

SE Florida Coral Reef Fisheries Stakeholder Committee - Meeting 3

Virtual meeting via Zoom
6-8 pm, November 12, 2020

Summary

Overview

On Thursday, November 12th the third Coral Reef Committee meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Project principal investigator Kai Lorenzen, facilitator Joy Hazell, project coordinator and online producer Susana Hervas attended the meeting.

Thirteen stakeholders, one Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff, one Florida Department of Environmental Protection employee, and five observers attended the meeting.

The meeting objectives were to:

- Build community and trust
- Review of webinars and state of the science
- Identify management and conservation options

Welcome

The meeting began with activities designed to set a positive, collaborative tone. Activities included introductions, and explanation and clarification of the meeting agenda and objectives, reminder of group norms and sunshine law and disclaimer of video recording (Slides can be found in Appendix 1.)

Introductions

All participants introduced themselves and had been present during the second meeting. Below is a summary of participant introductions by affiliation.

Stakeholder 1: Recreational angler from West Palm Beach

Stakeholder 2: Charter from Jupiter

Stakeholder 3: Ex-charter/commercial who used to be part of SEFCRI

Stakeholder 4: American Sportfishing Association representative

Stakeholder 5: Recreational diver in Deerfield Beach

Stakeholder 6: Angler and IGFA from Coral Gables

Stakeholder 7: Saltwater sportsmen magazine and TV program. Miami and North Broward

Stakeholder 8: Captain in Miami

Stakeholder 9: President of the WPB Fishing Club in Palm Beach County

Stakeholder 10: Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF)

Stakeholder 11: President of Marine Industries Association for State of Florida

Stakeholder 12: For hire, tournament, recreational, and commercial fisherman, and SA Council, in Lighthouse point Florida

Stakeholder 13: Chaired Marine Industries Association of Florida Legislative affairs, charter member of PBC marine industries association. Stuart

Agency 1: Southeast Regional Administrator for DEP's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection

Agency 2: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) biologist

UF Team: Program's Principal Investigator

UF Team: Communications coordinator

Webinar Reviews

Points of discussion:

- What did you learn? (What was an aha moment?)
- How is the information you learned useful to this group?

Water Quality Webinar

Stakeholder 3: There were no aha moments: everything that was said was spot on. Few things were missing. Climate change affects water quality, temperature, acidification. NOAA US Coral Reef report came out on Monday and said Florida has less than 2% of its reefs left and said the same thing we heard in the presentation.

(below are the links to the report mentioned)

[NOAA Press Release](#)

[Coral Reef Condition: A status report for Florida's Coral Reefs – cover letter](#)

[Coral Reef Condition: A status report for Florida's Coral Reefs](#)

[Coral Reef Condition: A status report for US Coral Reefs](#)

Stakeholder 6: Report and all gentlemen that spoke were spot on. The problem is that these things are extremely difficult to fix. For example, in the Coral Gables water way, there's a septic tank in my house, but no one has come to say they will build a sewer system. We can identify problems but how can we correct them? Climate change and impurities and toxins that flush into corals are like three punches to our system. I am kind of disappointed because it is very difficult to solve.

Stakeholder 13: NOAA finally wants to look at water quality that flows over the top of our reefs. About the septic tank issue, DEP came to our neighborhood and said: [do you want to get fined or do you want to get of septic tanks?" So, we paid \$1,600 a house and went on a sewer system. Unfortunately, it doesn't take away most of the septic tank problems that we have. Discharges still go up in the ocean, or number of coastal cities that have sewer systems that are so archaic that they leak more into water bodies than what goes to the pipe. They are major expensive problems. We keep trying to take lower hanging fruit but don't seem to fix the big issues that are billions if not trillions of dollars in order to fix.

Stakeholder 7: No shocking moments in the webinars. Agree with comments. Intriguing is how to get arms around the amount of pesticides and fertilizers that are used in residences, golf courses, heavy rains, etc. that get swept into the water systems. Before there used to be more lush grass but now it became resident and it is all mud with no vegetation. All residents, golf courses, fertilizers... all these impact the reefs.

Stakeholder 4: It's pretty clear that none of us had an aha moment but all had the same take away, which is water quality is the number one issue. Good to see NOAA acknowledge that. Would love to have DEP do a webinar on the projects that have been initiated within the last year through Governor DeSantis to improve water quality. Because he has done a lot to improve water in the state of Florida.

