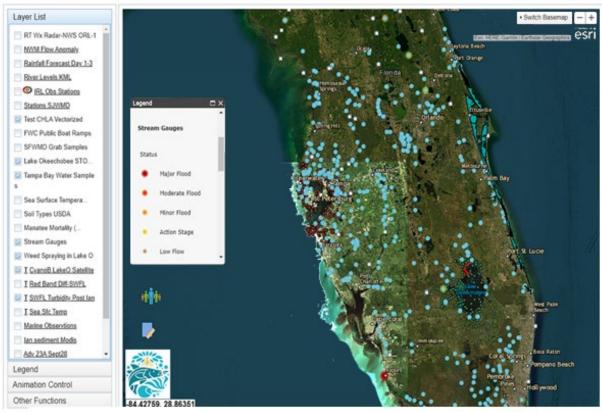
INV 13 Final Report: Integrating Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Data Access Across Platforms and Establishing a Virtual HAB Information Center.















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Acronyms

C-COP Collaborative Common Operating Picture

DOH- Department of Health

ESRI - Environmental Systems Research Institute

FAU - Florida Atlantic University

FAU-HBOI - Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

FDACS - Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

FDEP - Florida Department of Environmental Protection

FFWCC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWRI - Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

GC® - GeoCollaborate

GIS - Geographic Information Systems

INV - Innovative Technology Grant

IRL - Indian River Lagoon

IRLNEP - Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program

QAPP - Quality Assurance Project Plan

QAQC - Quality Assurance and Quality Control

REST - Representational State Transfer

SaaS - Software as a Service

SCCI - StormCenter Communications Inc.

SFWMD - South Florida Water Management District

SJRWMD - St. Johns River Water Management District

SWOT – Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats

Project Background:

Florida has experienced severe and long-lasting harmful algal blooms (HABs) of multiple microalgal and cyanobacterial species in fresh, estuarine, and nearshore oceanic waters. The spatial and temporal variability of these HAB events, coupled with a diverse array of taxa have presented a number of challenges to the effective, timely and accurate communication of bloom conditions, trends and potential human and ecological health risks.

Florida's leading experts and scientists on the Florida Blue-Green Algae Task Force and Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force have highlighted the need for more effective water quality monitoring, data sharing, enhanced coordination among multiple stakeholders and improved communication with citizens and community leaders. To address these needs, the State of Florida created a dedicated website and a statewide dashboard to communicate the status of HABs statewide. This website includes the Blue-Green Algae Task Force Consensus Document #1 (Donaldson, 2019) as well as annual updates of Progress and Recommendations Regarding Red Tide (*Karenia brevis*) Blooms issued by the Florida Harmful Algal Bloom (Red Tide) Task Force (2021).

Preparation and submission of the innovative technology proposal to FDEP by the IRLNEP and partners was initiated after many interagency discussions about how to respond to intense, long-duration and expansive HABs impacting the Indian River Lagoon, FL that began in 2011 with a pico-cyanobacteria bloom (now referred to as the "super bloom"). In 2012 an intense bloom of *Aureoumbra lagunensis*, commonly referred to as the Texas Brown Tide, was recorded for the first time in the Northern IRL. 2013 blooms were marked by intense and long-lasting cyanobacteria blooms in the southern IRL associated with freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee. In 2015-2016 the IRL was impacted by an intense nano-cyanobacterial bloom that transitioned into a large, intense and long-lasting bloom of *Aureoumbra lagunensis*. The collapse of the bloom in March-April 2016 caused one of the most extensive fish mortality events on record for the Banana River section of the IRL, causing great concern among IRL residents and policy makers and attracted international media exposure.

Although local, state and federal agencies mobilized quickly to respond to the fish mortality event, interagency partners recognized the need for enhanced data sharing, operational coordination, communication, and collaboration in advance of HAB events, during the events and during event recovery. Immediate action was taken to form an IRL HAB working group of scientists, resource managers and agency representatives to communicate on a regular basis about water quality conditions throughout the IRL system. This group assembles on a Zoom call monthly to report water quality conditions. During intense bloom and/or fish mortality events the group assembles weekly or as needed to share data and on-the water conditions.

The 2016 bloom and fish kill brought increased awareness for the need to evaluate opportunities for enhanced data sharing and communications among inter- and intraagency staff and the general public. Ongoing discussion with Department of Health (DOH), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the Water Management Districts (SJRWMD and SFWMD), and local/state governments recognized the need to evaluate available technologies that might enhance data sharing and communication of disparate data sets, collected across multiple agencies.

This FDEP Innovative Technology Grant Proposal (INV #13) was a partnership among the IRL Council-IRLNEP, SJRWMD, Florida Atlantic University – Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (FAU-HBOI), and StormCenter Communications Inc. (SCCI). SCCI was chosen as a proposal partner to evaluate their GeoCollaborate® technology developed through the federal Small Business Innovation Research Program (SBIR) to meet a grand challenge by NASA and later awarded NOAA SBIR Phase III sole source contracts. The GeoCollaborate® Software as a Service (SaaS) application provides real-time, map-based, trusted data visualizations, data sharing, and synchronous collaboration across disparate systems and platforms. It creates a collaborative common operating picture (C-COP) that provides superior situational awareness to guide quicker, more relevant decision making. GeoCollaborate is being used effectively to:

- share data from disparate sources to improve situational awareness and decision-making related to tropical cyclones and the transportation, emergency management, utility, and supply chain industries (the All-Hazards Consortium).
- identify gaps in buoy data to improve hurricane intensity and track forecasting for NOAA.
- identify wildfire burn intensities, fire perimeters, vegetation, and fuel moisture content and more and deliver critical information to responders and communities of practice.
- monitor global flood events and drive exercises delivering new flood inundation mapping layers into states to improve response and the protection of life and property.

The technology had not been applied to nearshore water quality and harmful algal bloom data as a means for enhancing data sharing and operational decision making.

This funding award was an opportunity to test a technology that had been through the rigorous small business innovative technology funding process while leveraging previous federal investments. The project team wanted to test GeoCollaborate (GC) to determine if the technology could be useful when applied to HABs. GC has proven its utility for situational awareness and communication in weather events and emergency response. Over the course of the project, HAB data proved challenging to work with due to the inherent difficulties around the quality of HAB data spatially, temporally, and

taxonomically; as well as accessibility issues of data being available from agencies and other organizations.

