APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

PHASE V MEETING 3 — MAY 31, 2023
FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT
APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY AUGUST 9, 2023

APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

FACILITATED SOLUTIONS

PROCESS DESIGN, MEETING FACILITATION, AND REPORTING BY JEFF A. BLAIR

Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board
May 31, 2023 Facilitator's Meeting Summary Report

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OVERVIEW OF THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD'S WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2023 ACTIONS

I. MEETING SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

At the May 31, 2023 meeting conducted at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) in Eastpoint, Florida the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB): received an overview of the updated Project Workplan-Schedule; received updates on ABSI Science and Data, and FWC's NFWF Phase 2 funded restoration project; received a stakeholder briefing on Fresh Water Diversion from Apalachicola Bay and Lake Wimico into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay; received reports and updates from the CAB Successor Group Subcommittee, Restoration Funding Working Group, and Community Outreach Subcommittee. Specific activities included: discussion on the organizational and logistical aspects of standing-up the CAB's Successor Group; and acceptability ranking Restoration and Management Strategies from the CAB's adopted *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* Framework; and discussion of next steps for the August 9, 2023 meeting.

(Attachment 7 — Glossary of ABSI Project Terms and Definitions)

II. Welcome and Introductions

Jeff Blair, ABSI CAB Facilitator, opened the meeting at 8:30 AM and welcomed all participants. Jeff welcomed Brett Lolley of the Seafood Work and Watermen's Association as a new member and an additional representative for oystermen and commercial fishermen.

Social Science Survey

The ABSI CAB members are participating in a Social Science Survey that is conducted at the beginning of each meeting to gauge participants' perspectives and attitudes regarding science and data, and stakeholder relationships throughout the ABSI CAB process. Ed Camp, University of Florida, is conducting the Survey that was first administered during the October 2020 meeting and will be continued throughout the duration of the ABSI CAB process. An online Social Science Survey was offered for the May 31, 2023 CAB meeting.

III. ABSI CAB Meeting Participation

The following CAB members participated in the Wednesday, May 31, 2023 meeting conducted in-person at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida:

Georgia Ackerman, *Mike Allen*, Ottice Amison, David Barber, Frank Gidus, Anita Grove, Chad Hanson, Jenna Harper, Shannon Hartsfield, *Becca Hatchell*, Gayle Johnson, Katie Konchar, Erik Lovestrand, *Chuck Marks*, Portia Sapp, Steve Rash, Devin Resko, Grayson Shepard, Chad Taylor, and *Paul Thurman*.

** Members who participated virtually are italicized.*

(19 of 21 active members participated — 90%).

Absent CAB Members:

Brett Lolley, Steve Rash, and Alex Reed*.

**Jenna Harper is representing DEP.*

Project Team Members Participating

Jeff Blair, *Sandra Brooke*, Ross Ellington, *Madelein Mahood*, and Joel Trexler.

(Attachment 2 — Meeting Participation)

Meeting Facilitation

Meetings are facilitated and meeting reports prepared by Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Information at: http://facilitatedsolutions.org.

Project Webpage

Information on the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative project and the Community Advisory Board, including agenda packets, meeting reports, draft Plan frameworks, and related documents may be found at the ABSI CAB Webpage. Located at the following URL:
https://marinelab.fsu.edu/the-apalachicola-bay-system-initiative/

IV. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

The ABSI CAB voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the May 31, 2023 meeting as amended. Following are the key agenda items approved for consideration:

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report)
- ✓ To Review Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule
- ✓ To Receive Science and Data Collection, and Restoration Updates
- ✓ To Receive Reports from RFWG, Community Outreach, and CAB Successor Group
- ✓ To Receive Public Comment Prior to Acceptability Ranking Strategies
- ✓ To Review and Acceptability Rank Restoration and Management Plan Framework Strategies
- ✓ To Receive Public Comment After Acceptability Ranking Strategies
- ✓ To Identify Next Steps: Information, Presentations, Assignments, Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Amendments to the Posted Agenda:

There were no amendments to the posted agenda.

(Attachment 3 — May 31, 2023 ABSI CAB Agenda)

V. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 12, 2023 CAB MEETING FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT

The ABSI CAB voted unanimously to approve the April 12, 2023 CAB Meeting Facilitator Summary Reports as presented.

Amendments: None

VI. REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

Jeff Blair provided the CAB with a review of the updated Project Workplan and Schedule and answered members' questions. The May 31, 2023 meeting represented the CAB's third meeting of the final Phase of the Project, Phase V.

The CAB is currently evaluating the best combination of strategies (scenarios) predicted to achieve restoration and management objectives for the Bay using the results of predictive model simulations coupled with available and emerging data, research, and stakeholder knowledge. The strategies are being evaluated with the overarching goal of restoring oyster reefs to a level that can sustainably provide needed ecosystem services for the Bay, and concurrently provide for a sustainable and economically viable level of commercial oyster harvesting.

Throughout the project, the CAB members representing management and restoration agencies will vet the strategies and actions under consideration with their leadership to gauge support and feasibility of implementation. The CAB will evaluate the priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identify restoration and management approaches for inclusion in the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*.

Phase V focuses on the evaluation and final selection of restoration and management approaches conceptual and broad in scope from the Plan Framework, public engagement, and planning for funding restoration projects and the CAB Successor Group. The CAB is in the process of evaluating potential strategies for restoration and management using the Strategies Acceptability Ranking Worksheet Process. The CAB process will conclude with the 29 November 2023 meeting, when the CAB will adopt their final package of

recommendations proposed for inclusion in the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*.

Jeff reported as follows:

- At the May 31, 2023 meeting the CAB continued the process of acceptability ranking of strategies from the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* Framework using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process reviewed in detail during the February 1, 2023 CAB meeting.
- The CAB is ranking strategies using results from decision support tools, including predictive models when available, coupled with available and emerging data and research from ABSI experiments, and stakeholder knowledge.
- The Community Outreach Committee will continue to communicate and meet with community stakeholders providing them with information and updates regarding the purpose and progress of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative including Op-Eds, rack cards, social media posts/texts, ABSI newsletters, and the ABSI website. The CAB's draft recommendations and results of ABSI experiments will continue to be vetted with the larger ABS community through multiple formats, including online via the ABSI website, and in-person public workshops. In addition, the Community Outreach Committee is in the process of evaluating and enhancing their ABSI outreach and messaging strategies.
- The CAB is conducting planning for transitioning to a Successor Group whose role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term once the CAB process is complete. The Successor Group will continue providing input to natural resource management agencies with the goal of ensuring the Apalachicola Bay System is effectively monitored, and adaptively managed with the support of the Community. The CAB is scheduled to finalize their recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* at the November 29, 2023 meeting, and the CAB Successor Group is anticipated to formally convene in early 2024.
- In addition, the FSU ABSI Project Team continues to work with the Restoration Funding Working Group to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB's priority restoration recommendations.

Jeff noted that the Project Team would keep the CAB updated and share additional information as it becomes available.

**The Draft Restoration and Management Plan Framework is available at the following URL:*
https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/

(Attachment 4 — Workplan, Schedule, and Project Flowchart)

VII. Project Relevant Updates and Briefings Presentations

ABSI Science and Data Collection Update

Sandra Brooke, FSUCML Faculty and ABSI Principal Investigator, provided the CAB with an update on ABSI science and data collection. A science and data update is provided at all CAB meetings.

Presentations are available on the project webpage: https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/.

ABSI overarching goals are:

- Understand why the Apalachicola Bay oyster populations have not recovered and identify optimal restoration approaches that will inform larger efforts.
- Determine whether loss of oyster populations is causing a decline in overall ecosystem health.
- Work with local stakeholders to develop a science-based restoration and management plan for Apalachicola Bay.

Summary and Overview of Presentation

The May 31, 2023 Science and Data Collection update was focused on updates. Sandra reported as follows:

Substrate Choice Experiment

- Wild spat settlement on different materials using ABSI research lease.

Objectives:

  - Determine whether oyster larvae prefer shell or limerock.
  - Determine whether presence of live oysters increases larval settlement.

Treatments:

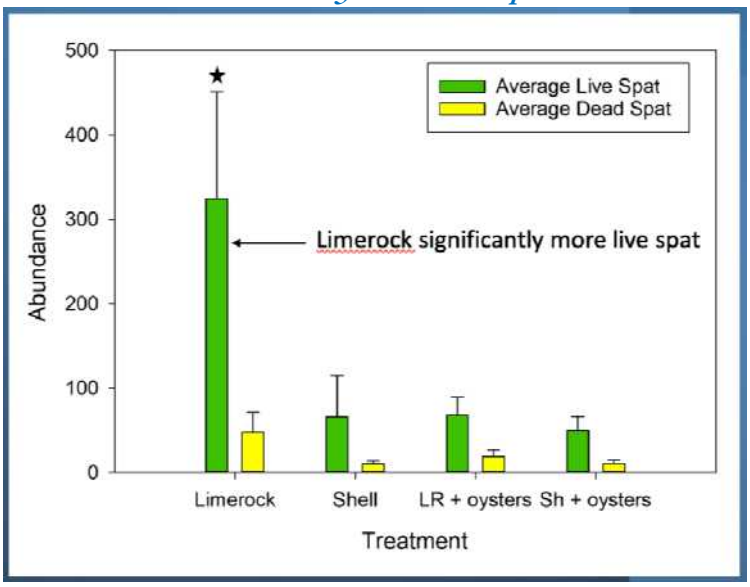
  - Small limerock.
  - Small limerock + live oysters.
  - Shell.
  - Shell + live oysters.

- Materials placed in aquaculture cages on lease and recovered/re-set every 6 weeks
- Summary: We have conducted an experiment to determine whether shell or limerock is the preferred substrate for oyster larvae. The experiment will permit us to determine if the presence of live oysters increases recruitment either to the oysters or to the adjacent material. The bags were filled ¼ full with either shell, small limestone, shell+live oysters (1/8 bag each) and limestone+live oysters. The cages are distributed randomly on the Alligator Harbor lease and recovered, scored for live vs. dead, and reset with fresh material.

