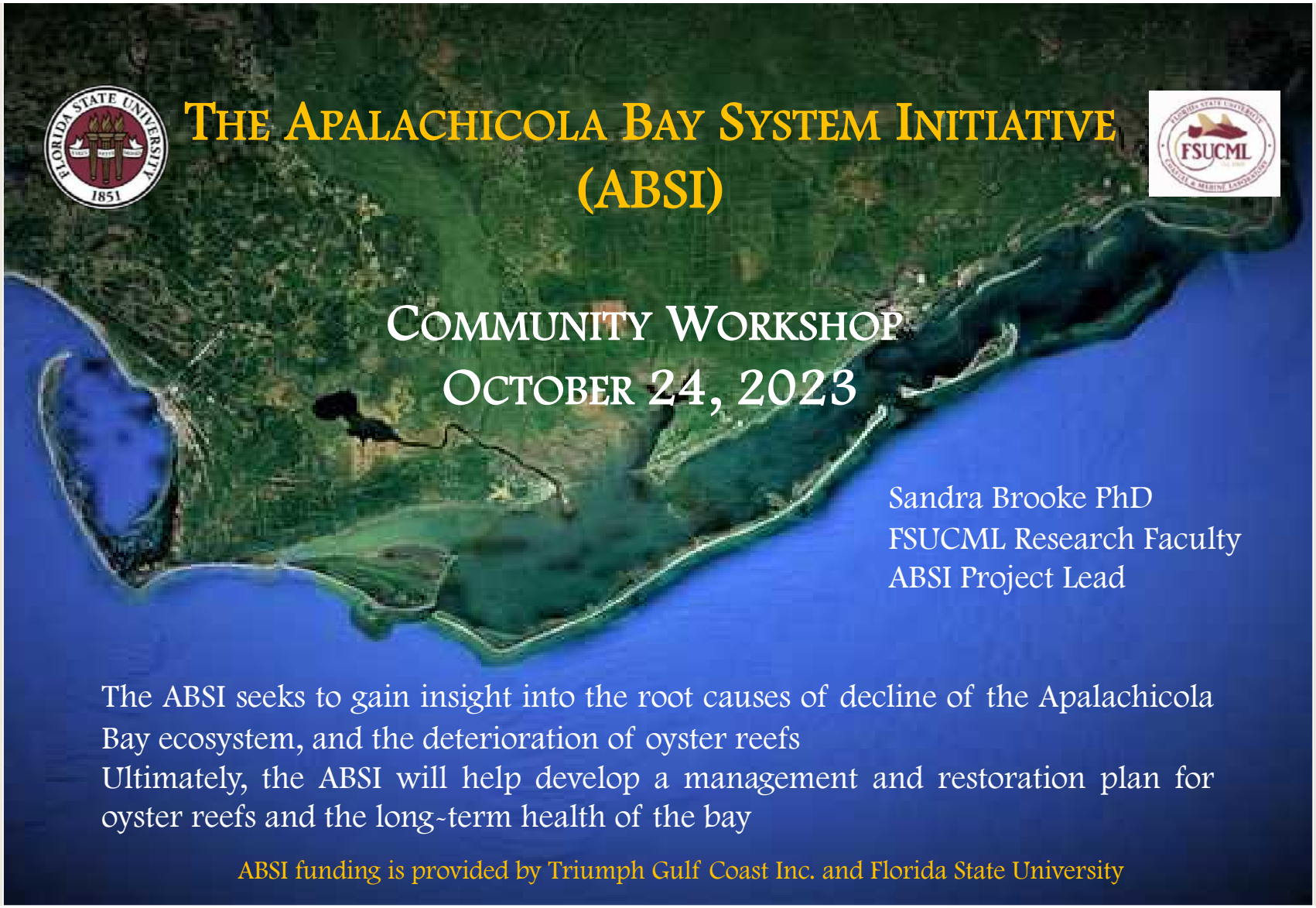


The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI)

Community Workshop
October 24, 2023

Sandra Brooke PhD
FSUCML Research Faculty
ABSI Project Lead

The ABSI seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Apalachicola Bay ecosystem, and the deterioration of oyster reefs

Ultimately, the ABSI will help develop a management and restoration plan for oyster reefs and the long-term health of the bay

ABSI funding is provided by Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. and Florida State University

How are the oysters doing in the Bay?

