

## SE Florida Coral Reef Fisheries Stakeholder Committee - Meeting 8 part 2

Virtual meeting via Zoom  
6-8 pm, Tuesday November 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Summary – November 4<sup>th</sup>**

#### Overview

On Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> the second part of two of the eighth Coral Reef Committee meetings was held virtually via Zoom. Facilitators Joy Hazell and Susana Hervas attended the meeting.

Ten committee members, two members of the public, one Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission staff, and three Florida Department of Environmental Protection employees attended the meeting.

The meeting objectives were to:

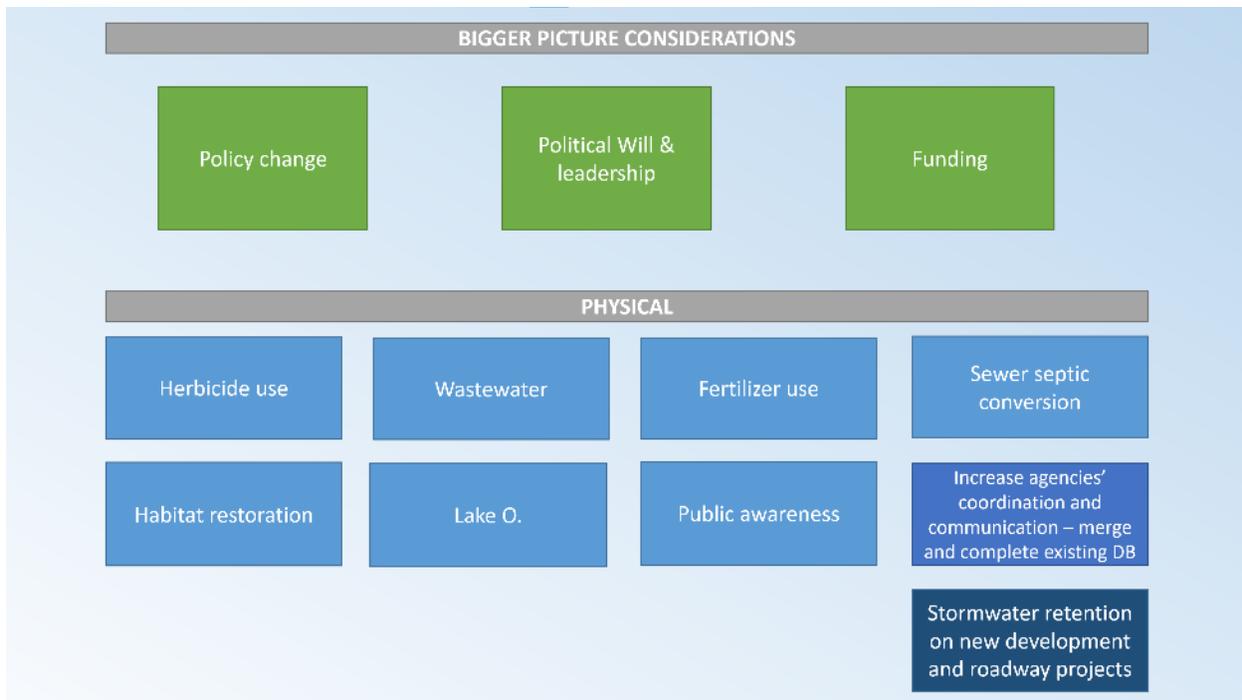
- Review water quality initiatives in the Coral ECA
- Identify potential set of criteria for water quality
- Co-develop survey for constituency

#### Welcome

The start of the meeting was a quick presentation with an explanation and clarification of the meeting agenda, objectives, and activities (Slides in Appendix 1.)

#### Tuesday's Review

The committee were presented with a summary of the main points that came from Tuesday's meeting highlighting the physical and bigger picture considerations mentioned (Slide 7 in Appendix 1.)



### Small Group Activity

Objective: Create draft Action Recommendations for water quality.

During the last meeting priorities were discussed. Today the focus is on narrowing it down into actionable recommendations. Topics are broken down into three groups and each group has a note taker with a table to fill in.

Discussion:

- I sound like a broken record; we are still missing the piece of who is doing things right now. There might be a program with DEP to remove spraying. There are work plans for five years down the line, and if we had that information, we could identify the gaps.
- Let's assume that there is nothing done, and we are the committee that says what to do. What we want done.
- If we knew more, we could be more focused
- But we don't
- But we could have
- DEP: Understand not wanting to spin your wheels and coming up with things that are already happening. We have tried to compile some things that have been presented to the group, but not possible to provide what each municipality in a four-county region is doing. We cannot get this information together. But the potential silver lining is that if the group can come up with things that are already planned or underway, it shows that this group supports those programs or initiatives which gives the municipality or agency that extra oomph to show that it is important to the stakeholders. Maybe help them get funding in the future.