Stakeholder 8: My shop is on a canal and they spray everything in sight, and one of the houses we were fishing by said "please do not spray", and that house had so much green and growth around it – it looked nice to catch fish but further down the canal, everything was dead. Where he is, all runoff from I-75 goes there. It's like an oil slick there. Bad stuff is being pumped into the bay, and into the reefs. We have got to figure it out.

Stakeholder 1: Something absent in presentations: we are doing a lot of things, tackling a lot of problems, but we have over 1,000 people a day moving to Florida. What is the curb on the water quality issues that we are seeing right now with the acceleration of people moving down to Florida due to COVID-19 access, etc. That might be something to think about, because I am big on metrics: What gets measured, gets done. Would like to see all these projects we are doing: are we making headway? Where do we reach a point where things turn around?

Stakeholder 2: Went to college in New Jersey in the 70s. They banned construction on the coast if you couldn't connect to the sewer system. That was 45 years ago. They did it and it worked. Florida is a little late but we should start something like that. I have a neighbor that at least once a week they are spraying something on their lawn. Roundup is supposed to be banned, but Home Depot has it everywhere and no sign that says you cannot use it. Need enforcement of rules.

Stakeholder 13: One of the issues is the discharge at St. Lucie Inlet which has a direct impact on the reef. If I look at the Florida Keys, they are affected by Gulf stream coming around. So, what is coming from Mississippi and Mexico? And where is that water? There's only one study on discharge of the Mississippi

river. There is red tide in the middle of the Gulf. Seems like red tide has been there forever, well, Mississippi has been discharging there forever. Discharge in St Lucie doesn't pollute the southern reef. There is circulation upstream. Gulf Stream picks up a lot of stuff into the reefs and the Keys. Whatever we discharge in Martin County is not going down to the Keys. We have had septic tank problems in the Keys and we are curing those. For example, Long Island went to no discharge and finally got Connecticut and New York to do it too. And that whole water quality, strictly because of water discharges in Long Island is night and day. That's because Connecticut and New York are working on programs on discharge.

Stakeholder 3: It was spot on. 38 sewer breaches in the last two years with millions of gallons of raw sewage into Biscayne Bay and it ended up on the reef. Can stop pesticides and fertilizers, but if municipalities have infrastructure that is 80 or 50 years old, even if you switch septic to municipal sewer lines, but they're old, then they won't work. It costed Miami \$1M to fix sewer lines. Insurmountable problem.

Stakeholder 5: I had an aha moment. I knew they were working on Lake Okeechobee – we have been talking about this for 20 years but are moving forward on it. Climate change is a reality, and we won't be able to do anything. Sea water, ocean rising. Stormwater and sanitary sewer infrastructure is at or beyond its designed life. So, Ft. Lauderdale had a huge problem recently with sewer system. No proper storm water drainage that needs fixing. Need a renewed interest to the different municipalities to collect stormwater and sanitary sewer issues. Maybe a fee to make that happen, but they have to be progressive in their thinking and allocate the funding to get that done, but we are way behind the curb.

Facilitator: Common threads: Runoff – septic systems, failing sewer systems, stormwater systems that are at or beyond life span. All these things are contributing to water quality issues. Believe biggest issue to impact reef is water quality. A lot of discussion about the bigness of the issue – the complexities. Layers of municipalities, county level, state and even federal structures and barriers. But also two success stories, New Jersey and Long Island.

Now, we are recognizing what has already been recommended to know, now what do you want to champion and do you think there are gaps that you would like to make recommendations on?

Our Florida Reefs (OFR) Webinar

Stakeholder 6: Very comprehensive presentation. Included lot of things that were touched and a lot of things that were talked about recently.

Stakeholder 3: It was an excellent presentation. It went through all the stuff that it took me sitting with you guys 2 or 3 years to come up with these recommendations with SEFCRI. They were well thought out and a lot of people put a lot of thought into it. But not sure if they are actually as directed as they need to be today. This was done a few years ago.