In 2021-2022 three of 55 sites reached the 300 bags/acre threshold

FWC monitoring 2022

	2022 (Number of Bags Per Acre)				
Parcel Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	May	Sep
Bulkhead			0		0
North		29		14	
South		14		34	
Cabbage Top			58		29
Cat Point			0		0
Restoration	10			5	
Shallow	0			0	
Dry Bar North			0		0
East Lumps			0		0
Restoration	0			0	
Easthole #7			0		0
Green Point			5		48
6		14		96	
Halfmoon			5		0
East		0		0	
Hotel			0		0
West		0		0	
Lighthouse			5		0
Restoration		0		5	
8		0		0	
Normans			0		0
Paradise Flats			10		38
Platform			0		0
Porters			0		0

FLDEP RESTORE project Sampling 12/2020-6/2021

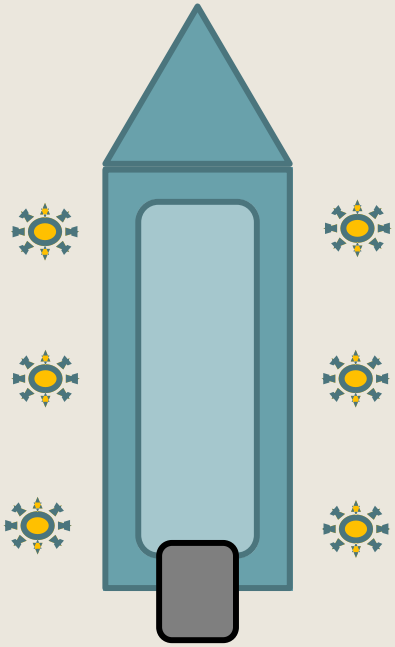
Site	Round 3
8-Mile	175.07
9-Mile B	4.80
Cabbage Top	33.58
Cat Point	97.53
Cat Point Spur	441.27
East Hole #1	31.18
East Hole #2	2.40
Hotel Bar #1	4.80
Hotel Bar #2	28.78
King 9-Mile	81.54
Monkey's Elbow	285.39
North Spur #2	0.00
Peanut Ridge	402.90
South Bulkhead	652.32

FLDEP NRDA project Sampling 7-12/2021

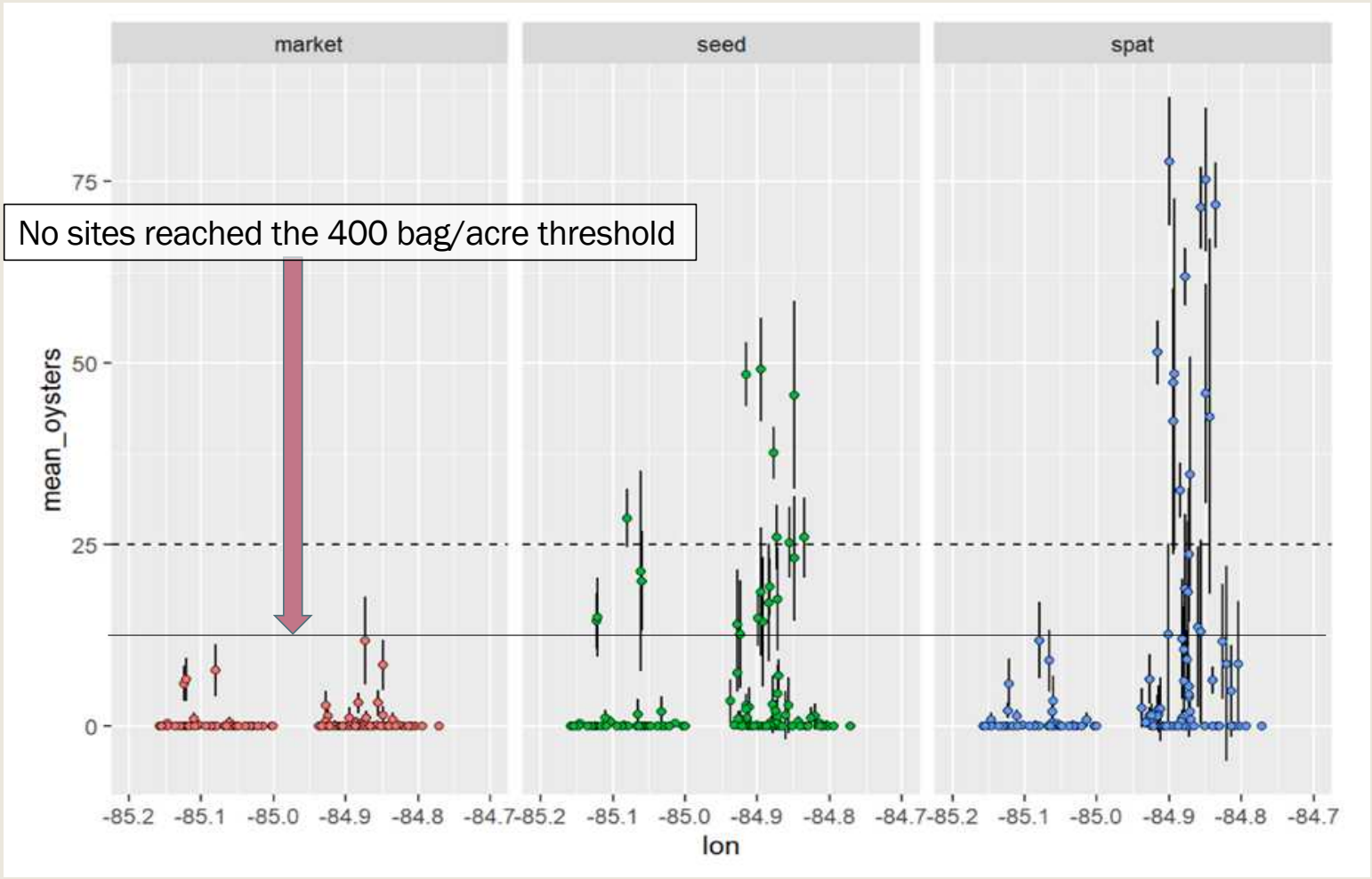
Site	Bags/acre
Bayou Flats	23.98
Cabbage Lumps	14.39
Cabbage Top	0
Cat Point	4.8
Dry Bar	0
Eleven Mile North	4.8
Eleven Mile South	19.19
Green Point	0
Hotel Bar	0
Lighthouse	16.79
Little Gully	0
Norman's Bar Middle	9.59
Norman's Bar North	21.58
North Spur	0
Redfish Creek 1	4.8
Redfish Creek 2	4.8

