

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)
ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)
MEETING II SUMMARY REPORT

DECEMBER 18, 2019
APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

APPROVED BY THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD ON JANUARY 8, 2020



FACILITATED AND SUMMARIZED BY ROBERT M. JONES AND JEFF BLAIR



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APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)
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MEETING II EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

December 18, 2019

Felicia Coleman, Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory and a marine biologist on the FSU team welcomed the members and the public to the 2nd meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative's Community Advisory Board. Felicia introduced the ABSI Facilitation Team of Jeff Blair and Bob Jones of the FSU FCRC Consensus Center who are responsible for the design and facilitation of the Community Advisory Board meetings and the consensus process.

Members introduced themselves and the facilitators reviewed and approved the Agenda, and approved without changes the Facilitator Summary for the 10-30-2019 Organizational Meeting. The facilitator reviewed the agreed upon participation principles and consensus procedures, and the set of four guiding principles covering respecting differences, collaboration and consensus building, clear procedures equitably applied, and serving as liaisons with the stakeholder groups and interests they have been appointed to represent.

Presentations were made by ABSI Community Advisory Board members recently receiving funding from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to work in the Apalachicola System:

- (1) Jim Estes, Deputy Division Director, Marine Fisheries Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) provided an overview of a [FWC Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration Project, Phase II](#) 6-year \$20 million oyster reef restoration project in Apalachicola Bay and Suwanee Sound that will focus on improving oyster harvest management systems for each area through modeling and mapping over a 5-year period and will invest \$17 million in oyster reef restoration. Partners include scientists from the University of Florida and Florida State University.
- (2) Georgia Ackerman, Executive Director for The Apalachicola Riverkeeper reviewed their [Apalachicola River Slough Project](#) (\$4.9 million), which focuses on three sloughs: (1) the Douglas Slough that flows from the top of Apalachicola River to Chipola River. Spider Cut that flows from the Chipola River to the Brother River, and (3) the upper part of the East River. Georgia indicated that swamps proliferate in the lower part of the Apalachicola River System. The project will remove sand, trees and other debris from the three sites in an effort to increase water flow and hydrologic connectivity of the main stem of the Apalachicola River to the floodplain in hopes of supporting floodplain recovery.

Presentations were also made by ABSI scientists.

- (1) Felicia Coleman [presented an overview of the history of regulation](#) in Apalachicola Bay since 1836, focusing on the timeline between 1984 and the present and on the management measures and harvest statistics following from FWC and the Division of Aquaculture within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Community Services.

- (2) Sandra Brooke provided an [update on the ABSI research objectives](#) and the first meeting that she and Felicia had with the ABSI Science Advisory Board (SAB). Sandra reviewed the status of all research objectives provided in the Triumph proposal.

The members reviewed the goal statement discussed at the first CAB meeting and tentatively agreed with the changes below pending Tom Fraser's edits for review at the January 2020 meeting.

The draft "Vision of Success" themes were drawn from the CAB Questionnaire responses and reviewed and rated by the Community Advisory Board at the October 30, 2019 meeting. The vision themes represent key topical issue areas that characterize the desirable future for the oyster reef ecosystem and the Apalachicola Bay. The Vision Themes will be helpful in establishing a framework for the plan goals and objectives and are not ordered by priority. Revisions to the draft vision themes, based on October 30 Community Advisory Board discussion, were reviewed and refined.

1) A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem.

Draft Vision Theme A: The Apalachicola Bay System and the oyster reef ecosystem is managed in a manner that supports ecosystem services by protecting and enhancing the habitat and resource in a sustainable and productive manner.

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem managed in a sustainable manner and providing measurable ecosystem services.

Key Topical Issues to inform Objectives: The CAB identified the following issues: Measuring ecosystem services. Criteria for opening and closing Apalachicola Bay; Spatial extent of oyster reefs; Oyster population demographics; Monitoring fishery output; Water quality; Future projected conditions and water flows; Socioeconomic objectives linked to ecosystem services; Oyster habitat use by fish; Drying of the Apalachicola Bay flood plain; Septic systems impact on the Bay; Nutrients and chlorophyll; Define/measure "healthy" in the ABSI goal; and Address climate change.

Draft Objective

- We develop and approve the plan by the end of the FSU project.

2) The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry.

Draft Vision Theme B: The management, regulation, and restoration of the oyster fishery and aquaculture industry is conducted by working adaptively and collaboratively with stakeholders to create, monitor and fund a plan that ensures the health of the ABS ~~that~~ and protection of the fishery and habitat is implemented in a manner that is supported by science, data, ~~and~~ informed by field and industry experience and observation, and provides fair and equitable access to the resource.

Draft Goal: A productive, ~~and~~ sustainable, and adaptively managed and regulated oyster reef fishery and ecosystem and complementary managed aquaculture Industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, stakeholders have established and supported a productive, science driven, sustainably managed, monitored, and appropriately and fairly regulated oyster reef ecosystem and a complementary managed aquaculture industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

Key Topical Issues To Inform Objectives: The CAB identified the following issues: Historical context; Improve the current ABS regulatory management system; Limited entry to the ABS; Recreational fishing component; Compliance, enforcement and penalties; Aquaculture; Research and monitoring long term on regulation; Funding mechanisms; Water quality monitoring; Stewardship Outreach and Education; Managing the shell stock; and Legislative action.

3) A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System.

Draft Vision Theme C: The Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery, aquaculture, and oyster reef ecosystem, and a resilient community and compatible development serve as key components of the region's economic viability and cultural heritage, and sustain economically viable and thriving fisheries, recreation and tourism industries.

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a healthy Apalachicola Bay System.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of achieving and sustaining a healthy Apalachicola Bay System that supports a cultural heritage of an oyster fishery, oyster reef ecosystem, and aquaculture, and provides opportunities for sustainable and responsible industry, development, business, recreation and tourism.

Key Topical Issues To Inform Objectives: Compatible development; Socio-economic conditions and a seafood community; Tourism impacts on the ABS; and Education on the ABS.

4) An Engaged Community and Informed Public.

Draft Vision Theme D: Stakeholders of the Apalachicola Bay System are committed to working together beyond the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative to collaboratively serve as a hub for research and best practices, and provide education and communication on the importance of maintaining the health and productivity of the oyster reef ecosystem, fishery, and aquaculture, and the role they play in ensuring the community thrives.

Draft Goal: The health of the Apalachicola Bay System is supported by an ongoing and continuously engaged and informed public.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, stakeholders, private and nonprofit civic leaders, and the public are informed of the importance of sustaining the health of the Apalachicola Bay System, and engaged and working actively together along with elected and appointed leaders and managers to invest in and implement the plan.

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives: The CAB identified the following issues: Public support for ABS funding sources; Coordinated messaging to tourists and residents; Role of TDC and Chamber of Commerce; and Local schools.

5) A Science-Based and Fully Funded Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan Supported by Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders ~~the Community~~.