I as a recreational angler, we were told that a bunch of the reef system in south Florida was going to be shut down to fishing, so I went on the board because I was asked to by other fishermen to come in and get involved. Very interesting initiative. Terrific. I wish we could do more. Got involved to get all those points in the recommendations. And many things were pertinent then, but now radically many things

have happened in the last 3 or 4 years which we didn't talk about much then. So, looking back, maybe we need to start again to come up with more updated recommendations that might have a chance of working now.

Stakeholder 1: Agreed. We are looking at this as snapshots and not dynamic processes. Would be great to incorporate that type of thinking into the project because this won't be "fix it forget it", but continually changing. Both the natural and man-made environment. It will be dynamic and always changing. That's why robust monitoring of systems is critical.

Stakeholder 5: Good review of the process and where we were. Few things I had forgotten about. Nice summary. Covered land-based pollution so we covered that as well. Drilling it down to N146 – The creation of the marine protected areas, the MPAs. That was the bone of contention with everybody, that's kind of why we are all here, this is my view; the way I saw the process going. When those MPAs were put out there and there was 20-30% of closure to the four counties, that really got everybody's attention. They took it one step too far in where they identified areas they would like to close, because the first thing when we got presented with that was "I fish here! I dive here!" It was just... Restrictions were not universal. It was "you can't fish here, but divers can go there..." so we didn't see it as a good thing. If we can drill down to MPAs, the use of them, what is the benefit of them, they are good in Tortugas, but not many people live there. I don't want to ignore it completely, because I am open minded, but there needs to be a better approach than just "this is what we thought we could do". Maybe they were just examples, but people were looking at that thinking of it as actual closures. Let's not ignore it, let's deal with it and have a nice day.

Hogfish season is shut down so I will be looking at hogfish but can't catch them. FWC has done a good job. I'm supportive, and even though they were a bit late with hogfish, we see some benefits of what they did with grouper. I get frustrated sometimes because "Is it 12 inches? 18 inches? They raised it!" It gets a little confusing and it's not good when you have to call an attorney friend to figure it out. We can support FWC to improve that.

Stakeholder 13: When we look at Lake Okeechobee and discharges in the canals. When we look at restoration and clean water, south of the lake, we talked about doing things North of the lake and clean it and discharge South, but that is like pouring dye at the top of the lake and wait to take dye out once we have added it in. Disappointed with Martin County, support money going South, when we should have cleaned water before it dumps in the lake. We have allowed it to get so bad, and it's self-destructive, it's so bad. And that affects all the water. When Water Management District needs to get rid of water it goes to the lake. There should be a major focus to clean water before it gets to the Lake. Instead of putting a wall in the middle of the dike, let's make islands around to protect the dike. Let's have Audubon to design them. Because that is the start of what discharges in the ocean. Ends up going offshore and affects reefs going North. Clean up water inlet, why wait until it discharges South? And water quality is the key. Until we know what's in the water, in every reef area, then we know what we need to attack. What pesticides? What is in that water? What are the things that are being discharged? Until you do that, we are going to be picking low quality fruit off the bottom of the trees, and the trees will continue to die.

Stakeholder 4: There was minimal talk about coral disease when OFR was happening. And it has changed things pretty dramatically. Addressing another stakeholder who was talking about hogfish: anglers as a whole are conservationists and want to protect the fish. It was recreational anglers that went to FWC to

ask for adjustment of regulations of mutton snapper and hogfish. They supported place-based management for special and significant areas like Tortugas, it's special and far away from user groups that were affected. Closures are something that we look at as a last resort. There are many management tools to use before using MPAs. For example, changing length and bag limits. That's the point we tried to make at OFR. But it didn't seem to give it much credence.

Stakeholder 6: Quality of water is we the people. But how many of you have seen somebody run for any of these municipalities and saying: "I'm running for office and we need to fix this and it's going to cost \$1,000 a tax payer." Who has done that? Nobody. And if they did, would they get elected? No. So we are kicking the can down the road. I'm one of these recreational anglers that is strongly in favor of marine reserves. Entire reef tract from Martin county to Tortugas should have a well-designed marine protected network with angler input. Because we already proven it has worked. Marine reserves in Tortugas are bringing mutton snapper all over the east coast now because they are protected in Dry Tortugas and they seed the entire coastline from there. We should be looking at that very seriously as anglers.