	<p>Bill, Gary, and Chuck</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record what is being sprayed on how many acres – will be tracked and there is an interactive map TAG</li> <li>• Decrease the amount of herbicide and make sure the use is effective as possible – TAG</li> <li>• Explore ways to use manual removal debris – expensive, being explored by the TAG</li> <li>• Support lake management plans</li> <li>• Increase education on necessity of invasive removal</li> <li>• No notice that herbicide is banned in the summer at Home Depot</li> <li>• Encourage living with shoreline grasses (with grasses and habitat for small fishes)</li> <li>• Create central/uniform message about best practices on herbicide use – Tampa Bay had a good model for fertilizer use in the months of run-off</li> <li>• Create incentives for native vegetation use to reduce herbicide necessity</li> <li>• Look at creative financing spread over 10 years for taxes for septic – sewer conversion</li> </ul> <p>Needs to be a goal to decrease their herbicide use by x amt or percent through best practices</p>	
	<p>Wastewater</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEP was going to be responsible for making sure that municipalities were updating their systems</li> <li>• Increase fines on municipalities that weren't updating their systems</li> <li>• Funds will be provided to update systems</li> <li>• Updates from DEP on WW and septic</li> <li>• Recycling wastewater for irrigation or put back into aquifer</li> <li>• Treated wastewater pumped offshore (?) on the drop, carried up the coast</li> <li>• Close all of the discharges so no pumping</li> <li>• Review rules and laws for boats, waste, and pump outs – increase enforcement,</li> <li>• Establish anchorages with a small fee to provide a boat to pump out vessels</li> <li>• Filter run-off to collect sediments and trash before it gets into the watershed – i.e. I 95 widening projects</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Could create retention spots to collect the above</li> <li>• Agricultural industry – encourage the establishment and adherence to best management practices</li> <li>• Major canals that drain the neighborhood – create some type of filter or wetland on those major canals that go from west to east</li> </ul> <p>Use the updated technology to turn wastewater into potable water on boats</p>	
3	Habitat Restoration	<p>develop living shorelines, seagrass restoration, seagrass mitigation banks</p> <p>Non-profits/stakeholder groups – partnering with DEP and FWC, raising money and obtaining matching funds through government or private sector, educating people on the benefits of habitat restoration to restoring water quality and how water quality impacts habitats</p>	<p>Any seawall replacement needs to be living shorelines – recommend this to government agencies---add to new sea level laws.</p> <p>Living shorelines replacing bulkheads---creates habitats</p> <p>Flood plain predictions – use this data to determine where we use living shorelines</p>
	Increase agencies' coordination and communication – central database	<p>Government -- Need to have various agencies talking to each other</p> <p>Tackle inconsistencies among the agencies</p> <p>Need to streamline</p> <p>Mandatory review of policy among agencies so everyone is interpreting it the same way</p> <p>Compiling all the projects to get them all in once central database</p> <p>Stakeholders – make these recommendations by continuing to support the recs by speaking with congressional reps. Use the power of our networks to do this. Get the politicians to buy in.</p>	<p>SeaGrant could assist in this central database compilation ----tackle how we can get the groups together to discuss this and get the projects together ---facilitation and coordination through Seagrant ---Seagrant facilitates the development of this database</p>

## **Discussion**

- A good example for sewer septic conversion as the “poster child” could be the Florida Keys
- Yale University, when water rises 6 feet by 2100, Miami Dade County alone would lose \$3.7T in infrastructure
- The loss of infrastructure will be trillions of dollars in all southeast Florida. Money makes politicians love.
- One of the issues before then is that as water rises a bit more, septic systems won’t work. So imminent necessary to change to sewer. Septic tanks are already being flooded with king tides.
- People can’t spend thousands of dollars on conversions, but if there is an infrastructure bill going on right now, then we need this to be in there.
- This is an influential group. Politicians need money to get reelected.
- Septic tanks don’t work anymore

## **Survey**

The committee brainstormed what they want to know about their constituency related to water quality?