Reef surveys using tongs

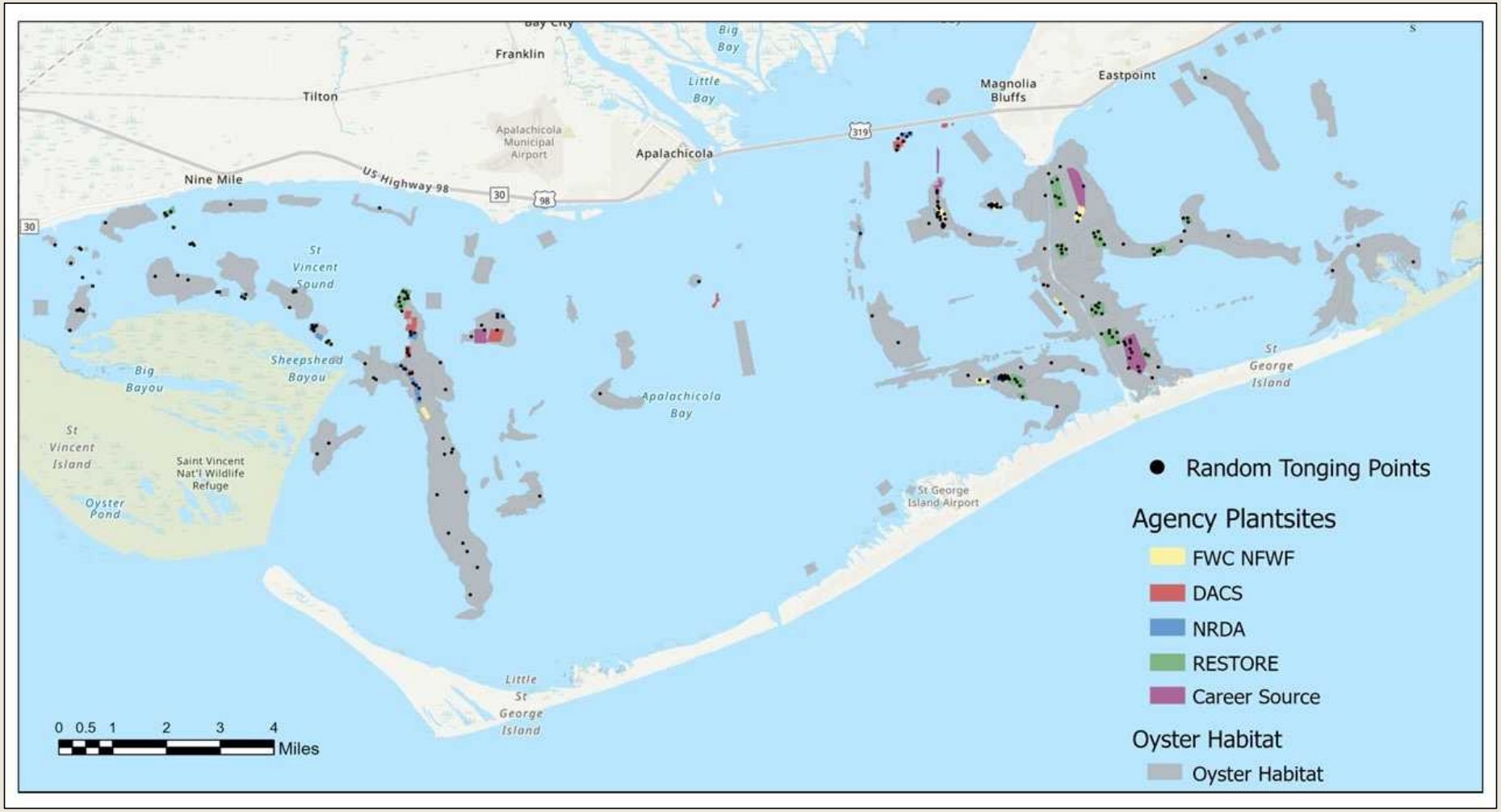
6 samples per site
Volume: Rock, dead shell, live oysters
Counted: spat, adults, market, boxes
Measured: live oysters (<25, 25-76, >76)



