***FLORIDA SCIENTIST***

Reviewer's Report

**Author**: Marcus W. Beck, Maya C. Burke, Gary E. Raulerson, Sheila Scolaro, Edward T. Sherwood, Joe Whalen

**Title**: Coordinated monitoring of the Piney Point wastewater discharge into Tampa Bay: Data synthesis and reporting

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1)Does this paper contain new knowledge, or new interpretation of existing knowledge?

Not much “new knowledge” is presented but the paper does a very good job summarizing the events of Piney Point and demonstrating how existing open-science tools can be used by agencies in practice to provide tangible benefits.

2) Does it duplicate in any substantial way material published elsewhere?

No, this information has not been presented elsewhere. The paper does a good job summarizing how the TBEP’s open science tools allowed for providing information in near real time to provide information to the public and managers, and demonstrates its potential in the wake of the Piney Point discharge, for the TBEP going forward, as well as for other agencies.

3) Are technical terms used and spelled correctly?

Yes

4) Are there major flaws in the study design, execution or analysis?

No

5) Please list below any suggestions for improvement.

A few areas where references could be included, and a better closing sentence emphasizing how much of what was done would not be possible without open-science tools.

**6)** **RECOMMENDATION**

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| a) | Publish (as is) | ( ) |
| b) | Publish (with revision optional) | (x) |
| c) | Publish (with revision required) | ( ) |
| d) | Reject outright | ( ) |
| e) | Reject, but recommend referral to another journal | ( ) |
| f) | Other | ( ) |