Project Location

The IRL spans 156 miles of the east-central coast of Florida. Seven Florida counties are included as part of the IRL watershed (Volusia, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, and Palm Beach Counties) as shown in Figure 1. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection Agency (FDEP) Innovative Technology Grant (INV) #13: Integrating Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Data Access Across Platforms and Establishing a Virtual HAB Information Center project was delivered using water quality data collected from various sources and at various spatial and temporal scales throughout the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) and the State of Florida. The IRL Council, sponsor of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP) was the lead for this project. Members of the project team included StormCenter Communications Inc. (SCCI), the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD), and Florida Atlantic University – Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute (FAU-HBOI). Powered by GeoCollaborate (GC®) and building on previous investments by the Department and other agencies, the project tested whether a HAB Information Center could be feasible for interpreting, communicating and collaborating trusted HAB data with the goal of enhancing monitoring and response efforts, aiding science-based decision-making, reducing the spread of misinformation, and helping to sustain economic use of unimpacted areas.

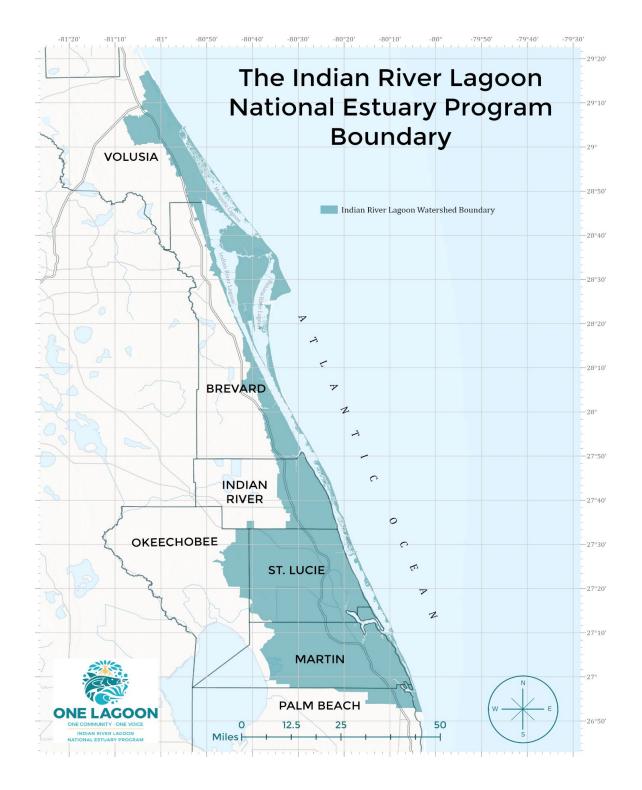


Figure 1: MAP OF INDIAN RIVER LAGOON WATERSHED BOUNDARY: A figure showing the jurisdiction of Indian River Lagoon Council and Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program (IRLNEP). The 156-mile watershed includes the three sister waterbodies of the IRL system including Mosquito Lagoon, Banana River Lagoon, and the Indian River Lagoon.

Summary of Activities Completed by Task:

Each of the deliverables and activities by task were reported and submitted to FDEP. Quarterly reports are available here. Each of the task orders were detailed with support documentation and are also available here. Below are bulleted lists of activities completed by task:

Task 1:

- Electronic copies of the initial GeoCollaborate Instance and grant procurement documentation dated May 21, 2021.
- Agenda and attendance log for all meetings and conference calls occurring from May 24, 2021, to August 18, 2021, are available here.
- Quality Assurance Manual. Version 1 dated October 29, 2021, Revision 1 dated December 6, 2021, Revision 2 dated January 21, 2022, and Revision 3 dated February 21, 2022. Final Version of the Quality Assurance Manual can be found here.
- Summary report for completed items in this task including a description of purchases for setup of the IRL Council/IRLNEP GeoCollaborate lab and feedback from the initial GeoCollaborate instance and session demonstration. Submitted on October 29, 2021. Summary Report for the Task One deliverable is available here.
- Signed acceptance letter from the GIS IT Coordinator hired by the IRL Council signed on May 13, 2021.

Task 2:

- Summary report that identifies the data providers, data types, periods of record and other relevant metadata, and includes statements of data usability relative to the criteria defined in the QA Manual, submitted on January 28, 2022. The Task 2 report is available here.
- Summary report detailing testing results, the preliminary use cases and the communication methods, documentation of HAB/Water Quality data set test collaboration sessions and feedback from each activity, submitted on January 28, 2022. Summary Report for Task Two deliverable is available here.
- Copy of subcontracts (IRL2021-06 executed May 4, 2021, IRL2021-07 executed June 2, 2021), list of stakeholders that received case studies, and copies of case studies submitted on January 28, 2022. A list of subcontracts is available in Appendix B.

Task 3:

- A total of 10 demonstrations were performed during this task. The required eight GeoCollaborate sessions using the two instances were delivered to IRL stakeholders and the general public, as evidenced by copies of agendas, attendance lists, and presentations for each session. Sessions were completed on December 6, 2021, January 6, 2022, at 10am, January 6, 2022, at 2pm, January 10, 2022, April 14, 2022, at 10am, April 14, 2022, at 2pm, April 15, 2022, at 10am, and April 15, 2022, at 2pm. Two additional training sessions were conducted on July 26,2022 and July 28, 2022. Videos and PowerPoint presentations of each of those webinars and workshops are available as links in Appendix A.
- A summary report and presentation to Department staff summarizing the outcomes of the first three tasks was submitted to FDEP for review and comments. This was completed on May 20, 2022. Reference Appendix C for PowerPoint.

Task 4:

- Two GeoCollaborate sessions showcasing statewide HAB data were presented to state agency leaders and other key partners and stakeholders. A copy of the attendance list for both sessions is available in Appendix B. Task 4 sessions were completed on December 12, 2022, and December 13, 2022. Task 4 Summary Report is available here.
- Once approved by FDEP, a copy of the final report will be available online. Paper copies of the final report are available upon request.