Stakeholder 12: Echo another stakeholder. I think it was priority 146 and 95 that wanted to get fisheries management. There were multiple agencies and countless hours of effort into fisheries management and we all did a good job – FWC especially in Florida. I would love to see this group to solve the coral issue. Saving the reef, the coral. It's in despair. FWC has biologists working 24/7 to figure out the coral disease. Let's help them in any way we can. If we don't figure out corals, everything will die anyway. Don't steal my heritage. Don't take everything my family has ever done away from us out here, trying to get involved in fisheries management, when we are proving successful in fisheries management. Recreational anglers agreed to increase mutton snapper limits to 18 inches. They came with real science saying, female mutton are not reproductive until they are 18 inches, and there was not an angler that said "don't do it". Mutton are not overfished or undergoing overfishing but spawning information was taken into account. The fishery is in great health, but this made sense, so we did it. Fisheries management guys are taking care of business, so let's take care of the coral, not the fish. The fish are doing fine.

Stakeholder 3: I hear what you are saying, as a former marine fisheries commissioner for Florida, when we made redfish a game fish, when we made tarpon a tag species that you had to buy one, when we did so many things back in the day, in the 80s and 90s we got the same argument. Don't take my heritage and family away. The difference between then and now is that a reef only has 2% or less of it left. And you cannot have mutton snappers without a reef. That doesn't mean they don't have spawning spots, the ones that are left don't go back there to spawn to those spots that are left, and they do live on relief instead of reef, which is a whole different field.

MPAs work really well in Dry Tortugas where you have a lot of reef left. But when you have no reef and nothing spawning there, why protect it? We need to look at it in a different way. I don't know what the way is, we got to figure out what the way is that might might might work with all the challenges that we have. We have to look at it in a different way. And [stakeholder], you wont lose your livelihood, the sailfish will keep swimming by and you'll keep doing real good in tournaments, and [stakeholder], you have a point, Tortugas is terrific but it might not work anywhere else out the Florida coast to Palm Beach.

Stakeholder 8: I'm all for closing spawning seasons. In spawning season in the Bahamas: mutton season comes around – FL and Bahamians wipe out muttons... we learned more about them and they are not there as they used to at all. If we shut down spawning season like with grouper, then you can get a quality fish. If we don't protect the reef, we won't have grouper or snapper, and artificial reefs. But shutting down an area, all it's doing is to shift people from one area to another. It doesn't make sense. If we are worried about fish, close the spawning season. Where did mackerel go? Now there's no shrimp so mackerel don't come. No shrimp because there is no grass because of the water pollution not because of overfishing. Put spawning seasons on certain things. We have seen it with mutton snapper and deep water groupers. Closing areas won't help the reef. Water pollution is the water pollution.

Facilitator: This is an important discussion. We will continue this on and on. This is the meat. Not closures vs no closures, the discussion is closures vs spawning seasons vs changing size limits vs increasing FWC enforcement – I saw that as one of the recommendations – and need to point out that the reason why there is a FWC person here is because the recommendations do make it around to FWC. They are part of the larger team. We want to have this discussion in real depth after we do the fisheries webinar. But on the other hand I don't want to stop you which is why I gave you some time, but I want to balance out letting you run with things and building up to it.

Activity Small groups:

After sharing the OFR priority list (please see slides in Appendix 1) the thirteen committee members were separated into four groups and given 25 minutes to discuss the following questions:

Questions to discuss:

1. Which RMAs does this group want to promote in the broader recommendations?
2. What additional RMAs are needed?
3. Which RMAs does the group need to discuss further?

They were asked to assign a note taker for someone to report back to the group, and before the larger group split up into groups, the following discussion took place:

Stakeholder 13: Every time we come into these processes, I notice fishing always comes into 80% of the conversations. The reefs are like our seagrass. It is the habitat needed for the fish. I am not a man of federal fisheries management but I am pretty happy with FWC and their quality and what they are trying to do with fisheries, but I still have a problem trying to decide if this group is more about fishing or more about reefs. And which is the ultimately bottom most important of those two in the long-term survival. I don't know any fish that destroys the reef. Maybe parrotfish, but that's not all bad. If there is more fish on the reef I am not sure that all of a sudden the reef's going to be alright. But if the reef goes away, I'm not too sure the fish are going to be alright. I don't seem to see the focus on this group and I apologize. I don't have the amount of time. This group needs to focus back to reefs being number 1 and fisheries take a second chair. And the focus needs to come back to what's important and that's the reef itself. Because whatever we do with fish – now we are talking about fishing regulations – and that doesn't have a damned thing to do with whether the reef is going to survive.

