Sugar for the marsh. Except critics went crazy, the economy went sour and the plan kept shrinking. Then came Gov. Rick Scott, the king of prevarication, who kept passing on options to buy tracts of sugar land. Meanwhile, Scott savaged the budgets of the state water management districts, opposed 'onerous' federal water quality standards and undermined environmental protections. Now, Scott has the temerity to declare an emergency for a disaster of his own making." [Sun Sentinel/Fred Grimm column, 8/3/2018] Tampa Bay Times Editorial: "Scott Has Bulldozed A Record Of Environmental Protection That His Republican And Democratic Predecessors



Spend Decades Building." In a September 2014 editorial, the Tampa Bay Times wrote: "Scott has bulldozed a record of environmental protection that his Republican and Democratic predecessors spent decades building. He weakened the enforcement of environmental laws and cut support for clean water, conservation and other programs. He simultaneously made it easier for the biggest polluters and private industries to degrade the state's natural resources. While the first-term Republican attempts to transform himself into an environmentalist during his re-election campaign, his record reflects a callous disregard for the state's natural resources and no understanding of how deeply Floridians care about their state's beauty and treasures." [Tampa Bay Times Editorial, 9/5/2014]

Former Water District Chairman: "Rick Scott In My Opinion Has Frustrated Efforts To Solve This Problem From The Beginning Of His Term And Only Got Some Religion On It Late In The Game Because It Finally Dawned On Him That This Was A Political Issue". In August of 2018, the Times Picayune reported: "After he first took office, appointees Scott placed on boards that govern state water management districts cut \$700 million from their budgets, including money for red-tide research. 'Rick Scott in my opinion has frustrated efforts to solve this problem from the beginning of his term and only got some religion on it late in the game because it finally dawned on him that this was a political issue,' said Eric Buermann, a former general counsel for the state Republican Party and former board chair of the South Florida Water Management District. Buermann said the water district's budget is about half of what it was under Scott's predecessor. When Scott's appointees cut the amount of taxes the district could collect from homeowners, he saved the average household \$3 per month while slicing the authority's revenue by \$21 million." [New Orleans Times Picayune, 8/28/2018]

Rick Scott Asked The EPA To Back Off Water Quality Standards For Florida. In April of 2011, the Miami Herald reported: "The day after the Florida House passed a bill to ban implementation of water quality standards set by the U.S.



Environmental Protection Administration, Gov. Rick Scott on Friday asked the agency to rescind a January 2009 determination that the federal rules are necessary for Florida. Opponents of the federal requirement say the state is better equipped to decide how best to comply with the federal Clean Water Act, which is intended to manage nitrogen and phosphorous pollution of lakes, rivers, streams and bays. They say the EPA standards will be costly to implement, don't address specific conditions of local waterways and provide little biological benefit." [Miami Herald, 4/22/2011]

Florida Judge Raised Concerns About Rick Scott's Proposals To Cut Funding For Water Management Agencies, Saying "The Entire Situation Is Rapidly Sliding Backwards." In an order issued in a lawsuit brought by an Indian tribe and Florida environmental groups, a federal judge criticized the State of Florida's lack of enforcement of Clean Water Act provisions, writing: "Furthermore, a recent proposal to reduce taxes for the State's water management districts to decrease their budgets by 25 percent, or approximately \$100 million from the SFWMD's budget, has presented another concern for not only the District, but the parties to this litigation. Compounding these recent financial predicaments are the latest departures of individuals who were administratively responsible for overseeing the processes in this litigation. Simply stated, the entire situation is rapidly sliding backwards."

