



SEFCRI Bi-Annual Full Team Meeting

March 8, 2017

West Boynton Recreation Center, 6000 Northtree Blvd, Lake Worth, FL

Attendees:

Staff:

Meghan Balling, David Cox, Kristi Kerrigan, Kelly Montenero, Francisco Pagan, Melissa Sathe, Joanna Walczak, Daron Willison, Aubree Zenone

SEFCRI Team Members:

Jennifer Baez, Ken Banks, Baret Barry, Patrick Bennett, Jim Bohnsack, Henry Briceno, Eric Buck, Thomas Carpenter, Lisa Carroll, Ron Coddington, Chuck Collins, Mitch Comiskey, Michael Dixon, Kelly Egan, Jane Fawcett, Joana Figueirido, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Dave Gilliam, Andrea Graves, DD Halpern, Alastair Harbone, Mike Jenkins, Ivana Kenny, Lisa Krinsky, Lauri MacLaughlin, Katherine McCoy, Erin McDevitt, Caroline McLaughlin, Cheryl Miller, Erik Neugaard, Stacey Ollis, Nikole Ordway, Shana Phelan, April Price, Scott Sheckman, Angela Smith, Mason Smith, Sara Thanner, Ed Tichenor, Don Vacin, Brian Walker

SEFCRI Team Alternates:

- Participating on behalf of primary: Erick Ault, Charles Berkley, Steve Blackburn, Dan Clark, Kurtis Gregg, Bruce Marx
- Primary present: Dan Clark

Public Observers:

Stephanie Clark, Lisa Gregg, Paul Davis, Michael McCoy, Dana Wusinich-Mendez

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

9:00 – 9:25 Welcome and Meeting Overview (Francisco Pagan, FDEP CRCP, SEFCRI Chair)

Francisco Pagan: Thank you and welcome to this year's first SEFCRI Team meeting. We appreciate your commitment to being present in these meetings. Having said that, I want to thank Lauren Waters, who recently moved to a new job in St. Petersburg. I would also like to thank Daron Willison, who helped me organize this meeting. We have a meeting full of action items and to begin, I am going to remind you of the mission statement: "to develop an effective strategy to preserve and protect southeast Florida's coral reefs and associated reef resources, emphasizing the balance between resource use and protection, in cooperation with all interested parties. I will now run through the

agenda. We want to thank Friends of Our Florida Reefs for providing refreshments during breaks. Please see Kelly during the break for lunches. For general housekeeping, please silence your cell phones. I want to thank the West Point Recreation Center for their use of the facility. As general guidelines to team members, please be concise, do not repeat comments and be respectful. As for our observers, if primaries need to leave the room, alternates may step in. We try to maximize the number of different stakeholders so there is representation at each of the different tables. Public comment is limited to three minutes unless we have less people, then we can offer more time. If your public comment requires a materials or PowerPoint, we can get those distributed.

We have a new member of the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) staff, Aubree Zenone, who is our new Awareness and Appreciation (AA) Coordinator. Ana Zangroniz, our former AA Coordinator, recently moved to a new position. Let me introduce the rest of our staff.

AA Coordinator – Aubree Zenone. Projects: we have participated in five community events; with four education trunks moving around to different schools; eight upcoming training classes offered in Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach counties; new fact sheets for outreach are in approval stages; we will be starting a new pledge campaign and will be updating our website in the coming months.

FDOU (Fishing Diving and Other Uses) Coordinator – Meghan Balling. Projects: (1) Southeast Florida Coral Reef Fisheries Baseline Assessment is finished with their fifth year. Hopefully this data will be available soon; (2) The Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Project (SECREMP) is an ongoing project and have been going over some changes with protocols, results from the last season will be available soon; (3) Our Florida Reefs, continued doing outreach to fishing and diving stakeholders in the last six months and are continuing to write the report. Report will be divided into different sections with a lot of historical content. We are starting the internal review process and hope the report will be completed by June 2017. If anyone is interested in reviewing this report, please contact Daron W.

LBS (Land Based Sources of Pollution) Coordinator – David Cox. Projects: (1) Our last TAC meeting was held in November 2016 and are currently planning the next for April 2017. If there is anything that comes up during this meeting that needs to be addressed by the TAC, we will bring to the next meeting; (2) Watershed scale planning (Boynton Inlet project) is advancing and have asked for funds to support the conclusion of this project; (3) TAC has been working on the outfall biomarker project took samples and reviewed results and have agreed that more needs to be done. In April they will discuss how to move forward; (4) with the NOAA partnership, we're doing a monthly monitoring project on the waters over coral reefs in Martin and Miami-Dade counties. Funding has been secured for a second year to expand into other counties.

- Dan Clark (question) – how do we get something put on the TAC agenda? I found out recently that we're putting in 150 truckloads a day of sludge into the Pompano Landfill. If I get some more information, can I bring this to the TAC meeting?
- Francisco P – if your fellow SEFCRI members agree, you are certainly encouraged to bring to the TAC. You will have the opportunity to comment during the Regional Events/Marina Topics section of the agenda.
- Ron Coddington – SEFCRI should also be ready to weigh in to make sure our ocean outfalls and the deadline for stopping ocean outfalls does not get extended past 2025.
- Joanna Walczak – Just wanted to remind you that SEFCRI is not an advocacy body. We are not allowed to take positions or make statements as a team. What you do is provide recommendations to Francisco Pagan as the CRCP Manager and he needs to funnel that information on the appropriate bodies. You can certainly recommend that this issue goes to the TAC agenda during the Regional Events/Marina Topics section.

MICCI (Maritime Industry and Coastal Construction) Coordinator – Lauren Waters moved to a new position and Mollie Sinnott is continuing these projects. Projects: (1) Redefining the Miami anchorage; (2) looking for support for new turbidity standards research.

RIPR (Reef Injury Prevention and Response) Coordinator – Mollie Sinnott. RIPR started in 2009 with the Coral Reef Protection Act (CRPA). Through enforcement of this, we participated in the establishment of the 2016 Ft. Lauderdale air show safety zone. We are coordinating with Coast Guard to draw these zones into 2016; (2) responding to calls of potential groundings and if there is a case, we move forward with regulatory; (3) providing support to the different mooring buoy programs we have in the different counties.

RR (Reef Resilience) Coordinator – Kristi Kerrigan. Projects: continued coordination of SEAFAN, BleachWatch, and reef cleanups. (1) Last September, we hosted our first ever in-water training on how to identify coral bleaching and how to report it through the BleachWatch Program. (2) In the 6th Annual Southeast Florida Reef Cleanup we had 12 participating dive charters and were able to remove almost 400 pounds of debris from our reefs.

Kristi Kerrigan (Disease Outbreak Update) – We have a severe disease outbreak happening in southeast Florida right now. What makes this outbreak so unique is that there are lots of different diseases affecting 21+ out of the 40 species of stony coral, including sponges and octocorals. At some sites, we've observed 80-100% of the coral being affected with reports of corals dying in as quickly as two weeks. Unfortunately, our annual monitoring programs are not capturing the severity of this outbreak. In 2014, the outbreak was first observed in Miami-Dade County as indicated by the portion in red. By 2015, it started spreading north through Broward County and slightly south into Biscayne National Park. By 2016, we are seeing the extent of the outbreak as far north as Jupiter and as far south as the Upper Keys. The quick spread northward and the slow spread southward is consistent with the prevailing currents in this region, so it is likely that the disease is waterborne. We know this outbreak is severe because one of our oldest (most resilient) living corals in southeast Florida (330 years old) died in 2015 from disease. Additionally, 95% of our known colonies of *Dendrogyra cylindrus* (Pillar coral) have died. Fortunately, efforts have been made to collect tissues from these colonies to store in a genetic bank. We do not know what has caused this initial disease outbreak, however, unusually warm waters in 2015 and 2016 may have exacerbated any previously occurring pressures. In response to this outbreak, calls were organized amongst 35 partners across the region to understand the severity and coordinate a collaborative response. Some of the efforts that came out of these calls: (1) local data collected simultaneously to some of our annual efforts like FRRP, CREMP, SECUREMP, and NCRMP; (2) we received support from the National Wildlife Health Center of USGS to dig deep into these larger data sets to hopefully pick out a signal; (3) FWC-FWRI has taken the lead on the tissue collection efforts to compare healthy and diseased colonies using histological techniques to understand what pathogens might be involved; (4) Jeff Maynard is currently being contracted to perform a resilience assessment using bioindicators such as coral disease, macroalgae content, herbivore biomass, etc. to determine areas that might be more resilient than others. The big question we have as resource managers, is what can we do? To answer this we had a conversation with Thierry Work (USGS) who advised that the most important thing we can do is to continue to fund additional research and to focus on the other issues we know impact coral health like water quality, marine debris, etc. If anyone is interested in being involved on these calls, just let me know.

- Michael Dixon (question): With all of this monitoring and observing, is anyone looking at new growth in this region? Is there anything good going on to offset this?
- Kristi K: That's an important thing to note. Some of our large monitoring efforts aren't noting corals less than 4cm in length. Hopefully this is something we can change in these methodologies so we can capture in the future.

- Dan Clark: We were just in Washington and they were showing footage from google image cameras (3D) as a new way of looking into these surveys. But, one of the problems we have seen with these monitoring programs is that they are not capturing these events. And with a lot of these, they are using point intercept techniques and so you miss some of the corals to the left and right of the transect. Perhaps these new technologies can assist in getting a holistic sense for what's happening in the community.
- Michael D: I'm just trying to understand or figure out if there is a cyclical offset to make up for the diseased corals. This information would be useful to know.
- Dan C: Is there any money going towards lab work and histology?
- Kristi K: Yes, we have contracted FWRI to collect samples in Florida Keys and southeast Florida for histology and molecular research.
- Unknown (question): Do we know if anyone is looking at the obvious fact that the center of this disease outbreak started by Port Miami.
- Joanna Walczak: We are looking at everything, but we still don't even know if this is biological or environmental (sediment). The first step was to figure out what data we have of the biological, physical, environmental during that time (i.e. rain events, discharge events, wastewater, etc). One of the things that makes this so complex is that our system has been chronically degraded, so it might have already been at a tipping point that didn't take much to tip it over. For examples, one of the things folks in Hawaii said after looking at our photos was how much algae we had on our reefs. Some of the things we know are affecting this system like land based sources of pollution and herbivores are not fully implemented yet. So where we have a chronic decline, are there factors shifting it out of balance. And figuring this out may take years. We also know that we had three bad bleaching years, so we know there was significant thermal stress. Overall, it's going to be hard to tease out a specific factor that initiated it, but USGS is going to look at the chronic and episodic stressors and to help us identify a single or group of things that may have led to this. This will help us develop a set of management actions so this set of variables doesn't happen again.
- Dan C: I completely agree. What single things can we deal with to take away some of the extra factors. We're near a tipping point and that one extra factor just throws you over the edge.
- Francisco P: To address Mike D's comment, we have a lot of stakeholders in the water and we encourage you all to make observations and let us know what you're seeing. If you see something that shows some sign of recovery, this is really important. A 4-cm coral recruit will take 4 years to grow and it's only been 2-3 years since the 2014 bleaching event. Additionally, when corals suffer bleaching and disease events, there is a pause on spawning and reproduction and try to recover. It will be difficult to observe new recruits because of the last couple stressful years. It's a good thing to keep in mind and we encourage you to submit these reports into the SEAFAN database.
- Michael D: I understand those challenges and that there's a lot more factors at play in the SEFCRI tract than there were in the last few decades, so researchers can study this more closely in regions with varying pressures. I wonder if we're collecting information to what might be lending itself to an imbalance.
- Brian Walker: Recently (~2 years ago), we found 100+ corals >2m off our coast that we didn't know existed before. We sampled them one time during this event and noted recovery, bleaching and disease, but there are no plans to return to those corals and observe their current state. It's important to understand the balance of those largest, most reproductive corals in the region.
- Stacey Ollis (question): Has there been any ability to leverage this information even though this is a local issue? Are there any bills in the upcoming session to leverage this sense of urgency?