Stakeholder 1: Is that indeed what our focus should be, that's really going to narrow a lot of the recommended actions also. The focus. It makes the job that all of us are here for a lot more focused and easier to accomplish. If we focus on the reefs, as opposed to fishing, closed areas, etc. be focused on the problems of why the reefs are having these problems.

Stakeholder 3: We could get back into the black hole of MPAs or actually go into the real issue and if we had healthy reefs right now, we probably would have hell of a lot more fish and wouldn't be sitting here having this discussion. But without that, bottom line, when you have less than 2% reefs left, you're not going to be able to bring us back anywhere close to what I knew 20 years ago. I don't even want to talk to you about what I knew 60 years ago when I was fishing here.

Facilitator: What I am trying to do now is to get the group to not reinvent the wheel with Recommended Management Actions (RMAs). So, spend time with them and look at which ones you want to promote, what gaps exist. Gaps don't just need to be about fisheries. And not all of it needs to be fisheries, but fisheries are part of the OFR process. I stay out of the content as a facilitator. Make sure that the time is well spent.

UF Team: Things that concern the reefs and the fisheries resources associated with the reefs and our use of them and other factors that relate to them and impact of both. Discussion shows different views on priorities and at the moment we are not at the stage where we have to get everyone on the same page. We are at the stage where we are looking to see what the different views are, and later on we will do more work to see what we can agree on and what we can learn from each other. From this particular part of this meeting, the idea is to review what came out of OFR in recommendation and see if there are things that, from a fisheries perspective, we think are particularly relevant and worth picking up and promoting, are there things that are definitely missing and also are there things that we may not take up as they are but that we may want to bring up and modify? The recommendations that will come out from this process will stand on their own, so we are not rewriting the OFR recommendations. But we can take up things that we feel are important from a fisheries perspective that we also want to include in our recommendations but then also we can have additional ones and different ones.

Stakeholder 11: Important as we move this conversation forward, to be effective in management decisions, we need to get a bigger perspective. Its bigger than four counties.

After breaking up into small groups...

Group 1

Stakeholder 3: The most important points are

1. Coral reef demise
2. Spatial planning

Fishing is 80% of the conversation and for many of us it will stay this way. Our coral reefs are dead and we've got all this stuff that will keep killing them. We can't fix it. What we can do and know it works, is MPAs, like Riley's Hump in Tortugas, works really well. But we don't have that ability around the rest of

our reef system in Florida. We all agree – we have spawning aggregations of snappers and groupers here all along reef tract. We have no reef left, let's take the money and put in the depth and the place – artificial reefs that give relief, habitat for gorgonians, etc. and are the places that we know these fish use to spawn – hopefully all the mutttons and grouper will come back and start doing it again. Make them MPAs only during the spawning time of that species. They are very small spots and specific to getting those fish back to spawning in those areas that historically they were in. I think we never looked at this and we really need to look at it.

Stakeholder 12: MPAs scares me but if it is specific to timing and location and small then you've got my attention.

Stakeholder 8: Agree completely. Small areas where the fish are spawning. Close those spawning seasons. Have FWC guys protect those fish in the small areas.

Group 2

Stakeholder 7: We dealt with reef. Water quality has to be cleaned up. Regulations start with inshore that feeds into the system. Whatever is remaining of reefs will never let that come back. Once water quality improves, try to plant reefs to make them come back, but without water quality it will be a fatal effort. We did not talk about fisheries. But with what the other group said, with the fishing they hit it out of the park. Artificial reefs; but closing the key spawning periods for these game fish – can allow catch and release. Can take us a long way to keep fishery alive while we move the water quality issue.

Group 3

Stakeholder 9: We are feeling exhausted from the process. We have been in this game for decades. Talked about how we are always chasing our tail. All these RMAs. When we feel the problem is obvious. If there is no habitat, there is no fish. Water quality and habitat are the problem. It's not really fishing. One of our recommended actions, we want to add, not sure it's in the list or not: We think FWC are doing a great job with the fish and work well with South Atlantic Council, so we would hate to see anything that takes jurisdiction away from an agency that we all believe is doing an outstanding job with the fish.