- Are we putting the names of committee members in the survey? Maybe this attracts responses.
- What is the most important thing to the majority?
- What are the issues? – what are the most important topics OR subcomponents of main topics?
- We want to know how the public prioritizes
- Paul Casanova – radio personality that could help spread the word

## **Adjourn**

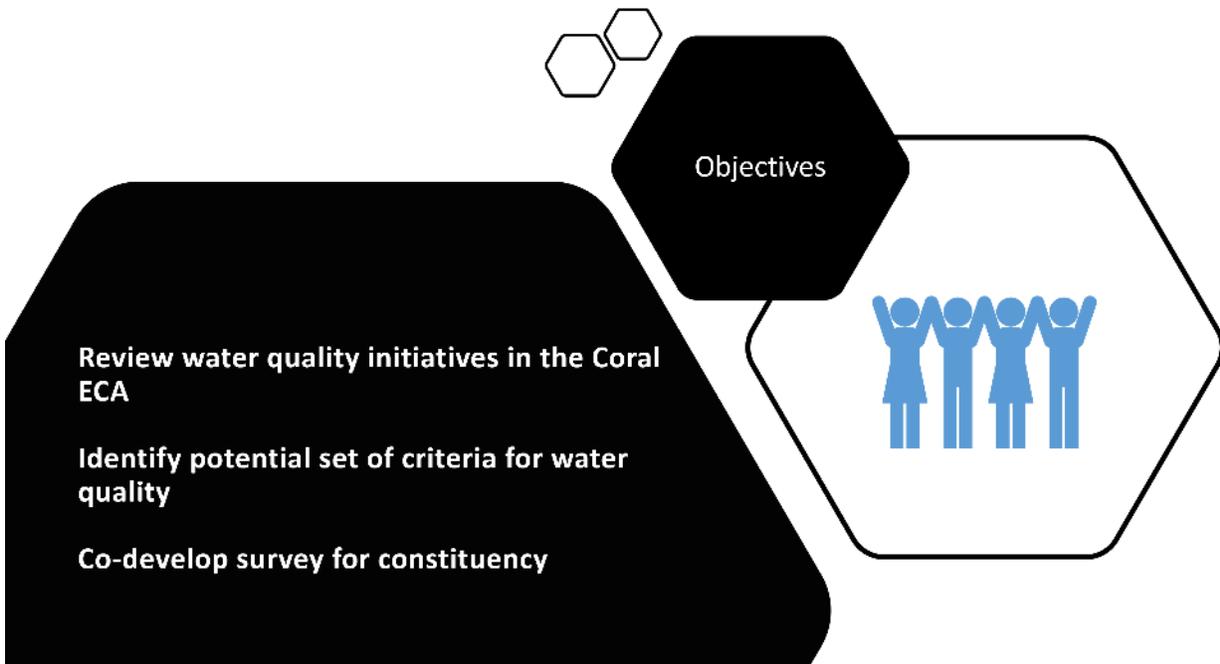
Fisheries and Conservation in the SE Florida Reef Tract: A New Stakeholder Process – Meeting 8



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## Agenda

- 6:00 Welcome: Agenda and Reminders
- 6:15 Homework Review
- 6:40 Homework Feedback
- 7:00 Small Group Activity
- 7:30 Report Out
- 8:00 pm Adjourn