[Miccosukee Tribe v USA et al 04-21448 ECF #585, 4/26/2011]

Rick Scott Rejected An Opportunity To Reduce Outflows From Lake Okeechobee By Acquiring Land For Water Storage. In July of 2016, the Sun Sentinel reported: "Lobbied by U.S. Sugar, a major campaign contributor, the governor and his appointees at the water management district rejected a deal to buy U.S. Sugar land south of the lake for water storage. That could have eventually reduced the need for discharges to the ocean." [Sun Sentinel, 7/8/2016]



Rick Scott's 2011 Budget Proposed Slashing Funding For Everglades

Restoration. In March of 2011, the Press Journal reported: "Scott has proposed cutting \$33 million in state dollars provided for Everglades restoration, a project that yielded \$50 million in 2010, and includes measures to protect the St. Lucie River's waters. The state also might look to determine more specific required nutrient standards for Florida's waterways, which would help protect our waters from pollutants, said Mark Perry, executive director of the Florida Oceanographic Society." [Vero Beach Press Journal, 3/6/2011]

Rick Scott's Administration Accused Of Replacing Experienced

Environmental Regulators With Industry Insiders. In December of 2012, the Tampa Bay Times reported: "In 2003, when a leaky gypsum stack at an abandoned phosphate plant threatened to kill a vast cross section of Tampa Bay's marine life, Charles Kovach came up with a solution that saved the bay. But this month, 17 years after he was hired by the state Department of Environmental Protection, Kovach was one of 58 DEP employees laid off by the agency. Kovach believes those layoffs were designed to loosen regulation of polluting industries. 'I've seen the way politics has influenced that agency in the past, but never like this,' Kovach said. 'It's not about compliance (with the rules). It's about making things look like they're compliant.' On top of the layoffs is the fact that DEP Secretary Herschel Vinyard has installed a number of new people in the agency's upper ranks whose prior experience was working as engineers or consultants for companies the DEP regulates." [Tampa Bay Times, 12/24/2012]

Scott Repealed Mandatory Septic Tank Inspection Program. In a September 17 article, the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* reported, "Scott's critics say his policies have



		exacerbated the problem. Red tide blooms start offshore but can feed on nutrients found in nearshore waters. Leaky septic tanks, lawn fertilizer found in stormwater runoff and other factors can add to nutrient levels in nearshore waters. Scott signed off on legislation that repealed a mandatory septic tank inspection program. The inspections were intended to identify failing septic tanks that are leaching pollutants." [Sarasota Herald-Tribune, 9/17/18]	
Slashed"\$700 Million"	Slashing seven hundred million from	TC Palm On Water Management District Cuts: "Scott Cut The Agency's	
from water protection.	water protection	Budget In Half, By \$700 Million, Resulting In 500 Layoffs And Several Dozen	
- TC Palm, 8/3/18		Vacant Jobs Being Cut Or Frozen." On August 3, 2018, TC Palm reported: After	
		Scott took office in 2011, DEP laid off 134 people and cut a dozen vacant jobs,	
		saving the agency about \$6.5 million. DEP also relaxed rules to make it quicker and	
		easier to get permits, and shifted from enforcing rules to helping violators comply.	
		Scott also gutted the South Florida Water Management District, which oversees	
		Everglades restoration and advises the Army Corps of Engineers on Lake	
		Okeechobee discharges that cause algae blooms in the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee	
		rivers. Scott cut the agency's budget in half, by \$700 million, resulting in 500	
		layoffs and several dozen vacant jobs being cut or frozen. Half of them were	
		scientists, hydrologists, engineers, field technicians and regulators tasked with	
		protecting, conserving or restoring water resources in the 16-county district." [TC	
		Palm, 8/3/2018]	
		Local Activist Faulted Rick Scott Water Quality Funding: "Funding Has Been	
		Slashed." On August 3, 2018, TC Palm reported: [President of 1000 Friends of	
		Florida Paul] Owen faulted Scott for 'some significant setbacks to environmental	
		protection and growth management Funding has been slashed for water	
		management districts, environmental enforcement actions have been sharply	



curtailed, a law to inspect septic tanks was repealed, and the state's growth management agency was dismantled.'"[TC Palm, 8/3/2018]

