

February 1, 2022: Beginning of FY22-23 Omnibus

Work Action Groups (WAGs)

FSG uses Work Action Groups (WAGs) to develop and guide regional and/or statewide integrated efforts that prioritize applied science and associated extension, outreach and education needs. WAGs are ephemeral committees; they are established by need and dissolved when demand wanes. There are currently five WAGs: Fisheries, Aquaculture, SEAS (Shoreline, Estuarine and Aquatic Systems), Climate Change, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Members of the WAGs include FSG extension personnel, as well as other county and state faculty (e.g., non-FSG Extension agents, FSG Affiliate Faculty¹ with subject matter expertise, and project coordinators supported with leveraged funds). WAG participation ranges from 12 to 27 individuals, including the 25 extension agents and specialists. The composition of each WAG by type of participant is summarized in Table 1 and members are identified in Table 2.

Table 1. Number of WAG members by participant type

Type	HAB	SEAS	Climate Change	Fisheries	Aquaculture
FSG Agents	12	14	4	14	8
FSG Specialists	1	1	2	2	2
FSG Res. Affiliates	5	4	1	10	10
Leveraged	2	1		1	1
Other Agents		2	3		1
Other Specialists			2		
Total	20	22	12	27	22

In general, FSG Extension agents collaborate with researchers in many ways, including assisting with project design and data collection (including training volunteers to collect data), connecting researchers with stakeholders, and sharing research results with clientele using appropriate terminology/language and/or by developing outreach materials with support from FSG’s communications department. The leadership within WAGs rotates and is subject specific (e.g., some have one chair, others have four co-chairs representing different participant groups). The leadership of WAGs is not limited to FSG personnel; in fact, four WAGs are led by tenure-track affiliate faculty with majority research appointments – a testament to the premise of the WAGs, which is to identify the most pressing and ongoing emerging coastal and marine resources and synergize research, outreach and education for maximum impact.

¹ In late 2020, the Director initiated a formal designation for “Affiliate Research Faculty” to engage in FSG extension and education programming with agents; this group of faculty, while not directly receiving core FSG funding, has collaborated with FSG faculty on Project Development grants and participated in and/or led WAGs. Through these means, FSG Affiliate Faculty share research interests and results with FSG Extension agents who are in the position to bring the science to constituents along Florida’s coasts.

Table 2. Work Action Group (WAG) membership and leadership (*) by type

WAG	FSG Agents	Other
<i>Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)</i>	*L. Krinsky	FSG Extension Specialist
	V. Blanco	A. Braswell (coastal macrosystems ecology)
	A. Ubeda	
	B. Scharf	FSG Research Affiliate
	A. Zangroniz	*D. Laughinghouse (applied phycology)
	V. Encomio	T. Ankersen (environmental and land use law)
	H. Abeels	C. Angelini (coastal biology and ecology)
	C. Verlinde	*C. Court (regional economic modelling)
	S. Krueger	E. Philips (algal physiology and ecology)
	A. Collins	
	M. Sipos	FSG Leveraged Coordinator/Liaison
	R. O'Connor	M. Wilson (physical oceanographer, oil spill outreach)
		*B. Staugler (NOAA HAB Liaison)
<i>Shoreline, Estuaries and Aquatic Ecosystems (SEAS)</i>	*S. Barry	FSG Extension Specialist
	*S. Krueger	A. Braswell (coastal macrosystems ecology)
	A. Ubeda	
	B. Scharf	FSG Research Affiliate
	V. Encomio	J. Patterson (restoration aquaculture)
	L. Carnahan	*A. Smyth (biogeochemistry)
	H. Abeels	*L. Reynolds (coastal ecology)
	C. Verlinde	T. Ankersen (environmental and land use law)
	M. Sipos	
	R. O'Connor	FSG Leveraged Coordinator
	A. Zangroniz	M. Wilson (physical oceanography, oil spill outreach)
	S. Jackson	B. Staugler (NOAA HAB Liaison)
	V. Blanco	
	L. Krinsky	
<i>Climate Change</i>	*H. Abeels	FSG Specialist/Extension Specialist
	L. Carnahan	*T. Ruppert (coastal law and policy)
	A. Ubeda	A. Braswell (coastal ecosystems)
	S. Barry	
		FSG Research Affiliate
		A. Smyth (biogeochemistry)
		UF/IFAS Extension Agent
		A. Betancourt
		C. Stevenson
		L. Byron
	MS-AL Extension Specialist	
	R. Collini (Regional Coastal Climate Resilience)	

WAG	FSG Agents	Other
M. Heming (Regional Coastal Climate Resilience)		
Fisheries	S. Barry S. Krueger A. Ubeda *B. Scharf L. Tiu L. Carnahan H. Abeels C. Verlinde *M. Sipos S. Jackson A. Zangroniz J. Hazell V. Blanco *A. Collins	<p>FSG Extension Specialist A. Ropicki (marine resource economics) R. Farzad</p> <p>FSG Research Affiliate *E. Camp (fisheries and aquaculture governance) T. Ankersen (environmental and land use law) M. Allen (fisheries biology) F. Asche (fisheries economics) D. Chagaris (quantitative ecology) W. Patterson (marine fisheries ecology) A. Kane (aquatic pathobiology) D. Behringer (marine disease ecology) K. Lorenzen (integrative fisheries science) J. Patterson (restoration aquaculture)</p> <p>FSG Leveraged Coordinator N. Haddad (sustainable fisheries)</p>
Aquaculture	E. Lovestrand S. Krueger M. Sipos B. Scharf *L. Tiu V. Blanco A. Collins V. Encomio	<p>FSG Extension Specialist A. Ropicki (marine resource economics) *R. Farzad (food safety and science)</p> <p>FSG Research Affiliate J. Patterson (restoration aquaculture) E. Camp (fisheries and aquaculture governance) C. Ohs (aquaculture – feeds, bait) N. Montazeri (food and environmental virology) H. Yang (shellfish aquaculture) R. Francis-Floyd (aquatic veterinary medicine) M. DiMaggio (ornamental aquaculture) E. Cassiano (aquaculture extension) R. Yanong (fish veterinary medicine) T. Osborne (wetland biogeochemistry)</p> <p>FSG Leveraged Coordinator N. Haddad (sustainable fisheries)</p> <p>UF/IFAS Extension Agent L. Sturmer</p>