Preliminary Results (6 Weeks)

- The limerock outperformed the other materials, which was an unexpected result.
- We are reviewing the bag locations to see whether that would have possibly had an influence but the numbers are much higher than all others.
- Difference between LR and all other treatments was statistically significant; no other comparisons were significant.
- Within mixed treatments, live oysters had more live spat than limerock or shell.
- Live oysters had more spat than other material but only the oysters in the limerock bags had significantly higher spat.

Preliminary Results Graph



Assessment of survival and growth of hatchery oysters using different biodegradable retaining materials

Objectives:

- Assess survival and growth of hatchery raised oysters, deployed at ten RESTORE sites across the Bay
- Measure wild spat set on oysters and cage/bags
- Assess the longevity of biodegradable retaining materials for juveniles and spat on shell.

Experimental Design:

- 100 tagged oysters per replicate (shell height 76 mm ± 12.8).
- 5 replicate chicken wire cages and 5 biodegradable mesh bags per site.
- Sites that were not near ANERR or ABSI water quality instruments were equipped with Salinity/Temp dataloggers.
- Deployed in March 2023.
- 1 cage and 1 bag recovered quarterly from each site.

Rationale

- Can leftover/unsellable farmed oysters be effectively used for restoration – do they survive and stimulate spat settlement?
- Adults less susceptible to predation than spat so may have higher survival.
- This experiment is also a study of spatial and temporal survival, growth and settlement conducted in 10 locations throughout the bay. It assesses two biodegradable materials that could be easily/cheaply used to deploy seed and spat on shell for restoration – to prevent them being dispersed by currents.
- All sites have a nearby data logger (full suite) or a salinity –temp hobo on site.
- Bags will be recovered every quarter – so experiment will cover 1.25 years.

Hatchery Spat-On-Shell Experiment

- April 25th: 2 million oyster larvae were set on recycled shell in the ABSI hatchery, resulting in ~ 270,000 spat on shell.
- These are currently on our research lease and will be deployed in the Bay in a similar design to the seed oyster experiment to assess spat survival, and growth, persistence of caging material and wild spat set.

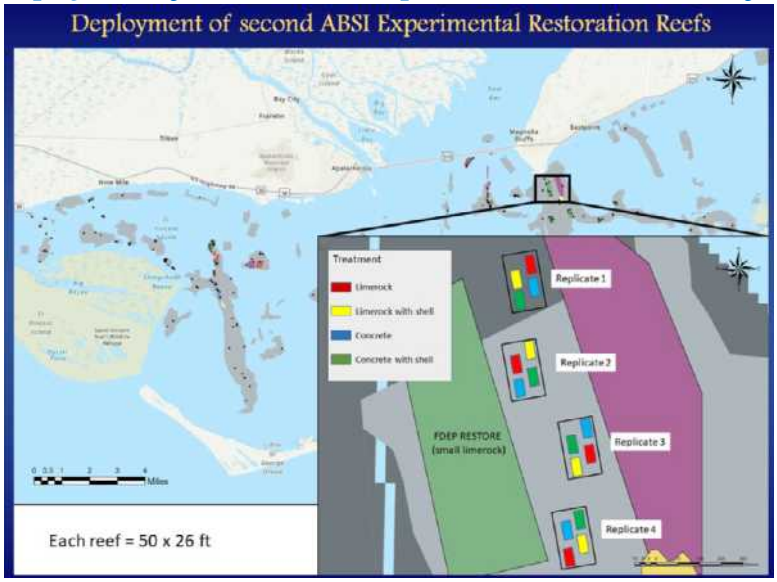
- The same experimental design will be used for the hatchery spat on shell that is currently on the lease.
- This will be deployed in mid-June.

Second ABSI Restoration Experiment
This restoration experiment was deployed on an area of bare shell hash at Cat Point in early May with the help of local oyster harvesters. The experiment consisted of four treatments:

- Limerock (4-6 inch diameter) 15 inches tall
- Limerock (4-6 inch diameter), 12 inches tall with a 3 inch layer of shell
- Concrete (4-6 inch diameter) 15 inches tall
- Concrete (4-6 inch diameter), 12 inches tall with a 3 inch layer of shell

There are four reefs of each treatment, each with a footprint of 50 x 26 ft as shown in the map below:

Deployment of Second ABSI Experimental Restoration Reefs



Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:
(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- Have you tried concrete in bag experiments? Concrete will give us biggest bang for buck.
- SB: Not yet, but we are willing to do so.
- Was there a difference in the surface area of lime rock?
- SB: It is not clear this had any impact based on other observations.
- We'll be able to tell in a few months on the efficacy of concrete.
- Results of substrate preference are from work that was done in Alligator Harbor and the results are not directly applicable to the Bay but will provide some insight into what might work best.
- SB: This is true, the experiments in Alligator Harbor were done opportunistically.
- How many oystermen and boats were involved in the restoration experiments deployment?
- SB: 20 oystermen, 7 boats, and 5 days of work.
- What is the price difference between lime rock vs. concrete?
- SB: $55 for limerock vs. $45 for concrete. The concrete must be cleaned and crushed, even if the material itself is free or low cost. The price difference is small, but it would make a big difference for large scale restoration.

FWC (NFWF Phase 2) Restoration Project Update

Devin Resko, FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management, provided the CAB with an update on the FWC restoration project funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Devon reported:

Summary and Overview of Update

Program Overview

- $20M agreement with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)
- Restoration activities in Apalachicola Bay
- Revised oyster management strategies for Apalachicola Bay & Suwannee Sound
- FWC will perform a restoration pilot study
- Utilizing pilot study, FWC will have more data to construct and perform larger restoration activity

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration Pilot Study

- Originally budgeted at $7 million utilizing NFWF funding.
- Budget has increased with additional funding allocated from Governor DeSantis' Framework for Freedom.
- Additional $10 million for Apalachicola Bay oyster reef restoration.
- Allows FWC to perform a more robust pilot study, ensuring scientific merit and meaningful restoration.
- Dependent on quality of bids received.
- Dependent on the quality of received bids for the pilot study, these additional funds could be utilized towards expansion of the pilot if deemed appropriate.
- Pilot study will test multiple treatments.
- Reef height 1 ft (low) and 2 ft (high).
- Material size 6" (small) & 12" (large) FL dolostone.
- FSU ABSI's complimentary study.
- Increases scientific scope of work done in Apalachicola Bay.
- Provides more data to assist in future, larger restoration activities.

Reef Characteristics for Selecting Restoration Sites:

- Hardbottom
- Good waterflow
- Nearby oysters
- Not a navigational hazard
- Navigable for contractor

Proposed Restoration Site Locations

Next Steps

- Advertisement of competitive solicitation for contractor.
- Goal is to have contractor, material in water Summer/Fall 2023.
- Dependent on quality of bids received.
- Hire part-time site monitor for restoration activities.
- Work with FWC researchers, university researchers to prepare monitoring and surveying methods.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:

(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- What is the additional $13M of NFWF funding going to be used for?
- DR: The majority is going toward restoration.
- Will there be sufficient money to do the planned restoration?
- DR: There is a delicate balance between pilot and full scale
- Are there other sources of funds?
- DR: Potentially yes.
- Does the extra state supplied $10M have a shelf life?
- DR: Not sure but will find out and report back to the CAB.
- There is a lot of money out there for restoration. Are these options being pursued?
- DR: FWC is reviewing the need for additional funds for restoration, monitoring, and management.
- Is there money for management and enforcement?
- DR: The focus of FWC has been on restoration; will shift to management later.
- What is the appropriate time window for approaching FWC to address the CAB's management recommendations?
- DR: I am functioning as the conduit for communicating to FWC and keeping leadership updated.
- It is important that the CAB's efforts are communicated to FWC leadership.

- DR: Yes, I agree.
- We need to think about have proposals ready for the next legislative session.
- How long after the limerock is deployed before it will be determined whether the approach was successful?
- DR: 12 to 18 months; workshops will be conducted during data gathering.
- What happens if the plots grow oysters. What next?
- DR: This is under discussion including the possibility of opening some sites (without compromising data) for harvesting.
- SB: How will this be monitored?
- DR: This is not clear but it will be determined after deployment.
- 12 to 18 months? Timing of deployment means that things will not get going until the spring 2024 spat set.
- DR: Yes, understood.

FRESHWATER DIVERSION FROM THE APALACHICOLA BAY BRIEFING

Dusty May, BAYSAVERS, provided the CAB with a briefing on Fresh Water Diversion from Apalachicola Bay and Lake Wimico into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay. Dusty reported:

Summary and Overview of Update

- Over one hundred years ago, we connected the ,saltwater environments of St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay to the freshwater ecosystems of the Lake Wimico drainage basin and the Apalachicola River drainage basin via the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW).
- Now this direct connection of both freshwater drainage basins with the saline environments of St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay is causing catastrophic damage to Apalachicola Bay, St. Joe Bay, St. Andrew Bay, and Lake Wimico.
- According to NWFWMD flow meters installed and maintained by the USGS, from October 2020 to October 2022, the GIWW diverted more than one trillion three hundred and ninety-five billion gallons of fresh water and sediment away from Apalachicola Bay.
- This is 1.4 times the total volume of water in Lake Okeechobee! Every minute of every hour of every day 1.3 million gallons of freshwater and sediment are diverted away from Apalachicola Bay, where it would nourish, into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay, where it causes harm.
- Since the GIWW is a federally managed navigable waterway, any efforts to restore our hydrology will, by necessity involve the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Even if State or Local governments had the money to solve the problem, they do not have the jurisdiction to do so. The Corps must be involved.
- USCOE involvement requires a 7001-feasibility study, a 3-year max duration and a $3 mil max expense split evenly between the USCOE and Non-federal sponsors. Baysavers has been granted Non-federal sponsor status and our 7001- Feasibility Study has been approved for funding by the Mobile District of the Corps.
- We have met with NWFWMD and FDEP for the last two years, however, they are still uncommitted to the study. We do not know why.
- This is not just an environmental issue: We in the Panhandle depend on the health and productivity of these ecosystems for our livelihoods!