- Ken Banks: There's a legislative request right now for \$800,000 – write to your elected officials to support that.
- Stacey O: Does this include a model of what a tipping point could look like in terms of a time table?
- Francisco P: The reef tract in Florida is unique. The continental reef tract we have right outside our coast is much closer than the reef tract in the Great Barrier Reef, so making a model for how things will evolve is something that cannot be leveraged with our current knowledge. There's plenty of people working on models, but not based on previous experience and nothing that can be identified as a tipping point. We have Jeff Maynard looking into resilience modelling for Florida and how temperature effects could get us to a tipping point, but he's not looking into the data limit.
- Dan C: I support Brian's project with the large corals. We need to find the money to look at them today and compare because a picture is worth a 1000 words. We need to get a sense of urgency to our politicians and the fishing community about the predicament we're in. If we don't, then we are not going to get the support we need to do this disease and resilience work. We need to push the concept of resiliency and re-define how we're monitoring. We should prepare something in preparation for the US Coral Reef Task Force (USCRTF) meeting this coming fall.
- Francisco P: All of these ideas are important for the new Local Action Strategies (LAS), which you can recommend for the SEFCRI team.
- Erin McDevitt: I would just like to add photo mosaicking as a monitoring effort for a LAS placeholder. From what I understand, it would be a useful tool for capturing fate tracking and recruitment for things coming in place of these dead corals. This could also paint that picture to show politicians visually what's going on.

Meghan Balling (USCRTF Update): We will be hosting the 38th bi-annual USCRTF this August in Fort Lauderdale. The task force was founded in 1998 by a presidential executive order to bring together all US coral reef jurisdiction to focus on conservation and preservation for coral reefs. We called in various partners to help us plan this meeting including our new Sea Grant Fellow, Lindsay Guthrie. It will be a week of meetings including the All Islands Committee, Task Force Steering Committee, Federal agencies, jurisdictional agencies, etc. Also aiding in this giant effort is our Local Planning Committee (LPC). This committee met initially on January 24th to identify a theme, key topics, and break into subcommittees to plan the little pieces. The theme needs wordsmithing, but will focus on ecological and environmental factors of our coral reef ecosystem. The various subcommittees include: presentation coordination, workshop coordination, sponsorships (working FOFR and NOVA to get a sponsorship document together with the history on the Task Force and various sponsorship levels for people to help FOFR raise 50K for this effort), publicity and media (for website development, press releases, ads, etc.), field trips, green planning (who will work with all the other subcommittees to make sure everything is green and eco-friendly). Lindsey is working on a poster array to look at the different research activities going on in the region. Finally, we will have a photo contest where we will be soliciting photos from across the region. Winners will be announced at one of the receptions. We will have three receptions at the Gug gallery, NOVA, and an on-site reception.

- Joanna W: For those who may not know anything about this history, the Task Force dates back to 1998 which coincided with a severe bleaching event. This is governors level initiative from jurisdictions and states including presidents and high level federal agency members attending this. I am the governors appointee here in Florida so I go an represent Florida at these meetings. Because this body does not have any funding or support, it's just a platform for discussion. Instead, we pass resolutions. So back in 2004, because we don't have any jurisdictional or state level authority of the reefs, we agreed that we would go back to our respective states and jurisdictions to develop Local Action Strategies. Here in Florida, the SEFCRI team was

Florida's Local Action Strategy. However, this effort was different from the other jurisdictions because SEFCRI didn't encompass the entire reef tract because the Florida Keys were already being managed by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The SEFCRI region still lacks any coordinated management plan. So, the purpose was to bring together a community and bring up our knowledge to move forward with reef management in the area.

- Francisco P: I would just like to thank all our coordinators for all their work. At the last meeting, we asked SEFCRI Team members to sign up for those LAS projects and some of those projects are completed while others are on hold until new funds arrive. Please engage with any of the coordinators to learn more about these projects. Before we take a break, I would just like to acknowledge the SEFCRI vice-chairs who represent the different stakeholder groups. I just want to personally thank them for all of their efforts over the last two years and the meetings they attended. Let's please have the vice chairs stand up to be applauded.
- Jane Fawcett (question): For the monitoring efforts, do those include citizen science efforts or local collection efforts, like SEAFAN? Are those numbers included? Why didn't NCRMP have any monitoring in 2015?
- Jim Bohnsack: NCRMP monitoring happens every two years.
- Kristi K: SEAFAN is listed separate, it's not included on the slide, but we can get you those numbers if you would like.
- Francisco P: With all of these, we are gathering all the data we can. We're not being exclusive.
- Dan C: It would be nice to include the SEAFAN numbers in these meetings.

10:25 – 10:40 Break (*refreshments provided by Friends of Our Florida Reefs*)

10:40 – 11:10 Recent Regional Events Discussion

Francisco Pagan: This next section of the agenda is open for SEFCRI members to announce current events and other activities. You may raise your hand and share any ideas or thoughts with your fellow team members.

Dan Clark: Two things: (1) I recently found out that the Broward County landfill in Pompano (Mount Monarch) is taking in 150 tanker loads a day of sludge from municipal sewage plants and dumping this sludge. My concern is that the pipes over to the northwest region of the sewer plant are being treated only for nutrients. Half of this goes into the ground and the other half goes out the outfall pipe. No one really knows what's going on there, but the county has a contract with Waste Management to put in their own injection well to take away from the outfall, but the county rejected them because this is a cash cow for them. We're not sure if it's good for drinking water or good for the reef and right now they are re-negotiating so it looks like there won't be a well. I'd like to get some more information on this and bring to the next TAC meeting. We got something from the commissioner in Coconut Creek because people were concerned with the smell. (2) We have the Tortuga Music Festival coming up and everyone comes and anchors on the reef for three days. I challenged DEP and FWC last year to see if they could do something about it, but I just ended up going down to take some photos of all the anchors on the reef. You can see the severity of the boat traffic from the media attention of the event. If we can't deal with something that simple, how can we attempt to straighten some of the other things out. We have 140 or so management strategies, but we can't implement any of them because we don't have a designated management area.

Jim Bohnsack: A little bit of news, one of our members, John Fauth, recently wrote a paper that's been published on the deadly impacts of oxybenzone to our reefs. In Hawaii, they are banning oxybenzone sunscreens today and it's important that we encourage people to use a friendly alternative. Other products use zinc oxide, which is non-toxic and so it's important that we use these safer alternatives.

Kurtis Greg (alternate for Jocelyn Karazsia): Jocelyn wanted me to pitch to the group that the comment period is open for the Port Everglades Expansion Project. This is an opportunity to ask the questions that they would have to answer. You can access their website to learn about what's already being looked at to focus your questions on the gaps in the data or new information that is needed. Jocelyn also wanted to offer access to information that NOAA Fisheries collected and work done by Dr. Brian Barnes with University of South Florida. He used satellites to look at turbidity before and during the dredging projects and concluded that these levels were comparable to the amount of turbidity from a hurricane for 1.5 years. NOAA Fisheries published another paper that looks at sedimentation within reef habitat in the vicinity of Port Miami. These papers can also be used to scope questions and comments. Send any requests for these documents to me via email. We also collected sediment samples that were sent to the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) and analyzed for varying concentrations of magnesium calcite and aragonite which is indicative of the geologic rock formations. You can look at satellite images to see the plumes and see the turbidity duration from Dr. Barnes work including our sediment work. All of these things need to be considered as Port Everglades moves forward. There are suggestions that can be made, for example, no dredging during spawning seasons or during high thermal stress periods of the summer. We need to do this project well using the information we have and to minimize the impact to resources we know we can avoid.

Dana Wusinich-Mendez (public observer): Just wanted to let folks know about a project underway that estimates the economic value of our coral reef resources in the region. This is partnership with DEP, NOAA, and the counties to update the work that was done 12 years to ago with new numbers and new dollar amount estimations. This will also look at the different uses of the reef and the impacts to our economy. The economists on the project are Dr. Peter Edwards and Dr. Christine Walmo with NOAA are also doing an impact study of the diving and snorkeling industry. At the end of this month, there will be a survey that I encourage everyone to fill out and get the word out. If you would like more information, feel free to contact me.

Francisco P: The information about the Port Everglades project was forwarded to you by one of your fellow SEFCRI members, Terri Jordan. Just as a reminder, feel free to ask questions to any of the announcements as this section is meant to be a discussion amongst team members.

- Dave Gilliam (question for Dana W): Is that project related to the NCRMP social economic?
- Dana W: NCRMP does have a social science piece, but they are not looking at economics as part of the ongoing monitoring. The NCRMP social is more looking at public and visitor perceptions of the status of the ecosystem as well as preferences for approaches to managing those resources.

Lauri MacLaughlin: Since I'm not a southeast Florida resident, did anyone ever repeat the Nikki Goldberg study of sediment exposure to corals and try to mimic the dredging impact on corals? This may be useful as we try to address turbidity standards. We actually used that paper as a reference in the Keys to set a new bar with the dredging project for the harbor in Key West.

- Joanna Figueiredo: Yes, I am doing this with coral juveniles right now. It's not published yet, but the levels of sedimentation are lower for the survivors.

Henry Briceno: From our database, we have been monitoring in the FKNMS for over 20 years. Only on two occasions did we have turbidity ratings above 15 NTUs (with more than 11,000 measurements). How in this last year and a half could it go as high as 27-29 NTUs – and that's 29 NTUs above background. Median turbidity in the Florida Keys is less than 1 NTU. We have hurricanes every year, and not only turbidity, but nutrients go higher and the system recovers itself in 6 months. In 2005 when Wilma hit, a lot of water was dumped into manatee bays and we had a bloom which lasted 4 years. We have all this information which can be used with your data to determine the real and acceptable levels of turbidity that anyone could face and how long.

Charles Berkley (alternate for Ray Rosher): I am a native to Fort Lauderdale, I have my captains license, and I'm PADI certified since 1975. These days I do not dive as much, but I fish more. Ray Rosher is a prominent charter boat captain and has won major tournaments, but I'll let him tell you about that. I don't make a living on the water, I am the recreational fisherman that goes out on the weekend and I am the guy that these MPA zones are affecting. To address the socio-economic studies, you might want to bring in Ellen Peel from the Billfish Foundation – they are known for doing some very good socio-economic studies of fisheries, not reefs. You should incorporate someone to do the fisheries.