Draft Vision Theme E: The Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan is developed with engagement and support from the Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders, and its implementation is adaptively managed and funded from dedicated sources.

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan is science-based, has Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders support, and is fully funded.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem with a fully funded and monitored adaptive science-based Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan that is fully supported by the Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders with oversight from an ongoing stakeholder advisory board.

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives. The CAB identified the following issues: Social and economic impacts on welfare of the community; Performance measures; Plan implementation and lead; Connect with the broader river system; Define fully funded; Define fully supported by stakeholders; and Sharing science and the plan.

Draft Objectives for this Goal, Outcome and Key Topical Issues

- Adoption and implementation of the ABS Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan.
- A fully funded permanent representative community advisory board to monitor the Plan.

The Community Advisory Board heard comments from the public at the meeting from Jack Rudloe, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab, Robin Rickel Vroegop, Apalachicola resident, and Andy Kane, University of Florida, Associate Professor of the Department of Environmental and Global Health and Director of the UF Aquatic Pathobiology Laboratory.

The facilitators then reviewed the 2020 meeting schedule and agenda for the 3rd meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida. They suggested refining the vision themes, goals and reviewing draft objectives and following up on member requests for presentations. The facilitators and science team agreed to review the suggestions for the January meeting agenda.

The members completed meeting evaluation forms and adjourned at 12:50 pm.



APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)
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MEETING II SUMMARY

What follows is a more detailed summary with additional data from the presentations

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND ABSI PROJECT CONTEXT AND PROCEDURES

Felicia Coleman, Director of the FSU Coastal and Marine Laboratory and a marine biologist on the FSU team welcomed the members and the public to the 2nd meeting of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative's Community Advisory Board. Coleman emphasized that ultimate outcome will be an action plan for the management and recovery of the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay and that the plan will be developed by the Community Advisory Board. She suggested this plan and the coalescing of key restoration support partners and necessary resources would not be possible without the catalytic and essential input of funding from the Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. and Florida State University.

Felicia introduced the ABSI Facilitation Team of Jeff Blair and Bob Jones of the FSU FCRC Consensus Center who are responsible for the design and facilitation of the Community Advisory Board meetings and the consensus process. Members introduced themselves and the facilitators reviewed and approved the Agenda, and approved without changes the Facilitator Summary for the 10-30-2019 Organizational Meeting. The facilitator reviewed the agreed upon participation principles and consensus procedures, and the set of four guiding principles covering respecting differences, collaboration and consensus building, clear procedures equitably applied, and serving as liaisons with the stakeholder groups and interests they have been appointed to represent.

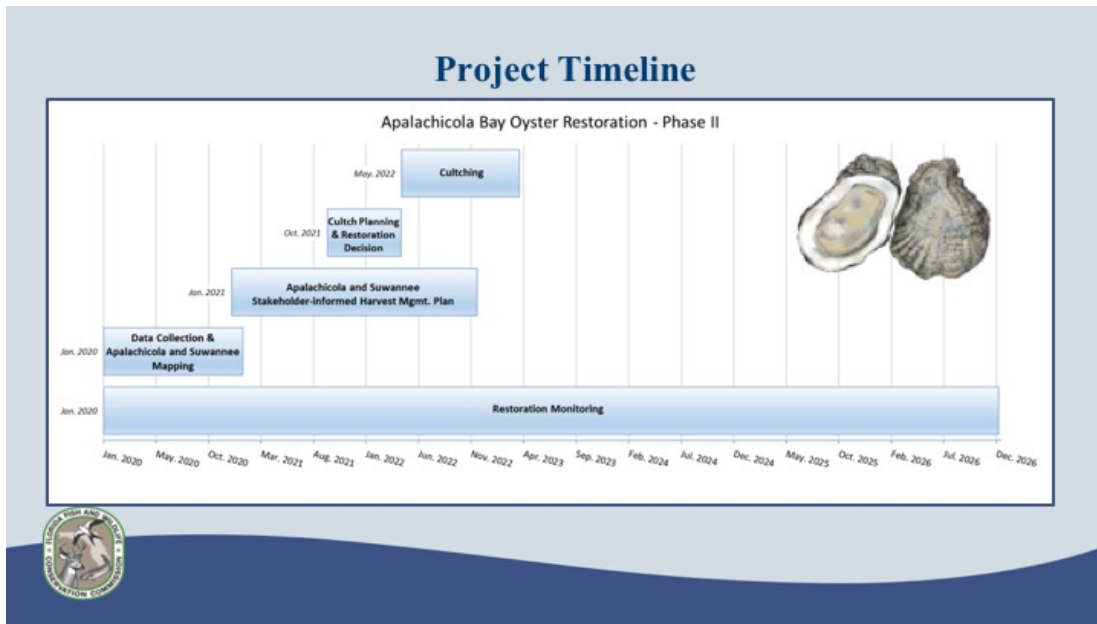
II. PRESENTATIONS

A. PROJECT BRIEFINGS

1. FWC NFWF Apalachicola Bay Oyster Reef Restoration

Jim Estes, Deputy Division Director, Marine Fisheries Management, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and ABSI Community Advisory Board member, provided an overview of a 6-year \$20 million oyster reef restoration project in Apalachicola Bay and Suwanee Sound that FWC received from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He noted that the project will involve close collaboration with University of Florida and Florida State University as well as multiple other partners. The project will seek to improve oyster harvest management systems for each area through modeling and mapping over a 5-year period and will invest \$17 million in oyster reef restoration. Data for models will include biological and physical data already available in both these systems and will be assimilated through a data workshop. For Apalachicola, this will include existing ANERR water sampling data as well as new data being collected through the FSU ABSI project. The project partners will

determine sites for habitat restoration, size of the restoration area, and the reef materials, height, and appropriate oyster densities. The projects will be monitored over the next six years. Jim indicated that the project could lead to a different management system in the Bay in five years.



CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- We could learn from the process used in the Oyster Futures project in Chesapeake Bay/Choptank River System. Overall outcome, increased harvest and/or restoration wouldn't start in for 10 years.
- *A: The consensus recommendations for management changes are being implemented by Maryland DNR. Important to note that the Choptank River System Oyster Futures project in Maryland adopted a time horizon for restoration measured in decades not years.*
- Valuable to bring group in or having a webinar. Ask the lead research team to present to the CAB?
- Model, and monitoring will start Jan 2020? What does the monitoring plan look like? *A: We hope to have a contract sometime in early 2020 with NFWFF. We will build on some current monitoring on density, sizes, spat movement, water quality info (salinity and temp) location and heights of bars and shell budget. We hope to help management determine how much harvesting can be done without adversely impacting the oyster reefs. From this project, we will have a different management system for the Bay over the next 5 years.*
- We don't have enough substrate left in the Bay.
- *Decision support tools will be introduced at the March 2020 meeting.*

2. Apalachicola Riverkeeper NFWF Apalachicola River Slough Project

Georgia Ackerman, Executive Director of The Apalachicola Riverkeeper, reviewed the Apalachicola River Slough Project (\$4.9 million). The Project Team includes members from The Apalachicola Riverkeeper, Rhumblin Associates, University of Florida, and the University of California, Berkeley.



