

The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative



Community Advisory Board Outreach Sub-Committee

Members: G. Ackerman, S. Brooke, F. Coleman, A. Groves, C. Hanson, M. Mahood

Part of the Charge of the ABSI Community Advisory Board



As ambassadors for ABSI, members are asked:

- to inform people w/in their sphere of influence @ ABSI
- to help tie ABSI tightly & positively to local communities
- to bridge the gap between ABSI and local & regional communities

Filling the Void



GOAL – TO BRING THE PUBLIC ALONG WITH THE ABSI PROCESS BY:

- Creating outreach & community engagement strategies that actively inform the public about ABSI's goals & actions.
- Measuring strategy effectiveness through direct participation in achieving actions, as well as web analytics & media stories



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Friday Marine Lab tours are cancelled until further notice.

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ABSI Community Engagement

The primary goals of ABSI's community engagement enterprise is to spark your curiosity and interest in Apalachicola Bay, to provide information about the research being conducted towards restoration of oyster reefs, and to get your input and gain your support for science-informed management of this precious spot on earth.



Community Advisory Board

This group is critical to the development of management and restoration plans for Apalachicola Bay



Pathway to Recovery

Our newsletter keeps you up to date on the science and the ways we pursue community engagement.



Restoration & Management

A primary goal of ABSI is to develop restoration and management plans for the Bay by working closely with state agencies.



Everything Oyster, Past to Present

From Apalachicola history to oyster biology & ecology



ABSI Events

Local events in which the ABSI team has participated.



Volunteer & Intern Opportunities

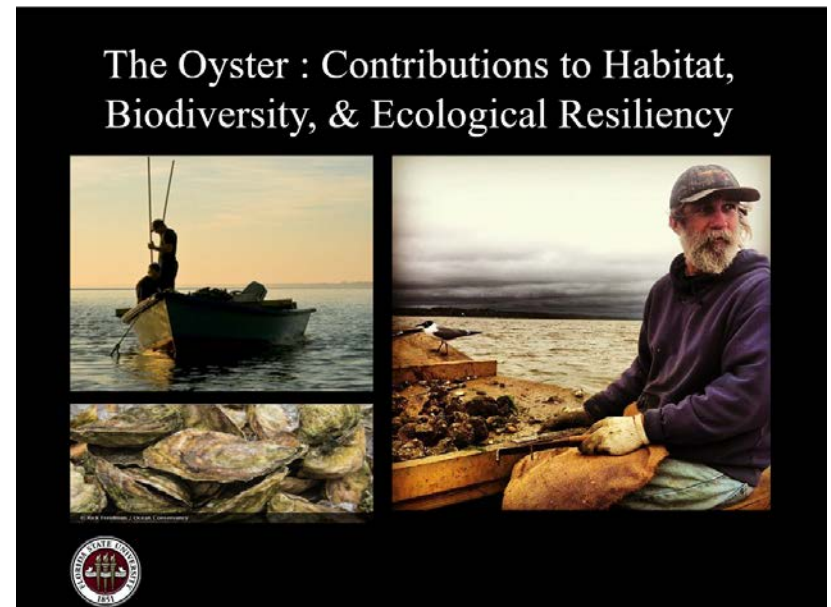
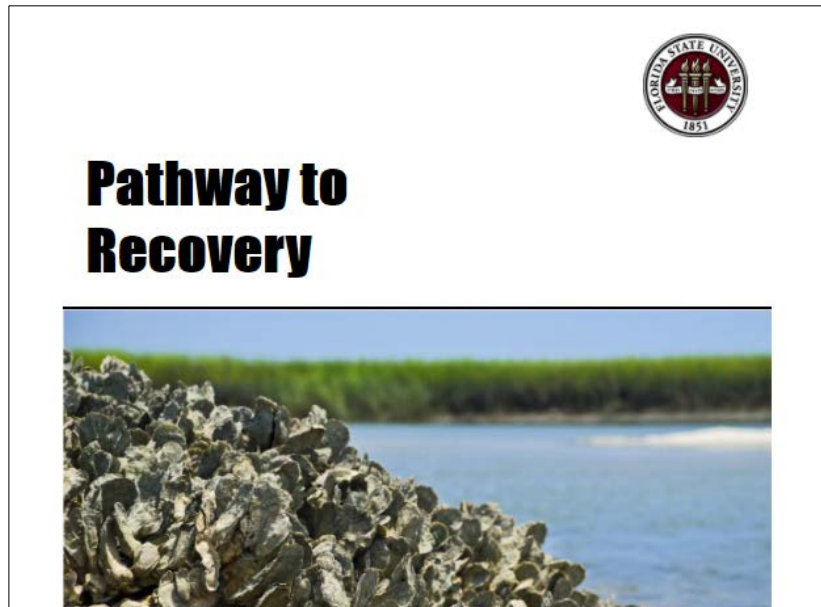
Awaken your inner scientist and get involved! Check back for opportunities.