- Dana M: Recreational fishing will actually be included in the economic valuation study. They will also be looking at the recreational contribution to fishing on artificial and natural reefs.
- Charles B: in reading through some of this stuff, throughout admissions initiatives, they all talk about cooperation, inclusion and participation. I took a list of the contributing partners (68-69 people), maybe 6 or 7% are fishing oriented with 60-75% are environmental, institutional, governmental. Roughly 10:1 is being dominated by one type of mindset. The representation by the fishing industry which is one most impacted by this MPA stuff has a 10:1 representation against it. We need to keep this in mind. In the prioritized list of recommended management actions, three of them (N-146, S-65 and N-137). [In reference to S-65] I would like to read something from that United Nations World Heritage site, “the world heritage committee nor UNESCO nor the UN has any power to force changes...”. Why bring them in if they have no input or power. Do you really want to give up your rights to an international committee? [In reference to N-137] According to their website, “when an area is approved as a PSSA, specific measure can be used to control the maritime activities in that area.” Let's talk about UNESCO, take a look at the donors and lists on their website and who comprises them, it's a list of extreme environmentalist wackos. When you talk about bureaucracy, we can't get anything done. On their website it talks about all the partners involved from federal, state, and local groups. Why would you want to give up control and sovereignty of your own rights in your own backyard to a bureaucracy?
- Angela Smith: Is this public comment time?
- Charles B: No it's not. I've got two minutes and I'm done. I will say, the reef stuff is a big deal you have to keep doing what you're doing. This MPA no-take zone has nothing to do with saving the reef. This has taken away from the legitimacy of this organization. it's something you need to seriously consider addressing. Assuming we have a quorum, I am going to make the motion that RMA's N-146, S-65, N-137 and S-64 are eliminated from the list.
- Aubree Zenone: Sir, I should let you know that there is a section later in the day where you will be allowed to work with others to select them.
- Charles B: The whole part of this organization is out of control and a 10:1 bias.
- Erin McDevitt: this is a different group than the ones who came up with those RMAs. Today, this group is going to consider moving forward with any of those. There's a whole list of things that have come from different sources and whether this group decides to move forward or not, it will be a conversation later today. This will happen 11:10 on the agenda. If SEFCRI decides to move forward with a project, then we will adopt that as a group. But, as of now, we have not decided to adopt anything.
- Charles B: So, this list of RMA's isn't SEFCRI?
- Erin M: No, that was a different group.
- Jane Fawcett: Our Florida Reefs was the group tasked with coming up with recommended management actions. And the final report comes out this summer and that's when appropriate discussion can be had.
- Mason Smith: Are we discussing later today about how SEFCRI is going to be involved in those LAS?

- Francisco P: You will be discussing all the recommendations developed by different bodies including old SEFCRI LAS and OFR. You will decide if you want to take those as new SEFCRI LAS. You will also decide which actions as part of those you want to implement as a LAS.

Mason S: We had a question about Port Everglades that I wanted to recognize Lisa Gregg.

- Lisa Gregg: Everyone talked about submitting comments for Port Everglades earlier. The Corps signed the final EIS dated March 2015, and I believe there is a May 2015 revision that's not on the website. Eric, do you know if that was the latest version?
- Erik Neugaard: We will look into the version issue.

Dan C: Can we get back to the NTU and turbidity issue. Henry mentioned 15 NTUs down in the Keys and we can't even get them to comply with 29 NTUs. It's 29 NTUs above background, however, they're fudging their background. Their background should be accurate and more comparable to the keys. There not getting their background without any influence of the project. I can't seem to find the densest portion of their plume—it's completely arbitrary when their doing testing. I would love 15, but we haven't even found a way for them to comply with 29. Even if we set it to 15, it's going to do much good if we can't get the state to enforce. We can't get compliance and this is a problem. You can't dredge for years in places like Guam next to the reef. You can't put millions and millions of cubic yards of silt and sediment in the water and not impact the reef. We are going to destroy what is left of the reefs in Broward. From reading the EIS of Port Everglades, this could be 4 or 5 years of dredging. Does anyone in this room believe that what's left of the reefs will survive this? One of the things I learned from Washington, the money isn't even there for this project and that is what we need to go after. The politicians don't care about the environmental stuff and they are fudging the numbers. We just did a deep-water port within 40 miles. I don't know the answer, but we need to find a way to get compliance.

Ron C: I would like to make a couple comments in support of Henry, Kurtis and Dan. Port Everglades is a 4 to 5-year project. The common issue that comes out in monitoring of coral reefs, the monitoring companies are the ones that say you can't tell if the sediment came from a storm or the dredging. The geological data that Kurtis mentioned shows that we can see a difference between a storm stirring up existing bottom and dredging sediment on the reef. I encourage everyone to make your comments because it is a 5-year project. Something else that is fairly new in the dredging industry. As the project master for first harbor deepening, we used to blast, which has its own problems. But, there is another technique called rock chopping used these days. When you have a hard material, typically a hydraulic dredge sucks up the sediments and pumps them in spoil sites somewhere. This was done in Miami when the scowls were being maintained. The dredge, Texas, would rock chop turning the cutter head so it could easily be dredged later, but it stirred up in the water column. That is an issue that should be permitted separately. Resorts world Bimini dredged were through a pristine coral reef. I testified on what was happening to that reef and the dredge was shut down. And while it was shut down, I was getting calls from Bimini saying we still saw dirty water out there. Through aerial surveys, I could see the dredging was turned back on and they were rock chopping, which made their job twice as fast because they were already rock chopped. Rock chopping in Port Everglades would probably be done if Great Lakes got the job because of the Dredge Texas, but would probably not be done if Weeks dredging got the job because they are going to have to blast. This is something I am going to leave comment on. There is another issue that you may not be aware of. FDEP went out for bids for Innovative Solutions for Osborne Tire Reef. In full disclosure, my firm was ranked number 1 and we didn't get the job. But who did get one of the projects, a bottom trawl company got it. Right now in the permitting process is a bottom trawl that is going to pick up all the tires using a modified monster net which is basically a shrimp trawl that runs across the bottom to pick up tires. How are you going to avoid coral and turtle? It would be helpful if we could find out from DEP where we could make public comment about this proposal. It should be easy to

- Francisco P: I promise we will look into this.

Scott Sheckman: I am with Friends of Our Florida Reefs. You heard this morning about USCRTF. It is coming here to Florida and we are really looking forward to it. FOFR is the dedicated citizen support organization for FDEP, who is co-hosting the event. We are charged with raising sponsorship funds for the meeting. We have a sponsorship opportunity document for those who are interested with different levels of sponsorship starting at \$50 and up to \$25,000 for diamond-level corporate sponsorship. Please let me know if you would like one or would like more information. I encourage everyone to help, especially in “greening” of the event. If you know anyone interested in sponsoring or partnering, please come and see me at one of the breaks or during lunch. Also off the press is the OFR 2-pager with information on FOFR. Come by if you’re interested or visit www.FloridaReef.org. We have a brand-new map here and hope it’s inspiring for others. I also want to mention the Blue Vision Summit is coming back to Washington DC. This event pulls together the “seaweed rebels” from around the nation. It is in DC from March 9-11 and includes a day where they go to capitol hill and the different state assemblies go to their different representatives to promote healthy ocean policy. It also includes Peter Benchley who will be giving a long list of people receiving awards. It’s inexpensive to go (only \$150 to register). I can definitely tell you that Florida is under-represented at these events and could use more support. The founder of www.BlueFront.org is David Helvarg and he is a nationally recognized journalist. Go to their website to learn more about it or come talk to me. If you are interested in becoming a member to FOFR, come speak with me.

Caroline McLaughlin: I work with the National Parks Conservation Association and I just want to give you a quick update on the everglades restoration. I think we have a good understanding of the damages caused by discharges from Lake Okeechobee. We need to find a way to get water out of the lake without sending it out to the estuaries. The Florida legislature and Senator Negrón has backed a plan that would get the state to purchase 60,000 acres of land south of Okeechobee for the construction of a reservoir that would not only reduce discharge to the estuaries, but would help bring more water to the Everglades and Florida Bay where it is desperately needed. Legislative season just kicked off and we are really pushing hard to support this plan. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let me know.

April Price: I have some updates of what is going on in the northern area. April 1st and 2nd is the Fort Pierce Oyster Reef where they collect shells for oyster reef restoration. On June 2nd and 3rd we will be doing the 7th Annual Lionfish Roundup at the Jupiter Pointe Marine. If you want more information you can go to Martin County’s website at www.McLionfish.com. Sponsorship and registration for divers is up on the website. In the first 6 years of this event, they have removed 1800 lionfish in the local waters, but we need more and more divers. July 29th is the 10th Annual Treasure Coast Waterway Cleanup to target 125 miles of waterway and 15 miles of beaches. It also includes a dive cleanup at Pecks Lake reef on the northern track.

Ken Banks: To Henry’s comment, there was a study in the early 90s to measure turbidity offshore for two years at a fixed site. I have the paper if anyone wants it and it is in the coastal literature journal.

Jane Fawcett: There is a new Marine Environmental Education Center (MEEC) that opened up this past Friday. It was a joint effort between NOVA Southeastern University and Broward County Commissioners. It’s going to be an interactive experience for students, tourists and residents alike. It has a female sea turtle named Captain with a fantastic living arrangement that was rescued after being hit by a boat propeller. They are going to have a middle school come up with a more feminine name since they originally thought it was a male. It is located on Surf Road in Hollywood Beach (the old Carpenter House). It is a fully restored interactive learning facility for marine debris and marine species. Dr. Derek Burkholder will be overseeing this adventure. Also – Captain’s original caretaker has moved to south Florida.

- Charles B (question): I read a lot of this stuff for outreach and education. Do they address in these educational programs fishing in any way? Or is it strictly conservation?

- Jane F: There is a multitude of displays that people can go through and I believe there's a whole fisheries section there. You are more than welcome to go there and check it out.
- Charles B: And not just in these centers, but in the school curriculums as well?
- Erin M: FWC has a lot of outreach activities and we promote ethical angling, etc.
- Jennifer Baez: Back in the day, everyone pushed preservation. Now, there's more of an effort to make a responsible conservation so you can use it on the reef tract. I know these words get interchanged and mixed up, but hopefully the conversation is consistent.

Stacey Ollis: I'm with the South Florida Water Management District and I just wanted to let you know that the 2017 south Florida Environmental report is now available. It is a compilation of 75+ reports that the district is required to do and is prepared by the district in partnership with DEP. It covers all of the south Florida region including everglades, Lake Okeechobee, estuaries, as well as north and it covers a wide variety of topics including the status of water quality, geologic monitoring, hydrological, and water management. It's available on the district's website at www.sfwmd.gov/sfnr and was available to anyone as of March 1. It's about 4,000 pages or so and some is high level and includes some reporting requirements including updates on water supplies, financial info, and status of northern everglades programs which reports on all the lakes.

Kathy Fitzpatrick: Few things: 1) we have made a lot of progress in Tallahassee congress. There have been funding requests in the amount of \$2-4 million for coral reef research spread over water quality monitoring in inlets and outfall projects. 2) There have also been bills in the House and Senate developed by Senator Jacobs and Senator Farmer to give the reef tract a legal designation and a plan associated with it. 3) Another thing that I think most of you would be interested in is the plastic bag issue. There are bills in the House and Senate to start the process to allow municipalities to regulate the use of plastic bags. 4) Also, four different pieces of legislation on craft breweries too so you may want to check those out.

Francisco P: we will close this section of the agenda, but this is not the last opportunity that you have to engage with your fellow SEFCRI members. We will have a Marina Topics section where you can address more comments and questions.

11:10 – 12:30 SEFCRI Priority Projects Identification

Revisit legacy Local Action Strategy ideas, Recommended Management Actions from the Our Florida Reefs Process, and new CRCP Projects

Francisco P: We are going to go over the ideas you have received as input or things you've worked out during the last 3-4 years looking at possible new LAS for the SEFCRI body. After we look at it we will break for lunch. When we return, we will have an exercise about how to select some of these. Last time, the SEFCRI body came up with 140 LAS ideas and the plan was to implement those in a 3-5 year time table. In 1998 the USCRTF was created by Bill Clinton to coordinate coastal management in the US coral reef jurisdictions. For us in Florida, it includes Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, Martin, and Monroe counties. In 2000, the USCRTF adopted a national action plan (as Joanna mentioned earlier). By 2003, FWC and FDEP opened the first SEFCRI meeting in May of that year. In 2004, DEP formed the CRCP to assist in the coordination of SEFCRI of the four focus areas including AA, FDOU, LBSP, and MICCI. The goals of the members are to act with the CRCP on these projects where possible, to find funding for these projects where possible, facilitate the continued management and conservation of our local reefs, and also to select the LAS necessary.