The intent of this project is to remove sand, logs, and other debris from a series of sloughs to increase water flow and hydrologic connectivity of sloughs with the main stem of the Apalachicola River in hopes of supporting floodplain recovery. Georgia offered as a metaphor the problem of clogged arteries in humans that inhibit blood circulation.

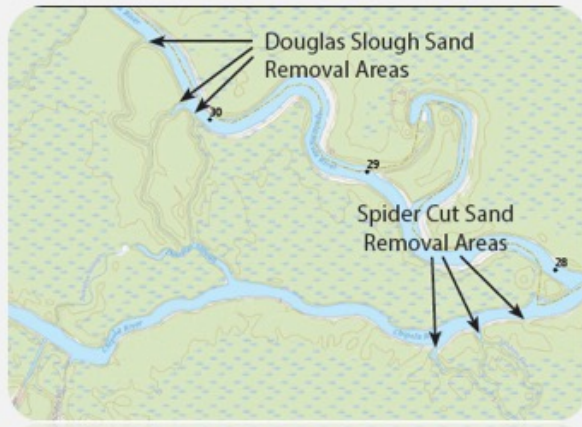
The three sloughs involved include (1) Douglas Slough, which flows from the headwaters of the Apalachicola River to the Chipola River, (2)

Spider Cut, which flows from the Chipola River to the Brother River, and (3) the upper part of the East River.

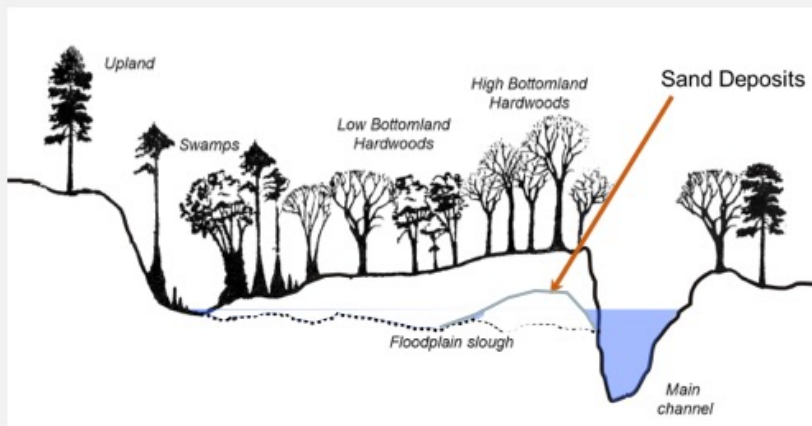
The flood plain is experiencing tree loss due to low flow, with swamps proliferating the lower part of the Apalachicola River system. The water is not moving out and the scouring process isn't happening. Many of the sand deposits are the result of former dredging. At low flow the sand deposits are hindering the water flow and the fresh water in turn is pushed to top of East Bay hindering the healthy mix of nutrients from reaching Apalachicola Bay and fueling the Eastern Gulf of Mexico fishery.

What the project will accomplish

- Sand removal in three sloughs
- Documenting the benefits for this type of restoration
- Develop and test methods for the cost effective and environmentally sound way in which to conduct this work.



- Conduct monitoring and analysis that specifically relates the benefits of slough restoration and hydrologic connectivity of the mainstem of the river to the floodplain
- Develop a Geomorphic/Hydrologic Restoration Plan
- Provide public outreach and education.



CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- This project underscores Importance of doing stuff beyond the Bay. This acknowledge big factors and the big picture.
- Connectivity of river and bay is the fundamental.
- JE: ruling law of the land. More important than before. Flood plain acted as a sponge. Agree to further upstream
- Will you be monitoring flows? *A: Yes in cooperation with ANERR.*
- Will you be monitoring at Butchers Pin? *A: Yes. This is a construction heavy project and the funding will be directed towards Sucking out sand of sloughs. There is also a volunteer component.*
- You have selected major sloughs to focus on for acreage impacts. We still have the dam and river bed degradation. Have you calculated how long sloughs will stay open? What is the period of success? Will we have to do again? Will you recommend we target other sloughs? *A: It will not clog up again based on modeling by Ken Jones, Rhumblin Associates.*

B. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTED PRESENTATIONS

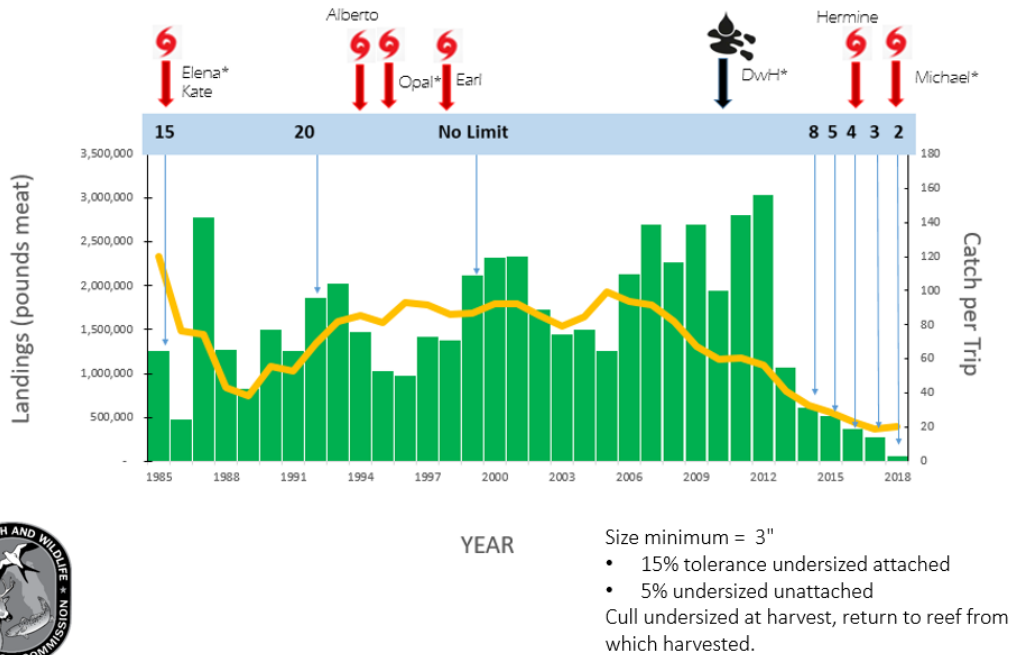
1. Regulatory Framework and Harvest Statistics for Oyster Fishery/Aquaculture

Felicia Coleman presented an overview of the history of regulation in Apalachicola Bay since 1836, focusing on the timeline between 1985 and the present and on the management measures and harvest statistics following from FWC and the Division of Aquaculture within the Florida Department of Agriculture and Community Services (FDACS). Currently FWC sets seasons, size & bag limits, enforces oyster regulations and issues shellfish endorsements for commercial harvest. FDACS provides an aquaculture certificate of registration and promotes best management practices and certifies shellfish processing facilities. It also classifies shellfish harvesting areas and leases

sovereign submerged lands. FDACS determines area closures intended to protect human health and experimental areas based on national shellfish sanitation program guidelines.