Project Description and Timeline:

The IRL Council, an independent special district of the State of Florida, served as the "Grantee" and project administrator for this project and utilized GeoCollaborate®, an innovative technology developed by StormCenter Communications Inc. The team unified data from providers, portals, hubs, and websites to create a unique collaborative environment that enhanced data sharing, data analysis, decision-making, and communications. GeoCollaborate is a patented means to access and share data in disparate formats across platforms and devices. It translates these disparate data into effective communication to stakeholders such as agencies, public health officials and scientists proactively and synchronously.

The project initially configured GeoCollaborate using data from the IRL to help identify, monitor, and respond to HABs, in addition to exploring data to identify conditions that are conducive to blooms. Once the IRL demonstration phase was completed, GeoCollaborate was next applied to other datasets from around Florida. The team worked closely and communicated regularly with the FDEP, the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC), Florida's water management districts (SJRWMD and SFWMD), Mote Marine Laboratory, other National Estuary Programs in Florida (i.e., Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Coastal & Heartland),

Florida's three National Estuarine Research Reserves (i.e., Apalachicola, Guana-Tolomato Matanzas, and Rookery Bay), NOAA, and other data holders as applicable to integrate trusted data that highlighted scalability and demonstrated how a model HAB Information Center for the State of Florida could work.

Table 1: PROJECT TIMELINE:

Due to 508 compliance requirements, Table 1 was removed from this document. To access the full document, which does not meet 508 compliance standards, please reach out to InnTech_HAB@FloridaDEP.gov

Grant Award Amount and Financial Summary:

Table 2: ORIGINAL BUDGET BY TASK:

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Two Change orders were authorized during the term of this agreement. Reference Table 3 for both change updates. The first Change Order was executed on February 15, 2022. This order changed the hourly rate found in Attachment 3, Grant Work Plan, Salary, and Fringe Benefits by Task from \$31.25 to \$33.62. Changes to Budget Category or Funding amount per task were not made. The second change order was executed on October 25, 2022. This change order moved unused funds from prior task's budget categories to Task 4 budget categories. The revised Attachment 3, Grant Work Plan, Budget Detail by Task is reflected below in Table 3. Added to Table 3 is a column showing the actual expenses incurred for each budget category by task for this project.

Table 3: UPDATED BUDGET BY TASK EXECUTED ON OCTOBER 25, 2022:

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Concurrent with this FDEP project, the IRLNEP has developed a draft One Lagoon Comprehensive Monitoring Plan with contract support from Dr. Dennis Hanisak (Hanisak & Heuberger, 2021). This document is available in draft format and is in peer-review by the IRLNEP Management Conference. The document shows that over 70 organizations are actively collecting data about the Indian River Lagoon's water quality, HABs, seagrasses, benthic and surface stations, etc. Each of these datasets has different temporal scales. Some data are collected discretely, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, and some are

^{*}Anticipated costs incurred. At the time of submission of this report not all subcontractor invoices have been received, but the entire amount is expected.

continuous. The project team recognized early in the contract process that combining data from multiple organizations is complex and labor intensive. Datasets from data collectors have varying levels of QAQC. Some data collectors are hesitant to share both raw and metadata due to publishing timelines and ownership interests. The project team discovered that it was difficult to find datasets in geospatial formats (OGC compliant) that GC could display, and little data was available without additional configuration.

To fulfil the need for a data sharing and communication platform, agency staff must go through data trustability or QAQC methods prior to publishing and housing data for any geospatial platform, including the GC application. In the past, this has resulted in inordinately long review times of datasets before publication and has hampered efforts for data sharing. Once data has been QAQC, published and housed with geospatial coordinates in a REST Endpoint, then sharing through technologies such as GC works very well for HAB data.

The GIS/Data Coordinator obtained agency and academic data from SJRWMD, SFWMD, and FAU-HBOI, then performed data QAQC and intensive data analysis to combine those datasets with different spatial and temporal scales. With the assistance of the SJRWMD, Kriging methods with longitudinal elongations were performed to identify areas of interest or hot spots within the past 15 years (See Figure 2 as well as this website for animations). The interpolations for these long-term datasets helped create a visual story for the implications of HABs in the IRL.

Project Schedule vs. Activity Completion:

All project deliverables were completed on schedule with two exceptions. The first was the approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) due to multiple comments and edits from review by FDEP staff. Next, the summary report and presentation to Department staff summarizing the outcomes of the first three tasks was delivered after the Task 3 due date. The project team had FDEP staff in attendance for the first two webinars/instances and assumed completion of the deliverable, but the FDEP contract staff requested a separate presentation and that occurred after the task deliverable timeline. A minor change that should be mentioned was the delivery of the Final Statewide Instance, which was pushed back a month due to the repercussions of Hurricane Ian. The deliverable of the final instance was still within the project Task timeline.

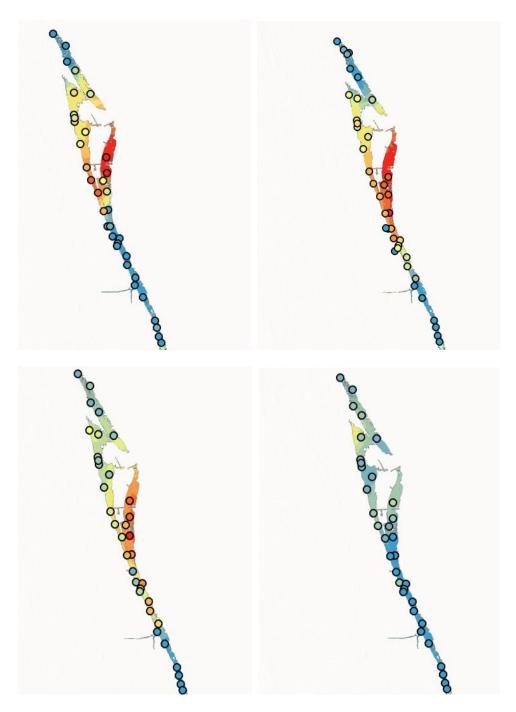


Figure 2: MONTHLY INTERPOLATIONS OF CHLOROPHYLL-A FROM JANUARY TO APRIL 2016 FOR THE *AUREOUMBRA LAGUNISIS* BLOOM: The figure above shows standard kriging methodologies with longitudinal elongation. For access to these models and animation utilized visit here or the OneLagoon Data Hub.

