

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA ARTIFICIAL REEF WORKSHOP

MARCH 12, 2026

UF/IFAS MANATEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1303 17TH ST. W, PALMETTO, FL 34221

DOORS OPEN AT 8:30 AM
COFFEE, PASTRIES, NETWORKING

Welcome & Introductions <i>Angela Collins, UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant</i>	9:00 AM
Statewide updates <i>Keith Mille, FWC-DMF Artificial Reef Program</i>	9:10 AM
FWC Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program <i>Sean Keenan, FWC-FWRI FIM</i>	9:40 AM
----- BREAK (15 minutes) -----	10:00 AM
Tampa Bay Estuary Program Perspectives <i>Kerry Flaherty Walia, TBEP</i>	10:15 AM
Sarasota Bay Estuary Perspectives <i>Ryan Gandy, SBEP</i>	10:35 AM
Manatee River Restoration - Oyster Reef Structures <i>Damon Moore, Oyster River Ecology</i>	10:50 AM
Southwest Florida County Coordinator Updates <i>(Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Sarasota, Manatee, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Hernando, Citrus)</i>	11:10 AM
Group Photo and Lunch	12:00 PM

HOSTED BY FLORIDA SEA GRANT, UF/IFAS, AND FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION



Spatial and Temporal Dynamics of Reef Fish Assemblages on artificial and natural reefs on the West Florida Shelf **1:15 PM**
Michael Schram, FWC-FWRI FIM

Acoustic Tracking of Red Snapper **1:35 PM**
Kara Wall, FWC-FWRI

Kimberly's Reef: The FGCU Research Reef **1:50 PM**
Adam Catusus, Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida Coastal Corridor Artificial Reef Construction Project **2:05 PM**
Mike Norberg, Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida

-----**BREAK (15 minutes)**----- **2:15 PM**

Full Send Reefs Update and Tribute to Captain Jason Stock **2:30 PM**
Ryan Conigliaro, Salt Block Hospitality and Full Send

Vendor Updates: **2:40 PM**
Reefmaker, David Walter, Walter Marine
Reef Innovations, Larry Beggs, Reef Innovations
Native Shorelines - Quick Reef, Josh Mills, Davey Resource Group

Reef Fish Extension Initiatives: Florida Friendly Angler and the Great Goliath Grouper Count **3:15 PM**
Mike Sipos, UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant
Angela Collins, UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant

-----**BREAK (15 minutes)**----- **3:30 PM**

Round Table and Facilitated Discussion
Closing Remarks, Keith Mille, FWC-DMFM Artificial Reefs Program
Safe Travels home!

ADJOURN by 4:00 PM

2026 Southwest Florida Artificial Reef Workshop Additional Links and Resources

Vendor updates:

- Shipwreck Discovery: <https://shipwreckdiscovery.com/>
- Reefmaker /Walter Marine: <https://reefmaker.com/>
- Reef Innovations: <https://reefinnovations.com/> and a link to the Reef Ball PSA video: <https://vimeo.com/428312138>
- Native Shorelines: <https://nativeshorelines.com/>
- ECS Florida: <https://www.ecslimited.com/locations/ecs-florida-llc-tampa/>
- Ocean Rescue Alliance: <https://www.oceanrescuealliance.org/>

Speaker organizations:

- FWC Artificial Reef Program: <https://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/artificial-reefs/>
- FWC Fisheries-Independent Monitoring Program: <https://myfwc.com/research/saltwater/fim/>
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program: <https://tbep.org/>
- Sarasota Bay Estuary Program: <https://sarasotabay.org/>
- Oyster River Ecology: <https://oysterriverecology.org/>
- FWC/UF Movement Ecology and Reproductive Resilience: <https://ffgs.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/lowerre-barbieri-sue/>
- iTAG (acoustic tracking network): <https://itagscience.com/>
- Florida Gulf Coast University (Kimberly's Reef): <https://www.fgcu.edu/thewaterschool/facilities/vester-field-station/kimberlysreef>
- Fish and Wildlife Foundation of Florida (Florida Coastal Corridor): <https://wildlifeflorida.org/>
- UF/IFAS and Florida Sea Grant online training programs:
 - Great Goliath Grouper Count (June 1 – June 15 every year) : <https://www.flseagrant.org/citizenscience/great-goliath-grouper-count/>
 - Florida Friendly Fishing Guide: <https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/florida-friendly-fishing-guide-certification-program/> (100% vouchers are available for interested guides, simply reach out to Mike Sipos or Angela Collins!)
 - Florida Friendly Angler: <https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/florida-friendly-angler-certification-program/>

To learn more about artificial reefs in Florida, and to watch archived workshops, visit: <https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/artificial-reef-deployment-and-monitoring/>



2026 Southwest Florida Artificial Reef Workshop



Workshop participants

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