Source	ID	Title
OFR RMAs	N-146	Implement a MPA Zoning Framework for Special Areas of Interest Within the OFR Region
	S-104	Set New Turbidity Standards and Support the Improvement of Turbidity Monitoring Methods (combined with Legacy LAS “Re-evaluation of Existing State Turbidity Standard for Coral Reef Habitats”)
	N-70	Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitats
	N-25	Strengthen Penalties for Reef-Related Violations
	N-68	Regulate Fertilizers and Pesticides and Promote BMPs
	N-97	Implement LBSP Reduction at Pollution Hotspots
	S-2	Create a SEFCRI-Wide Mooring Buoy Program
	S-65	Nominate SEFCRI Region as a National Marine Sanctuary
	S-99	Increase the Number of FWC Enforcement Officers
Legacy LAS	3	Evidence of wastewater associated pollutant stress in marine prokaryote communities
	4	Profiles of Inlet Waters and their Effects on Nearshore Reefs
	5	Coral Toxicity Studies of LBSP
	8	Reducing LBSP in Stormwater Runoff
CRCP Initiatives	CRCP 7	Marine Planner Continued Hosting and Maintenance
	CRCP 8	Coordinated Discussion about Data Needs for Management
	CRCP 9	Water Quality Standards Support
	CRCP 10	Florida Reef Resilience Program Outreach Support

Aubree Z: The selected or proposed potential LAS’s, weren’t all from this SEFCRI body – they have come from various sources. To give you a brief breakdown, we started in 2004 with a 140 LAS identified by the first SEFCRI body. Over the next 13 years, 128 were completed and 12 were kept for later or discarded. These 128 completed LAS’s resulted in were a series of RMAs for what we should do in the future. So we collected these from the original LAS’s and presented these to you. You designated 40 LAS to move forward with and from those, 5 were selected for further review by the SEFCRI body. The next set came from Our Florida Reefs integrated from a citizen basis. There were a total of 68 RMAs, which led to 9 RMA priorities. The third set are the CRCP objectives for DEP to consider. In total, we have around 14 and as a group, we will need to select around 10 new objectives to tackle over the next several years. We are here today to review the recommendations from OFR, SEFCRI LAS’s, and CRCP and selecting the new LAS for the next few years. You may also suggest brand new project ideas during this time. Materials are presented on each of the tables and we will run through these as a group activity.

- Jane F: I just want to be clear that the 9 RMAs from OFR were selected as the most important by the SEFCRI team here at the last meeting.
- Francisco P: Exactly. The SEFCRI team here decided to look at those 9 specific RMA’s from OFR.
- Scott S: Will the 9 that SEFCRI chose from OFR, will they become DEP priorities or will it include other agencies?
- Francisco P: The ones you decide today will become SEFCRI LAS. I will receive them as CRCP and I will do what we can, because some of the LAS are not meant to be implemented by DEP. We can just present these to other agencies if appropriate.
- Erin M: How would this team address something like S-99?
- Francisco P: I, as CRCP, will approach FWC identifying which member of the agency needs to receive that SEFCRI LAS. The SEFCRI body can do other things too.
- Joanna W: To give you a little more context, a SEFCRI LAS project means a project team has formed and its anybody from the SEFCRI team who wants to be on that and usually takes a

complex issue to create a strategy for how to implement. So, it's important that the project team has the right people with the most knowledge to move the project forward. Something like legislation would be really challenging, but we know that counties have authorities for certain things so you would want them on the team. It is going to be very tailored. What we want you to focus on, is in the next 3-5 years, what are the high priority issues for this team to work on. You'll have another opportunity to do this again in the 5 years.

Mike Dixon: I have one major disconnect from the path we're on. One of the main things you pointed out about DEP and other regulatory agencies is a fundamental issue we face. There has been no box established around this region that would support a management approach. There are lots of different box options whether local, state, federal possibilities. When I look at this list, it seems we only have one box option that remains. Unfortunately, it's the box option that is one of the most controversial and contentious. I'm wondering why that is the box option still in play if the need for the box is so urgent. We talk about finding funding support and sponsorship, but this one MPA takes an entire proactive industry and puts them on the sideline. I asked last fall why the 'no spearing on SCUBA' RMA magically disappeared. This one really riled people up and since we didn't want that activity it essentially vanished from OFR and SEFCRI. We have another one here that lends itself abrasive to a group of stakeholders. The establishment of the box remains a priority for SEFCRI to have a structured approach of management. It's troubling to see we're down to one box option for our path. Is this truly where we're at because I'm losing track of how we got here.

- Joanna W: The term we're using is box because we don't want to put a label on it until we know what we want in it. There are 3 types of boxes proposed in that list right now, N-146 (OFR RMA) is a generic box with opportunities for different management under the big box. There is a National Marine Sanctuary box [reference to S-65], which is very specific to that federal program. The UNESCO World Heritage [reference to S-54] and PSSA [reference to N-137] are other options, but these are not shown on the list above. We will also have a discussion today if we want to bring one back that didn't make this list. So this is the last chance to really elevate the ones that didn't make this list either as emerging issues or not. From there, we'll narrow it down for the ones to focus on over the next 3-5 years.
- Sara Thanner: Can you explain what Kathy was saying earlier about that is in the legislature?
- Kathy: There are two bills: House bill 1143 and Senate Bill 1624 and they are (1) establishing the SE Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Protection Area which establishes boundaries for DEP Coral Program to work with FWC to develop a management plan that would be implemented. We've had meetings with higher levels and the secretary of DEP, we've had commissioners from Broward and Martin County and we're trying to find things that are acceptable to anyone. The basics are there. If nothing else, it is an effort and we are making a huge step in the right direction that this is being discussed by the legislature. That alone is a big step. It's halfway past what Joanna mentioned. It is drawing the box and it's telling those state agencies to manage. It recognizes all the stakeholder input processes including OFR and SEFCRI and will require further community input to develop a management plan.
- Erin M: And just to clarify, there's no regulation associated with it and no fishing regulations. It would simply give us the ability to establish a management plan where we could regulate things like the Tortugas Music Festival or to start looking at the anchoring issues that we have no legal authority. This is not about no-fishing, this is about having the ability to establish a plan.
- Kathy F: We are now in the political realm and this has broad views and everyone will have input. We know how this works and people have strong voices. The first one will likely be consensus driven. A strong indication under this is considering funding research that would be needed to start this process.

- Charles B: I understand the concept of the box, but I question the credibility of something like this. If you push the envelope too far, like MPAs or National Marine Sanctuaries, you say that you're not going to regulate fishing but this only goes one way. At some point these regulations are going to pile up. When I attended the Holy Park meeting, they started putting up all these areas of interest, well what are your plans? The silence was deafening from the people in blue shirts and no one knew what to do. Here we are a year later and the item is N-146. To create a box for this, I understand, but certain kinds of boxes you want to steer clear of.
- Kathy F: to be clear, this an opportunity to try to find something we can all agree on, incrementally. And the one thing we can all agree on is addressing water quality.
- Charles B: I just hear the word box and it makes people nervous.
- Ken B: What Kathy is talking about is just latitude and longitude. It doesn't make recommendations for any type of management.
- Francisco P: And I want to add to address your question – the purpose of this exercise is not for you to vote. If you want to have a SEFCRI member adopt N-146 as an LAS as is, I'm not asking you to vote on that. If you want to throw an idea on the list for a blank box, as this bill is suggesting, you may do so.
- Mike – This is now a concurrent effort which is relevant to the conversations we're having in the room. I'm trying to understand what our end game and then work backwards. I am part of the Marine Industry group want to address the spearing on scuba idea because it seems that this was killed for reasons that still remain unclear to me. This advisory group should quickly come to a position on whether the harm from N-146 can bring is worth the single path to salvation for the reef tract. The longer we let it linger there, the longer it becomes contentious.
- Kathy F: Just to be clear, this legislation came from a parallel group called the Coastal Ocean Task Force, which has turned into the Coastal Ocean Forum as they move some action items forward. This didn't come from OFR or SEFCRI.
- Chuck Collins: A lot of people know where I stand on MPA's, but what really pushes the MPA issue and the management issue is money. How do you get grants to do all the good stuff we want to do here? Unless you find a different source of funding, you are always going to have the different groups pushing against each other.
- Charles B: So you're saying you want to stop fishing for money?
- Chuck C: No, for a lot of studies to get done, they are done through grants and you're not going to get grants unless you have a management area. The group itself here does a lot of great work here and I just wish there was another way to pursue the funding.

Stacey O: A lot of the RMAs have overlapping or very specific elements for educating the public. The question I have, is how much flexibility do we have for educating the public. If we don't have a strong element that's on this list that captures that public education component, then a lot of these things will fall short. It comes down to gaining support and educating the public so that when we show things about the status of the reef is made clear to people as a core element. If we don't, then we're going to have a hard time getting public, legislative and funding support.

Angela S: I was part of the OFR process. The spearfishing on scuba was never nixed, it was just re-written. It was a very democratic process.

- Mike D: I went to a few of the OFR meetings and saw it was there, and then when I went to the SEFCRI meeting, it was gone.
- Sara T: The goal of that RMA was to eliminate loss of trophy fish. Spearfishing was decided as one way to accomplish that. Through public comment we realized it was focused on one type of fishery, so it was rewritten to include a slot limit. Therefore, the original intent of the RMA remained, but it removed the spearfishing component.

Henry B: Because of all the worries about the boxes, FKNMS has had that box for many years. We are not that far away from the industry (from you guys) and those interested in the industry. I have a project funded by the Bone Fish and Tarpon Fund and they want to know why the fish are declining. We don't know if the answers will come out of that study yet and I would hate for some bureaucrat to decide. I don't think we should be worried about this box because we could keep on discussing and arguing. We don't have the information we need to make those decisions yet.

- Charles B: You're going to have to define your area with longitude and latitude and that's fine. But a no-take area out to 150 ft would affect some of the major tournaments around here. There's nobody who wants a sailfish more than a fisherman and he's going to do everything he can to protect the fishery. To just arbitrarily make a MPA where nothing can get done, it's not as realistic with all that's going on up here with seasons and tournaments.
- Sara T: MPA never equaled to no-take
- Charles B: We just need to be careful about how we're educating the public.
- Caroline M: An MPA is a catch all for any area under protection. There are different types of management areas and specific areas. This is zoning framework so there could be no speed zones, no anchoring zones, no fishing zones as another option.
- Charles B: There's also a National Marine Sanctuary option as well
- Caroline M: And that is similar to an MPA in that they have a management plan with certain zonings as you see in the Florida Keys.
- Mason S: Anything involving fisheries management would not really change. There was a comment that a box would help certain things, but fisheries management is not within that framework.
- Chuck C: You can protect a species or an area for protecting a species without establishing it as an MPA. FWC has done that for years. To me, MPA is a political term rather than a protection term.
- Lisa Gregg: I'm worried that we're going off on an MPA discussion and not following the agenda. But, let's wrap up this discussion with the fact that FWC does support best management provisions. Now if it's been proven that an MPA is the only option to protect the fisheries, then there is nowhere else for FWC to go. If we don't get the studies done and funded, that need to be done to support those kinds of designations then we can't move forward.

Erin M: This is my last day as a Vice Chair so I wanted to get us back on the agenda. I would like to point out that there are 17 items on this list and we are going to vote it down to 10. We may be spending too much time on this topic. This morning, our conversations revolved around disease and other emerging issues which we should add to the list.

Francisco P: I want to get on topic and after Bruce, I want to start a conversation to see which ideas should be included to this current list of 17.