Defining Opportunities and Strengths, Addressing Weaknesses and Threats

As a team, IRLNEP, SJRWMD, and FAU-HBOI conducted a Strength, Weakness, Opportunities, and Threat (SWOT) analysis to evaluate the utility of GeoCollaborate and the results of the INV 13 project, Communicating Harmful Algal Blooms. SWOT analysis has become a fundamental tool for organizations to analyze internal and external environments of organizations during times of indecision (Benzaghta et al, 2021; Rozmi et al., 2018; Wu 2020). By using a SWOT analysis, the INV 13 project team discussed the anticipated benefits, situational issues, pressures, and examined how GC would be the most beneficial for communicating HABs.

Strengths

- Brings disparate data types from different data providers together.

 With a subject matter expert (leader), trusted geospatial datasets from disparate locations and multiple providers can be identified, brought together, and shared synchronously in GC. GC enables cross-platform synchronous collaboration without having to rehost geospatial datasets. This is beneficial because it can unify disparate datasets together on one map in one instance and users (followers) don't need to spend inordinate amounts of time searching for the trusted relevant data. Without GC, sharing multiple datasets from multiple providers would entail having many tabs open in a leader's browser or having a GIS professional organize data for presentation prior to the meeting. GC can quickly showcase datasets by accessing a geospatial dataset's Representational State Transfer (REST) endpoint.
- Provides a robust web-based tool for Media communications and coverage. GC's ability to combine and showcase highlighted trusted data that can be automatically updated in a dashboard is advantageous for media. GC contains a full-screen background option for viewing datasets and the ability to show logos, names and titles in headers and footers. The setup of the dashboard lends a polished, professional look to a leader's presentation of data, similar to what one would find during a television broadcast. Thus, potentially seamless integration with news media. The leader of an instance has the ability to determine exactly which datasets to highlight and allow media to access in a single URL location. During Hurricane Ian (October 2022), the GC dashboard was utilized for this purpose and provides a prime example of how GC may be used to communicate emergency situations and plan for emergency responses.
- Maintains original symbology.
 - Another strength of GC is that it maintains the original symbology and appearance of geospatial data. The reason this is beneficial is that once standards are in place, there can be no tampering or altering the appearance of datasets. This assures original ownership and maintains the original owner's integrity of the data and intent on how the data should be represented.

Works extremely well in low bandwidth environments.

GC was created to work on all devices with internet access. This is useful when accessing GC from a device other than a computer, when Wi-Fi signals are poor or unstable, and when multiple users are accessing a single network. The capability to work well in low bandwidth environments is beneficial for those that may be out in the field during an emergency response event like a HAB.

Allows for unlimited followers.

GC has a unique scalability addition which allows for unlimited participants or "followers" accessing the session URL at the same time.

Provides a Graphics and Drawing tool.

One of the original recommendations from the IRLNEP and project team was altering and enhancing GC's animation tool. Once revised, the graphics and drawing tools enable areas of importance to be highlighted with points, lines and polygons and geospatial messages can be issued across all followers instantaneously in association with those areas.

Manages datasets.

When utilizing GC, the leader manages all datasets included in an instance and decides which are fed to followers of the session. This password-protected functionality ensures the leader maintains control of a meeting and can direct followers to specified areas of interest or concern. The followers can explore any data provided and may interact with any dataset in the session or afterward in the dashboard.

Provides upgrades and maintenance.

Any plugins, upgrades, maintenance, and system administration are handled by SCCI. This enables users to concentrate solely on communicating and presenting data rather than focusing on back-end development tasks. This saves staff time because web maps and service upgrades are not handled by the user.

• Expands the network of communication between data providers and partners in the IRL.

The GeoCollaborate project expanded the network of communication between stakeholders involved with HABs in the IRL. Conversations regarding data accessibility and availability were held with SJRWMD, SFWMD, FFWCC, FAU-HBOI, FDEP, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), the five counties bordering the IRL, and other stakeholders. The IRLNEP/ IRL Council is viewed as a trusted, honest broker, thus enabling frank conversations about data issues and facilitating solutions for a variety of potential roadblocks and data gaps. These experiences were the most crucial steppingstones for obtaining geospatial data and overcoming hesitance to share HAB data. One very encouraging sign was the intense interest among agencies and local governments in the GC project and the

potential for improving how data could be accessed and shared to respond to HAB conditions and communicated among the partner networks.

Weaknesses

• Lacks license agreement.

First and perhaps most importantly, SCCI does not currently use any form of licensing agreement. A license agreement is a written contract that permits a third party to use intellectual property, in this case GeoCollaborate, subject to certain conditions (Kemp, 1987). GC is patented which would prevent copyright infringement, however having a standard agreement between licensor and licensee is preferred to prevent copyright infringement or any misuse of software.

<u>Lacks geoprocessing or analytical tools.</u>

GC was originally created to bring datasets together into a single platform without altering the appearance of those datasets. The SCCI business plan works well for established atmospheric data that has unified standards (symbology, measurements, explanations etc.) and has fast turnaround times for predictions with weather. However, HAB science has not reached the point where predictions can be reliably made about potential bloom longevity, intensity or other factors. To use GC as a communication platform for HAB data, spatial analysis functions need to be built into the platform functionality. This includes symbology changes, calculations, standard error predictors, etc.

Every agency errs on the side of caution because there is a concern with QAQC for operational data. HABs are complicated, spatially, temporally, and taxonomically. In order to make data usable there are complex factors in datasets that must be considered before making them operational. Trustable data for HABs needs to be the best data available. HABs could cause human health, safety and welfare threats. Currently, GC lacks the ability to geoprocess or analyze HAB datasets in order to keep available data in an unmodified form. It thus falls on agencies and other data providers to format data so that it can be displayed in geospatial formats.

• Lacks ability to show time-enabled data.