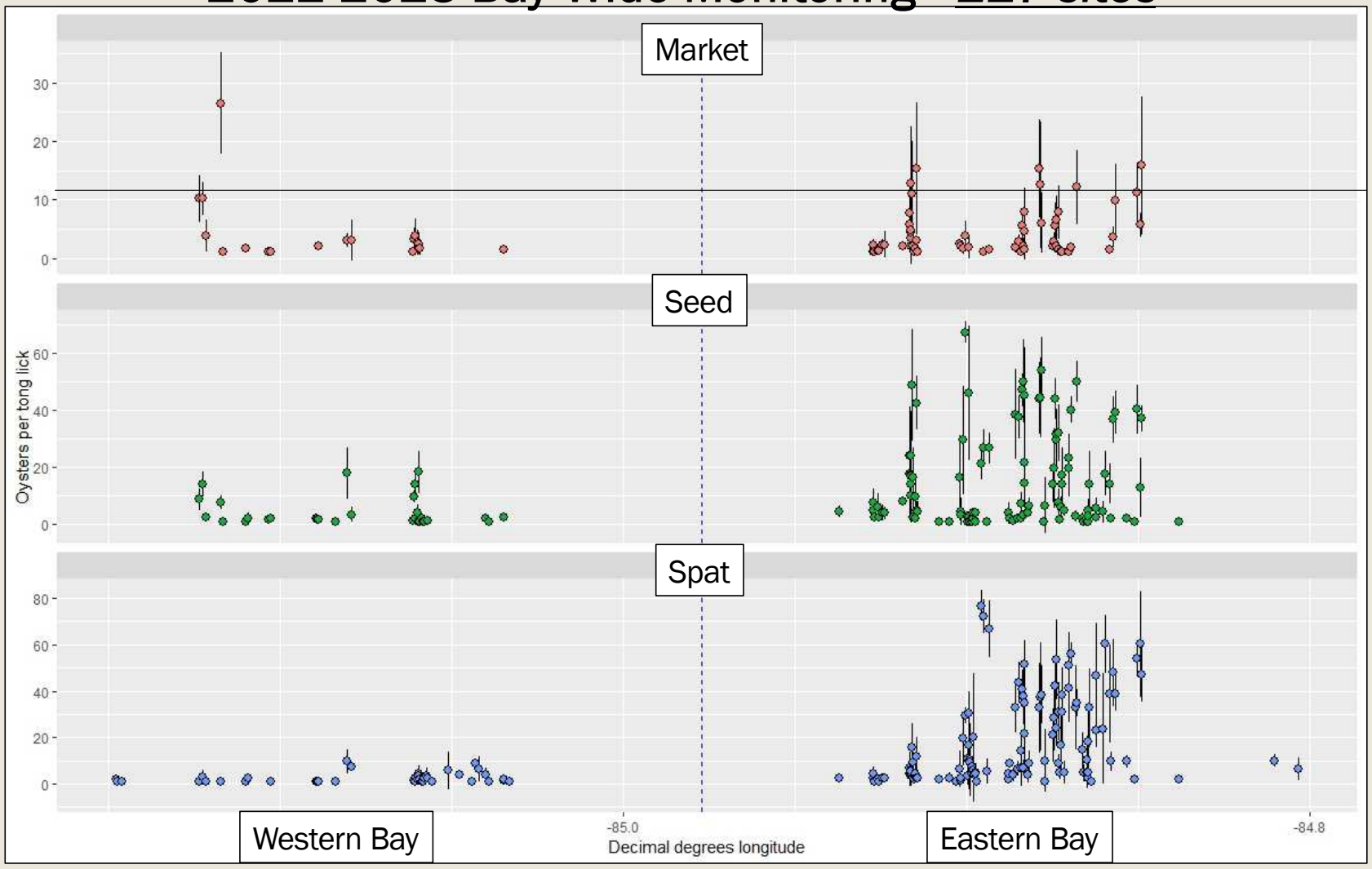
ABSI 2021-22 survey data