Summary

- The 7001-feasibility study is the critical next step in restoring the clear waters of St. Joe and St. Andrew Bay, the sediment-rich waters of Apalachicola Bay, and the natural hydrology of the Region.
- Flow data in the GIWW is now available.
- The WRRDA 7001 study is teed-up.
- Managing flow in the GIWW to restore our bays ecosystems is achievable.
- The USACE is uniquely qualified to study ecosystem impacts with input from all stakeholders.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:
(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- Where would the water control structure be?
- DM: just south of the "T" (referring to the map showing where waterways connect).
- SB: ABSI's modelers will be talking with DEP, models do not conform to actual real-world results. This points to the issue with water diversion.
- DM: USACE must be involved.
- JB: The ABSI Team meeting is a good example of local support.
- DM: The USACE wants to move but the State seems to be working on a different timeline.
- Has the Governor's office been approached?
- DM: Yes, but Dr. Rains (FDEP) is the person we need to gain the support of.

VIII. WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND REPORTS

A. CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP SUBCOMMITTEE

Shannon Hartsfield and Anita Grove reported that to date the Subcommittee has discussed the type of members needed (stakeholder representation), and Committee membership, tasks, and assignments, and the structure, format, and key issues for the Subcommittee. In addition, the Subcommittee is collecting ideas and information for use once they are convened at the conclusion of the ABSI CAB process.

The CAB Successor Group will be ready to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group's role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term, once the CAB process is complete, and to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. Of note, the CAB Successor Group is anticipated to formally convene in early 2024 after the CAB's adoption of their recommendations in November 2023.

For the May 31, 2023 CAB meeting Anita and Shannon requested that the full CAB discuss how best to organize and start up the CAB Successor Group.

- Jeff Blair, CAB Facilitator, suggested that an agenda item be added to the August 2023 and all subsequent CAB meetings to discuss the organizational framework of the CAB Successor Group, and Subcommittee and CAB members agreed. Jeff noted that it will be added as an agenda item for the next meeting.
- JB: Reminded the CAB that the CAB Successor Group is expected to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group's role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term, once the CAB process is complete, and to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. In

addition, Community support and participation is critical to the success and viability of the Successor Group.

- Anita will distribute a draft outline for the Successor Group with draft goals, draft mission statement, and a list of key stakeholders for the Group.
- For the next CAB meeting members should be prepared to indicate whether they or another representative from their stakeholder group will continue to serve and participate with the Successor Group.
- The CAB will discuss the organizational structure for the Successor Group including:
- What type of entity it should be (e.g., non-profit)?
- Who votes?
- What will the role of state agencies be?
- Will the group lobby?

Summary of Discussion and Comments:
(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- The Subcommittee is having difficulty is developing a vision for the successor group.
- The CAB whether the Successor Group should be a non-profit.
- Facilitator will be critical.
- The biggest issue is getting commitment and participation at the local level. Cannot be done without participation of local community.
- County Commission should have a role by endorsing the successor group.
- The successor group should be semi-permanent; must have some kind of official "standing."
- The seafood task force had a broader focus; will this be only focused on oysters? Making it a non-profit eliminates the political factors, but the body should report directly to County Commission.
- The successor Group should have the support of the County Commission but not be formed or approved by them. They should provide updates to the Commission.
- The seafood task force had good participation from the community.
- SMARRT was broadly based with fishers and wholesalers; agencies came in to talk with the group.
- DACS was present in the seafood task force; task force ran a shelling program with county funds.
- Need local participation for the long-term.
- Need to hire an administrator to run the group.
- Make it a non-profit organization.
- Provide regular updates to the County and City commissions.
- Open it up to all stakeholder groups – shrimpers, crabbers, oystermen, aquaculture, dealers, fishing, etc.
- Need state agencies participation.
- Need a ray of hope for the Bay to recover to motivate local participation.
- Need to keep up-river interests at the table.
- Don't call the Successor Group the "ABSI Successor Group" or make any references to ABSI or FSU in the title.
- Need to identify what the Successor Group's purpose is prior to starting the process of setting up a non-profit.
- It will out of necessity be a "bay management advisory" group providing input/recommendations to FWC; would not have any real teeth.
- I agree it would be advisory.

- As an example the CAB is "advisory" and does not control actions or make decisions.
- JB: The Successor Group will work as an advisory group to ensure that the Plan is implemented and monitored. Restoration will likely be required semi-permanently.
- Who will oversee restoration?
- Answer: FWC. FDACS has the USACE permit.
- Let's not forget the Bay to River connection; up-river voices should be at the table.
- On another point, a non-profit status will allow successor group to seek external funding for restoration actions.
- Once again, it is critical to have local participation; avoid branding the successor as an ABSI successor group. Members should reflect the community.
- Again, recommend development of a non-profit; with current doom and gloom scenario it's hard to get people motivated. Opening the Bay up to wild oyster harvesting may increase participation.
- We want to provide good news about bringing oysters back; current participants are motivated. It is not something that we will be done differently, just in a new phase.

B. RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP

Overview. The ABSI proposal contemplates a 15-year commitment from FSU, 10 years beyond the 5 years of funding provided by Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. The Restoration Funding Working Group (RFWG) is a team of local, state, private, and NGO stakeholders focused on developing plans for long-term funding of the broader effort. The goal at the end of the 5-year ABSI period is to have a funding pipeline for restoration secured. Joel Trexler, RFWG Lead, previously reported that the RFWG has met several times, has broad representation, has identified the specific strategies and related actions that would require funding, agreed to a charge, are mapping actions with potential funding sources and approximate funding amounts needed, and understand that it is critical to identify gaps in funding and work to fill the gaps before the Plan is final. In addition, there are potential funding sources for some CAB recommended actions.

Joel reported as follows for the May 31, 2023 CAB meeting update on the RFWG:

- Initially the RFWG is seeking administrative funding for the Successor Group and is waiting to hear whether the proposal submitted to NOAA NERR will be awarded funding.
- This would be bridge funding primarily to administer the Successor Group until recurring funding is attained.
- NOAA NERR award notices will be issued in June.
- Additional RFWG activities have been on hold. We are waiting on the fruits of the FWC NFWF and ABSI restoration experiments results.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:
(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- Will the group meet soon? There are plenty of opportunities for funding out there.
- JT: Yes, the RFWG will be meeting soon.
- We should compile a list of funding opportunities with the respective timetables.
- Is the RFWG looking at opportunities for funding the Successor Group)?
- JT: Yes, we will be.
- Is the funding for management?
- JT: It's up to the agencies and whether they would be willing to fund the group.
- There are new opportunities out there for funding.

C. COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE

Subcommittee Charge:

- To work with ABSI leadership to inform the public of who we are and what we are doing.
- To create outreach and community engagement strategies that attract stakeholders and the public to actively inform the public about the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative's goals and actions.
- To measure effectiveness of these strategies through direct participation in achieving actions (as well as web analytics and media stories).

Chad Hanson reported that the Community Outreach Subcommittee (COC) has been active, and they are working on a variety of initiatives. For the May 31, 2023 update, Chad reported on the Subcommittee's Outreach and Messaging Strategies as follows:

- Finalizing Key Messages document and will be posted to website.
- Continuing to work on implementing outreach strategy discussed with FSU Communications.
- Creating "Damage-Control" Strategy worksheet to address emerging issues (e.g., on social media) rapidly.
- New ABSI rack card finalized and being distributed.
- May ABSI newsletter AND restoration article published/distributed.

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:
(Note initials are only used to identify ABSI Team members and partners, presenters, and state agency representatives)

- There were no questions or comments from the CAB.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #1

The facilitator invited members of the public to provide comments.

Public Comments:

- *There were no public comments offered.*

X. ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF CAB'S ADOPTED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS USING THE STRATEGIES EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Jeff Blair provided the CAB with a brief summary of the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process that was reviewed in detail at the February 1, 2023 CAB meeting and answered members' questions.

Presentations are available on the project webpage: https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/.

Summary and Overview:

- The CAB will evaluate strategies using a Strategies Evaluation Worksheet consistent with the Consensus Building Procedures unanimously adopted October 30, 2019.
- During the meetings, CAB members will be asked to develop and rank strategies (options) using a 4-Point acceptability ranking scale. Once ranked for acceptability, strategies with a ≥ 3.0 average ranking (75%) will be considered preliminary consensus recommendations for inclusion in the package of recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (Plan)*.