FWC Franklin County Oyster Landings

Landings & Catch per Trip



Winter (September 1- May 31) and Summer (June 1-August 31) harvest areas, which are designated by FDACS, can be opened or closed to commercial and recreational fishing based on national shellfish sanitation program guidelines that address water quality and disease issues that occur periodically or during extreme weather events. Felicia reviewed the management changes associated with areal closures (which became more frequent after 2014), daily closures of the bay (started in 1986 primarily weekends to reduce fishing pressure – changed often between 1991 and 1994, and again from 2010 to the present). She also reviewed changes in sales of aquaculture and wild-caught oysters since 2016 (FDACS) and fishery lands per pound compared to catch per trip from 1985-2018 (2019 data were not complete).



CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- The regulation calls for a 20-bag limit per person per vessel. Harvesters are paid by the meat-pound
- Recreational oyster catch limit? *A: 2 bags. One 5 gallon bucket*
- No data are collected on recreational oysters. This is a serious gap as more oysters are currently harvested recreationally

- Is there a shell budget model for Apalachicola Bay? *A: No, although FWC is doing one right now*
- In 2008, water flow was at 10,000 gallons per second. In 2006 it was 5,000 gallons per second. Army Corps of Engineers set the limit at 5,000 per second
- We need to invite representatives of the ACOE and USFWS to help clarify data needs
- People harvesting currently at Cat Point. There are currently 70 bushels per acre or less being harvested there. FWC regulations indicate that areas with less than 200 bushels per acre should not be harvested. The Apalachicola Bay should be closed to harvesting. We need to take that step sooner than later. *A: Saturday-Sunday closures were supposed to prevent overharvesting. This hasn't been sufficient. All options are on the table for consideration.*
- There was a 15-bag limit imposed after Hurricane Elena in 1985. Before 1985 there was no bag limit. In 1991 there was a 20-bag limit. Currently there are 2.5 bag limit on buckets or 60 pound bags. This is translated to oyster meat and the state landing records are calculated in pounds of oyster meat.

2. ABSI Research Update

SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD
First meeting was held on December 9, 2019

<p>Dr. Ray Grizzle University of New Hampshire</p>  <p>Mapping of oyster reefs, quantification of oyster ecosystem services, restoration methods</p>	<p>Dr. Roger Mann Virginia Inst. Marine Science</p>  <p>Marine invertebrate ecology, larval biology, recruitment, oyster reef restoration</p>	<p>Ms. Laura Geselbracht The Nature Conservancy</p>  <p>Resilience and restoration of coastal ecosystems affected by anthropogenic stressors.</p>	<p>Dr. Bill Pine University of Florida</p>  <p>Using quantitative ecology to develop adaptive management for estuarine ecosystems</p>
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Sandra Brooke provided an update on the ABSI research objectives. The ABSI Science Advisory Board (SAB) met with Sandra and Felicia for the first time on December 9, 2019 and had a productive meeting. SAB members include Ray Grizzle (University of New Hampshire), Roger Mann (Virginia Institute for Marine Science), Laura Geselbracht (The Nature Conservancy), and Bill Pine (University of Florida).

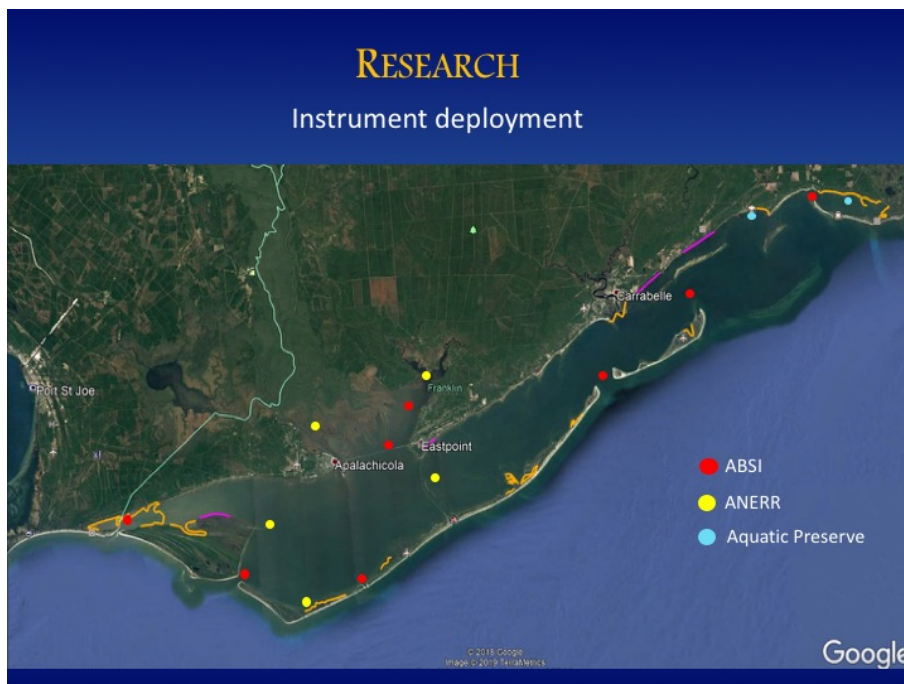
For Objective A, “Assess temporal and spatial changes in oyster communities,” the SAB recommend using the historic ANERR environmental data and FDACS data on oyster density and size structure to assess the effects of past extreme events on oyster populations and environmental impacts (e.g. Hurricane Elena 1985; the severe drought 2007-2009, and the severe drought 2011-12). They suggested using FWC FIMM data to assess impacts on other species in the bay.

For Objective B, “Construct a pilot-scale oyster hatchery,” construction on the hatchery greenhouse was initiated at the end of November and is targeted for completion by the end of January. The ABSI has hired a hatchery manager, who will start work on January 17th, and will advise on equipment etc. needed to create a fully functioning hatchery in time for the spring spawn.

For Objective C, “Bio-physical modeling,” the ABSI team will use the historic data to ‘hindcast’ the models creating initial models at management scale, which will be quicker to run, followed by high resolution models for scientific objectives. Steve Leitman’s model will simulate management effects and climate effects on river flow. Steve Morey’s work will study hydrodynamics of the Apalachicola Bay and adjacent nearshore areas. Ken Jones (a Co-PI on the Riverkeepers grant) will review how changes in flows due to removal of dredge spoil will influence freshwater flow into the eastern Apalachicola Bay. These data will be integrated into Steve Morey’s hydrodynamic models.