And about aggregation sites, absolutely, higher level of protection in these areas, anglers will embrace it. Fishing is a stressor, but we have a problem with corals and disease. Focus and get more aggressive on corals. We are doing a lot of big picture things and recommendations, but if we just pick one thing: e.g. septic tanks. Let's say we focus all of our energy and management actions into riding septic tanks in Florida, we think that one thing would have an incredible impact on water quality and habitat would follow and the health of the reef. All the recommendations we are going to pass down the line are great but maybe if we just put all of our energy on one thing that we can agree on, no matter if you are a diver a fisherman whatever, and attack that, we might be pleased with the result.

Group 4

Stakeholder 6: Good discussion on whether we should be concentrating on quality and issues that deal with environment and the reefs and if we should be incorporating fisheries and we decided at this time to think in terms of the quality of the environment, the problems and the pollution that lead to the water quality problems. Also, climate change is a major part of this. We feel helpless about that. Maybe we can do more about water quality issues and chose to concentrate and focus our attention on that direction. A lot of people wanted to have these meetings because of issues with fisheries and that we are having upcoming fisheries presentations so that we can have further discussions about that at that point.

Next Steps

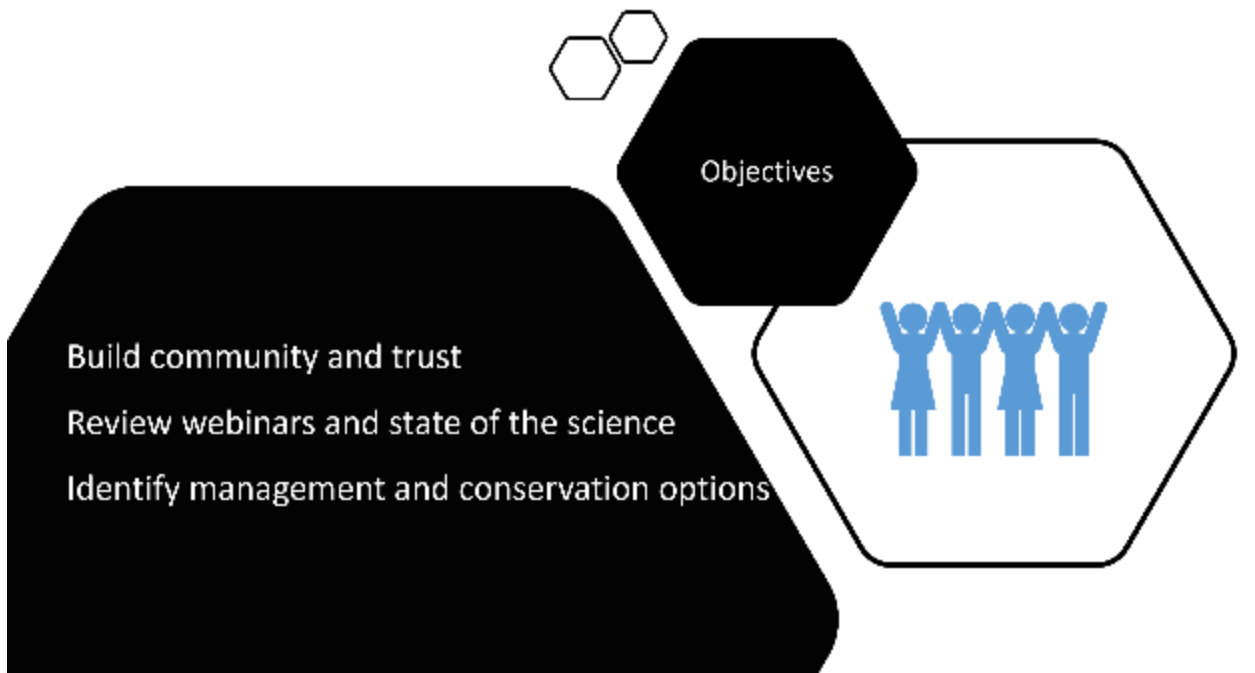
Facilitator: December will be off. We will plan for next two webinars on fisheries and coral reef ecology. Dates and times tbd. Next committee meeting will be January 28th. In February we will hold a public meeting for you to gather information about your peers in the public on what you need to know. We are also designing that on the next meeting.