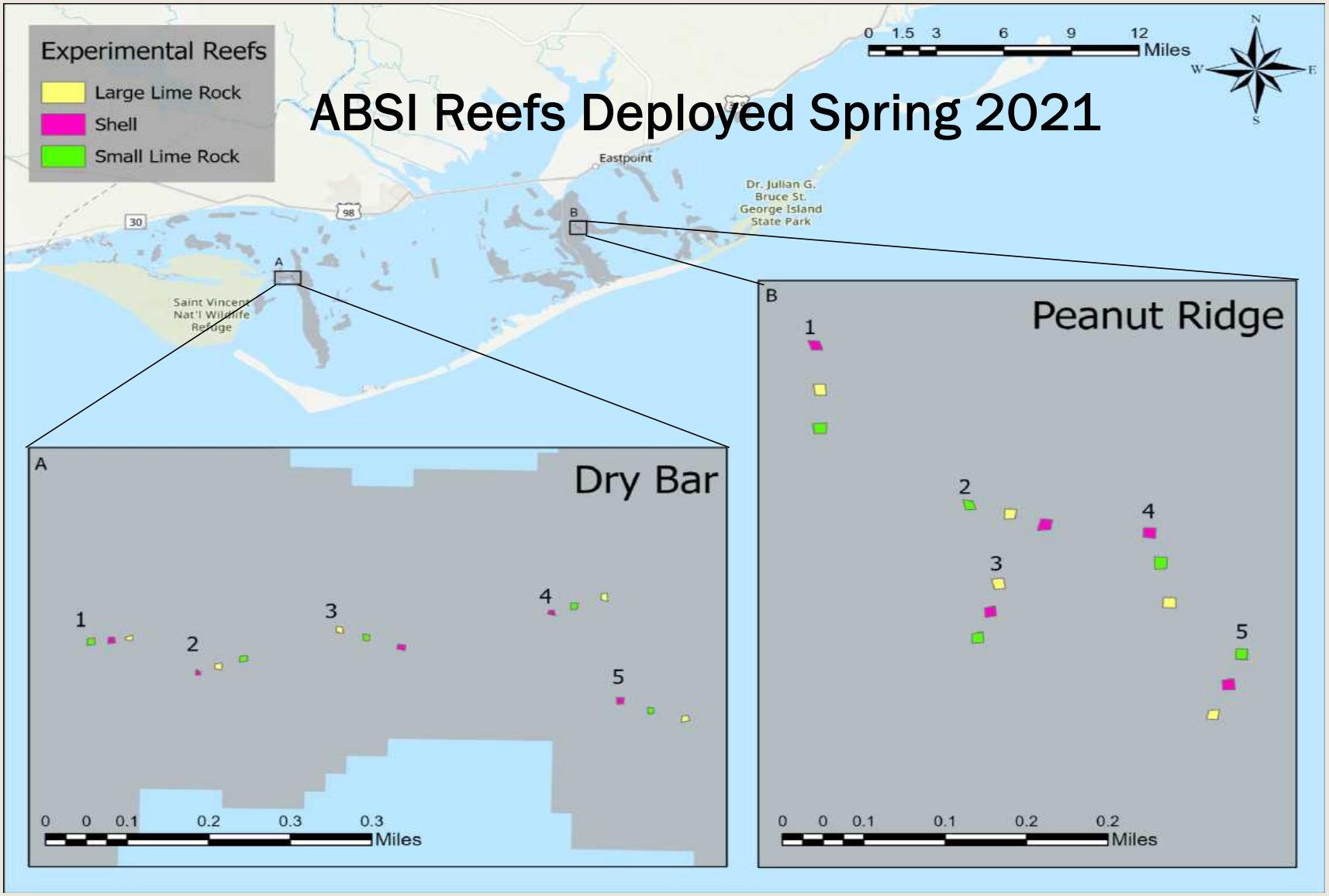


2022-2023 Bay-Wide Monitoring– *227 sites*

