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# STATEWIDE ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT OF COASTAL AND AQUATIC RESOURCES: ASSESSING STATUS AND TRENDS OF FLORIDA'S SUBMERGED ESTUARINE HABITATS

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## Subject Matter Expert In-Person Meeting

Fish and Wildlife Research Institute  
100 8th Ave SE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
St. Petersburg, FL

Wednesday, January 22 – Thursday, January 23, 2020

### Background

The Statewide Ecosystem Assessment of Coastal and Aquatic Resources (SEACAR) is a collaborative process being led by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection (RCP) and involving local, state, and federal natural resource managers, data providers, researchers, and partners to identify and assess ecological indicators and to create a comprehensive assessment of the statuses and trends of RCP's submerged coastal resources statewide. In year one of the project, priority submerged habitats and indicators were selected based the best available science to assess the status of our aquatic resources. Current knowledge of coastal processes and scientific data obtained from inventory and monitoring programs around the state have been compiled in the SEACAR Data Discovery Interface (DDI), which will serve as the data source for the analyses of ecosystem status and trends. SEACAR will inform submerged habitat management, planning and restoration by organizing habitat information collected around the state, developing meta-analyses of these datasets to elucidate status and trends of habitat indicators at multiple spatial and temporal scales, and producing online tools and report products to disseminate these findings widely.

The SEACAR products are the technical report, assessment report, assessment summary and interactive website which will provide directly comparable and scientifically defensible statewide data on the status and trends of Florida's coastal resources and will be used to inform local and state management, planning, and policy decisions. The outcomes of the resulting products are to:

- Provide information on the status and trends of coastal resources at locally relevant scales to support state and local programs, plans, and decision making;
- Improve evaluations of the outcomes of the Florida Coastal Management Program and federal, state, and local management activities and policy decisions, by providing status and trend assessments over time; and
- Provide education materials appropriate for a wide variety of stakeholders, including resource managers, planners, and decision makers.

## Meeting Objectives

1. Review datasets for inclusion in the analysis and reports using data available in the SEACAR DDI;
2. Identify protocols, methods, and measures that can be synthesized for analysis;
3. Establish data standardization and transformation methods to utilize in the SEACAR DDI;
4. Recommend units of measure to be used in analysis which will provide the most data and best available science for each indicator;
5. Establish appropriate spatial and temporal scales for analysis of each indicator; and,
6. Determine status and trends to be assessed at a locally relevant scale (for example, individual RCP managed areas, regional, watershed and statewide) as scientifically feasible.

## Draft Agenda

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

- 9:00 AM**      **Registration**
- 9:30 AM      Introductions (plenary) and welcome presentations  
Icebreaker/activity  
Break  
Database questions and issues  
Breakout (Objective 1 and 2) Utilizing the SEACAR DDI to review datasets for inclusion in the analyses and identify protocols, methods, and measures that can be synthesized for analysis
- 12:30 PM**      **Lunch**  
Breakout (Objective 1 and 2) continued  
Report back from breakout (plenary)  
Break  
Breakout (Objective 3 and 4) Establish data standardization and transformation methods to utilize in the SEACAR database and recommend units of measure which will provide the most data and best available science for each indicator to be used in analyses  
Report back from breakout (plenary)
- 4:45 PM**      **Expectations for Day 2 and adjourn**  
Happy hour!

Thursday, January 23, 2020

**9:00 AM Registration**

Re-cap Day 1

Technical report – thinking ahead (UMCES team, Cheryl Clark)

Break

Breakout (Objective 5 and 6) Establish appropriate spatial and temporal scales for analysis of each indicator and identify the appropriate status and trends to be assessed at a locally relevant scale as scientifically feasible (individual RCP managed areas, regional, watershed and/or statewide)

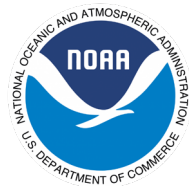
**12:00 PM Lunch**

Report back from breakout (plenary)

Planning discussion (plenary)

Feedback and next steps

**3:30 PM Adjourn and evaluation**



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