The following scale will be utilized for the ranking exercises:

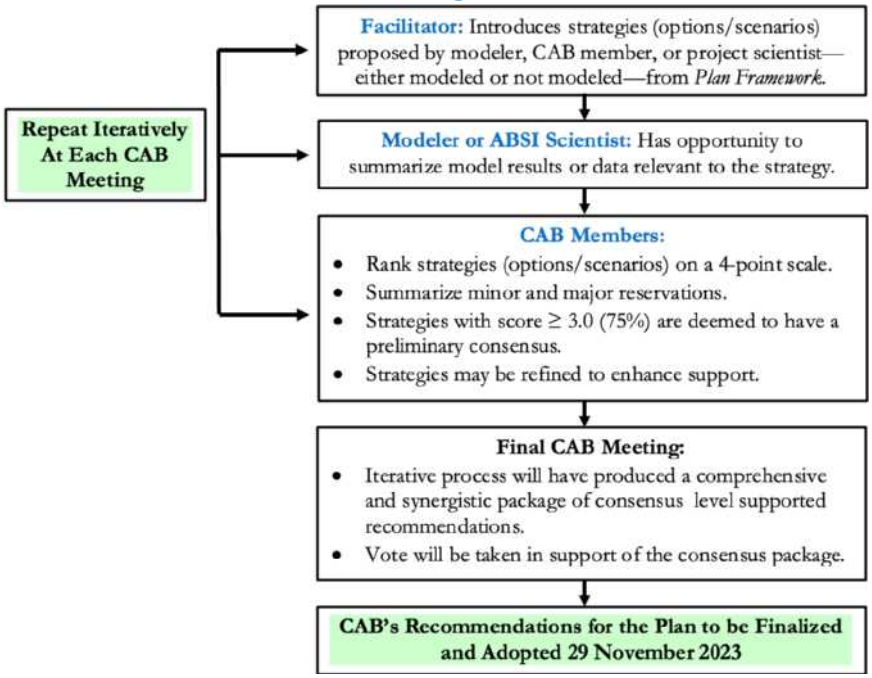
ACCEPTABILITY RANKING SCALE	*4 = Acceptable, I agree*	*3 = Acceptable, I agree with minor reservations*	*2 = Not Acceptable, I don't agree unless major reservations addressed*	*1 = Not Acceptable*

- CAB members should be prepared to state their minor and major reservations when asked, and to offer proposed refinements to the strategy to address their concerns. If a CAB member is not able to offer refinements to make the strategy acceptable (4) or acceptable with minor reservations (3) they should rate the strategy with a 1 (not acceptable).
- This is an iterative process (the issues/strategies agreed to at each meeting serve as the starting point for the next, and no recommendation is final until the last meeting), and at any point during the process any strategy may be reevaluated and re-ranked at the request of any CAB or ABSI Team member.
- The status of a ranked strategy will not be final until the final CAB meeting, when a vote will be taken on the entire package of consensus ranked recommendations for submittal to the FSUCML. The CAB will finalize their recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* at the 29 November 2023 meeting.

Criteria for Evaluation of Strategies

CRITERIA TO CONSIDER FOR PROPOSING AND EVALUATING STRATEGIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
CRITERIA	**EXPLANATION**
IMPORTANCE	Is this proposed strategy critically important to achieving the goals of the Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan?
TIMELY	Will things get worse if the proposed strategy is not implemented?
FEASIBLE/ PRACTICAL	Is it likely that the proposed strategy will be successful in achieving the relevant goals of the Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan?
RESOURCES	Are there resources available, or likely to become available for implementing the proposed strategy? Is implementation of the proposed strategy cost effective?
COMMITMENT	Is there commitment from the stakeholders and regulators regarding implementation of the proposed strategy?

Consensus Solutions Strategies Evaluation Process



Process Summary
The CAB conducted an acceptability ranking exercise ranking each of the strategies and actions from the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* Framework using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process.

Following are the Consensus Level Strategies as revised and ranked by the CAB, and the resultant Acceptability Ranking Results:

GOAL B STRATEGIES ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT
≥ 75 SUPPORT

GOAL B — SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OYSTER RESOURCES STRATEGIES

Strategies are currently numbered from highest to lowest acceptability ranking starting with #1 for each Goal area. The strategies will be appropriately sequenced and renumbered accordingly once the final package of strategies and actions are agreed to by the ABSI Community Action Board (CAB).

The CAB's ABS Restoration and Management Plan Report and Recommendations will provide a narrative on sequencing the strategies and actions. The ABSI Team led by Sandra will propose a draft for the CAB to review.

1. **Evaluate and recommend a suite of management approaches that in combination achieve the goal of maintaining a sustainable wild oyster fishery as measured in relation to relevant performance metrics for determining success.**
   - *Action 1-A):* Evaluate and develop standards for a potential limited-entry fishery that would be managed adaptively with the number of entrants in the fishery based on an adopted_sustainable harvest level. Evaluate the potential for establishing a limited-entry oyster fishery program and various management strategies through a transparent representative stakeholder driven consensus-building process that includes vetting the plan with local oystermen and FWC law enforcement.
   - *Action 1-B):* Implement a Bay-wide summer (June – August) wild-harvest fishery closure.
   - *Action 1-C):* Implement daily harvest limits in conjunction with a Monday – Friday five-day harvest week.
   - *Action 1-D):* Implement a recreational wild oyster harvest limit (e.g., one 5-gallon bucket of oysters), and allow recreational hand-harvesting during the same season the fishery is open to commercial harvest.

Ranking Results for Strategy 1 and Actions 1-A – 1-D.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	18	0	0	0

   - *Action 1-E):* Evaluate managing harvest areas to prevent the concentration of effort in specific locations by allowing all of the legal and approved (by FDACS) harvest areas of the Bay to be open during the harvest season and harvesting hours (Strategy 10-B and 10-C above).

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
3.72	13	5	0	0

- ***Action 1-F):*** Evaluate existing allowable and minimally destructive alternative gear type options and harvest methods, including the use of experimental gear for wild oyster harvesting.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

2. Recommend specific criteria and/or conditions, with related performance measures for the reopening and closing of Apalachicola Bay to limited wild oyster harvesting.

- *Action 2-A.):* Use the best available science and decision-support tools to develop criteria for opening and closing wild oyster harvest and for determining sustainable harvest before the harvest season and during the harvest season in conjunction with the annual stock assessments and frequent monitoring.
- *Action 2-B):* Work with FWC to ensure that definitions of oyster population health are based on metrics/criteria in addition to harvest metrics.
- *Action 2-C):* Evaluate and determine harvest-level or oyster population-based metrics used to manage oyster reef harvest at sustainable target levels and above threshold levels. Consider graduated metrics that serve as targets, indicators when harvest should be slowed or closed to set or during the scheduled harvest season. This should be applied by area or reef if data allows.
- *Action 2-D):* Conduct annual stock assessments using fisheries dependent and independent data, with data collection methods and site selection done in collaboration with oystermen, for determining a sustainable level of wild oyster harvest for each season.
- *Action 2-E):* Implement temporary wild harvest closures based on the results of frequent oyster population monitoring.

Ranking Results for Strategy 2 and Actions 2-A – 2-E.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

3. Conduct an oyster stock assessment for the Apalachicola Bay System with periodic updates.

Ranking Result for Strategy 3.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

4. Work with FWC Law Enforcement to develop enforcement strategies and appropriate penalties sufficient to deter harvest or sale of undersized oysters as well as violations that harm wild or leased oyster reefs and other natural resources, and that will support restoration efforts in the ABS.

- *Action 4-A):* Develop strategies to increase FWC enforcement presence and number of checkpoints to provide a deterrent to illegal activities.
  - Provide law enforcement presence during peak harvesting periods, and on the water during harvest season hours.
- *Action 4-B):* Develop strategies to ensure consistent practices are used for enforcement of regulations regarding the harvestable and marketable size of oysters. (See Actions *5-F* and *5-G*)

- *Action 4-C):* Revise statutes and/or rules as needed to require FWC to check harvested oysters for size-limit enforcement* before they are washed and processed. Once processed, enforcement of oyster size-limits should be limited to oysters under 2.75" because processing changes shell height.
  ** Sampling and other data collection activities shall not be impacted by this recommendation.*
- *Action 4-D):* Evaluate and enhance, as needed, the regulations and enforcement practices to ensure dealers accurately identify the source of oysters after processing and packaging.
- *Action 4-E):* Evaluate and revise, as needed, the statutory and/or regulatory requirements to ensure that FWC has authority to enforce oyster regulations at the dealers' location.
- *Action 4-F):* Work with FWC and FDACS to implement recommended enforcement changes.
- *Action 4-G):* Work with oystermen to evaluate current rules and regulations to ensure they are enforced consistently, fairly, and practically with an understanding of real-world on-the-water harvesting practices and constraints.
- *Action 4-H):* Evaluate and seek authority to implement a tiered system of penalties for willful violators (increased fines and license suspensions ranging from increased length of suspension to the permanent loss of license) to keep willful violators out of the industry.
- *Action 4-I):* Encourage community and industry support for consistent judicial imposition of penalties within the exiting penalties framework for oyster harvest violations, including imposing stricter penalties for habitual and willful violators.
- *Action 4-J*): Prior to the opening of each harvest season FWC should conduct a joint workshop between FWC law enforcement and the oystermen to review the current rules and regulations, identify any changes, discuss enforcement approaches relative to harvest practices and constraints on the water, and to provide mutual two-way education, and enhance communication and collaboration between FWC and oystermen.
- *Action 4-K):* Work together and with other stakeholders to seek funds to support the recommended increased law enforcement presence in the Bay.
- *Action 4-L):* Establish the 5% undersize oyster limit for both harvesters and dealers.

Ranking Results for Strategy 4 and Actions 4-A – 4-L.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

- *Action 4-M):* Clarify that it is an allowable practice for oystermen to weigh oyster bags while on the water to ensure the bags meet the weight limit regulations.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking of Actions 4-L and 4-M				
3.94	17	1	0	0

5. **Establish co-management advisory committees to provide advice and oversight to state managing agencies on oyster habitat and wild harvest. Evaluate the development of a policy that would require setting sustainable harvest goals and placing limitations on or a complete closure to harvesting in certain areas (e.g., important spawning reefs) based on the results of data (e.g., stock assessment, larvae transport modeling) collected and evaluated under a comprehensive monitoring program designed to sustainably manage the resource.**
   - *Action 5-A)*: Convene a co-management advisory committee comprised of state and federal agencies, and other appropriate experts, to assess and make recommendations on oyster habitat needs in conjunction with harvest management strategies.

- *Action 5-B):* Convene an Oyster Advisory Board within FWC to review and make recommendations on management and enforcement of the oyster fishery once wild oyster harvesting resumes in Apalachicola Bay.