The ABSI will expand intertidal mapping through the use of high resolution drone imagery. Duke University will utilize marine robotics, remote sensing, and drones to conduct intertidal mapping and create structural mosaics of the intertidal areas.

For Objective D, “Monitoring of oyster communities and their environment,” ABSI has completed monitoring Alligator Harbor and will continue with the other sites early in 2020. For intertidal reefs data is being collected on: oyster size, density, live vs dead, a condition index, reproductive status, parasites and pests, volume of clumps and dead shell, and environmental data. They have spat collectors (3 per site) with additional collectors in Alligator Harbor, St George Sound and Apalachicola Bay. For instrument deployment they are designing a trawl-proof deployment mooring and will deploy 7 YSI Exo2 instruments which are the same as those deployed by ANERR, so will collect consistent data.



For Objective F, “Experimental Ecology,” the ABSI team will explore: environmental tolerance and epigenetic adaptation; predator-prey relationships under different environmental regimes; disease prevalence/resistance; changes in freshwater flow vs oyster condition; species population shifts under different environmental scenarios; and early life history influence on survival and condition.

For Objective G, “Coupled Ecosystem-Life History model,” ABSI will combine different models and data including: bio-physical model; habitat suitability model; shell budget model; harvest data, etc. to generate combined ecosystem models and other decision support tools.

For community engagement the project will assess different shell recycling programs that will inform a feasibility study for shell recycling program in Franklin County.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- What areas are you getting your data from? In open areas, the data often doesn’t show the whole bar. The experience in restoring and opening reefs is that in less than a month and half- they have been wiped out. How to get data to actually show what needs to be done. *A: confounding thing. Focus on intertidal, randomize monitoring. FWC id targeting areas restored and we will be going to the same spots. The project will focus on closed areas*
- Good data has been collected on spat falls
- Need to clarify the “commonly accepted data” to avoid competing models? How to choose which one. *A: Steve Leitman is calibrating a model with the ACOE model, and is similar in output. Steve Morey’s model grid size is different. Outputs of different models will be calibrated and ground-truthed.*
- St. Joe Canal issue outflow from Lake Wimico? *A: The Water Management District 3D models based on historical data (Ken Jones) showed little water movement either way. The systems don’t operate in a vacuum.*

III. COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD DRAFT GOAL STATEMENT

The members reviewed the goal statement discussed at the first CAB meeting and revised based on the discussion (*See Appendix #5*).

CAB Member Comments on Draft CAB Goal 12-18-19

- Reference to continuing and implementing the project? *A: Look at 1st para and Vision Theme E.*
- The CAB agreed to the changes the facilitators suggested in the Goal statement.
- Tom Fraser, a CAB member, agreed to review and revise the Goal Statement with the same flow as in vision themes, goals, and outcomes for the CAB to review at the January 2020 meeting.

IV. VISION OF SUCCESS THEMES FOR THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM

A. DRAFT VISION OF SUCCESS THEMES

The following draft “Vision of Success” themes were drawn from the CAB Questionnaire responses and reviewed and rated by the Community Advisory Board at the October 30 meeting. The vision themes represent key topical issue areas that characterize the desirable future for the oyster reef ecosystem and the Apalachicola Bay. The Vision Themes will be helpful in establishing a framework for the plan goals and objectives and are not ordered by priority. Revisions to that draft vision themes were based on October 30 Community Advisory Board discussion and are noted with a strikethrough

(deletions) or underline (additions). The draft vision of success themes, not listed in priority order, that were reviewed by the members were:

- A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem
- The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry
- A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System
- A Continuously Engaged Community and Informed Public
- A Science-Based and Fully Funded Management and Restoration Plan Supported by the Community.

1) A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem.

Draft Vision Theme A: The Apalachicola Bay System and the oyster reef ecosystem is managed in a manner that supports ecosystem services by protecting and enhancing the habitat and resource in a sustainable and productive manner.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- The Bay and beyond- system

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- No comments.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem managed in a sustainable manner and providing measurable ecosystem services

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- Define ABSI “Ecosystem services”? Add to definitions, e.g. include fisheries, etc.
- Define ABSI “Apalachicola Bay System” define? Will bring back in January for review.
- B became A- system view. Look at the overall Goal and make consistent
- Why are we putting the outcome 5 years past the end of the project? What will be the first measure of success? *A: The objectives may be milestones and steps along the way during the 5 year effort. The ABSI research will be sustained at least 10 years out.*

Key Topical Issues to inform Objectives

- **Measuring ecosystem services.** Identify ecosystem services and how they will be measured and what does success look like. Are these historic levels or do we need to go beyond
- **Criteria for opening and closing Apalachicola Bay.** Criteria for when it will be open and closed? Big issue *A: Management focus in Vision B*

- **Spatial extent of oyster reefs.** Identify and create objectives for the spatial extent of reefs- abundance, scarcity, density, recruitment, etc.
- **Oyster population demographics**
- **Monitoring fishery output-** regulatory and scientific
- **Water quality** issues, e.g. oil exploration impacts on the ABS
- **Future projected conditions and water flows-** historical flows, future projected conditions
- **Socioeconomic objectives linked to ecosystem services.** Link socioeconomic parameters to the ecosystem services. *A: Vision C.*
- **Oyster habitat use by fish.** Habitat use of the reefs by fish
- Changes in use on oyster reefs and impacts on recreational fishing
- **Drying of the Apalachicola Bay flood plain.** Tupelo honey production issue is related to the Bay's health and changes/drying of the flood plain
- **Septic systems impact on the Bay.** Lack of central sewage system (septic systems) on St. George's Island. Large threat to ABS
- Crab landing, species diversity
- **Nutrients and chlorophyll**
- **Define/measure "healthy" in the ABSI goal.** "Healthy" ABS in the goal. Is there a measure of public satisfaction to help determine this?
- **Address climate change-** changing temps, etc. (future changes)

Draft Objectives for this Goal, Outcome and Key Topical Issues

- e.g., we come up with a plan and approve the plan. By the end of the FSU project, we have an approved plan. *A: Look to Vision Theme E*

2) The Management and Regulation of the Oyster Fishery and Aquaculture Industry.

Draft Vision Theme B: The management, regulation, and restoration of the oyster fishery and aquaculture industry is conducted by working adaptively and collaboratively with stakeholders to create, monitor and fund a plan that ensures the health of the ABS ~~that~~ and protection of the fishery and habitat is implemented in a manner that is supported by science, data, ~~and~~ informed by field and industry experience and observation, and provides fair and equitable access to the resource.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- Missing: "adaptive"
- Stakeholder "values" missing. Should be combined in the plan.