Appendix 1

Fisheries and Conservation in the SE Florida Reef Tract: A New Stakeholder Process – Meeting 3



UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA





Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome and Introductions
- 6:20 Review Webinars – Water Quality
- 6:40 Review Webinars – OFR
- 7:00 Identification of Management and Conservation Options
- 7:50 Wrap up
- 8:00 pm Adjourn

Introductions

- Name
- Affiliation
- Favorite Fish



Group Norms

Customs, habits and expectations for how things will be done



- Listen carefully
- Consider each idea
- Everyone participates
- No one dominates
- Tough on the issues, not on the people
- Minimize distractions

Zoom Related

- Keep your camera on
- Wave your hand to make a comment
- Unmute to speak

Sunshine Laws

- Public can attend the meeting
- Reasonable notice of meetings
- Minutes recorded and open to public

- The law, in essence, is applicable to any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the same board or commission to discuss some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the public board or commission.

<https://myfloridalegal.com/pages.nsf/Main/DC0B20B7DC22B7418525791B006A54E4>



Webinar Reviews

- What did you learn? (What was an aha moment?)
- How is the information you learned useful to this group?

Priority 1	N-70	Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitats
	N-146	Implement an MPA Zoning Framework for Special Areas of Interest Within the OFR Region
	S-99	Increase the Number of FWC Enforcement Officers
	N-68	Regulate Fertilizers and Pesticides and Promote BMPs
	N-82	Promote Initiatives to Reduce Negative Impacts of Stormwater Drainage
	N-78	Reduce Ground Water Pollution from Septic/Storage Tanks
	S-104	Set New Turbidity Standards and Support the Improvement of Turbidity Monitoring Methods
	N-69	Provide Incentives to Restore Wetlands and Stop Discharges to Estuaries
	S-28	Support Everglades Flow Restoration
	S-65	Nominate SEFCRI Region as a National Marine Sanctuary
	N-71	Maintain a Unified Monitoring Program for Sources of Pollution
	N-97	Implement LBSP Reduction at Pollution Hotspots
	S-92	Protect Reefs from Anchor Damage During Beach and Coastal Events
	S-120	Improve Maintenance Activities of Beaches for Sustainability
	N-35	Implement Conservation Regulation Training for Marine Enforcement Units
N-137	Designate SEFCRI Region as PSSA or ATBA	
S-8	Establish Coral Reefs Gardens	

Priority 2

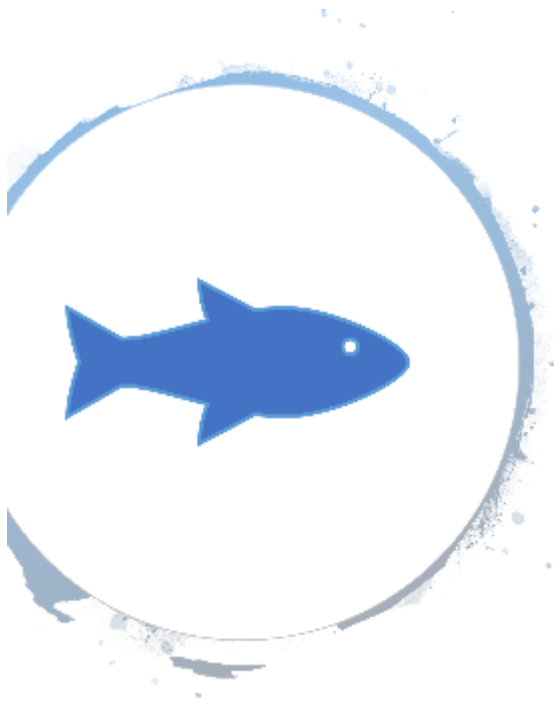
N-5	Enhance Marine and Ecosystems Curriculum in Schools
S-25	Encourage the Closure of all Wastewater Outfalls by 2025
N-113	Eliminate Lake Worth Inlet Port Expansion Project
N-114	Reinstate Funding for Regulatory Agency Dive Teams to Monitor Reefs as needed
N-116	Implement Regional "Living Shorelines"
N-1	Educate the Public about Land-Based Sources of Pollution
S-1	Remove Tires and Debris from Broward County artificial tire reef projects (a.k.a. Osborne Tire Reef)
S-100	Support Redefining the Port of Miami Anchorage to Reduce Anchor Damage to the Reefs
S-102	Integrate Quality Control Procedures and Triggers within Permits to Initiate Corrective Action During Coastal Development Projects
N-44	Educate Judiciary on Penalties for Environmental Violation
N-15	Promote Citizen Supported Organization (CSO)
S-108	Revise/Create a Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method for Reef Environments
S-103	Integrate Best Management Practices into Coastal Construction Project Design
S-97	Reduce Bag Limit to 6 per Person per Day During Lobster Mini Season
S-2	Create a SEFCRI-Wide Mooring Buoy Program
N-25	Strengthen Penalties for Reef-Related Violations
S-54	Apply for FL Reef Tract to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Priority 3