Ranking Results for Strategy 5 and Actions 5-A – 5-B.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

6. **Recommend policies and actions that retain and recycle shell or other suitable material for habitat replenishment in the Apalachicola Bay System.**
   - *Action 6-A):* Develop agency rules and policies that require shell retention and/or obtain shell or other suitable material for habitat replenishment (through a fee or incentive program).
   - *Action 6-B):* Obtain legislative support for statutes that support or require shell recycling and oyster habitat replenishment. (e.g., Texas House Bill 51 (2017); North Carolina General Statute §130A-309.10 (2010); Maryland House Bill 184; Chapter 157, F.S. (McClellan 1881).
   - *Action 6-C):* Establish and/or expand partnerships with local organizations, stakeholder groups, industry, and universities in shell recycling programs.

Ranking Results for Strategy 6 and Actions 6-A- 6-C.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

7. **Use decision-support tools to evaluate and develop a system of potential closed areas (e.g., spawning reefs) that are well defined in terms of size, location, and longevity and include rotational and seasonal harvest areas, as well as long-term closed areas in strategic locations to provide habitat for year-round protection for brood stock and enhanced spawning opportunities.**
   - *Action 7-A):* Engage local stakeholders in determining total coverage (how much to protect), placement (where to protect), and size (how large) of all types of potential closed areas using gridded maps as well as distributions of selected fishery and ecologically important species.

Ranking Results for Strategy 7 and Action 7-A.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

8. **Use ecological quantitative modeling and other decision-support tools to evaluate strategies and actions, and define performance criteria for an oyster population that can sustain a pre-determined level of wild oyster harvest, with a stipulated number of harvesters (limited entry), and protocols to ensure sustainability.**
   - *Action 8-A):* Use model outputs to identify: the oyster population abundance that can support sustainable harvest; percentage of the total reef area that is sufficiently productive to support sustainable harvest; annual recruitment required to support sustainable harvest; and to determine the amount and frequency of habitat replacement to maintain productive oyster reefs.

Ranking Results for Strategy 8 and Action 8-A, and to be combined with existing Goal B Strategies.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				

4.0	14	0	0	0

9. **Work with FDACS and oyster aquaculture industry stakeholders to ensure that oyster aquaculture practices and locations in the Bay are compatible with the goals and strategies for restoration and management of the ecosystem and are compatible with wild fisheries and the important cultural role of a working waterfront and seafood industry**.
   - *Action 9-A):* Develop maps using FDACs data showing all proposed aquaculture activities in the ABS, superimposed on existing maps of essential fish habitat, fishing activities, seagrass beds, and natural existing hard bottom (reefs/bars) to identify potential conflicts.
   - *Action 9-B):* Evaluate and consider programs and policies that utilize farmed oysters for restoration on wild oyster reefs and to retain oysters and/or shells from aquaculture industry to be recycled on wild reefs.

Ranking Results for Strategy 9 and Actions 9-A – 9-B.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

10. **Assess the effectiveness of an oyster replenishment program for maintaining a sustainable wild oyster harvest in Apalachicola Bay. Specific areas would receive regular cultching and/or deployment of hatchery spat-on-shell and would be subject to the same fishery management regulations as non-supplemented areas.**

- *Action 10-A)* Conduct field study of survival of planted spat-on-shell to harvestable size and time required to attain market size.
- *Action 10-B)* Use fishery models to estimate the amount and frequency of cultch and/or spat-on-shell required to maintain the minimum threshold for sustainable harvest (i.e., 400 bags/acre).
- *Action 10-C)* Conduct cost-benefit analysis of deploying cultch and/or spat-on-shell in support of wild oyster harvest in Apalachicola Bay. This includes cost of cultch and spat-on-shell production, cost of deployment, survival of hatchery spat and value of harvest and associated industry.
- *Action 10-D)* Monitor the stability of oyster populations using the oyster replenishment program approach to wild fishery harvest, to determine whether deploying cultch or spat-on-shell helps reduce natural fluctuations in oyster populations.

Ranking Results for Strategy 10 and Actions 10-A – 10-D.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

GOAL C STRATEGIES ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT ≥ 75 SUPPORT

GOAL C — FULLY FUNDED PLAN STRATEGIES

1) **The CAB Successor Group will have an open and transparent process for the implementation of the Plan with many opportunities for stakeholder engagement and input in a variety of forms (e.g., workshops, online, public/ government meetings) for generating awareness and support**

while incorporating any changes the Successor Group deems appropriate and necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives.

- *Action 1-A):* The successor group actively engages with state programs to encourage their adoption of long-term monitoring guidelines and metrics for assessing water quality, oyster abundance, and demographics and to regularly review and update these guidelines and metrics to maintain a healthy and sustainable oyster harvest and ecosystem.
- *Action 1-B):* The successor group will monitor the Plan's implementation and make recommendations for revisions required to adaptively respond to changing conditions.
- *Action 1-C):* The successor group will encourage agencies to prioritize the Plan's recommendations for investing more funding in the management and restoration of oyster resources.
- *Action 1-D):* The successor group should evaluate whether to initiate the development of an Apalachicola Bay Estuary Program (ABEP) to coordinate and lead in the implementation and monitoring of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The successor group should explore whether it's a better model to be a part of EPA's National Estuary Program or to model the ABEP after the EPA program with funding provided from other entities as was done with the St. Andrew and St. Joe Bays Estuary Program.
- *Action 1-E):* The successor group facilitates bidirectional information flow between agencies implementing the restoration and management plans and the public, other government entities and NGOs.

Ranking Results for Strategy 1 and Actions 1-A – 1E.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

2) **Create a comprehensive funding approach for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan implementation including a comprehensive analysis for future grant funding for strategies, including support for sustainable monitoring deriving from the Plan.** *[Status: Initiated and Ongoing]*
   - *Action 2-A):* Evaluate and seek funding sources for implementation of management and restoration strategies included in the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (e.g., state agencies, region-wide Gulf trustee implementation group for NRDA funding.)
   - *Action 2-B.:* Evaluate and seek grant opportunities from recommendations included in the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan.
   - *Action 2-C):* Evaluate and seek funding for the engineering design, permitting and implementation of habitat restoration efforts based on oyster habitat suitability mapping and modeling and restoration and management targets in consultation with stakeholders.
   - *Action 2-D):* Evaluate and seek funding sources to generate awareness, education, and support for a healthy oyster and ABS ecosystem.
   - *Action 2-E):* Evaluate and seek long-term funding for a comprehensive monitoring program that is used across programs and projects with a dashboard on metrics and indicators to leverage resources, standardize the metrics and indicators measured, and to share data.
   - *Action 2-F):* Work across estuary programs to fund and leverage large scale monitoring for the Panhandle Region – Perdido to Suwanee.
   - *Action 2-G*): Develop and seek a funding source to provide cultch for habitat restoration.

Ranking Results for Strategy 2 and Actions 2-A – 2-G.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

GOAL D STRATEGIES ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT ≥ 75 SUPPORT

GOAL D — ENGAGED STAKEHOLDERS STRATEGIES

1) **Build, with the help of the Successor Group, community support and stewardship by educating stakeholders on the importance of maintaining healthy oyster reefs and by engaging them in the Bay restoration through a variety of hands-on programs.**
   - *Action 1-A):* The successor group shall continue to that can spearhead an outreach and community engagement effort and develop a community outreach strategy intended to inform and educate stakeholders and the public about the research, the Plan, and focusing on a healthy ABS ecosystem. The intended audience includes local city, county, and state government officials, businesses and organizations, citizens of every age, and other interested stakeholder groups.
   - *Action 1-B):* Work with local groups, businesses and other stakeholders to develop a successful shell recycling program.
   - *Action 1-C):* Develop a "Bay Stewards" program to honor, reward, and provide incentives for businesses and individuals that demonstrate their stewardship of the resource.

Ranking Results for Strategy 1 and Actions 1-A – 1-C.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

2) **Support and participate in providing educational opportunities for students at all levels (primary & secondary school through college) to understand the value of their coastal ecosystems, importance of stewardship and the role oysters play in ecosystem health and fisheries.**
   - *Action 2-A):* Work with existing entities (e.g., WeatherStem, Scientist in Every Florida School program of the Florida Museum) to expose more K-12 students to the research being conducted by ABSI.
   - *Action: 2-B):* Provide training and financial support for new workforce entrants in the Franklin County Community through an aquaculture internship program.
   - *Action 2-C):* Provide research opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students in science that supports the Plan's goals.

Ranking Results for Strategy 2 and Actions 2-A – 2-C.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

GOAL E STRATEGIES ACHIEVING A CONSENSUS LEVEL OF SUPPORT
≥ 75 SUPPORT

GOAL E — THRIVING ECONOMY CONNECTED TO THE BAY STRATEGIES

1) Engage commercial fishermen in the restoration of the bay and encourage future participation in restoration such as monitoring, shell recycling and shell relay.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

2) Recommend monitoring* and enforcement programs continue with appropriate metrics to measure output from and impact of harvest on oyster reefs.

**Ongoing fisheries-dependent and fisheries-independent monitoring by FWRI, coupled with ABSI complementary data based on request of watermen. Both entities are sharing data with one another which is critical for ABSI model development.*

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

3) Coordinate with the local business community and governing bodies (i.e., city and county commissions) to ensure that growth management plans, land use and development regulations meet strong standards that are compatible with and minimize the environmental impact of industry and business activities within the ABS and are conducive to a healthy ecosystem.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

4) Coordinate with and encourage recreational businesses and activities that recognize the importance of and support a sustainable commercial oyster fishery and the importance of the seafood industry to the Region's cultural heritage.