GC does not contain the ability to show temporal data. Time-enabled data is crucial for HABs because phytoplankton monitoring in the IRL has mostly relied on *in situ* chlorophyll-*a* fluorescence via deployed or adaptive instrumentation (Lopez et al., 2021). These instruments have varied time scales, but time is a key factor for identifying bloom initiation and senescence. As part of the project, the GIS coordinator developed a time series visualization of water quality data as an aid to understanding the long-term datasets; however, this animation could not be displayed in GC. For other use cases, temporal datasets may not be crucial but for HAB data, additional time-enabled visualization technology would need to be added to GC to improve overall utility.

• GC business model is geared towards large agencies.

GC costs approximately \$20,000 per instance (URL) for the first year and \$10,000 thereafter annually. This falls out of the budget range for smaller organizations that are not responsible for emergency operations and response. During webinars, there was ample interest from academics, non-profits, smaller for-profit organizations, and local governments regarding utilizing and gaining access to GC. It may be a future opportunity for SSCI to rethink their offerings and adjust their pricing structure to attract smaller organizations to utilize GC as their data sharing platform.

Opportunities

Emergency response and recovery.

GC is highly beneficial for emergency response and recovery management. During Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole

(October 2022), SCCI utilized GC to give live updates and coverage of both storms' projections. Information included windspeed and direction, radar, buoys, and aerial imagery. It was very impressive and gave the IRLNEP project team a high degree of confidence that GC could be particularly useful for coordination during emergency situations when agencies would be coordinating a regional or statewide response.

• Agency-prepared datasets.

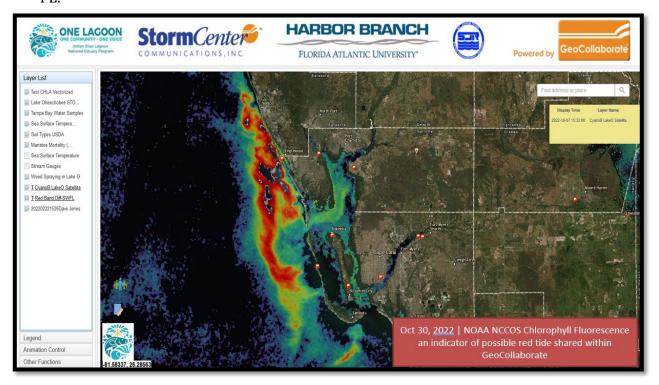
As the purpose of the project was to explore GC's utility for accessing, sharing and showcasing datasets regarding communicating HABs, the platform was somewhat hampered in its usefulness due to limits on the data being provided. Data providers are the limiting factor in the quantity and quality of HAB data that gets released. While all participants in data sharing for this project saw the utility of the GC platform in utilizing data, there were QAQC issues encountered to get data to a trustable state, to share it in a timely manner, and to work through agency concerns about making data available intra- or inter-agency and to the public. Agencies will need to consider their data QAQC processes and sharing policies to bring more of the right data to a place of trustability and accessibility before platforms like GC can be fully utilized in addressing HABs. Having GC available does highlight the benefits of connecting people in a real-time data sharing and collaboration environment and is a strong motivator for data providers to establish their geospatial data infrastructure such that more agency data can be put to work serving citizens and decision makers.

Adding datasets to GC.

SCCI's staff showed great willingness to work with end-users about accessing and displaying a wide range of hosted geospatial datasets. They have addressed concerns about data formats by adding, and continuing to add, to the library of data types GC accesses and shares. They have provided advice about various methods to bring data to a trustable state for use. This expertise was invaluable throughout the

project and would be an asset in moving state agencies forward in their abilities to host and share data amongst themselves, with the media and with the public. An example of this was accessing the Sentinel-3 satellite data from NOAA's NCCOS data portal as a GeoTIFF, reformatting it and offering it as a web map tile to be unified with other map and data products. Below is an example of the GC-enabled image of a possible Red Tide event off the FL SW coast.

Figure 3: AERIAL AND MODELED IMAGE OF RED TIDE OFF THE COAST OF TAMPA, FL.



• Making data serviceable is potentially a large, labor-intensive task.

Given the current state of HAB data in Florida, it is potentially a large and staffintensive task for data providers to prepare data for sharing in geospatial platforms
such as GC. GC can only be utilized when data has reached a level of trustability, has
been prepared and formatted for sharing and made available so it can be accessed.

Data used for assessing HABs include water quality data such as temperature,
nutrients (TN & TP), salinity, pH, Chlorophyll-a, algal cell count data, and other
datasets. These measurands are processed only for a specific location, meaning one
point at a unique latitude and longitude within a system. Whether dealing with *in*situ measurements or grab samples, it takes time to analyze those results and apply
appropriate QAQC methodologies.

HABs are dynamic, shifting, and organic. Meaning, by the time a sample has been analyzed and undergoes QAQC, the bloom could have moved laterally in a system,

moved vertically in the water column, died off, or another bloom species could have become dominant (Phlips et al., 2021). Due to this complexity, the current measurement and QAQC time frame is not quick enough to make use of the dynamic changes and shifts that occur during these emergency scenarios. Often, trustable, shareable and accessible data is released by agencies well after their usefulness to situational awareness has passed.

This challenge is not the responsibility of SCCI, but rather, for data providers. The water management districts (SJRWMD and SFWMD) have large archives of water quality data with a high degree of QAQC applied to it. Provisional data could be useful in emergency situations. SJRWMD, SFWMD and FAU-HBOI provide real time sampling. If these provisional datasets were available as REST endpoints, other platforms like GC could gain access to those datasets and stakeholders would be able to easily view data to improve situational awareness and ability to communicate about current conditions.

Making this data accessible and available will take a lot of effort and require some procedural and policy changes to initiate the work needed. The results of this INV 13 project have brought the conversation to the data providers and agencies. Project partners were quick to see the utility in a platform such as GC. They realized that prioritizing data QAQC and formatting of service data into easily accessible and sharable formats is the future of data sharing, collaboration and communication.

Threats

There were two major threats identified by this study.

Potential loss of historical data.