Rick Scott Cut Budgets For Water Management Districts By \$700 Million In His First Year. In a September 2014 editorial, the Tampa Bay Times pointed out: "In his first year, Scott forced the state's five regional water management districts to reduce their budgets by \$700 million and filled their appointed boards with developers, land use lawyers and others more interested in granting permits than preservation. That triggered cuts to water supply, restoration and other projects, and led to widespread layoffs at the water management districts that turned them into shells of their former selves. The Scott administration undercut enforcement and dampened public input on development as it eliminated the state's growth management agency. DEP offered bonuses to employees to speed up permitting, and its departing regulatory chief boasted this year that the agency cut wait times for permits by two-thirds." [Tampa Bay Times Editorial, 9/5/2014]

Rick Scott Boasted On Camera About Cutting \$700 Million From Water Management Districts. In Governor Rick Scott's weekly radio address published in video format on YouTube on August 26, 2011, Scott said: "Also this week, I took action on the proposed budgets of Florida's five water management districts. All together, these budgets reflect a reduction of more than 700-million-dollars over last year." [Governor Rick Scott's Weekly Radio Address, 8/26/2011]

PolitiFact Florida Headline: "Yes, Rick Scott Did Cut \$700 Million From Florida's Water management Districts." Reporting with the headline "Yes, Rick Scott did cut \$700 million from Florida's water management districts," PolitiFact Florida wrote: "The Florida Democratic Party tweeted that Scott 'cut \$700 million



		from water management.' The budgets of Florida's five water management districts were collectively cut by over \$700 million about a year into Scott's first term. Since the governor has the final say over the water management districts' budgets, the tweet is largely accurate." [PolitiFact Florida, 8/14/2018]
	No wonder he doesn't want to talk about it.	
Captain Brian Hayhurst	Testimonial: I voted for Rick	
Owner,	Scott. But he created this mess	
Serenity Bait Company	and now we're the ones	
	suffering.	
Rick Scott Created The		
Mess		
We're The Ones Suffering		
LCV Victory Fund is	ANNCR:LCV Victory Fund is	
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committee.		



SUPPLEMENTAL DATA: SCOTT HAS RECEIVED NEARLY \$1.4 MILLION FROM BIG SUGAR

Tampa Bay Times: Let's Get To Work "The Political Committee Helping To Fund Scott's Re-Election Campaign." "Edwards has contributed \$1 million to Let's Get to Work, the political committee helping to fund Scott's re-election campaign. Edwards and Baker did not respond to requests for comment." [Tampa Bay Times, 5/29/14]

Miami Herald: Let's Get To Work Scott's "Political Machine" In Charge Of Funding "His 2014 Re-Election Campaign." "Gov. Rick Scott's poll numbers remain stubbornly low, but by another measure he looks much stronger: raising money for his re-election campaign. Scott's political machine Let's Get to Work raised a whopping \$4.6 million in the first three months of 2013, raking in cash at the rate of \$50,000 every day while chasing a goal of up to \$100 million to fund his 2014 re-election campaign." [Miami Herald, 4/03/13]

Committee	Contributor	Amount	Date
Let's Get To Work	Sugarcane Harvesting Inc.	\$500	11/15/13
Let's Get To Work	Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative	\$5,000	9/26/14
Let's Get To Work	Florida Crystals Corp.	\$100,000	9/21/10
Let's Get To Work	Florida Crystals Corp.	\$50,000	6/21/13
Let's Get To Work	Florida Crystals Corp.	\$100,000	6/26/13
Let's Get To Work	Florida Crystals Corp.	\$100,000	1/10/17
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	6/27/12



Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	3/26/13
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	6/18/13
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	9/25/13
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	3/26/14
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$2,500	4/25/14
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$1,462.68	6/10/14
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	6/17/14
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	10/31/15
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	6/10/16
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$25,000	11/04/16
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	1/04/17
Let's Get To Work	U.S. Sugar Corp	\$100,000	3/31/17
		\$1,384,462.68	

Florida Department of State, accessed 8/17/18