Bruce Marx (alternate for Dan Kipnis): I'm sorry for going off to left field. I was born and raised in Miami and appreciate this group and would love to see more people involved in groups like this. I am representing Dan Kipnis. It wasn't until last June that I heard about N-146. I am a fisherman first and an attorney second. I did see the disease wipe out our corals and fully support conservation. But, I also support the fishermen and support seeing an objective that achieves the objective of protecting the reef while making the fishermen happy. To give you an example, the executive order brought up by Trump was stricken down because it was too broad. The goal was to protect the US from terrorism. The purpose of this group is to protect the reef. N-146 goes beyond protecting the reef because boundary zone set forth in N-146 goes from mean high tide out to 3 miles. So, I started a grassroots campaign to get additional public comment. I think it would be wise for this group to solicit as much public comment from all interested stakeholders as possible. I would like to commend Francisco as being one of the most transparent individuals I know. He inundated me with all the information I needed about N-146. I collected 1080 comment cards against N-146. They are against a no-take zone

out to the sailfish region. I embrace N-146, but I don't embrace in its present form. We need to make sure this no-take zone doesn't extend out to three miles.

- Angela S: N-146 doesn't read like that. And I just encourage everyone to read it.
- Bruce M: It says that the proposed region includes the SEFCRI boundary which goes from St. Lucie inlet down to the northern border of Biscayne National Park and from mean high tide to three miles offshore.

Ron C: As Henry said, we have restrictions on the use of our reefs and if we move our no-take zones over the reef, our sail fishermen can stay in there, but no one else. With S-65, the FKNMS works very well. We need to have a box. But, another that's very important these days is new turbidity standards. I have worked in two locations with zero turbidity allowed above background. A technically oriented contractor with innovative technology can work in lower turbidity standards in the Keys. Most of the time it's not 29 NTUs or 29 above background. This is something we should be focusing on rather than MPAs. But, let's talk about a National Marine Sanctuary or another word for this box because it certainly needs protection and recognition. Other ones [RMAs] have good results like creating a SEFCRI-wide mooring-buoy system [S-2]. I couldn't get a single dollar of funding to move the mooring buoys that Broward County was getting rid of. [In reference to N-97] Implementing LBSP reduction at hotspots is critical. We spend over a \$100 million on a water attenuation reservoir in the Hillsboro Canal, but when we dump fresh water, my dock turns into a dead zone within an hour of opening the gates. This is a significant source of LBSP, so reduction of hotspots that can be easily funded are important too. I believe this group has enough clout to believe what we say.

Daron Willison: I'm sorry to cut you off, but we are off-track right now. These conversations are awesome and I'm glad you're talking about this, but I really want to bring us back to the objective of this section. Let's look back at these 17 project ideas, discuss these and at the end you will have the opportunity to vote on the top 10.

- Francisco P: And this is the opportunity to add some new ideas. There have been a lot of discussions, but you haven't made any indication of projects to add to this list.
- Daron W: We only have about 10 minutes before we go to lunch, what would be a project you would like to propose for the SEFCRI body to take on as a new LAS.

Consider and identify new project ideas from emerging issues

Dan C: A new project could be some sort of adaptive management or monitoring program. With the way SECREMP is structured and with the recent disease outbreak, they only go out one time per year and we're not really capturing these events as they are happening.

- Francisco P: One of the projects listed, CRCP 8, is included in our next cooperative agreement. And this will be captured here.
- Dan C: I'm talking about changing how we do the collection
- Francisco P: And that's the goal of CRCP 8. To see if anything needs to be changed.
- Dan C: There needs to be something there where we can respond to events like these in a timely fashion. It's important that we learn from this major 2+ year outbreak. There needs to be some funding source or a rapid response team in our management to be able to adapt.

Jim Bohnsack: Idea to promote coral-safe screen use.

Jane F: I think that coral disease needs to be in the title for one of these LAS's. I understand it falls under CRCP 8, but, we need to have one that is coral disease specific.

- Joanna F: We need one to be more specific to fight drivers of coral disease and potentially something about the limits that can regulate those drivers.
- Lauri MacLaughlin: I think we need a coral disease response plan that covers that in other events.

- Daron W: Could all of these ideas related to disease go under one LAS project?
- Kurtis G: to build on that, we need research to identify what's causing this outbreak (the drivers) before we can do something about it.

Daron W: Are there any other emerging issues that you feel are not captured here?

Jim B: Reduce total dissolved organic carbon emissions (aka sugar) because it kills coral.

Dan C: Going back to the loss of the large corals. We need to better document this overall loss in coral cover. These numbers are things we can take to our policy makers to really hit it home.

- Daron W: Could this go under adaptive monitoring or management?
- Dan C: This is more monitoring.

Henry B: If we don't convey to the right people that stakeholders were involved, then nothing will get done. Developing the right strategies for communicating issues needs to be included here.

Erin M: We have an LAS related to estuary restoration and conservation, but promoting living shorelines for private residences should be added. Not just on public lands, but private as well.

- Jane F: This was an archived RMA.
- Daron W: If this language already exists, we can just bring it up to the top and add it to the list.

Chuck C: S-28 does address the freshwater input from Lake Okeechobee and it looks like there's already some political support. Since this already has traction, maybe this should be addressed as a separate item so we can stay on top of it?

Stacey O: Either included or separate from a coral disease response plan, I think it would be beneficial to have a coral disease campaign to help get the word out.

- Lauri M: A response plan is an umbrella term for all those things. Existing response plans incorporate those strategic messaging and communication pieces as well.
- Daron W: And once you guys select the top 10 projects, you will have the opportunity (if time today) to develop action items for the 3 to 5 year period to complete the objective.

Ron C: We brought S-28 back up, which is good, but let's make sure this stays general. Does anyone realize we have a 50,000 acre reservoir that we bought already and the Corps stopped funding.

Mason S: We need to get a project team together to identify data needs needed to focus on fisheries management in the SERCRI region.

- Jim B: Doesn't that violate what we are supposed to do that? We are supposed to come up with management actions
- Everyone: That was for OFR.

April Price: Should we put S-25 back on the table to encourage closing of outflows by 2025.

- Angela S: So that's an RMA from OFR as well, right?
- Everyone: Yes

Finalize list of new LAS for the SEFCRI Team

Daron W: So these are the ones we have added onto the list for now. After lunch, we will have the chance to vote for the top 10 projects for the SEFCRI body to take on for the next 3-5 years.

PROPOSED NEW TITLES
Improve Strategies for Communicating Coral Issues
Sludge Discharge (for TAC)
Promote Living Shorelines for Private Residences
Promote Coral Safe Sunscreen
Standards for Reef Dredging
S-28: Monitoring Freshwater from Lake Okeechobee
Define the SEFCRI Region (“The Box”)
Coordinate Adaptive Monitoring Strategies
S-25: Encourage Closing of Outfalls by 2025
Create a Coral Disease Response Plan
Identify Data Needs for Fisheries Management
Reduce Total Dissolved Organic Carbon Emissions
Protected Species Demographics and Monitoring

12:30 – 1:15 Lunch

1:15 – 2:05 Continue SEFCRI Priority Project Identification

Daron Willison: Because we are a little behind schedule, we are going to do a little bit of an agenda shuffling. Right now we’re going to review the full list of project ideas including the new emerging issues that were brought up before lunch and combine into one large list. At that point we will select the top 10 as new projects for the SEFCRI to focus on. As a reminder, because we’re behind schedule, we just ask that you keep comments short, avoid repeating comments and be respectful of everyone. Looking at the list of new ideas, are there any additional projects you want to add?

Katherine McCoy: The one thing I don’t see up there is the outreach and education component. I don’t see one measurable outreach idea, which is a part of all of these.

- Aubree Zenone: That is one of the CRCP goals which was set forth by the original SEFCRI team. An outreach and education component could always be included in the project plans for any of these ideas.

Dan Clark: Looking at N-97 (LBSP Pollution Hotspots), I think we need a project to better identify these hotspots. In talking about some of the other sludge issues I mentioned earlier, there is also a number of industrial permits in Broward County and maybe we need to get into some of these details to bring to the TAC. If there’s things like nickel and heavy metals are permitted to go into our sewers, we need treatment options and they need to be on the radar.

- Daron W: Would you suggest that be an add on to the existing RMA? This idea will definitely be captured in the notes and could be brought up later, when you start discussing more detailed project plans for each of these. This is also something to consider when we go to vote for the top 10 projects.

Stacey Ollis (question): Last year, of all the RMAs, they were prioritized into those four groupings. Obviously, a list of 10 is a consolidated list. Is there a vision for some of these to be low hanging fruit for some that could be implemented quickly? Will there be a prioritization of these overall?

- Daron W: There were 128 LAS projects that were accomplished over 13 years, so the idea here is to come up with a list of manageable LAS projects that could be attainable within 3-5 years.

Ron Coddington: Have we thought about combining CRCP 9 [Water Quality Standards Support] and S-104 [Set New Turbidity Standards]?

- Francisco Pagan: You can just say that you feel that both should be a concept for the SEFCRI body. If you think a couple of those should be combined for you to be able to adapt and make them a new SEFCRI LAS, then by all means, make that suggestion.
- Daron W: S-104 originated from the OFR process and CRCP-9 originated from our own program in our new cooperative agreement. So, if you all think these should be combined, then let's discuss it.
- Dan C: I feel that S-104 should be a standalone. This is an important project and I don't want to see this getting lost.
- Kathy Fitzpatrick: Water quality standards is its own thing too, turbidity would just be a little piece of it and probably not the thing it would focus on. So, it's just another thing to add to Dan's point.
- Mike Jenkins: Turbidity tends to be related to dredging while water quality standards are more about the overall environment. When S-104 was merged, one element that is missing is the use of the word "resource". We're not trying to look at turbidity standards for everything, just for this specific resource that's coral specific so it would help to focus this title.
- Daron W: As Francisco said earlier, when you start discussing these in more detail you will be able to add or change the title as you are suggesting. We will have your comment in the minutes so if this does get selected in the top 10, we can bring up your motion.
- Henry Briceno: Water quality is already established by DEP, so I do not see the objective of keeping water quality on the list because this is already being worked on by DEP, but rather focus on other important issues like turbidity.
- Francisco P: To ensure that we stay on track and that everyone understands, the top 9, 10 or 11 ideas that get selected will become your own projects for you to adopt at your tables. You will add details and how you want them to be implemented. This process will continue as we develop these.

Kurtis Gregg (question for Francisco): Are all four of the CRCP projects included in the new cooperative agreement?

- Francisco P: Yes and that is why they have a CRCP number. We are already moving on some of these ideas, but if you feel that they are important for SEFCRI, you may adopt them or expand upon them.
- Kurtis: If those four are already being implemented in the cooperative agreement, we might benefit from expanding our scope and focusing on other projects.
- Francisco P: Remember the cooperative agreement is a 2-year cycle and then it will end, so if you feel that there's a bigger objective, you may want to consider it.
- Daron W: Another reason why you may want to pick one of the CRCP projects is so that there will be a project team and it's something you would have more control over and we would become partners. But, it is a good point to choose ones that are not already being implemented.

Daron W: At this point I'm not really hearing anything new ideas, is there anything anybody can think of before we start thinking about prioritizing?

Brian Walker: There's one I'm confused about because I believe it was at the TAC. But, it was considering protected species demographics including large dense Acropora patches and large corals.

- Dan C: Didn't that fall under our boxes for areas of interest [in reference to N-146]?
- Brian W: Well we used their locations to create the N-146 areas of interest. Regardless, I would recommend to add this.
- Dan C: Can we word that so it includes the big monumental stuff? As in the 20+ coral heads?
- Brian W: Almost all of them include protected species. So it would write, protected species demographics and monitoring including large Acropora patches and corals >2 m.

Jane Fawcett: Two things. The first would require DEP staff going back and looking over the notes from the OFR community meetings. But, there could have been some good recommendations from the post-it activity that we could add to the list. Secondly, I also don't see the TAC recommendations. Those are the professionals who look at these all the time so maybe there was something they recommended at their last meeting that didn't make this list?