Being able to refer to past data, particularly during emergency response, is essential. For HAB data, showing past data helps display a bloom's timeline from initiation through senescence. There is the potential to lose data timelines in GC should agencies hosting data overwrite their datasets. GC shows only the most current data from hosts, so the ability to utilize prior datasets would be lost unless the agency host saves these datasets and makes them separately available. This aspect, while not a weakness of the GC platform, does place the archival and curation of past events in the hands of the data provider. Data providers must ensure that historic data is tagged and archived, otherwise there is a potential decrease in overall functionality for HAB data. For other use cases and when collaboration and communication about emergency response is critical, GCs ability to show the most recent data is most definitely an asset.

• Potential loss of public trust related to how agencies make data available and ensure the QAQC of data

There is an associated threat to credibility, accountability and maintaining trust with the general public when sharing and communicating data about harmful algal blooms. Failure to address the gaps or weaknesses of how we communicate, share, and develop models with data is a threat that leaves the general public at risk from a

human health and safety standpoint. Especially, with species of cyanobacteria that have direct human and wildlife safety threats. There are real-time monitoring stations throughout the entirety of the State of Florida. Due to data not always being made available in a timely manner, the public is not always informed appropriately about water quality conditions.

Recommendations

Over the duration of this project, the IRLNEP and project team have seen the power of the GC platform and demonstrated its usefulness in sharing data, collaborating on and communicating HAB data and assisting with operational response during and after a bloom. The team spent a significant amount of time working with available datasets to perform QAQC methodologies, formatting data for sharing, and working with GC in optimizing collaboration and communication about data being presented during sessions. This intimate familiarity with the platform assisted the team in developing a vision for how GC could best be used today and optimized in the future.

GC represents a potential powerful platform for state agencies seeking better collaboration, coordination and communication either within or between agencies, particularly when improved situational awareness or emergency response are required. Hurricanes and tropical storms afford the best examples of GC's utility in unifying disparate data into a single platform, providing briefings on data, being media-ready, and allowing session followers to explore data on their own during a session.

The state of HAB data in Florida represents a significant obstacle for showcasing data sharing technology such as GC in coordinating HAB data and making decisions about emergency response. All levels of data providers, whether state, academic, municipal, or non-profit collect data at a variety of timescales and with various levels of QAQC applied. Not all organizations make these data available. Not all organizations apply standardized levels of QAQC for provisional data. To be most effective, agencies will need to examine the entire environment of their data collection, data QAQC, data formatting, data sharing, and ability to utilize provisional data operationally to best optimize data sharing platforms like GC.

This project has initiated a conversation with agency stakeholders about how to move forward. The project has demonstrated the utility of GC regarding how HAB data could be better utilized, shared and communicated. Agencies are appropriately careful about their QAQC practices (Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. 2019), generally taking extended periods to ensure data trustability prior to public release, often with significant delays between data collection and release. Policy changes at the management level of agencies could allow for the release of provisional data, or additional emphasis on a more timely release of data that has undergone QAQC to achieve trustability, particularly when communication within or between agencies is crucial and time sensitive.

The project partners recognize that making decisions based on provisional data can be a high-risk proposition; however, with HABs, environmental conditions are often highly dynamic. Enhanced communication platforms like GC hold great promise to improve communication and collaboration, however stakeholders must be aware of the provisional nature of data. The project team is hopeful that this project has opened avenues for continued discussions among HAB agencies and determination of next steps to make data more accessible and available. When that occurs, a platform such as GC will shine in its utility.

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Appendix A - Links to YouTube Videos

Instance 2: GeoCollaborate: Putting HAB Data to Work: January 10 & 11, 2022, Video

Instance 3: Informing Harmful Algal Bloom Emergency Response: May 12 & 13, 2022, Video

Summary Report and Presentation to FDEP Staff: May 20, 2022 PowerPoint

Training Sessions - July 26 & 28, 2022 Video

Instance 4: Demonstrating a Statewide Collaboration Tool and Dashboard for HAB's in Florida - December 12 & 13, 2022 Video

Appendix B - Attendance Records

Instance 1:

Name & Organization

- 1. Adams, Susan, Indian River County.
- 2. Bournique, Doug, SJRWMD.
- 3. Brower, Jeff, Volusia County.
- 4. Thurlow-Lippisch, Jacqui, SFWMD.
- 5. Hetherington, Stacy, Martin County.
- 6. Watkins, Aaron, FDEP.
- 7. Smith, Curt, Brevard County.
- 8. Dzadovsky, Chris, St. Lucie County.
- 9. Bromberg, Mel, WaterSHED International.
- 10. Carey, Tom, Volusia County.
- 11. Carlisle, Paul, City of Sebastian.
- 12. Catanese, Tony, Florida Institute of Technology.
- 13. Fuss, David, Indian River Land Trust.
- 14. Glass, Stu, Space Coast League of Cities.
- 15. Hamilton, Layne, MINWR.
- 16. Hart, Hannah, FWC.
- 17. Hendricks, Chris, Treasure Coast Sotheby's Realty.
- 18. Hughes, Dianne, Martin County.
- 19. Jacoby, Chuck, IRLNEP STEM.
- 20. Jones, George, ORCA.
- 21. LaMartina, Kathy, SFWMD.
- 22. Lamb, Vince Citizen, Brevard County.
- 23. Leslie, John, Citizen.
- 24. McCabe, Mike, Melbourne-Tillman WCD.
- 25. Mitts, Matthew, City of Vero Beach.
- 26. Musser, Robert, Canaveral Port Authority.
- 27. Orcutt, Judy, Citizen, Indian River Co.
- 28. Shropshire, Kevin, City of Rockledge.
- 29. Thompson, Laurilee, Brevard TDC.
- 30. Vogt III, Charles, FDOH.
- 31. Wilson, Greg, Riverside Conservancy.
- 32. Day, Bob, IRLNEP (Retired).
- 33. Hanisak, Dennis, FAU/Harbor Branch.
- 34. Jacoby, Chuck, SJRWMD.
- 35. Krimsky, Lisa, University of Florida/IFAS.
- 36. McGinnis, Dale, Eastern Florida State College.
- 37. Paperno, Rich, FFWCC.
- 38. Powell Beth, Indian River County.
- 39. Souto, Leesa, Marine Resources Council.
- 40. Walters, Linda, University of Central Florida.
- 41. Young, Kelly, Volusia County.
- 42. Bamberger, Christine, Brevard County.

