



Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) Team Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

In-Person Meeting at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) – Boca Raton Campus, *1995 Dade Ave #1973, Boca Raton, FL 33431; FAU Student Union (UN-31), Live Oak Pavilion (Room LO-31B, C&D)*

Meeting Objectives

- Introduction of SEFCRI Team Members
- Stakeholder Communication & Collaboration
- Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve Management (KJCAP) Plan Update
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Role & Recommitment
- SEFCRI & Our Florida Reefs (OFR) Website Update
- SEFCRI Vice Chair Nominations & Elections
- KJCAP Focus Area & Project Team Interest

Attendees:

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Staff: Allie Shatters, Taylor Tucker, Maya Bhalla-Ladd, Stephanie Stinson, Mo Morrow, Megan Miller, Kimberly Platt, Elena Kampian, Amanda Lewan

SEFCRI Team Members: Alastair Harborne, Abigail Davis, Allyson DeMerlis, Amanda Montgomery, Ana Zangroniz, Ananda Ellis, Andrew Bauman, Angela Delaney, April Price, Archie Ammons, Brett Fitzgerald, Brian Walker, Bruce Pohiot, Casey Coy, Christie Hurley, Delali Amoah, Evan Orellana, Griffin Alexander, Jackeline Bonilla, Jason Olive, Jennifer Moore, Jennifer Baez, Jessica Miles, Jessica Ganim, Jessica Clawson, Jessica Garland, Joana Figueiredo, Justin Grubich, Katelyn Armstrong, Kathryn Brown, Kirk Kilfoyle, Kristi Kerrigan, Laura Eldredge, Lauren Theis, Leah Davis, Michael Studivan, Nick Morrell, Nicole Merck, Rachel Taub, Sara Thanner, Shana Phelan, Suzanna Sharkey, Tyler Bouma, Valerie Tovar, Vasilios Apostolopoulos, Wade Lehmann, William Roberts

SEFCRI Team Alternates: Lucas Skay, Marisa Carrozzo, Peter Lee, Baret Bay, Carrie Scarola, Derek Cox, Jeff Palumbo, Joanna Walczak, Jessica Price, Jessica Bedsworth

Public Observers: Steve Vollmer, Taylor Aufdencamp

9:00 – 9:30 AM Registration

9:30 – 9:50 AM Welcome, Meeting Overview and Introductions

Taylor Tucker, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Taylor opens the meeting and reviews the following:

- Ground rules, housekeeping (bathrooms, silence phones, marina topics etc.)
- Public comment process
- Agenda and presentation schedule
- KJCAP boundaries
- DEP Staff

Taylor acknowledges and thanks FAU for hosting and Friends of Our Florida Reefs (FOFR) for donating lunch. SEFCRI Team members introduce themselves around the room.

9:50 – 10:30 AM Stakeholder Group Breakout Session

- Build a Fish Communication Worksheet
 - SEFCRI stakeholder groups used the “build a fish” activity designed by DEP volunteer Taylor Aufdencamp to build a communication plan between members. The worksheet included questions to help the team determine: frequency of communications, best contact methods, platforms their respective organizations cannot use, and primary networks members engage with. The pre-written multiple-choice answers correlated to a fish feature (body shape, eye shape, fins, etc.). At the end of the exercise, each team had a unique fish drawing representing their team’s communication strategy.
- Review Vice Chair Duties & Interest
 - Stakeholder group members discuss overall Vice Chair duties and discuss who could commit time to the Vice Chair position and represent their stakeholder group in monthly meetings with DEP.

10:30 – 10:45 AM 15 MINUTE BREAK

10:45– 11:15 AM KJCAP Management Plan Update

Allie Shatters, DEP

- Finalization of Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve management plan
 - Allie shares the inclusion of [Cape Florida Aquatic Preserve](#) into the boundary of the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve by FDEP Coral Reef Conservation Program.
 - Initial draft management plan process timeline includes previous group input from: Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) local action strategies, Our Florida Reefs recommended management actions, Fisheries Committee recommended management actions, and KJCAP projects.

- Advisory Committee and Public Review Process occurred from September 2025 to January 2026 which included in-person as well as virtual meetings to inform and receive feedback from the public.
- Approval by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in Tallahassee on June 12, 2026.
- Moving forward, the management plan will be updated every ten years, and KJCAP staff have ten years to complete the strategies outlined in the plan.
- Overview of the [KJCAP management plan](#)
- SEFCRI team collaboration with the KJCAP management plan
 - Next steps for SEFCRI: Project prioritization and development from the KJCAP management plan adaptive framework.
 - New performance measures, with project tracker and annual report to be disseminated (likely around the end of the state fiscal year, every June).