S-114	Implement a Mechanism that allows Permitting Agencies to Apply Lessons from Previous Projects to Future Projects
S-124	Create Regional Ecosystem Based Beach Management Strategies
N-59	Establish Maximum Size Limits for Ecologically Significant Reef-Associated Fish
N-8	Educate the Public about Eco-Friendly Yard Maintenance
N-120	Overtum Current Legislation that Restricts Bans on Plastic Bags
N-75	Offer Free Pump-Out Stations to Boaters
S-125	Request that FWC Better Define the Word "Take"
S-107	Encourage Biological Monitoring of Resources Impacted by Nourishment Projects
S-101	Create a Required Training Program for Coastal Construction Project Contractors
S-67	Provide Incentives to Eradicate Invasive Species
N-117	Improve Impact Minimization and Mitigation Activities for Unavoidable Impacts to Resources
S-95	Perform a Study to Determine how to Improve Law Enforcement Management
S-116	Reduce Beach Raking
N-23	Create a Voluntary Marine Industry "Blue Star" Certification Program
S-87	Increase Protection of Important Reef Herbivores
N-19	Distribute Nautical Charts with Natural Resource Information to Boaters
S-106	Establish a Turbidity Monitoring Certification Program

Priority 4

S-110	Eliminate Over-Beach Discharge of Water
N-123	Develop a Finance Plan to Support Reef Conservation
S-86	Ban Live Mounts and Promote Proper handling and release techniques of All Shark Species
N-94	Create, Support, and Promote a Certification Program for BMPs at Golf Courses
S-98	Simplify FWC Regulations Regarding Size Limits
N-64	Encourage Voluntary Labeling of Fishing Gear in St. Lucie Inlet Preserve
N-37	Improve Existing FWC Hotline for Reporting Marine Incidents
N-36	Raise the Cost of Recreational Lobster Stamps and Dedicate Funds to Species Enforcement
N-7	Offer an Online Exam to Receive a Discount on Fishing Licenses
N-14	Enhance Distribution of Educational Materials about the Value of FL Reefs
N-18	Include multi-cultural fishing practices in Fishery Educational Programs
S-91	Develop an App for Reporting Marine Incidents
N-21	Distribute Reef Information to New FL Residents and Visitors
N-27	Establish Co-Management Agreements to Address Staff Capacity Gaps in Enforcement Agencies
S-75	Create a Voluntary Reef-User Donation Fund to Support Reef Conservation
N-41	Develop a Voluntary Fee to Fund Education and Conservation Programs
S-52	Create a Reef Protection Mascot/Logo Campaign



How do the RMAs connect to our process?

Our process aims to develop new fisheries related recommendations

- OFR Recommended management actions – will stay in place
- You can promote the ones you like
- You can develop new ones – especially from a fisheries perspective

Management Options

- Which RMAs does this group want to promote in the broader recommendations?
- What additional RMAs are needed?
- Which RMAs does the group need to discuss further?



Next Steps

Webinars

Dates

Fisheries and Coral Reef Ecology

TBD

Committee Meeting

Date

Discuss Fisheries in the SE FL Coral Reef
Design Public Meeting

Thursday, January 28th, 6:00 – 8:00 pm on Zoom