Draft Goal: A productive, ~~and~~ sustainable, and adaptively managed and regulated oyster reef fishery and ecosystem and complementary managed aquaculture Industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- "Adaptive"? Add

Draft Outcome: By 2030, stakeholders have established and supported a productive, science driven, sustainably managed, monitored, and appropriately and fairly regulated oyster reef ecosystem and a complementary managed aquaculture industry in the Apalachicola Bay System.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- “Complementary” aquaculture. Not an equal to the wild oyster reef ecosystem
- Restoring oyster reefs and aquaculture are separate functions and not related. Managed differently
- If not managed correctly could affect the wild oyster reef system
- When we get to objectives, parse this out in terms of the wild and aquaculture management
- How to effectively manage and regulate the Bay is a topic the CAB will cover? Will we develop recommendations for streamlining? Improving the management
- Don’t underestimate the emotion of these issues and the transition we are currently in.

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives

- **Historical context.** Keep in mind the historical context of the management scheme
- **Improve the current ABS regulatory management system.** Review and seek improvements on the current regulatory management system
- **Limited entry to the ABS.** Consider limited entry fishing options in ABS. Aquaculture will be in essence a limited source of income for the region
- Summer harvesting and triggers for opening and closing fishery
- Difference between open and closed areas- population, dynamics, reef conditions, habitat, etc.
- Consider sanctuaries
- **Recreational fishing component.**
- **Compliance, enforcement and penalties-** Is there adequate, funded and enough enforcement in the ABS?
- No inspection of vessels- condemnation
- Fairly regulated? Who determines what is fair?
- **Aquaculture.** Don’t underestimate the emotion of wrestling with aquaculture in the Apalachicola community and the transition we are currently going through
- **Research and monitoring long term-** what is needed to inform regulation?
- **Funding mechanisms**
- Surcharge oyster harvesting- per bag
- **Water quality** monitoring
- **Stewardship Outreach and Education-** ongoing in terms of good stewardship
- **Managing the shell stock**
- Recycling the shells – what do we know about this? Oyster can’t build the reefs fast enough in the face of harvesting
- **Legislative action.** Consider recommending Legislative action on the ABS? FL Legislative Reps from House, Senate? From Congress? *A: We email legislative staff and legislators before each meeting.*

3) A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System.

Draft Vision Theme C: The Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery, aquaculture, and oyster reef ecosystem, and a resilient community and compatible development ~~coastal development~~ serve as key components of the region's economic viability and cultural heritage, and ~~serve to~~ sustain economically viable and thriving fisheries, recreation and tourism industries.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- “Resilient”?
- Striking “resilient”- redraft?
- “Associated resources including its oyster fishery are key components...” ?
- Sustainably managed resources and development
- “Resilient community” vs “coastal development”?
- Development with least impacts on the Bay? Coastal development that is not harmful to a healthy bay
- “Compatible” development
- If you sustainably manage the system that will support the community. Resilience in the face of changes in values and science.

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a healthy Apalachicola Bay System.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of achieving and sustaining a healthy Apalachicola Bay System that supports a cultural heritage of an oyster fishery, oyster reef ecosystem, and aquaculture, and provides opportunities for sustainable and responsible industry, development, business, recreation and tourism.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- Tom Fraser will rework consistent with the vision and goal.

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives

- **Compatible development.** Removal of height limitations. Growth management and development practice
- Future real estate development doesn't have a lot of impact on the ABS. e.g. west of Apalachicola
- Supports cultural heritage? Can we have clean sustainable development with disappearing working waterfronts? It is a fraction of what it used to be
- **Socio-economic conditions and a seafood community.** Good understanding of socioeconomic conditions. Fish houses dealers, rec fishing. More shucking houses to restore working water fronts
- Goal of a working seafood community? If it isn't a priority may go the way of other former fishing communities

- Hard to keep highest and best use of properties- seafood processing are generally relocated off the water fronts for different reasons, e.g. hurricanes
- **Tourism impacts on the ABS**
- Ecotourism- connecting with education on oyster fishery
- **Education on the ABS.** Creating opportunities for the public to understand the special needs of the ABS and the protection of the resource

4) An Engaged Community and Informed Public.

Draft Vision Theme D: Stakeholders of the Apalachicola Bay System are committed to working together beyond the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative to collaboratively ~~to~~ serve as a hub for research and best practices, and provide education and communication on the importance of maintaining the health and productivity of the oyster reef ecosystem, fishery, and aquaculture, and the role they play in ensuring the community thrives.

Draft Goal: The health of the Apalachicola Bay System is supported by an ongoing and continuously engaged and informed public.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- The health of the...
- “Healthy bay” define?

Draft Outcome: By 2030, ~~the Apalachicola Bay System~~, stakeholders, private and nonprofit civic leaders, and the public are informed of the importance of sustaining the health of the Apalachicola Bay System, and engaged and working actively together along with elected and appointed leaders and managers to invest in and implement the plan.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- Is nothing to be done for 10 years? A: We won’t wait for 10 years actions will
- Objectives to put in benchmarks
- Engage public earlier on.

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives

- **Public support for ABS funding sources.** Reviewing the possibility of directing additional funding sources to help the Plan. E.g. tourist development tax? To help with monitoring, seafood industry, etc.
- To develop and or leverage funding sources to create a healthy ABS
- **Coordinated messaging to tourists and residents.** This should be carried to a broader audience beyond those living in the area
- What are the mechanisms we use to communicate message- realtors, etc.?
- The CAB represents an opportunity to understand what is happening in the ABS and to combat misinformation

- Charter boat Brochure- hand out for rec industry as to what is happening with the oysters.
- E.g. sea turtles brochures on St. George's Island involving real estate industry.— brochure needed on the health of the Bay
- Community and tourist education are needed
- ANER- working on education. Hands on in the Reserve office
- **TDC and Chamber of Commerce.** Role of the Tourism Development Council and Chamber of Commerce
- **Local schools-** local kids need to know what is going on. *A: FSU team happy to make presentations to local schools*
- Do an outreach to schools as. – contact the Superintendent. Make this envy of all the other counties
- **Website- single point of contact.** A chat room? *A: An email system for responses. Get lots of comments and response.*

5) A Science-Based and Fully Funded Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan Supported by Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders ~~the Community~~.

Draft Vision Theme E: ~~The science-based~~ The Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan is developed with engagement and support from the Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders, ~~community~~ and its implementation is adaptively managed and funded from dedicated sources.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- OK with change.

Draft Goal: The Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan is science-based, has Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders ~~community~~ support, and is fully funded.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem with a fully funded and monitored adaptive science-based Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan that is fully supported by the Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders ~~community~~ with oversight from an ongoing permanent stakeholder advisory board.

CAB Member Comments 12-18-19

- Too many hyphens
- 2 sentences for the outcome
- “Science based”- not everything that goes into regs is science based, often the economy and tourism drives. (E.g. scallop industry season)
- “Science informed” vs. “science based” including being informed by socioeconomic considerations
- Science based is stronger language for the system we are trying to protect
- “Permanent” stakeholder group to monitor vs. “Ongoing.”