## 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

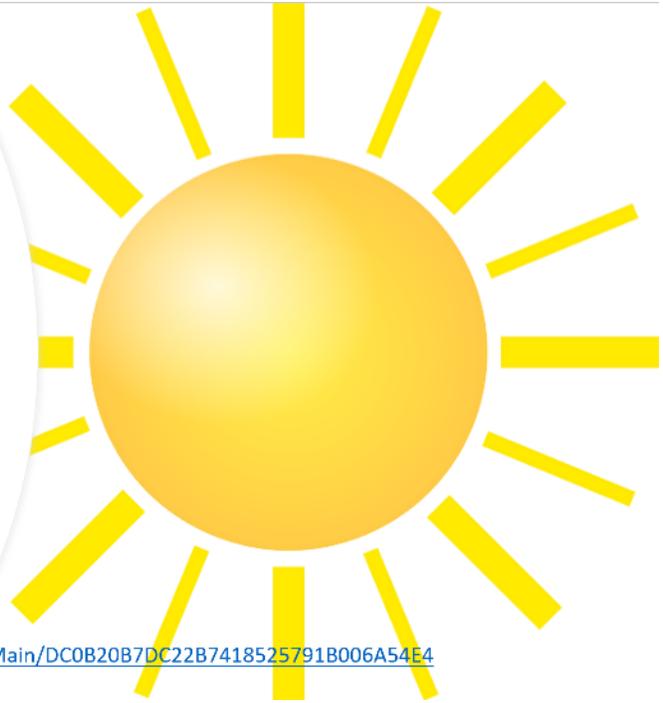
### *Zoom Related*

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

## Sunshine Laws

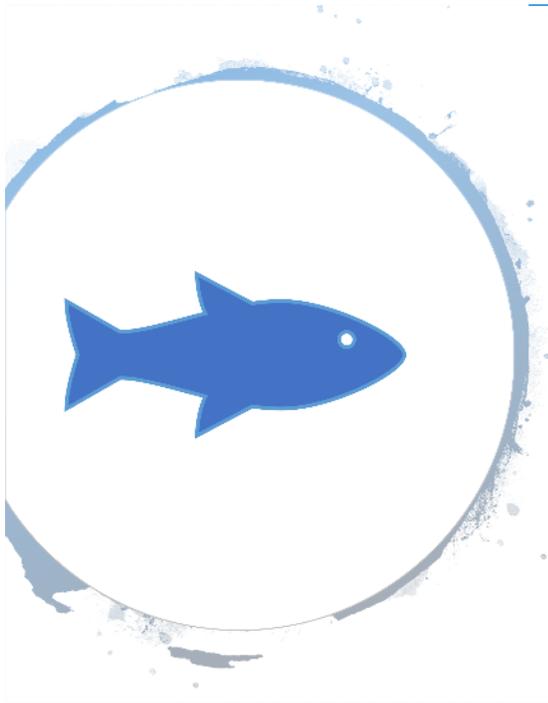
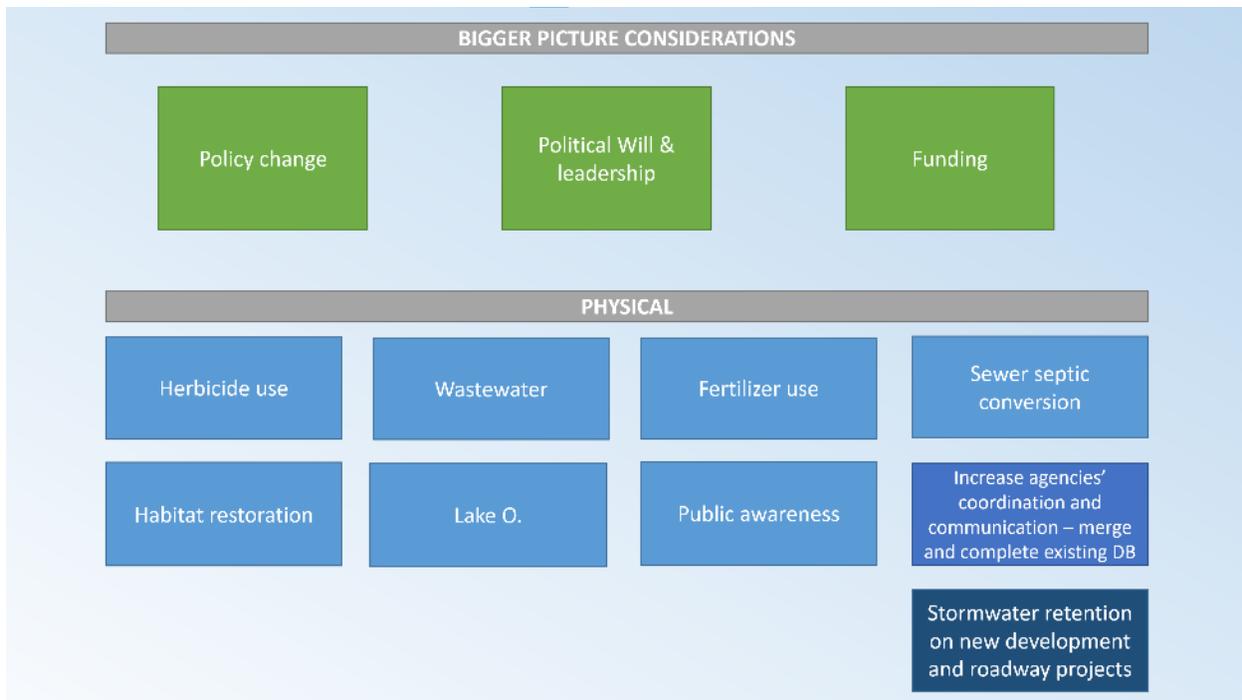
- Public can attend the meeting
- Reasonable notice of meetings
- Minutes recorded and open to public
  
- The law, in essence, is applicable to any gathering, whether formal or casual, of two or more members of the same board or commission to discuss some matter on which foreseeable action will be taken by the public board or commission.

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



Tuesday's review

Water Quality  
TOPICS



## Small Group Activity

**Objective:**

- Creating draft Action Recommendations for water quality

**Activity (30 mins)**

3 groups. Each group will create a list of recommended actions for 2 topics

## For Example...

TOPIC	What ACTIONS need to be taken? (e.g. from fishing stakeholders, from government [DEP, Local Gvt, etc.]	Are there CRITERIA for this action?
Sewer septic conversion	Create a priority list by area (Gvt)	Choose area by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Proximity to coast</li><li>- Age of community</li><li>- Proportion of septic systems</li><li>- Availability of conversion, etc.</li></ul>

## Survey



Individual writing 

Write something you want to know about your constituency related to WQ



Next Steps

**Webinar:** Nov 18 – spatial management

**Committee Meeting #9:** Dec 7 & 9