- Daron W: There should be a list of those recommendations at each of your tables. But, I wonder if there is a TAC member here who might be able to provide insight into this.
- Brian W: I don't recall, but I would assume that would have been looked at before this meeting.
- Jane F: I just don't want the TAC's expert opinion to be overlooked if there is something we are missing. I also don't want to public opinion to be overlooked.
- Daron W: It's my understanding that these projects have been going back and forth between the TAC and the Team.
- Dana Wusinich-Mendez: I haven't seen the handout at the tables, but from my understanding at the last TAC meeting, what we did was look at management recommendations and identify what data could be used to support those management actions as well as identify some completely new research and management needs that fill current critical gaps.
- Daron W: That would be valuable for you to look at and see if there is anything on there that should be added to this list. \

Dan C: One project that was identified by the TAC was the fact that current monitoring isn't capturing the mass loss we just had. We need to re-look at restructuring how we do this monitoring such as SECREMP to better capture what's going on.

- Daron W: Could this be included in the monitoring strategies topic?
- Dan C: I look at that to how we are responding to events, but I'm talking about something overall and the things we do every year.
- Daron W: Ok so if you guys are ok with it, I would put that under adaptive monitoring as both episodic events and overall monitoring of the reef.

Daron W: Going back to what Jane said about OFR public comments, the OFR members did review all the post-it notes together and did not come up with an RMA that was missing.

- Jane F: At the time of those meetings, we weren't looking at new RMAs, just the ones we already had.

Mike D: I don't know if this should be a new one or not, but this group was charged with the responsibility of representing the region at large. It's in our hands to bring these projects forward so it's our responsibility to draw a box and decide what it needs. If anybody else in the room is getting educated on the fly about the pluses and minuses about the federal or state box options, the most important thing that SEFCRI can provide to the agencies and the public is to produce a coherent idea about what we recommend that box to be and the dimensions. We need to decide as a group which is the best option.

Dave Gilliam: I just want to go back to the monitoring strategy thing, because that is going to be in my top 10 for sure. But, I want to make sure the group understands that the big categories include adaptive monitoring strategies and then there's three bullets underneath. Those three bullets are three different things part of adaptive monitoring – they are not exclusive. Overall monitoring is not the same as episodic monitoring.

- Daron W: Part of the idea of this would be for one to supplement the other.

Stacey O: From this list, if you look into the detail of N-70 [Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitats], it talks about being a 10-year projection as a timeline. As a suggestion, maybe select things that are low hanging fruit which would help in the short term, for example S-8 [Coral Reef Gardens]. This could even be done in conjunction with the coral disease response plan, which has a 2-year projection.

- Daron W: How about we consider that as a possibility to be added into the response plan language.

Jenny Baez (question): I understand we are supposed to be tackling these in 3-5 years. Does that mean we are aiming for completion, or having the project set into motion?

- Francisco: 3-5 years is a SEFCRI objective for you to feel ownership and motivation. The idea would be completion, but if you feel it's something highly important, it can just continue to run.
- Daron W: A lot of the LAS that started 13 years ago are still ongoing today. For example, the AA component was part of the original LAS and that is still ongoing.
- Francisco P: This region has a large transient population that comes and goes. Because of this, our education and outreach projects can never be completed.

Kurtis G: To go back to Stacey's comment about the 10 years for that particular RMA [N-70: Protect and Restore Estuarine Habitats]. The TAC was asked to figure out the timeline for those specific tasks. And that particular one is already being implemented by Palm Beach County ERM with the Grassy Flats and Snook Islands. Just because it says 10, it's not a hard number on how long it would take.

Erin McDevitt (question): We've been asked to identify the top 10, and some will be more expensive than others. How does funding fall into prioritization? For example, we could do restoration and use the entire budget right there.

- Francisco P: Finding funding is part of the SEFCRI. You don't have to rely on CRCP budget. Many of the LAS were completed without CRCP budgets
- Kurtis G: There are many different funding streams, not just through NOAA and state opportunities. It's important to use some of the NGO grant opportunities that are offered through NOAA's CRCP and other agencies and programs.
- Francisco: From the point of CRCP, having something as an LAS, we try to invest in those through our own cooperative agreement.
- Dana W: To provide some context into the original concept of LAS, those 140 projects that we hear about that were developed as the first generation were very specific actions that came out of bigger, broader ideas. The LAS's are the specific actions you would take to support that broader concept in the 3-5 year period. We need to decide which we want to move forward or not. The point of this session is to identify those bite-sized actions that we can do in 3-5 years.
- Daron W: That really wraps it up nicely. Once we decide on these big projects, then we can choose those "bite-sized" projects as Dana suggested.

Daron W: We have about a half hour left and it sounds like you are done throwing out ideas. I want to take a temperature reading to see if you guys would be comfortable choosing the top 10? We will do this using a program called survey gizmo which would allow you to select the top 10 and it would spit out the results.

Angela S: I just want to revisit some of these. In theory, we would pick one like Coral Safe Sunscreen because there is only one company that makes reef safe sunscreen.

- Jane F: There's more than one.
- Erin M: There are lots of options.
- Angela S: Well never mind, I was just using that as an example because I've never found one that's entirely reef safe.
- Francisco P: Do you have another example for your idea?
- Angela S: Did we discuss them enough is what I should have said.
- Daron W: That is a good point. In those 30 minutes, we could discuss more, or we could prioritize and save the discussion for the top 10 that come out.

Charles Berkley (question): Regarding the public comments that came in, were they factored into the OFR RMAs and the decision-making process?

- Daron W: If you're talking about the RMA's that specifically came out of the OFR process (they start with an N or an S), those went through two months of 2-day meetings to review every comment and the RMA's changed accordingly.
- Charles B: We had 1000s of public opinions by the most effective stakeholder group for one very specific RMA [in reference to N-146], which I still see up there and I just don't think there were many in support of it.
- Daron W: I don't really want to get into that deep hole, and the reason for that is because these RMAs that were put forward by OFR were prioritized by the 8 tables in this room.
- Mitch Comiskey: There were positive comments as well. Maybe not from your group, but there were positive ones
- Charles B: Yeah but probably not 2000 of them.
- Aubree Zenone: We have already had this discussion about this topic and so we are going to move on.
- Daron W: I'm not trying to shut you down, Charles, but there was consensus on the RMAs from the OFR group, they were brought to SEFCRI because OFR was a product of SEFCI, and SEFCRI brought them up as priority projects.
- Joanna Walczak: Charles, there was a discussion like this at the last SEFCRI meeting. You're wondering how the few got pushed forward to the SEFCRI consideration. They didn't get the individual comment cards because those were already review by OFR. But, along the way they've been included.
- Jim Bohnsack: They will be included in the final report as well.
- Bruce Marx: Francisco, does that include the 1000 comments I sent to you as well?
- Joanna W: Because those were received after the period, they won't be included in the report, but should anything go forward for action to be taken, those comments will be considered.
- Bruce M: I think that was miscommunication and those should be included.
- Francisco P: They will be part of the package that gets sent to the agencies where they will decide if the RMAs get incorporated or not.
- Bruce M: This report isn't coming out until June. The comment cards were submitted to you, Francisco with DEP, three times and well in advance of the report being prepared. So, in the interest of fairness, I think they should be considered in the report.
- Joanna W: Bruce I hear you, and ultimately what we're trying to do is respect the stakeholders that were engaged in the process.
- Bruce M: There is plenty of time to consider and re-evaluate before this June report is prepared.
- Joanna W: We do hear you.

Jenny B: I think we should move forward with the list as is.

Daron W: Does anyone have a problem with moving forward?

Kathy F: Some of these need to be pulled apart, but if they don't get prioritized there is no sense spending time on them.

Daron W: I could propose that we switch vice-chair elections to right now while I prepare the survey for this. After that, we will give you 30 minutes to cast your votes.

2:05 – 3:10 Vice-Chair Elections

Francisco P: We have new people here, and this would be a great opportunity to present ourselves before we do SEFCRI Vice-Chairs.

[All present SEFCRI members introduced themselves with their affiliation]

First	Last	Title/Specialty	Affiliation	Group
Erik	Ault*	Research Associate	FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute	State Agency
Jennifer	Baez		Palm Beach County/Department of Environmental Resources Management	Local Agency
Ken	Banks	Marine Resources Program Manager	Environmental Protection and Growth Management Dept. - Biological Resources Division	Local Agency
Baret	Barry	Environmental Resource Specialist	Martin County Engineering Department	Local Agency
Patrick	Bennett	President	South Florida Fishing Club	Fishing
Charles	Berkley*	recreational fisherman	Lighthouse Point Fishing Club	Fishing
Steve	Blackburn*		Environmental Protection Agency	Federal Agency
Jim	Bohnsack	Research Fishery Biologist	NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center	Federal Agency
Henry	Briceno	Research Associate	Florida International University	Academic
Eric	Buck	Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Manager	FDEP/ Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve	State Agency
Lisa	Carole	Owner	Jupiter Dive Center	Diving
Tom	Carpenter	Organizer/Sponsor	South Florida Beach Divers	Diving
Dan	Clark*		Cry of the Water	NGO
Ron	Coddington	Principal Engineer	Callaway Marine Technologies, Inc.	Private Business
Chuck	Collins	Executive Director	Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County	Private Business
Mitch	Comiskey	Biology/Marine Science Teacher	Broward County Public Schools	Academic
Michael	Dixon	Vice President	Engel USA	Private Business
Kelly	Egan	Marine Biologist / Project Manager	US Army Corps of Engineers, Palm Beach Gardens Regulatory	Federal Agency
Jane	Fawcett	Operations Officer	Vone Research, Inc.	NGO
Joana	Figueiredo	Assistant Professor	Nova Southeastern University, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography	Academic
Kathy	Fitzpatrick	Martin County Coastal Engineer	Martin County/Administration	Local Agency
Dave	Gilliam	Marine Project Coordinator	Nova Southeastern University, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography	Academic
Andrea	Graves	Blowing Rocks Preserve Director	The Nature Conservancy	NGO
Kurtis	Gregg*	Contractor	NOAA	Federal Agency
DD	Halpern	Citizen At Large		Citizen at Large
Alastair	Harbone	Assistant Professor	Florida International University	Academic
Michael	Jenkins	Coastal Engineer	Applied Technology & Management Inc	Private Business
Ivana	Kenny	Environmental Specialist II	Beaches, Inlets & Ports Program	State Agency
Lisa	Krimsky	South District Water Resources Regional Specialized Agent	Miami-Dade County/University of Florida IFAS	Academic
Lauri	MacLaughlin	Regional Research Associate	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	Federal Agency
Bruce	Marx*	Law partner	Marlow, Adler, Abrams, Newman & Lewis Attorneys at Law	Fishing

Katherine	McCoy	Educator and Teacher		Academic
Erin	McDevitt	Biologist III	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation	State Agency
Caroline	McLaughlin	Biscayne Program Manager	National Parks Conservation Association	Federal Agency
Cheryl	Miller	President	Coastal Eco-Group, Inc.	Private Business
Erik	Neugaard	Environmental Program Manager	Port Everglades	Other Stakeholder
Stacey	Ollis		South Florida Water Management District	State Agency
Nikole	Ordway	Instructor	Force-E Scuba Centers	Diving
Shana	Phelan	Owner	Pura Vida Divers	Diving
April	Price	Immediate Past President	Marine Industries Association of the Treasure Coast	Private Business
Scott	Sheckman	Founder	iSheck Consulting	Other Stakeholder
Angela	Smith	Founder	Shark Team 1	NGO
Mason	Smith		FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management	State Agency
Sara	Thanner	Environmental Resources Project Supervisor	Miami-Dade DERM	Local Agency
Ed	Tichenor	Executive Director	Palm Beach County Reef Rescue	NGO
Don	Vacin	Marine Officer-Broward County	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	State Agency
Brian	Walker	Research Scientist	Nova Southeastern University, Halmos College of Natural Sciences and Oceanography	Academic

*Denotes alternate member

Hear nominee campaigns and vote for the new Vice-Chair body

Francisco P: Right now, SEFCRI is composed of 64 members with one available seat. We need 32 on floor to vote, which we have today. To be elected as a vice-chair, you need to have a simple majority. We have nominees for each of the subgroups so we will give everyone about a minute to talk about themselves. After we hear from everyone, we will hand out paper ballots and report out on the results.