Key Topical Issues to Inform Objectives

- **Social and economic impacts on welfare of the community.** Consider the impacts on social and economic welfare of the community
- **Performance measures.** Clearly articulate the performance measures, measure and communicate over time
- **Plan implementation and lead.** Who is going to lead this going forward as the plan is implemented
- What are the roles in implementation of the CAB members and others?
- Will there be stakeholders involved in implementation who are not currently represented on the CAB?
- **Connect with the broader river system.** Tri state stakeholders – transboundary institution. Goal. How do we interface with that goal and outcome
- “What is healthy or productive”?
- **Define fully funded.** What it means to be “fully” funded and how to achieve that
- **Define fully supported by stakeholders.** “Fully supported by the stakeholders” – what does this mean
- Objectives for E may be drawn from A-D
- **Sharing science and the plan.** Commitment to share the Plan and science with others in Gulf of Mexico- Florida? In other states along the Gulf and beyond.

Draft Objectives for this Goal, Outcome and Key Topical Issues

- Adoption and implementation of the ABS Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan
- A fully funded permanent representative community advisory board to monitor the Plan.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Community Advisory Board heard comments from four individuals offering public comment at the meeting. The members of the public were encouraged to submit written comments as well.



- Bill Lartz, Bill's Seafood (Carrabelle) who noted his history as an oyster fisherman for many years and was interested in following the CAB process.
- Jack Rudloe, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab in Panacea, who described his work in creating the Lab dating back to the 1960s and his work in Apalachicola Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. He described his idea for creating more oysters for the Bay by promoting the use of submerged trees for growing oysters. He expressed concerns about oil drilling and exploration its impact on the Bay and Gulf and on pollution that comes down the system river systems. He recalled at time when sand dollars were plentiful and requested that the CAB consider his membership or offer an opportunity to speak about his work at the Lab and his ideas for enhancing the oyster population in the Bay.
- Robin Rickel Vroegop, Apalachicola resident, has been engaged for 10 years initially in serving as a volunteer coordinator for the oil spill. She thanked the CAB members for their important work in recovering the health of the Bay. She encouraged to schedule public workshops before August 2020 to help inform the public. She noted she was Facebook live streaming the CAB meetings to get the word out on the important work of the CAB and asked if the meetings could be videotaped.
- Andy Kane, University of Florida, Associate Professor of the Department of Environmental and Global Health and Director of the UF Aquatic Pathobiology Laboratories, complemented the ABSI on assembling and marshalling a remarkable community advisory board. He mentioned the work he has done over time in Apalachicola and suggested he had shared interests and expectations with the CAB.

VI. NEXT STEPS

The facilitators then reviewed the agenda for the 3rd meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida. They suggested refining the vision themes, goals and reviewing draft objectives and following up on member requests for presentations. The facilitators and science team agreed to review the suggestions for the January meeting.

The members of the Community Advisory Board discussed the CAB schedule of meetings and presentations/information needed and offered the following ideas:

- Decision tools introduced at January and March meetings? *A: At both.*
- A FWC briefing on the \$20 million MK Ranch project?
- Offer an overview of the management regime of the Bay
- Who's monitoring what?
- ACOE, USFWS presentations?
- ACF Stakeholders meeting moved from January to March 2-3, 2020. *A: The ABSI Team can do a presentation about the ABSI and CAB.*
- Drought management presentation?
- Past shelling operations and whether they have worked.

- Overview of restoration projects? What work has been done? NRDA Restore project- March agenda?
- Review of general decline in oysters in other areas. How the other states are doing? Overall health of oyster industry
- Create a hub/clearinghouse for accessing different documents.
- How often Science Advisory Board meets? Are they planning joint CAB/SAB meetings? Are the Science Advisory Board Summary reports available? It would be useful to the CAB.

The members completed meeting evaluation forms and adjourned at 12:50 pm.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX #1 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA DECEMBER 18, 2019

<p>APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI) ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB) ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING #2</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2019 APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE 108 ISLAND DRIVE (STATE ROAD 300) AT CAT POINT IN EASTPOINT, FLORIDA</p>
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ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING II OBJECTIVES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Agenda and Meeting I Summary Report) ✓ To Receive Project Briefings and Community Advisory Board Requested Presentations ✓ To Review and Refine as Needed the Overall Goal Statement ✓ To Review and Refine Vision Themes, Goals, Key Issues, and Performance Measures ✓ To Identify Next Steps and Information Needed, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting 		
ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING II AGENDA—DECEMBER 18, 2019		
<i>All Agenda Times—including Public Comment and Adjournment—are Approximate and Subject to Change</i>		
1.)	8:30 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
2.)	8:40	AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES
3.)	8:45	APPROVAL OF FACILITATORS’ SUMMARY REPORT (OCTOBER 30, 2019)
4.)	8:50	<p>PROJECT BRIEFINGS</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">VII. FWC NFWF Apalachicola Bay Oyster Reef Restoration (15 min.)</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">VIII. Apalachicola Riverkeeper NFWF Apalachicola River Slough (15 min.)</p> <p>COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD REQUESTED PRESENTATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulatory Framework/Harvest Statistics for Oyster Fishery/Aquaculture (20 min.) • Research Update (15 min.)
<i>~10:00</i>		<i>BREAK</i>
5.)	10:15	REVIEW AND REFINE OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT
6.)	10:30	A.) A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE BAY ECOSYSTEM- GOAL, OUTCOME, ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES
7.)	11:25	B.) THE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY- GOAL, OUTCOME, ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES
8.)	12:20	<p>OVERVIEW OF VISION THEMES FOR DISCUSSION AT MEETING III</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">C.) A Thriving Economy Connected to the Apalachicola Bay System</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">D.) A Continuously Engaged Community and Informed Public</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">E.) A Science-Based and Fully Funded Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan Supported by the Apalachicola Bay System Stakeholders</p>
9.)	12:30	PUBLIC COMMENT
10.)	12:45	NEXT STEPS, CAB SCHEDULE AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING
<i>~1:00 PM</i>		<i>ADJOURN</i>