- 43. Braun, Greg, Martin County.
- 44. Catino, Frank, Brevard County.
- 45. Cox, Graham, Indian River County.
- 46. McPhillips, Cheryl, Brevard County.
- 47. Stapleton, Heather, Indian River County.
- 48. Wayles, Jessie, Volusia County.
- 49. Winsten, Keith, Brevard County Kreifl, Kristen Canaveral National Seashore.
- 50. Agviar, Laura, NASA.
- 51. Murdock, Nick, NASA.
- 52. Klinepeter, Molly, Indian River County.
- 53. Garland, Ed Sebastian Inlet Tax District.
- 54. Gray, James, Sebastian Inlet Tax District.
- 55. Collins, Jeffrey, NASA.
- 56. Dankert, Don, NASA.
- 57. Fojtik, Jake, Florida Farm Bureau Foundation.
- 58. Charest, Eric, Indian River County.
- 59. Scheidt, Doug, NASA.
- 60. Venuto, Charles, NASA.
- 61. Phill, Thomas, NASA.
- 62. Powell, Elizabeth, Indian River County.
- 63. Hall, Lauren, SJRWMD.
- 64. Murdock, Nick, NASA.
- 65. LaMartina, Kathy, SFWMD.
- 66. Hughes, Dianne, Martin County.
- 67. Carey, Tom, Volusia County.
- 68. Friedman, Brandon, St. Lucie County.
- 69. Stephen, Robert, Citizen.

^{*}Differences in information between the instances are due to different recording techniques. Task one was given to the IRLNEP management board. Tasks two & three were presented to the audience via webinar series. Task 4 was given as an interactive session.

Instance 2: GeoCollaborate: Putting HAB Data to Work: January 10 & 11, 2022

*Differences in information between the instances are due to different recording techniques. Task 1 was given to the IRLNEP management board. Tasks 2 & 3 were presented to the audience via webinar series. Task four was given as an interactive session.

*Duplicates in tables are from sharing registration links.

Name	Organization		Job Title
** . 1	771 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	D 1 D C	

Dennis Hanisak Florida Atlantic University Research Professor

Thomas Farrugia Alaska Ocean Observing System Alaska Harmful Algal Bloom Network Coordinator

Benjamin Skinner Pacific Salmon Foundation GIS Specialist

Keith Bouma-Gregson U.S. Geological Survey Research Biologist

Ashley Malcolm IRLNEP Administrative Coordinator

Morgan Gilligan Florida Oceanographic Society Research Associate
Chip Deutsch Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Assoc. Res. Sci.

Emily Dark Martin County Coastal Management Coordinator

Kristen Kneifl Canaveral National Seashore Resource Manager

Eric Charest Indian River County Natural Resources Manager

Kelly Fannon Florida DEP Program Consultant

Martina Rutti Fish & Wildlife Research Institute Operations Management Consultant

yun sun UNESCO Post Doc

Emily RichardsonUSGSPhysical ScientistLaura KormanSECOORAProgram Coordinator

Elizabeth Stratton ERT for NOAA Disaster Response Coordinator

Marissa Vigar CDC Health Scientist

STACIE FLOOD SFWMD scientist

Lorae Simpson Florida Oceanographic Society Director of Research

Jessica Frost SFWMD Manager

Ellen Prager StormCenter Communications Chief Scientist

Amy Hamilton Maryland Department of Natural Resources Natural Resource Biologist

Duplicate 1 Maryland Department of Natural Resources Natural Resource Biologist

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Jeff Flashinski DEM Environmental Engineer

Tyler Harman NOAA NCCOS Biological Research Assistant

Dennis Hanisak Florida Atlantic University Research Professor

Amanda Marshall Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Environmental Scientist 3

Chip Deutsch FFWCC Assoc. Res. Sci.
Virginia Roberts CDC Epidemiologist

Justin Grubich Pew Charitable Trusts Officer, Conserving Marine Life in the U.S.

Catherine Wazniak MD DNR Program Manager

Emily BoresSC DHECEnvironmental ScientistCHRISTINE EASTWICKUSFWSCoastal Program Biologist

Jessica Frost SFWMD Manager

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Hannah Hart FWC Regional Biologist

Ashley Malcolm IRLNEP Administrative Coordinator

Mitchell RofferSelfSocial DirectorVincent EncomioFL Sea Grant UF IFASExtension Agent

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Meghan Abbott FFWCC Associate Research Scientist

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Kathrny LaMartina South Florida Water Management District Regional Representative

Marcus Beck Tampa Bay Estuary Program Program Scientist

Russell Hansen National Parks Service Biological Science Technician

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Derek Tremain Commission Assistant Research Scientist

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Annie Roddenberry Commission Biological Scientist

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Nicole Raineault Florida Institute of Oceanography Chief Scientist

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Gina Alvarez Commission Biologist
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Maggie Broadwater NOAA Program Manager

Monty (David)

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Edward Garland Sebastian Inlet District public information associate

Richard Paperno Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Research Administrator I

Gregory Wilson Riverside Conservancy Board Director and Chief Scientific Officer

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Dianne Hughes Martin County Environmental Programs Coordinator

Jamie Kilgo NPS Marine Ecologist

Jeff Brower Volusia County Chair

Jessy Wayles Marine Discovery Center Conservation Science Coordinator

Kori Blitch LDEQ Env Sci

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Svetlana EsenkulovaPacific Salmon FoundationbiologistDuplicate 1Pacific Salmon FoundationbiologistDuplicate 2Pacific Salmon FoundationbiologistDuplicate 3Pacific Salmon Foundationbiologist

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Alexandra Carvalho CMar Consulting, LLC President and Principal Daniel Young YBE CONSULTING, INC. Consultant / Contractor

Vanessa Strohm Virginia Institute of Marine Science Graduate Student

Dennis Hanisak Florida Atlantic University Research Professor

Total: 138 Participants

Instance 3: Informing Harmful Algal Bloom Emergency Response: May 12 & 13, 2022

*Differences in information between the instances are due to different recording techniques. Task one was given to the IRLNEP management board. Task 2 & 3 were presented to the audience via webinar series. Task four was given as an interactive session. *Duplicates in tables are from sharing registration links.