Eric Ault: Does everybody know what their roles are for each of these vice-chair positions?

Francisco P: We will pull up a description of these positions and in the meantime, I will run down the list of nominations:

- Diving: Shana Phelan
- Local Agency: Jamie Monty
- State Agency: Mason Smith
- Federal Agency: Jim Bohnsack
- Private Business: Ron Coddington
- Citizen at Large: DD Halpern
- Fishing (2): Patrick Bennet and Dan Kipnis
- Academic: Henry Briceno and Katherine McCoy

Every SEFCRI member will vote for one member of each group, but you can only nominate a SEFCRI member from within your group. If anyone wants to nominate someone, you can do that now.

Aubree Zenone: [Reads paragraph from the Charter about the rules and responsibilities of the SEFCRI Vice-Chairs]

Francisco P: Just as a reminder about the vice chairs, the alternate vice-chair cannot sit on behalf of the primary vice-chair calls and if both members are present during meetings, only the primary may vote. At this time, we will have each of the candidates give a 2-minute speech.

- Shana Phelan (Diving): I am the owner of Pura Vida Divers and my husband and I have owned the dive shop since 2002. I am also the administrator for the Palm Beach County Diving Association. We coordinate monthly meetings with our local diving community to support our industry and conservation efforts. I have a degree in marine biology and a master's in coastal and environmental management. I've been with SEFCRI for 3-4 years. Thank you.
- Erin McDevitt, on behalf of Jamie Monty (Local Agency): Because of Jamie's history with SEFCRI and having been in Francisco's position, I think she would be a great asset to this team.
- Mason Smith (State Agency): I work for FWC in the Division of Marine Fisheries and also some rule making. A lot of what we do in the analysis and rule making section is the policy and population sustainability. Specifically, I am a south Florida biologist from St. Lucie through the Florida Keys and into Collier County. Here in this region, I've been involved in lots of rule-making involving mutton snapper, hogfish and barracuda. We are all here with new recommendations and new faces and already there's been talks about angles and compromise. And that's exactly what we do with rule making. The barracuda has a lot of significance to a lot of different user groups and it's important to have everyone at the table. You'll never get 100% satisfaction, but that's what we try to do. Thanks to Erin for everything she has done as the former vice-chair and thanks for the consideration.
- Patrick Bennet (Fishing): I'm from Springfield, Ohio and live in Broward County. I've been here for 13 years. I am a retired PGA golfer and currently in the lightning prediction business fulltime. I've also been the president of the South Florida Fishing Club for 5 years. I do commercial lobster diving off Ft Lauderdale and in the Keys, I have my stone crab endorsement license and also go fishing for mackerel and lionfish in the wintertime. I'm easy to work with, I listen, I get educated, and then I speak.
- Bruce Marx, on behalf of Dan Kipnis (Fishing): [Please see Appendix I for printed speech]
- Jim Bohnsack (Federal Agency): My official title is Research Fisheries Biologist Supervisor. I grew up here in south Florida and have been fishing and diving since the early 60's. I worked at various camps as a counselors and directors. I have 3 daughters, one of them works for FDEP. I was born in Michigan. I have a PhD and Masters from University of Miami. I'm an evolutionary ecologist, but I worked in fisheries in the National Marine Fisheries Service throughout the southeast and Caribbean. Our fisheries independent monitoring provided advice to our councils around here, but also in the Dry Tortugas, Flower Gardens. I've also advised fisheries issues in Hawaii, Alaska, and California. My specialty in research the last 30 years has been looking at MPA and marine reserves in no fishing zones. Most important I've been working on SEFCRI since 2004.
- Henry Briceno (Academic): I work for Florida International University. I graduated 42 years ago, I've been working on water quality issues since I arrived in the states about 15 years ago and for 13 years here in south Florida from Ft Myers to Biscayne Bay. I've been very involved in water quality research. Besides that, I'm very interested in sea level rise and the impacts on water quality due to sea level rise on cities, particularly during king tides. We didn't want people to know that the flood waters in Miami is not just from the sea, but a mixture of ground water from all different sources from sewer and septic tanks. That's what people allow their kids to wade in. We need to make sure we have enough information as knowledge and background to present as evidence. I'd be glad to be the vice chair for academia.
- Katherine McCoy (Academic): I've taught in the education system from pre-K through 12th grade in the private, charter and public sectors. I have a master's in art education. My undergrad was in art and sculpture and I create in a number of mediums. I have helped in the Perez Art

Museum in Miami and helped integrate a program for educational outreach for every 3rd grader in the county to understand different things going on in the community. Similarly, at the Frost Museum, every 4th grader attends a program so different opportunities to get some projects out there. One of many key issues for coral reefs is how their affected by the public at large, water quality issues and runoff, lionfish epidemic. If the public does not hold conservation at the highest priority, we will continue to struggle with the widespread problems of our reefs. Unlike many of you, I was part of the vast majority of the public who didn't know much about coral reefs and I see that as one of the main obstacles that we face. It's great that the advocates have finally been able to create initiatives for conservation. If we were to be successful, our message is to be received and supported by a wider group. I see my opportunity to help in two key ways. As a teacher, I will further education of reef ecology and conservation into school curriculums. As an artist working in the art community, this is an area that is untapped for outreach. I have a lot of connections and would be great for me to be able to integrate these groups together. I've already worked on programs in festivals to promote this. We are involved in the nonprofit, Tomorrow's Reef to develop artificial reefs for other divers to explore while enjoying the things they love. I hope to offer a unique experience and help in any way I can.

- Angela Smith (NGO): Although there's only one person as a vice chair, I will be looking to each of you for your input and support. I am the president and founder of Shark Team One. I've been with the OFR and SEFCRI process since the beginning. I started working in the 80s with non-profits like TNC and in the Caribbean. Even at that time we started looking into what was degrading the coral reefs and still to this day, we're working on it. Along with the OFR process, I worked with an application process to get coastal southeast Florida recognized by the IUCN and the Sylvia Earle Alliance. Recently, I worked on an application project to apply our region for a Hope Spot and was officially announced in Hawaii last year. It just means that we can use this for global attention to increase awareness for our region. I'm passionate about what I do and hope to gain your support.
- DD Halpern (Citizen at Large): Professionally, I am a copy writer, but I like to use my writing skills to help nonprofits like FOFR and others. I have helped with Surfrider Foundation in NY and Palm Beach. Last year, I joined SEFCRI after meeting Scott Sheckman at one of the community events. I'm a surfer and snorkel, I paddle on Loxahatchee river and have a keen interest in the river to ocean relationship. Although there wasn't a river issue in Loxahatchee, there are many around the Jupiter inlet. As a vice chair, I hope to be an effective spokesperson.
- Ron Coddington: I'm a Florida native to Miami Beach. My educational background is in ocean engineers in 1976 with postgraduate work on nearshore structures, jetties, etc. I started my first job working for port everglades as an Assistant Port Engineer. I worked there for 7 years until moving on to my own business. I built Southport and did most of the litigation as part of the Port Everglades project and went on to do other projects on the water. Work regularly with artificial reefs and did a formal restoration site in the Florida Keys and specifically the restoration site in Looe Key. Then went onto land based sources of pollution in the treatment areas and water attenuation reservoirs for SFWMD. Last year worked from Mollie and Melissa with the Spar Orion and Clipper Lasco vessel groundings and the reef restoration for that. I've been on an Advisory panel for pelagic issues. I've written articles for Florida Sportsman. Went on to ICCAT and represent south Florida fishermen on global fishing issues. I am the former chairman of advisory board for City of Deerfield Beach. I learned to be an environmentalist since 1965. Been in private business and understand how it relates to our fishing, ocean, everglades, etc. I have also worked closely with NGOs. I believe in the phrase "think globally act locally". I've worked with someone each of the tables here, one way or another. I promise to be here whenever I'm needed because I've served on many advisory boards before.

[Each of the candidates stand up and announce their name and group representation while paper ballots are distributed to the members]

3:10 – 3:25 Break

3:25 – 3:42 Public Comment

Speakers: Paul Davis, Stephanie Clark, Dan Clark, Scott Sheckman

Written public comment cards received below:

Wishes to Speak
 Does not wish to Speak



Southeast
Florida
Coral Reef
Initiative

Meeting Date: 3/8/17

Comments: Sorry - but I couldn't stay for the entire meeting.

I've been involved with this initiative since the beginning as staff representing PBC ERM then later as an adviser to SFSFCA. From that long term perspective, I'm impressed by how much has been accomplished. We've come a long, long way. However, it is still frustrating to see the group still discussing similar issues over & over again. The latest science is telling us we are running out of time. I am very encouraged to see new voices in the room from previously underrepresented stakeholders. I urge the new folks to thoroughly review the documents to understand where we have

Name: Paul Davis
Affiliation: Sea to Shore Alliance
Address: Boynton
Email: pdavis9@gmail.com

If your name appears it will be affiliated with your comments on any report issued.
Send comments to: coral@dep.state.fl.us



been and want to reassure them that SEFCRI has made repeated attempts over the years to have ~~their~~ ^{their views better} ~~represented~~ ^{represented} on the team.

I urge all team members to listen carefully and thoughtfully to each other to develop meaningful and effective L.A.S.'s. We are all working toward the same goal, and have ~~common~~ interests. We have already done what I considered impossible 13 years ago. I am confident you ^{all} can find ^{sufficient} common ground to accomplish ^{even more} in the next 5 years. Thanks

Wishes to Speak
 Does not wish to Speak

Meeting Date: 3-8-2017



Southeast
Florida
Coral Reef
Initiative

Comments:

Comments to Coral Reef Task Force
Washington DC Feb 23, 2017
Disease - Army Corp projects killing our
reefs

Coy of Re water

Name: Stephanie Clark
Affiliation: 18772 CW Pt LINDA D P.O. Box 8143
Address: CS 33875
Email: reefteam3@ynho.on

If your name appears it will be affiliated with your comments on any report issued.
Send comments to: coral@dep.state.fl.us

Wishes to Speak
 Does not wish to Speak

Meeting Date: 3-8-2017



Southeast
Florida
Coral Reef
Initiative

Comments:

Name: DAN CLARK
 Affiliation: City of The Water
 Address: P.O. Box 8143 - Coral Sping 33075
 Email: reeftown4@yahoo.com

If your name appears it will be affiliated with your comments on any report issued.
 Send comments to: coral@dep.state.fl.us

3:42 – 3:45 Vice-Chair Election Results

Review results of Vice-Chair election and confirm new Vice-Chair body

[Francisco Pagan announces results of the Vice-Chair Election]

Stakeholder Group	Candidate	Total Votes
Diving	Shana Phelan	45
State Agency	Mason Smith	44
Federal Agency	Jim Bohnsack	43
Private Business	Ron Coddington	45
Other	DD Halpern	44
Local Agency	Jamie Monty	45
Fishing	Patrick Bennet Dan Kipnis	19 26
Academic	Henry Briceno Katherine McCoy	37 9
NGO	Angela Smith	46

3:45 – 3:50 SEFCRI Charter Revision Discussion

Consider and discuss potential changes to the SEFCRI Charter. Create a subcommittee to work on charter revisions over the coming months

Francisco Pagan: The SEFCRI Charter revision is due this year and we have recommendations from previous vice-chairs, and other suggestions or recommendations. It is the role of the SEFCRI body to look at all these recommendations, create a subcommittee who will review these, make revisions and vote on it at the next meeting. The Charter is valid for 5 years and our current Charter expires in September 2017, which is when our next SEFCRI meeting will be scheduled. Vice-chairs will be working on potential revisions with the help of the SEFCRI Charter Subcommittee. There have already been revisions proposed to the new charter that will need to be reviewed.