Questions: NONE

11:15 – 11:30 AM TAC Role & Recommitment

Allie Shatters, DEP on behalf of Lara Bracci, LBSP Coordinator

- Review of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) team role as an advisory body to the SEFCRI Team which is composed of individuals with appropriate levels of scientific and technical expertise. TAC members vary in specialty in subjects related to ocean conservation and science.
- Timeline: the TAC meets one to two times per year. The next meeting with the TAC will take place on September 16th and new members will be announced in December 2026. The TAC and SEFCRI will meet in early 2027.

Questions:

Michael Studivan- what roles are you looking to fill? What specialties are most needed?

Allie Shatters: responded that there are 4 open seats, however the charter doesn't place a limit on total number of seats. Can be flexible as needs are identified going through the management.

11:30 – 11:45 AM SEFCRI & OFR Website Update

Maya Bhalla-Ladd, DEP

- Dissolution of Our Florida Reefs (OFR) website, all continuing content is being migrated to the [SEFCRI](#) website.
 - Based on feedback from the public during public process meetings, there is a need for digital resource consolidation.
 - As a result of web traffic statistics with a contractor, OFR materials have been transitioned to a new section on SEFCRI site "Our Work" side panel> "Our Florida Reefs".

- The SEFCRI website is now more user friendly on mobile devices along with refined search functionality.
- What's left to move? CAMA YouTube in Tallahassee hosts the OFR community testimonials. Maya assured these will be retained.

Questions:

Brian Walker- What happened with the Marine Planner Tool that was once hosted on the Our Florida Reefs website? Brian offered fly over video clip along with updated decision support tool (the current tool that the Marine Planner evolved into) if this makes sense to host on SEFCRI website.

Maya Bhalla-Ladd- When we have the new decision support tool, it will be accessible through the SEFCRI website.

11:45 – 1:00 PM Lunch (provided by FOFR)

1:00 – 1:15 PM Vice Chair Candidate Nomination Introductions & Voting
Vice Chairs & Taylor Tucker, DEP

- Nominees Introduce Themselves
 - Name/Organization/Stakeholder Group
- SEFCRI Team Votes on New Vice Chairs by *Raised Hands*. Taylor clarifies who is eligible to vote:
 - Only primaries or alternates acting in place of a primary Team member
 - Nominees cannot vote for themselves
 - **Quorum Needed for Voting: 32 (Primaries + Alternates of Primaries who do not attend)**

Brett Fitzgerald (Angler Action Foundation) Fishing Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes

Jessica Clawson (FWC) “State Agency” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

Leah Davis (School or Charleston) “Academics” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

Sara Thanner (Miami-Dade) “Local Agency” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

Jackie Bonilla (Urban Paradise Guild) “Other” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

Mark Ladd (NOAA) “Federal Agency”- continuing.

Shana Phelan (Pura Vida Divers) - continuing.

Justin Grubich (Pew Charitable Trust) “NGO” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

Jennifer Moore (Coral Vita) “Private” Stakeholder Group. Voted in with at least 32 votes.

1:15 – 2:30 PM KJCAP Focus Area Introductions & Project Team Signup

KJCAP Staff, DEP

- SEFCRI Team members can sign up for a maximum of two management plan issue areas
 - SEFCRI members rotated between tables where they conversed with the different CRCP staff members to ascertain which KJCAP management plan issue subject matter area(s) directly align with their organization’s expertise and interests.
- DEP staff go over management plan strategies in focus area with interested Team members
- DEP staff engage with stakeholders to sign up for focus area/projects

2:30 – 2:45 PM Public Comment

- Jessica Ganim: Miami Waterkeeper- Spoke on the Broward County Sand Bypass Project
- Joanna Walczak: FOFR- Spoke on Friends of Our Florida Reefs
- Justin Grubich: PEW Charitable Trust- Spoke on Ecosystem Resilience Evaluation Toolkit

2:45 – 3:00 PM Meeting Wrap-Up

Taylor Tucker, DEP

- Next meeting in early 2027! Vice chairs are to be on the lookout for a calendar invitation for monthly calls with Taylor.
- Taylor will be emailing communication plans out to stakeholder groups, please be on the lookout and follow accordingly to keep stakeholder and community groups informed on pertinent events.