Name	Organization	Job Title
Yuliya Danyuk	Florida Department of Environmental Protection	Environmental Consultant Environmental Protection
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Duplicate 3	NASA	Specialist Environmental Protection
Duplicate 4	NASA	Specialist Environmental Protection
Duplicate 5	NASA	Specialist
Vincent Encomio	Florida Sea Grant	Extension Agent
Quay Dortch	CSS, Inc/NOAA	Senior HAB Scientist
Greg Doucette	NOAA/National Ocean Service	Research Oceanographer
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Kellie Ralston	Bonefish & Tarpon Trust	Policy
Dennis Hanisak	FAU Harbor Branch	Research Professor
Kathy Hill	IRLNEP	communication
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Travis Thompson All Florida

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CEO

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Dan Levy

Brian Chalfant

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Ellen Prager **StormCenter Communications Chief Scientist**

Senior Water Resources

Specialist III

Senior Limnologist

Marcy Frick Tetra Tech. Inc. Engineer

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West Virginia Department of Environmental **Environmental Resources**

Danielle Nathanson Protection

Douglas Scheidt Herndon Solutions Group Ecologist

Associate Research Scientist Meghan Abbott FWC-FWRI Meghan Abbott FWC-FWRI Associate Research Scientist

M Roffer retired but will take consultancy President Duplicate 1 retired but will take consultancy President Duplicate 1 retired but will take consultancy President

Tammy Karst-Riddoch **AECOM**

Celia Villac Fish and Wildlife Research Institute Research Scientist

Monica Samit **FDOH HAB Environmental Consultant**

FWC Fish & Wildlife Research Institute René Baumstark Section Lead Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant Laurilee Thompson Co-owner Melissa McIntvre-

Lagoon Plan Environmental

Meisenburg **Indian River County Specialist**

Brevard County Natural Resources Management **Environmental Section** Terry Williamson Department Supervisor North Carolina Department of Environmental Algal bloom response Dan Wiltsie coordinator Quality Florida Department of Environmental Protection Nick Daigle **Environmental Consultant Program Coordinator** Laura Korman **SECOORA Betty Staugler** Florida Sea Grant - UF **NOAA HAB Liaison Brevard County Natural Resources Management** Virginia Barker Department Director Ling Ren George Mason University Research Assistant Professor **FAU Harbor Branch** Kristen Davis **IRLON Manager FAU Harbor Branch** PhD Candidate Haley McQueen Alicia Hogue Florida Department of Environmental Protection **Program Administrator** Water Quality Standards Gillian Gilbert-Wason **GA EPD** Coordinator **Monty Montgomery** Virtucon Industries Dr. Evil's Assistant Jim Duncker USGS Hydrologist Dennis Hanisak **FAU Harbor Branch** Research Professor Mel Bromberg League of Women Voters, St. Lucie County Retired Chip Deutsch Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Associate Research Scientist Kyle Luba Biological Scientist II Florida Fish and Wildlife Miranda Barrington Florida Gulf Coast University Research Lab Coordinator Thomas Farrugia Alaska Ocean Observing System Program Manager Amanda Marshall LDEQ **Environmental Scientist** Ashley Malcolm IRL Council **Administrative Coordinator** Krista Thomas National Research Council - Biotoxin Metrology Research Council Officer Sharmila Thenuwara University of Toledo Graduate student **Douglas Gibson** City of Oak Hill Mayor

EΑ

Deputy Mayor

Diana Turner

Stu Glass

FDEP

Town of Indialantic

Andrew Reich H2oConsulting Public Health Scientist
Rick Clark Florida Dept of Health Environmental consultant
Andi Fitzgibbon US Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Biologist

Environmental Compliance

Nicole BonineUS Army Corps of EngineersProgram ManagerGreg DoucetteNOAA/National Ocean ServiceResearch Oceanographer

Kelsey Mack City of Cocoa Beach Environmental Specialist

Jennifer Shafer SHAFER CONSULTING LLC scientist
Manatee Protection Program

Debbie Wright Volusia County, Environmental Management Manager

Mark Rains DEP Chief Science Officer

EDNA FERNANDEZ Auburn University Postdoc

Mike McCann MBARI Software Engineer

Kirstin Wakefield MARACOOS Stakeholder Outreach Liaison

Kristen McGovern Galveston bay Estuary Program Monitoring and Research Coordinator

Charles Vogt FDOH IR Environmental Specialist III

Total: 160 Participants

Instance 4: Demonstrating a Statewide Collaboration Tool and Dashboard for HAB's in Florida - December 12 & 13, 2022

*Differences in information between the instances are due to different recording techniques. Task 1 was given to the IRLNEP management board. Task 2 & 3 were presented to the audience via webinar series. Task four was given as an interactive session.

*Duplicates in tables are from sharing registration links.

Name Organization

Jessy Wayles IRLNEP

Dave Jones StormCenter Communications

Gary Franklin St. Lucie County

Adam Rose FDACs

Melissa Meisenburg Indian River County

Warren Falls ORCA

Gina Alvarez FFWCC

Wendy Durden HSWRI

Eric Charest Indian River County

Heather Stapleton IRLNEP

Charles Jacoby SJRWMD

Caleta Scott (IRLNEP) (Caleta Scott) IRLNEP

Erin Bergman IRLNEP

Kathy Hill IRLNEP

Dr. Hannah Herrero University of Florida

Daniel Kolodny IRLNEP

Dale Ketcham Space Florida

Lisa Krimsky University of Florida

Kathy Hill IRLNEP

Terri Breeden Brevard County

Mitchell Roffer Citizen

John Maehl Martin County

Dennis Hanisak FAU-HBOI

G. Kelley St. Johns River Water Management District

Robert Rease City of Belle Glade

Kelly Young Volusia County

Peter Eggert Space Florida

Peter Eggert Space Florida

Heather Stapleton IRLNEP

Kathy Hill IRLNEP

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Yesenia Escribano FDACS

Edith Widder ORCA

Erin Bergman IRLNEP

Dave Fuss Indian River Land Trust

Megan Hunnicutt (Yesenia Escribano) FDACS

Jeff Eble Florida Institute of Technology

JD Hart Indian River Land Trust

Duplicate 1 Indian River Land Trust

Total: 50 Participants