APPENDIX #2 CAB MEMBERS & FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY TEAM PARTICIPANT LIST

Bold= Participating CAB Member and Team Member

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
Agriculture/ACF Stakeholders/Riparian Counties	
1. Chad Taylor	Riparian Counties Stakeholder Group/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
Business/Real Estate/Economic Development/Tourism	
2. Chuck Marks	Acentria Insurance
3. Mike O'Connell	SGI Civic Club/SGI 2025 Vision
4. John Solomon	Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce
Environmental/Citizen	
5. Georgia Ackerman	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
6. Lee Edmiston	Retired DEP/ANERR
7. Chad Hanson	Pew Charitable Trusts
Local Government	
8. Anita Grove	Apalachicola City Commissioner
9. Smokey Parrish	Franklin County Commissioner
Recreational Fishing	
10. Chip Bailey	Peregrine Charters
11. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
Seafood Industry	
12. Shannon Hartsfield	Franklin County Seafood Workers Association
13. Cary Williams	Apalachicola Oyster Company, Aquaculture
14. Lynn Martina	Lynn's Quality Oysters
15. Vance Millender	Millender & Sons Seafood
16. Steve Rash	Water Street Seafood
17. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
State Government	
18. Jim Estes	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. Jenna Harper	ANERR/DEP
20. Alex Reed	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
21. Portia Sapp	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
22. Paul Thurman	NFWFMD
University/Researchers	
23. Tom Frazer	UF/DEP Governor's Science Advisor
24. Erik Lovstrand	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant Franklin County
FSU PROJECT TEAM AND FACILITATORS	
NAME	AFFILIATION
Sandra Brooke	Marine Biologist
Felicia Coleman	Marine Biologist
Gary Ostrander	Vice-President for Research
Madelein Mahood	Public Outreach Specialist
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator, FCRC Consensus Center FSU
Robert Jones	Community Advisory Board Facilitator, FCRC Consensus Center FSU
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
Chucha Barber, Chucha Barber Productions	Chris Kingry, Aide, State Rep. Jason Shoaf
Ed Camp, University of Florida	Bill Lartz, Bill's Seafood
G J DeVoss, Iron Bound LLC	Jack Rudloe, Gulf Specimen Marine Lab
W. Ross Ellington, Florida State University	Trisha Springstead, GSML, Earth Org. Lean
Andy Kane UF/NFWF	Robin Rickel Vroegop

APPENDIX #3 CAB MEETING II EVALUATION SUMMARY

<p style="text-align: center;">APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD DECEMBER 18, 2019—EASTPOINT, FLORIDA</p>

CAB Members used a 10 point rating scale where a 0 meant "Totally Disagree" and a 10 meant "Totally Agree." The evaluation summary reflects average rating scores and comments from 17 CAB evaluation forms submitted.

1. PLEASE ASSESS THE OVERALL MEETING.

- 9.1 ___ The agenda packet was very useful.
9.3 ___ The objectives for the meeting were stated at the outset.
8.9 ___ Overall, the objectives of the meeting were fully achieved.

2. DO YOU AGREE THAT EACH OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING OBJECTIVES WAS ACHIEVED?

- 8.5 ___ Project Briefings and Community Advisory Board Requested Presentations.
8.8 ___ Overall Goal Statement Refinement (As/If Needed).
8.7 ___ Vision Themes Refinement, Goals and Key Issues Identification.
9.1 ___ Next Steps, Schedule and Assignments Discussion.

1. PLEASE TELL US HOW WELL THE FACILITATOR HELPED THE PARTICIPANTS ENGAGE IN THE MEETING.

- 9.4 ___ The members followed the direction of the Facilitator.
9.8 ___ The Facilitator made sure the concerns of all members were heard.
9.8 ___ The Facilitator helped us arrange our time well.
9.6 ___ Participant input was documented during the meeting and accurately in last meeting's Facilitator's Report

4. PLEASE TELL US YOUR LEVEL OF SATISFACTION WITH THE MEETING.

- 8.8 ___ Overall, I am very satisfied with the meeting.
9.5 ___ I was very satisfied with the services provided by the Facilitator.
9.2 ___ I am satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

5. PLEASE TELL US HOW WELL THE NEXT STEPS WERE COMMUNICATED.

- 9.4 ___ I know what the next steps following this meeting will be.
9.4 ___ I know who is responsible for the next steps.

6. WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE MEETING?

- The work on overall CAB goal
- Discussion about vision, goals, etc.
- Good discussion
- Information
- The diversity
- Presentations
- Quick pace and pertinent background
- Opportunities for suggesting additional topics for presentation at future meetings

- Follow up from meeting

7. HOW COULD THE MEETING HAVE BEEN IMPROVED?

- Provide opportunities for public input throughout stages of the meeting
- Sometimes the presenters were a little too quick. Would like to review presentations in advance.
- Follow up to fisheries data info-dig into trends a little more deeply, i.e. CPUE
- Finish the goal and begin discussions on actual restoration effort
- No suggestions
- Can't think of anything

8. OTHER COMMENTS

- Consider Jack Rudloe and Andy Kane to participate in some official capacity on the CAB or Science Board

APPENDIX #4 PROJECT SCHEDULE & WORKPLAN

Meetings Dates are Subject to Change

ABSI CAB DRAFT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN		
STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB		
Meeting I.	Oct. 30, 2019	Scoping and organizational meeting, review and refinement of overall project purpose, vision and goal framework.
Meeting II	Dec. 18, 2019 Wed.	Introduction to decision-support tools and member requested presentations. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework.
Meeting III.	Jan. 8, 2020	Member requested presentations. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework continued
SCOPING OF ABSI ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES & OPTIONS		
Meeting IV.	Mar. 11, 2020	Identification of decision-support tools options, review of performance measures and identification of policy issues, review of Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan outline.
Meeting V.	May 6, 2020	Review of decision-support tools scenarios and consensus rating of options and policy Issues. Review and agreement on draft Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan. Public Workshop Draft.
Meeting VI.	July 8, 2020	Review and agreement on draft Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan. Public Workshop Draft.
Public Workshop 1	August 2020	Review of Vision, Goal Framework, Plan outline, issues & options.
BUILDING CONSENSUS ON ABS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN		
Meeting VII.	Sept. 9, 2020	Review of public comments on Draft Plan, review of decision-support tools scenario results and consensus rating of options, draft performance measures, and identification of policy issues.
Meeting VIII.	Nov. 4, 2020	Review of Draft Plan, recommendations on policy issues, decision-support tools scenario results, and consensus rating of options.
FINALIZING CONSENSUS ON ABS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN		
Meeting IX.	Jan. 13, 2021	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and recommendations on policy issues.
Meeting X.	TBD	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and implementation guidance and agreement on Workshop Draft Plan.
Public Workshop 2	TBD	Review of GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Draft Plan and Implementation Guidance.
Meeting XI.	TBD	Review of public comment, refinement and consensus on the GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan, and Implementation Guidance.
<i>Additional Meetings Schedule</i>	<i>TBD</i>	

Appendix #5 ABSI Community Advisory Board Draft Goal

This draft goal statement was presented to the Community Advisory Board at the December 18, 2019 meeting based on CAB member comments at the October 30, 2019 meeting.

“The goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB) is to develop a package of consensus recommendations informed by the best available science, data, and stakeholders’ experiences for the management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS), and to ensure there is a reliable mechanism and process for the monitoring, funding, and implementation of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan.

The goal of the Initiative is to ensure that the regulation and management of the oyster resource, and oyster reef ecosystem ~~oyster~~ restoration policies are informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder stewardship values, resulting in an economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System ~~oyster fishery and~~ including oyster reef ecosystems and the wild oyster fishery.

The process will be designed so that members can explore and evaluate oyster fishery practices and management options, and restoration policies in the Apalachicola Bay System. The Community Advisory Board’s consensus recommendations, in the form of an Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative project team, state managers and regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate.”