Proposed Strategies for Community Engagement

1. Develop CAB (created 2019)
2. Create paid hatchery internships (w/ Franklin's Promise Coalition)
3. Develop shell recycling program
4. Public meetings to engage community
5. Public events at FSUCML and at ANERR showcasing ABSI
6. Public interface through social media & the FSUCML website
7. Provide organized workshops & conferences, engaging the Science Advisory Board, media in press events and through press releases.

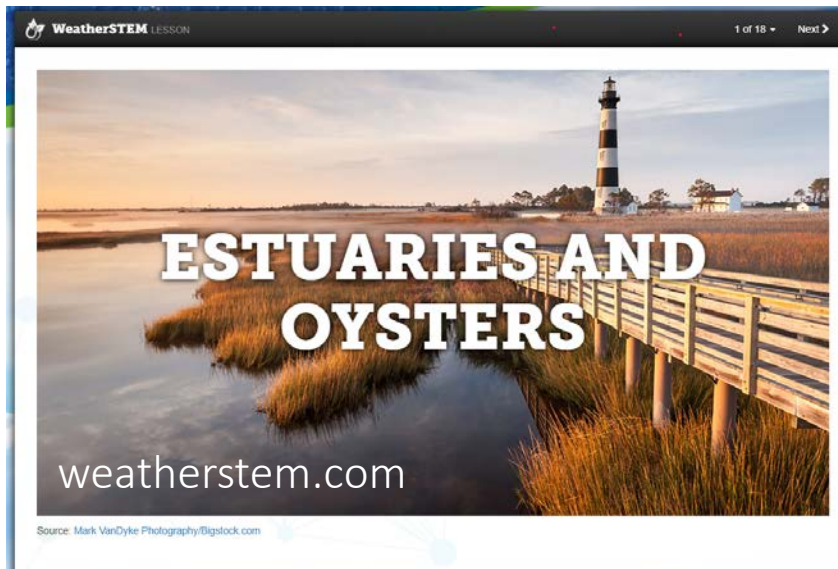
Initiatives for Outreach Sub-Committee

- Produce a newsletter after every CAB meeting
- Develop short (30 minute) seminars about ABSI as part of the regular FSUCML lecture series



Initiatives for Outreach Sub-Committee

- Approached Weatherstem & approached by UF “*Scientist in Every Florida School*” about producing virtual content on their & our websites for K-12
- Developing a recycling program as a business



Points to Include in Public Updates

ABSI newsletter released soon after each meeting

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY


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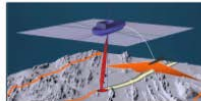
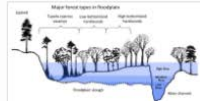
ABSI Research Initiatives



Collapse of oyster reef systems is a global phenomenon, with less than 20% of the world's reefs remaining (read more about this in [Beck et. al. 2011](#)). The causes are complex, and include interactions of poor coastal management, over-harvesting, habitat destruction, and poor water quality. Before we can generate effective restoration and management plans, we have to understand what went wrong, and try to address the underlying problem.

Ecosystem recovery is limited by nature's ability to rebuild. Depending on the system, it may take decades. While oysters grow quickly, the massive reefs that they form that support lucrative fisheries & protect our shorelines develop slowly. Because oyster reef ecosystems provide valuable ecological and economic services, we need to protect and care for them so they can continue to provide these services far into the future. If we do not, we risk losing them forever.

Successful ecosystem recovery requires a deep understanding of the causes of collapse. This is accomplished with extensive research and monitoring, and a long term plan that includes adaptive management and habitat restoration. ABSI data will be made available to the public, and through a collaborative process, an oyster management and ecosystem recovery plan will be developed. See the full ABSI proposal [here](#).

 <p>Oyster Collection & Restoration Experiments</p>	 <p>Oyster Reproduction & Larval Rearing</p>	 <p>Historical & Current Maps of the System</p>	 <p>Biophysical & Socioecological Models</p>
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- Provides links to articles on ABSI Website, including blogs by CAB members
- Emphasize what ABSI actions entail:
 - working, sharing data, & identifying/filling data gaps w/ partners, agencies, and others
 - ensuring that the restoration & management plans developed are available for review & comment, and embraced by the stakeholders & the public.
 - making all meeting presentations available on the website
 - highlighting that the goal is to restore the health of the ABS & its oyster reefs
 - assuring that these goals will have sustained actions that are taken up by the managing agencies and the community