- *Action 4-A):* Coordinate and work with initiatives such as the Regional Recreation Economy Alliance to leverage resources to support the local economy.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

5) Work with existing partners (e.g., the Chamber of Commerce, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, and city and county staff) to monitor and report on the economic benefits of a restored Apalachicola Bay System (ABS), including key economic indicators relevant to the commercial oyster fishery and associated industries in the region. This can be displayed as a dashboard that includes key economic indicators over time based on restoration efforts in the Apalachicola Bay System.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

6) **Support planning tied to economic indicators that consider future conditions (climate, SLR, reduced river flow) and their effects on the ABS.**

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

7) **Review land development regulations to provide flexibility while supporting and enhancing efforts to maintain and revitalize working waterfronts in Apalachicola and Eastpoint to ensure preservation of Franklin County's cultural heritage and a viable seafood industry.**

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

8) **Work with oystermen and other community stakeholders to promote post-recovery Apalachicola oysters.**

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

9) **Develop complementary industries in wild oyster harvest and oyster aquaculture that provide new economic opportunities by building a network of experts that can help Franklin County citizens build successful programs through business training, identifying sources of funding for equipment, and developing products that will enhance and diversify local industries.**

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	14	0	0	0

10) **Develop new markets for selling oysters to areas within and outside of Florida in part by investing in location (Apalachicola Bay) branding.**

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	13	0	0	0

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES OUTSIDE ABSI SCOPE FOR REFERRAL TO OTHER ENTITIES

1) **Work with State legislators and state agencies to develop funding strategies, and incentives for involving local watermen, seafood dealers, restaurants, aquaculture operations, and private citizens in oyster reef restoration efforts that will increase the viability of oyster resources.**
   - *Action 1-A):* Identify source of shell, or other restoration material.

Ranking Results for Strategy 1 and Action 1-A.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				

4.0	13	0	0	0

2) Provide training and seek financial support for new workforce entrants (particularly young entrants) interested in being employed in existing industries as well as developing industries in new fisheries, aquaculture, and restoration science.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	13	0	0	0

3) Develop surveys or other tools that can be used to measure and track changes in stakeholder and public understanding of the issues important to the health and restoration of the Bay.

4) AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	13	0	0	0

5) Support existing entities in building Gulf-wide mechanisms for communities interested in the restoration and revitalization of oyster fisheries to exchange best practices and lessons learned.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	13	0	0	0

6) Engage the public (students, residents and tourists) in learning about the history and the ecological and economic importance of the Apalachicola Bay region, including the natural resources, and lumber, cotton shipping, and fishing industries.

AVERAGE	*4= Acceptable*	*3= Minor Reservations*	*2= Major Reservations*	*1= Not Acceptable*
May 31, 2023 Ranking				
4.0	13	0	0	0

Summary of Questions, Responses, and Comments:

- All of the substantive comments from CAB members for this Agenda item are reflected in the revisions made to the Strategies as reflected in the revised versions above.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #2

The facilitator invited members of the public to provide comments.

Public Comments:

- *There were no public comments offered.*

XII. NEXT MEETING OVERVIEW AND ISSUES

The August 9, 2023 meeting will focus on ABSI science and data collection updates, FWC NFWF Stage 2 restoration update, sub-committee reports, Organizational Framework for the CAB Successor Group discussion, and acceptability ranking of the ABSI CAB's Restoration and Management Plan Framework strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet.

NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS

- ABSI CAB Community Forum Workshop #2 at 6:00pm on August 9, 2023.
- Review of updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule.
- Science and data collection, and Restoration updates.
- Organizational Framework for the CAB Successor Group discussion.
- Subcommittees and Working Group updates.
- Review and Acceptability Ranking of Restoration and Management Plan Framework Strategies.
- Public Comment.

MEETING CHAT COMMENTS

Meeting participants were able to provide comments during the meeting through the on-line Chat function. The results are compiled and included as *Attachment 5* of this Summary Report.

(Attachment 5 — Meeting Zoom Chat Summary)

ADJOURNMENT

The Facilitator thanked CAB members, ABSI Project Team members, and the public for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

ATTACHMENT 1
KEY TO COMMON PROJECT ABBREVIATIONS

ABBREVIATION	DEFINITION
ABS	Apalachicola Bay System
ABSI	Apalachicola Bay System Initiative
ACFS	Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Stakeholders
ANERR	Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve
CAB	Community Advisory Board (ABSI)
County	Franklin County
DACS or FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
DEP or FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DOH or FDOH	Florida Department of Health
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FSU	Florida State University
FSUCML	Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NWFWMD	Northwest Florida Water Management District
Plan	Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan
RESTORE	Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast Act of 2012
RCSG	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition
RPC	Regional Planning Council
SAB	Science Advisory Board (ABSI)
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRIUMPH	Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.
UF	University of Florida
UWF	University of West Florida

ATTACHMENT 2
MEETING PARTICIPATION LIST

MEMBER	AFFILIATION
AGRICULTURE/ACF STAKEHOLDERS/RIPARIAN COUNTIES	
1. **Chad Taylor**	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
BUSINESS/REAL ESTATE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM	
2. ***Chuck Marks***	Business (Insurance Industry)
ENVIRONMENTAL/CITIZEN GROUPS	
3. **Georgia Ackerman**	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
4. **Chad Hanson**	The Pew Charitable Trusts
5. **Katie Konchar**	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
6. **Ottice Amison**	Franklin County Commissioner
7. **Anita Grove**	Apalachicola City Commissioner
RECREATIONAL FISHING	
8. **Frank Gidus**	CCA Florida
9. **Grayson Shepard**	Hang on Charters (Charter Fishing)
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	
10. **David Barber**	Barber's Seafood
11. **Shannon Hartsfield**	Seafood Management Assistance, Resource Recovery Team and Oysterman
12. **Gayle Johnson**	Apalachicola Oyster Company
13. Brett Lolley	Seafood Work and Watermen's Association/Oysterman/Commercial Fisherman
14. Steve Rash	Water Street Seafood
STATE GOVERNMENT	
15. **Jenna Harper**	ANERR/DEP
16. ***Becca Hatchell***	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
17. Alex Reed	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection *(Jenna Harper is representing DEP)*
18. **Devin Resko**	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management
19. **Portia Sapp**	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
20. ***Paul Thurman***	NWFWMD
UNIVERSITY/RESEARCHERS/SCIENTISTS	
21. ***Mike Allen***	Scientist: Director of UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS)
22. **Erik Lovestrand**	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant/Franklin County Extension
The names of CAB members attending the meeting are indicated in bold font.	
CAB members who participated virtually are indicated in red font and italicized.	
** Members whose designated alternates participated for them.*	

PROJECT TEAM AND CAB FACILITATOR	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
Madelein Mahood	Outreach and Education
Joel Trexler	FSUCML Director
FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator
The names of Project Team members participating in the meeting are indicated in bold font.	
**Team members who participated virtually are indicated in red font and italicized.*	

ALTERNATES FOR CAB MEMBERS	
Alternate	**CAB Member**
None	
The names of CAB member's alternates participating in the meeting are indicated in bold font.	

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC	
1. Cameron Baxley	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
2. Landry Driver	Florida House Representative Jason Shoaf's Office
3. Jared Fuqua	Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab
4. *Laura Geselbracht*	TNC, ABSI Science Advisory Board (SAB)
5. Betsy Mansfield	Florida State University Coastal and Marine Lab
6. Carlos Martinez	FDACS
7. Dusty May	BAYSAVERS
**The names of members of the public attending virtually are italicized.*	

ATTACHMENT 3
MAY 31, 2023 MEETING AGENDA

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OBJECTIVES
✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report) ✓ To Review Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule ✓ To Receive Science and Data Collection, and Restoration Updates ✓ To Receive Reports from RFWG, Community Outreach, and CAB Successor Group ✓ To Receive Public Comment Prior to Acceptability Ranking Strategies ✓ To Review and Acceptability Rank Restoration and Management Plan Framework Strategies ✓ To Receive Public Comment After Acceptability Ranking Strategies ✓ To Identify Next Steps: Information, Presentations, Assignments, Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA		
All Agenda Times — Including Public Comment and Adjournment — Are Approximate and Subject to Change		
1)	**8:30am**	**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**
2)	**8:35**	**SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY**
3)	**8:40**	**AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES**
4)	**8:45**	**APPROVAL OF FACILITATOR'S CAB SUMMARY REPORT (April 12, 2023)**
5)	**8:50**	**REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN**
6)	**9:00**	**SCIENCE AND DATA COLLECTION, AND RESTORATION UPDATES** • *ABSI Science and Data Collection Update.* Sandra Brooke, FSUCML (20) • *FWC (NFWF Phase 2) Restoration Project Update.* Devin Resko, FWC (10) • *Fresh Water Diversion from Apalachicola Bay and Lake Wimico into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay.* Dusty May, BAYSAVERS (10)
7)	**9:45**	**WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES** • *Successor Group Subcommittee Update.* Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield (5) • *Restoration Funding Working Group Update.* Joel Trexler (5) • *Community Outreach Subcommittee Update.* Chad Hanson (10)
8)	**10:05 AM**	**PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #1 — THREE MINUTES PER PERSON**
9)	**10:15**	**ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF CAB'S ADOPTED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK STRATEGIES USING THE STRATEGIES EVALUATION WORKSHEET**
~10:30am		***BREAK***
	10:45	**ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF STRATEGIES — CONTINUED**
~12:00pm		***LUNCH — ON CAMPUS***
	1:00	**ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF STRATEGIES — CONTINUED**
10)	**2:10pm**	**PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY #2 — THREE MINUTES PER PERSON**
11)	**~2:25**	**ACTION ITEMS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (August 9, 2023)** • Review of Action Items and Assignments from Meeting • Identify Agenda Items, Presentations, and Information Needs for Next Meeting • ABSI CAB Community Workshop Forum #2 (August 9, 2023) • Complete Meeting Evaluation
~2:30pm		***ADJOURN***

ATTACHMENT 4
WORKPLAN, SCHEDULE, AND PROJECT FLOWCHART AND MAP

UPDATED AS OF THE MAY 31, 2023 CAB MEETING

PHASE I (2019) — STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB

May 2019 – December 2019 (Assessment Process, Questionnaire, and 2 CAB Meetings) — ***Status Complete***

PHASE II (2020) — SCOPING OF ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES

Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2020 (7 CAB Meeting & 1 Oystermen's Workshop) — ***Status Complete***

PHASE III (2021) — BUILDING CONSENSUS ON CAB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

Adoption of Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV and V Evaluation

Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2021 (7 CAB Meeting & 2 Oystermen's Workshops) — ***Status Complete***

PHASE IV (2022) — EVALUATION OF DRAFT ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FRAMEWORK'S RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022 (6 CAB Meetings, 1 Oystermen's Workshops, and 1 Community Workshop) — ***Status Complete***

PHASE V (2023) — EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE *APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN*, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING

Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023 (6 CAB Meetings, 3 Community Workshops) — ***Status Initiated***

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB). The CAB initiated Phase V in January of 2023 and is currently evaluating the best combination of strategies predicted to achieve restoration and management objectives for the Bay using decision support tools, including predictive models coupled with available and emerging data, research, and stakeholder knowledge. The strategies are being evaluated with the overarching goal of restoring oyster reefs to a level that can sustainably provide needed ecosystem services for the System, and concurrently provide for a sustainable and economically viable level of commercial oyster harvesting.