- Kathy Fitzpatrick: Are the revisions you ran through proposed?
- Francisco P: No these are just examples. You will send comments or changes to Aubree Zenone and she will compile your comments and they will be presented and discussed at the next vice chair meeting and then reviewed by the wider body at the next SEFCRI meeting.
- Aubree Zenone: The sign-up sheet for this subcommittee is located outside on the registration table, so feel free to add your name to the list.
- Francisco P: You may also email any of us at any time to be added to the subcommittee.

3:50 – 4:20 SEFCRI Priority Project Survey Exercise

Daron Willison: I've compile all the projects into a survey gizmo, which you can access and select your top ten priorities. This survey has been emailed to all the primaries in the room including the alternates who are acting in place of their primaries. If you cannot access your email, there are tablets set up for you to take the survey. You will have 30 minutes to submit your responses.

[SEFCRI Members submit responses in-person to digital survey questionnaire]

4:20 – 4:30 Marina Topics

Discuss non-agenda items that may have come up during the day.

Daron Willison: Photo mosaics for disease coordination was addressed earlier this morning.

- Erin McDevitt: I brought this up earlier because we were adding two new LAS's. No one volunteered it for an LAS, so that one can be removed.
- Dan Clark: This is a new technology that the task force can highlight. It can cover a huge area in a short amount of time with these new cameras.
- Daron W: At the Learning Exchange we just hosted, one of the presenters gave an overview of photo mosaics as a tool.
- Dan Clark: The new film, Chasing Corals, features this technology.

Francisco Pagan: And now, to talk about the Osbourne Tire Removal effort that was addressed earlier.

- Ron Coddington: To give you some background on this removal, this was advertised as innovative approaches to tire removal remediation. The thing that surprised us, we didn't get the project even though we were qualified. But then along comes a trolling guy from Louisiana who does cleanups around oil rigs by trolling around and picking up junk. In talking to the agency and permitting people, I couldn't find anyone that thought a process using trawls could

even be permitted for this. I don't know what kind of permit process this is going to go through, but I had heard there was legislative pressure for the innovation of trying something new. I don't understand how they would be able to find an unsensitive area to selectively remove tires without removing or affecting corals. Maybe FDEP could give us some more information on the permitting process so that someone could make comments if they wanted.

- Francisco P: We have made a note in the minutes to look into the permitting applications associated with this project and will send out the information to the group with anything we find.
- Dan C: Lisa Gregg (FWC) is the one who would know the most about this regarding special activity license. Is there a DEP Permit do you know?
- Lisa Gregg: There are some nuances to this. Yes, they are using a trawl, and no it doesn't sound like a good idea. I wasn't privy to the information supplied here. I am not sure if they established a way to conduct this activity safely. I do know that according to NMFS, if a trawl is used in a manner to catch fish, it must have a turtle exclusion device. There are a lot of issues associated with this.
- Joanna Walczak: I conceptually know of this, but did not see it. I am currently drafting an email to get the information on this, but they probably won't respond in the time we would like.
- Kathy Fitzpatrick: The innovative technology has been done for a long time. There are a lot of permits that have been authorized, but have died throughout the process because they need to try out these new technologies and then realize they were unsuccessful.
- Ron C: but with the potential for "take" doesn't that bump it into a section 7 consultation. This should fall into a year-long process.
- Lisa G: That's my inclination too. If they can't come up with a plausible solution, then there's going to be a big mess and maybe that's what they need
- Kathy F: One of the ways you show a legislator something is to say, yeah sure we will try it and then put it through the permitting process and then it won't get permitted.
- Ron C: One of the first things people need to do is contact Lisa about a special activity license.
- Lisa G: They're not technically "fishing" so they may not have thought to apply.
- Ron C: Our company started to protest, and then we realized that we would force Florida to lose funding, so we stepped back from a good protest to allow Florida to get the funding, thinking it would die in the permitting. I appreciate the discussion and if you can find anything about this process, let us know.

Francisco P: Moving to the next topic, "boxes" to be placed.

- Dan C: How I perceive this topic is just one box around the whole thing. It doesn't mean no-take or MPA. We just need one giant box so that this whole reef tract can be managed. It doesn't matter how we manage, but it just needs to be managed.
- Bruce Marx: To briefly comment, because there are lot of people in the fishing community who are stressed over this, with N-146, must start somewhere and this group has taken over the baton from OFR. Under the law, it's called incorporation by reference. Based on the way I read it, the boundary defined in this RMA is a no-take zone from mean high tide out to three miles.
- Joanna W: We just had a great discussion at the break and we specifically asked Bruce to draft up some language that will make sure that the intent of the RMA is clear in the report. He is reading it from a legal view point and it was not written that way.
- Kurtis Gregg: I think the strong reaction is because it was never intended to be that way.
- Mike Dixon: There is an opportunity for a better way to define what it is and what it isn't. I agree with Dan, there needs to be a SEFCRI region and it needs to carry with it a coherent clarification of what that is. This is the exact group that should recommend delineated down to

what it should be. And we shouldn't live within mean high tide and three miles and it shouldn't live with loose references to MPAs. Let's get away from the shadow that's following us.

- Bruce M: I can tell you from my personal experience advocating for fishers. Lots of individuals and shops and organizations have donated to this cause and all for conservation. I understand what's happening to our reef system and I don't want to be viewed as trying to renege this process. All I'm saying is that if you're dealing with boundaries, we must be precise. Once this starts heading west, the dollar signs go up. Once your intent is adequately communicated, I'm sure you'll have more supporters.
- Charles Berkley: I'm not sure that the intent of this group is not to have a no fishing zone. I think there is a majority that would admit that is what they are after.
- Chuck Collins: When we do clarify this, and re-write it, all public input on the previous version is null and void because language has changed. You will have to get new public input on it.
- Bruce M: The reason it was struck down was because it was too broad. So, if you want to carry out your intent, then if that means you need to go back to the drawing board, then so be it.
- Kathy F: You can't change the RMA, that's done. If this group has voted to do any one of those things, then we should clarify whatever that is. But, we're spending a lot of time talking about this and we don't even know if we're going to do it, so what is the point?
- Bruce M: The issue is of the ambiguity of the RMA.
- Kathy F: If we know what the ranking is, we will know if this is something worth discussing.
- Daron W: I'm still working on it, but we can do that.
- Ron C: When I read this, and my first impression was, what a mistake by this group because instantly you lost credibility with me. Who actually thinks they're going to be able to pass a close-zone on the reefs. But, that's the ambiguity that we need to deal with the way Kathy said. But, the way it was presented, people are going to go crazy because we don't understand it. I don't hear many people speaking up saying the expected result is to stop fishing. So, let's be careful of the integrity of the group. So, if it's to stop fishing, then let's get that voted down in this group now.
- Dan C: If there's any fishing regulations, it has to go to FWC. This body has no authority to do anything about this. Instead of going back and forth here, take place in that process. I've been trying to get a management plan for this reef for almost 20 years and every time we get close, the fishing community comes in at the end and says, we weren't involved in this process and if you mess with us, we're going to kill the process. If that's how you feel, that's fine, but take it to FWC during the real approval process.

4:30 – 4:40 SEFCRI Priority Project Survey Results

Results from the survey exercise to identify priority project ideas

Daron Willison: The goal was to choose the 10 top priority projects. We knew we wanted to look at the data and see if 10 was a natural break and it seems that between 10 and 11 we have a tie. We need to decide if want to choose the top 11 or simply take 9.

[Daron Willison announces the new priority projects for SEFCRI]

	FINALIZED LIST OF SELECTED IDEAS
1	S-104: Set New Turbidity Standards and Support the Improvement of Turbidity Monitoring Methods
2	NEW: Create Coral Disease Response Plan
3	N-146: Implement a MPA Zoning Framework for Special Areas of Interest Within the OFR Region
4	N-97: Implement LBSP Reduction at Pollution Hotspots
5	S-2: Create a SEFCRI-Wide Mooring Buoy Program
6	N-68: Regulate Fertilizers and Pesticides and Promote BMPs
7	NEW: Define the SEFCRI Region (“The Box”)
8	LAS 5: Coral Toxicity Studies of LBSP
9	S-25: Encourage Closing of Outfalls by 2025
10 (Tie)	LAS 8: Reducing LBSP in Stormwater Runoff
10 (Tie)	NEW: Coordinate Adaptive Monitoring Strategies

Francisco P: Just to remind you we will re-visit these at the next meeting in September. You will start considering the action items and what this is going to be for SEFCRI. These are the titles that SEFCRI wants to tackle over the next several years and will turn into the new LAS. The new vice-chairs will have conversations will decide how to incorporate these during the next SEFCRI Team meeting.

- Erin M (question): For S-25, I’m curious how this could be incorporated into a project. To me, this is directly lobbying and this is not an advocacy group. What does the implementation of something like this look like?
- Joanna Walczak: One of the ways this could be addressed is through the TAC and trying to design a project that would provide additional input to support the closing schedule.

Bruce M: I think this really says something about the quality of this team to know that all these people from different walks of life can all agree on turbidity standards and turbidity monitoring methods. I am proud to be part of this team. Thank you everyone.

Lisa G: One thing I’m disappointed in. I stood up here and said it was important that FWC supported MPAs, but that we needed data to support the approach and even Mason identified the need for filling in data gaps. The only way you will get to regional management is to identify data gaps. We’re not taking a step closer because this wasn’t added up on the list. You’re not giving FWC what we need to evaluate the issue appropriately.

- Brian Walker: These are larger topics of course, not individual projects, so our next step is to identify what needs to happen to make a path forward here. And I think Lisa has helped us identify one of the first bullets we’ll need under one of these topics (N-146).

Charles Berkley: I just need to wrap up something that Dan said a while back. Based on history, we did come late into the game. Once the fishermen did get involved, they provided a lot of stuff. The reason they’re upset is not just the MPA RMA, but from the original 68 RMAs, there’s a couple things in here that are talking about PSSA’s and ATBA’s. If they got cut once, that would have been fine. But, it was clear they were looking for no-take areas.

- Kurtis Gregg: Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) and Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) have nothing to do with fishing, it has to do with shipping. A PSSA means there’s something you want to avoid so it gets on the navigational charts so that it keeps ships from going there. Areas

To Be Avoided mean that vessels larger than 50 ft are not allowed to go there. It's because of the groundings through the Florida Keys.

- Charles B: This is the kind of stuff they think when they read UNESCO. We're seeing the same things that were going on 20 years ago. We need to make sure this thing is clear and you would probably get a lot of money.

Joanna W: I would just like to echo what Kurtis started to say. UNESCO or PSSA are not fishing related things. And I would just like to acknowledge those of you who are new to the SEFCRI team because you are coming brand new into these conversations. Those who have been on this team for a while have already had a lot of these conversations. We are thankful for you to be here to provide that input and we want you here to add to these conversations. The world is changing on a continuous basis and we need keep this voice updated. This body has done some significant work. Ultimately, we can all agree that the reefs are dying and we all want to do something about it. Just know that we all appreciate the work you guys do.

Mason Smith: When you look at the file and it says areas of interest that were mapped out including a list of potential actions and some of those did have no-take as an option. That's what people are getting really concerned about when these were circulated around the internet. It was the distinction between those different areas.

Stacey Ollis: For the RMA report, it would be good to include some of those before and after photos. The work that's been done over the last several years is great, but a photo sends a bigger message, especially in tying to the public.

Francisco P: It is time to wrap up this meeting and on behalf of everyone and my staff, we appreciate your commitment and time. We look forward to seeing you again in September.

4:40– 4:45 Wrap Up & Adjourn