During the course of the project the CAB will vet their recommendations with restoration and management agencies to gauge support and feasibility for implementation. The CAB will evaluate the priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identify conceptual and general in scope restoration and management approaches for inclusion in the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* (Plan).

Phase V focuses on the evaluation and finalization of recommendations for inclusion in the Plan, and restoration projects and funding planning. The CAB will vote to approve their package of consensus recommendations during their 29 November 2023 meeting. ***Status: Initiated and Ongoing***

1. **COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** The CAB working through the Community Outreach Subcommittee initiated a community feedback initiative by providing information and seeking community input on the Plan Framework. The CAB will vet the results of their prioritized strategies with the larger ABS community through multiple forums including questionnaires administered through a variety of methods including Facebook, online via the ABSI website, and direct mailings. In addition, community workshops will be conducted at appropriate times to provide the Community with information on ABSI and solicit community input. ***Status: Initiated and Ongoing***

2. **RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP (RFWG).** Initiated in late 2021 the Restoration Funding Working Group's role is to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB's priority recommendations. ***Status: Initiated and Ongoing***

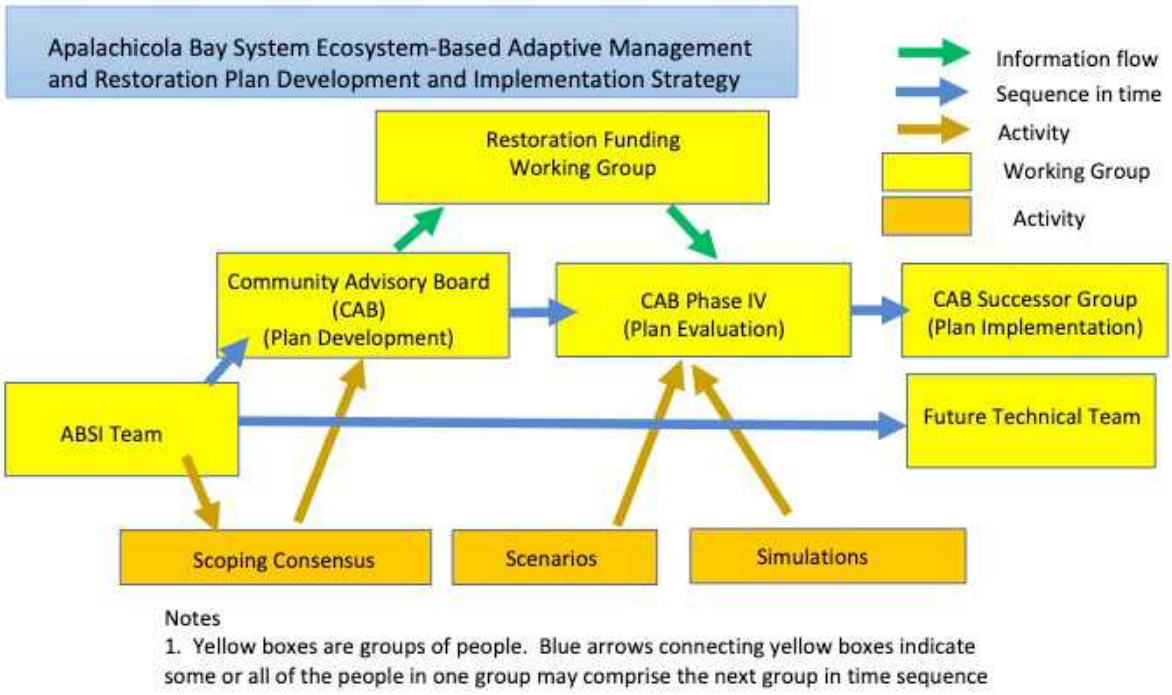
3. **CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP.** The CAB Successor Group will be ready to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group's role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term, once the CAB process is complete and to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. The CAB Successor Group process will formally initiate January 2024. ***Status: Ongoing Organizational and Planning Meetings. Formal Convening Pending CAB Approval of Recommendations for Plan at the November 29, 2023 meeting.***

ABSI CAB PHASE V MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN — 2023

Meeting #1 ANERR 8:30am	**Feb. 1, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Fisheries Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements • Review of Plan Framework Strategies • Public Comment	Initiation of Phase V of ABSI. ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Review of the *Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework* and Strategies Evaluation Worksheet process. Summary and discussion of Fisheries Model simulation results for revised priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) scenarios. Agreement on next suite of scenarios for model simulations. Public comment.
Meeting #2 ANERR 8:30am	**April 12, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies • Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of and revisions to the *Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework* strategies and actions using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #1	**April 12, 2023** ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.
Meeting #3 ANERR 8:30am	**May 31, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies • Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Acceptability ranking of and revisions to the *Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework* strategies and actions using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.
Meeting #4 ANERR 8:30am	**August 9 ~~July 26~~, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies • Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of and revisions to the *Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework* strategies and actions using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.

Community Workshop Forum #2	**August 9 ~~July 26~~, 2023** ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.
Meeting #5 ANERR 8:30am	**Sept. 27, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies • Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Acceptability ranking of and revisions to the *Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework* strategies and actions using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #3	**October 24, 2023** ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on the CAB's recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*.
Meeting #6 ANERR 8:30am	**Nov. 29, 2023** • Reports and Updates • Final Plan Revisions • Public Comment • **Adopt Final CAB Recommendations for ABS Plan**	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum input. Finalize and adopt recommendations for strategies and actions for inclusion in the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* (Plan) and submit to FSUCML. Public comment.

ABSI CAB Process Flowchart and Project Area Map



Notes
1. Yellow boxes are groups of people. Blue arrows connecting yellow boxes indicate some or all of the people in one group may comprise the next group in time sequence

ABSI Project Area Map

ATTACHMENT 5
MEETING CHAT SUMMARY (ZOOM)

MEETING CHAT – MAY 31, 2023

- 09:28:10 **Becca Hatchell (FWC):** Diver Surveys.
- 10:02:31 **Maddie Mahood:** Great! See ya'll at 10:15 ☺.
- 11:48:47 **Becca Hatchell (FWC)**: I have to hop off. Have a great day everyone!
- 12:47:53 **Georgia Ackerman:** It sounds like we need more discussion on this. 2.
- 12:51:32 **Georgia Ackerman:** Apologies zoom group if I was eating lunch with my camera on. ☺
- 12:52:15 **Maddie Mahood:** Haha you are all good Georgia – didn't even notice! ☺

ATTACHMENT 6
MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS (ZOOM POLL AND WRITTEN POLL RESULTS)

CAB Members used a 5-point polling scale where a 1 meant "Strongly Disagree" and a 5 meant "Strongly Agree." The evaluation summary reflects average rating scores and comments from respondents participating in person and virtually.

There were 12 hard copy end of meeting survey questions (Evaluations) completed, and 0 completed virtually.

1.) The meeting objectives were clearly communicated at the beginning

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.8	10	2	0	0	0

2.) The meeting objectives were met.

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.6	7	5	0	0	0

3.) The presentations were effective and informative.

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.6	7	5	0	0	0

4.) The facilitation of the meeting was effective for achieving the stated objectives

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.8	9	3	0	0	0

5.) Follow-up actions were clearly summarized at the end of the meeting

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.6	7	5	0	0	0

6.) The facilitator accurately documented CAB Member input

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.8	10	2	0	0	0

7.) The meeting was the appropriate length of time.

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
3.9	3	7	0	2	0

8.) CAB Members had the opportunity to participate and be heard.

Average out of 5	*5. Strongly Agree*	*4. Agree*	*3. Neutral*	*2. Disagree*	*1. Strongly Disagree*
4.8	9	3	0	0	0

Open Ended Survey Questions – In Person Participants

- The meetings are long given our fulltime jobs (Regarding Evaluation Question #7).
- Prefer one-half day meetings more often (Regarding Evaluation Question #7).

Open Ended Survey Questions – Virtual Responses

- Not applicable.

ATTACHMENT 7
GLOSSARY OF MODELING TERMS

Assumptions – A description of the world that is accepted as true and is based on common knowledge or theory but not on proof.

Baseline – Model output that is used as a starting point for comparison with other sets of model output.

Calibration – Process of adjusting model inputs or parameters to obtain optimal agreement between model output and observations (data).

Circulation/Hydrodynamic Model – A mathematical tool that calculates water currents and water properties (like salinity and temperature).

Data Gap – The lack of data or information necessary for a given scientific study.

Data Set – A collection of observations or measurements.

Deviation – The difference between a data point and a model prediction.

Fishery-Dependent Data – Data collected directly on a fish or fishery from commercial or sport fishermen and seafood dealers.

Fishery-Independent Data – Characteristic of information (e.g. stock abundance, index) or an activity (e.g. research vessel survey) obtained or undertaken independently of the activity of the fishing sector.

Hypothesis – An idea that can be tested.

Larval Transport – The movement of oyster larvae in the water.

Model – A series of mathematical equations that describes, with great simplification, how a part of the world works.

Model Output/Model Result – A solution or a set of solutions obtained from a model simulation.

Performance Measure/Metric – A number used to indicate the effectiveness of an option for achieving a desired outcome.

Population Dynamics – The growth, death, and reproduction of individuals over time that leads to increase, decrease, persistence or extinction of a population.

Simulations – Repeated runs of a model using different inputs (e.g., different options).

Uncertainty – A way to represent how likely model predictions are given the inherent variability in the environment and the difference between model output and observations.

Validation – Comparison of model output with a set of independent data to determine the degree of confidence in model results.

Water Quality – Describes the physical, chemical, biological, and aesthetic characteristics of water and is a measure used to determine the suitability of water for a specific purpose (e.g., drinking, fishing, swimming, etc.).

ATTACHMENT 8
GLOSSARY OF ABSI PROJECT TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM: Consists of six bays: Apalachicola Bay, East Bay, St Vincent Sound, East and West St George Sound, and Alligator Harbor comprising a total of 155,374 acres (62,879 Ha). Confined to Franklin County and ending to the north at river mile zero (0). Important considerations include riverine and offshore inputs to the ABS as well as the reciprocal influences of outputs from the ABS to the Gulf of Mexico.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM, HEALTHY:
A healthy ecosystem is one in which material and energy flows are balanced through interacting biological, physical, and chemical processes (involving microorganisms, plants, animals, sunlight, air, water) that conserve diversity, support fully functional evolutionary and ecological processes, and sustain a range of ecological and ecosystem services.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: The direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing. These services include **provisioning services** (food, raw materials, fresh water, medicinal resources), **regulating services** (climate, air quality, carbon sequestration & storage, moderation of extreme events, waste water treatment, erosion prevention & maintenance of soil fertility), **habitat or supporting services** (habitat for all species, maintenance of genetic diversity), and **cultural services** (recreation for mental & physical health; tourism; aesthetic appreciation and inspiration for culture, art & design; spiritual experience & sense of place).

ESTUARINE METRICS: These are variables that can be measured and used to assess the benefits or impacts of the different upstream management and climate scenarios that influence freshwater flow into the ABS.

GOAL: A goal is a statement of the project's purpose to move towards the vision expressed in fairly broad language.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The Community Advisory Board's Guiding Principles reflect the broad values and philosophy that guides the operation of the Community Advisory Board and the behavior of its members throughout its process and in all circumstances regardless of changes in its goals, strategies or membership.

OBJECTIVE: Objectives describe in concrete terms how to accomplish the goal to achieve the vision within a specific timeframe and with available resources. *(E.g., by 2023, the State of Florida will have approved a stakeholder developed Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan for the Apalachicola Bay System.")*

OUTCOME: Outcomes describe the expected result at the end of the project period – what is hoped to be achieved when the goal is accomplished. (*E.g., an ecologically, and economically viable, healthy and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System oyster fishery and ecosystem*)

OYSTER RESOURCES: Sources of oysters that provide natural and cultural benefits to humans. These sources can come from the wild or from aquaculture (see ecosystem services). The responsible management of oyster resources for present-day needs and future generations requires integrated approaches that are place-based, embrace systems thinking, and incorporate the social, economic, and environmental considerations of sustainability.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The regular measurement of outcomes and results, which generates reliable data on the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of programs and plans.

RESTORATION: The process of establishing or re-establishing a habitat that in time can come to closely resemble a natural condition in terms of structure and function.

STAKEHOLDERS: All interest groups whether public, private or non-governmental organizations who have an interest or concern in the success of a project and can affect or be affected by the outcome of any decision or activity of the project**.** For purposes of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative, stakeholders include but are not limited to agriculture, silviculture, business, real estate, economic development, tourism, environmental, citizen groups, recreational fishing, commercial seafood industry, regional groups (i.e., ACF Stakeholders, and Riparian Counties), local government, state government, federal government, universities, and research interests.

STRATEGY: A method, action, plan of action, or policy that can be tested to determine whether it solves a problem and helps to achieve objectives and goals in the context of bringing about a desired future for the Apalachicola Bay System.

VISION: An idealized view of where or what the stakeholders would like the oyster resource and ecosystem to be in the future.

VISION THEMES: The related key topical issue area strategies that characterize the desirable future for the oyster resource and ecosystem. The Vision Themes establish a framework for goals and objectives. They are not ordered by priority.

ATTACHMENT 9
PRIORITY OF RESTORATION (GOAL A) AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (GOAL B) A COMPONENT OF THE ABSI PLAN FRAMEWORK — ADOPTED 16 NOVEMBER 2021

PRIORITY OF STRATEGIES BY GOAL AREA

ALL STRATEGIES WITHIN EACH PRIORITY LEVEL (1 – 3) ARE OF EQUAL PRIORITY AND WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BASED ON A LOGICAL SEQUENCING

Priority 1 Strategies (Prioritization ranking from 10 to 8) = Important To Do Now

GOAL A (RESTORATION)	GOAL B (MANAGEMENT)
1.) Restore and create reef structures suitable for sustained oyster settlement that enhance ecosystem services in designated restoration areas. (#1 – 9.6) *(#1 overall rank for Goal A – 9.6 mean/average)*	1.) Evaluate a suite of management approaches that in combination achieve the goal of maintaining a sustainable wild oyster fishery as measured in relation to relevant performance metrics for determining success. (#1 – 9.3) *(#1 overall rank for Goal B – 9.3 mean/average)*
2.) Use experimental evidence and habitat suitability analyses to determine the most suitable substrate (e.g., limestone, granite, spat-on-shell, artificial structures) for restoring, enhancing, and/or developing new reef structures that will increase productivity in the Apalachicola Bay oyster ecosystem. (#2 - 8.7)	2.) Recommend specific criteria and/or conditions, with related performance measures for the reopening of Apalachicola Bay to limited wild oyster harvesting. (#2 – 9.0)
3.) Determine area (acres or km^2) of oyster reefs that currently support live oysters as well as the area needed to ensure sufficient spat production that will support sustainability of oyster reefs and sustainability of a wild oyster fishery throughout the ABS. (#3 - 8.6)	3.) Conduct an oyster stock assessment for the ABS with periodic updates. (#3 – 8.8)
4.)^ Develop criteria for restoring specific reefs or reef systems damaged by environmental conditions or natural disasters. (#4 – 8.2)	4.) Manage the commercial oyster industry and recreational oyster fishing to provide for sustainable spat production and the recovery of oyster populations. (#4 – 8.75)
5.)^ Identify monitoring needs for assessing the health of oyster populations (including disease), and detecting changes in environmental conditions and habitat quality (for oysters and other reef-associated species) over time. (#4 – 8.2)	5.) Work with FWC Law Enforcement to develop enforcement strategies and appropriate penalties sufficient to deter harvest or sale of undersized oysters as well as violations that harm wild or leased oyster reefs and other natural resources, and that will support restoration efforts in the ABS. (#5 – 8.6)
^*Priority #4 and #5 above received the same ranking.*	6.) Evaluate the development of a policy that would require setting sustainable harvest goals and placing limitations on or a complete closure to harvesting based on the results of data (e.g., stock assessment) collected and evaluated under a comprehensive monitoring program designed to sustainably manage the resource. (#6 – 8.5)
	7.) Restore and create reef structures suitable in size, location, and substrate type for healthy and sustainable oyster settlement and production, and harvesting. (#7 – 8.3)

Priority 2 Strategies (Prioritization ranking from 7 to 5) = Important But Less Time Sensitive

GOAL A	GOAL B
6.) Develop ecosystem models that forecast future environmental conditions and oyster population status. (#6 – 7.2)	8.) Recommend policies and actions that retain and recycle shell for habitat replenishment in the ABS. (#8 – 7.7)

7.) Assess existing ecosystem services metrics used for other oyster studies and develop a list of ABSI specific metrics to assess change over time. (#7 – 6.7)	9.) Use decision-support tools to develop a system of potential closed areas that are well defined in terms of size, location, and longevity and include rotational and seasonal harvest areas, as well as long-term closed areas in strategic locations to provide habitat for year-round protection for brood stock and enhanced spawning opportunities. (#9 – 7.6)
	10.) Use ecological quantitative modeling and other decision support tools to evaluate strategies and actions, and define performance criteria for an oyster population that can sustain a pre-determined level of wild oyster harvest, with a stipulated number of harvesters (limited entry), and protocols to ensure sustainability. (#10 – 7.5)
	11.) Work with FDACS to ensure that oyster aquaculture practices and locations in the Bay are compatible with the goals and strategies for restoration and management of the ecosystem and are compatible with a wild fisheries and the important cultural role of a working waterfront and seafood industry. (#11 – 6.8)
	12.) Investigate oyster shell and oyster relay programs to move both cultch and live oysters to more favorable habitat (relay programs are recommended to only be used for restoration experiments). (#12 – 5.9)
	13)* Assess the effectiveness of an oyster repletion program for maintaining a sustainable wild oyster harvest in Apalachicola Bay. Specific areas would receive regular cultching and/or deployment of hatchery spat-on-shell and would be subject to the same fishery management regulations as non-supplemented areas. * *This Strategy was not ranked.*
Priority 3 Strategies (Prioritization ranking from 4 to 1) = As Time and Resources Allow	
GOAL A	**GOAL B**
8.) Seagrass and other SAV, and wetland and riparian habitat should be restored concurrently on appropriate substrate/bottom to work synergistically with oyster habitat restoration to enhance restoration of the ABS. (#8 – 4.73)	
Strategies Approved for Evaluation But Not Ranked	
GOAL A	**GOAL B**
	Assess the effectiveness of a shell repletion program (put-and-take) fishery for maintaining a sustainable wild oyster harvest in Apalachicola Bay. Specific areas would receive regular cultching and/or deployment of hatchery spat-on-shell and would be subject to the same fishery management regulations as non-supplemented areas.