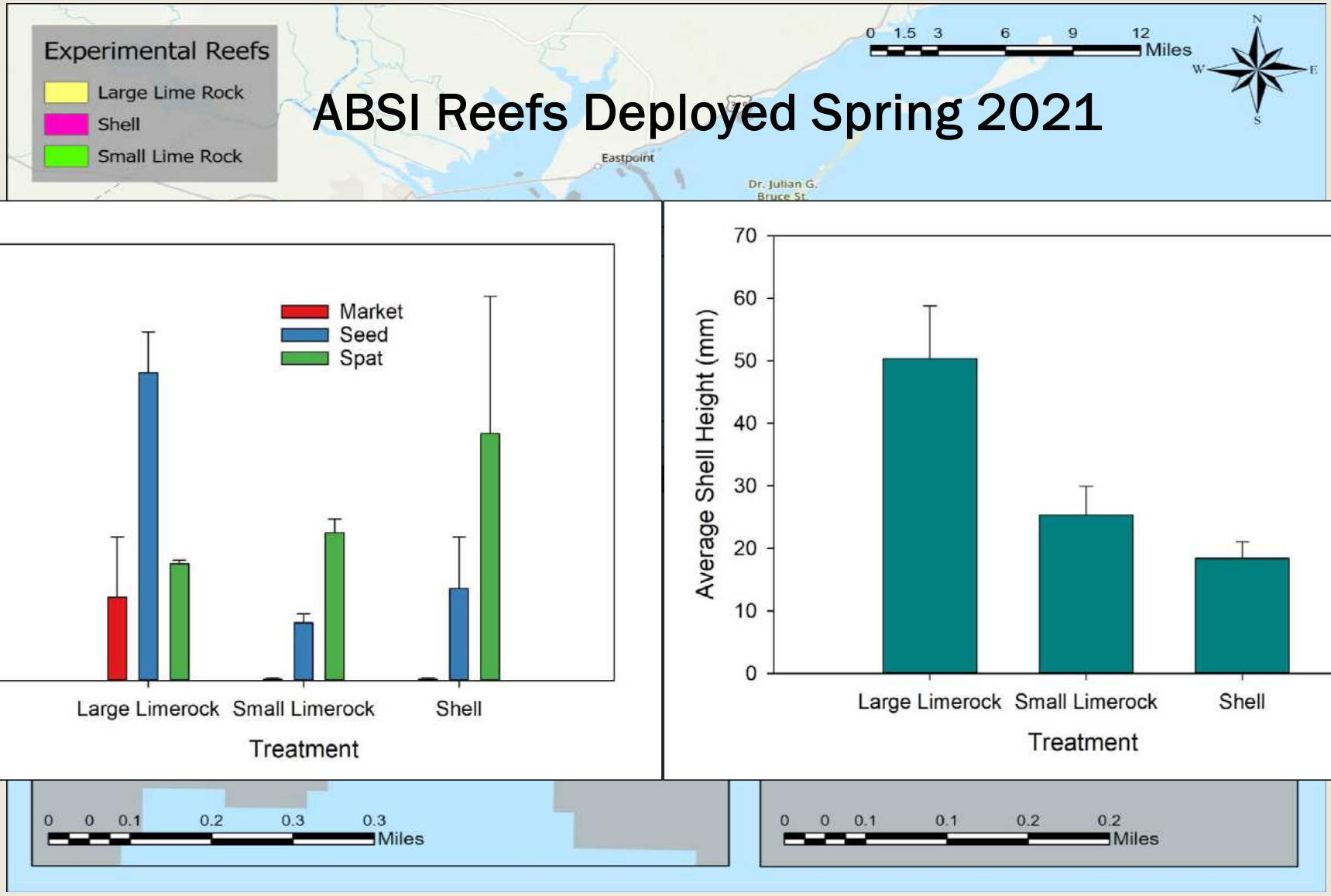


2022-2023 Bay-Wide Monitoring– *227 sites*

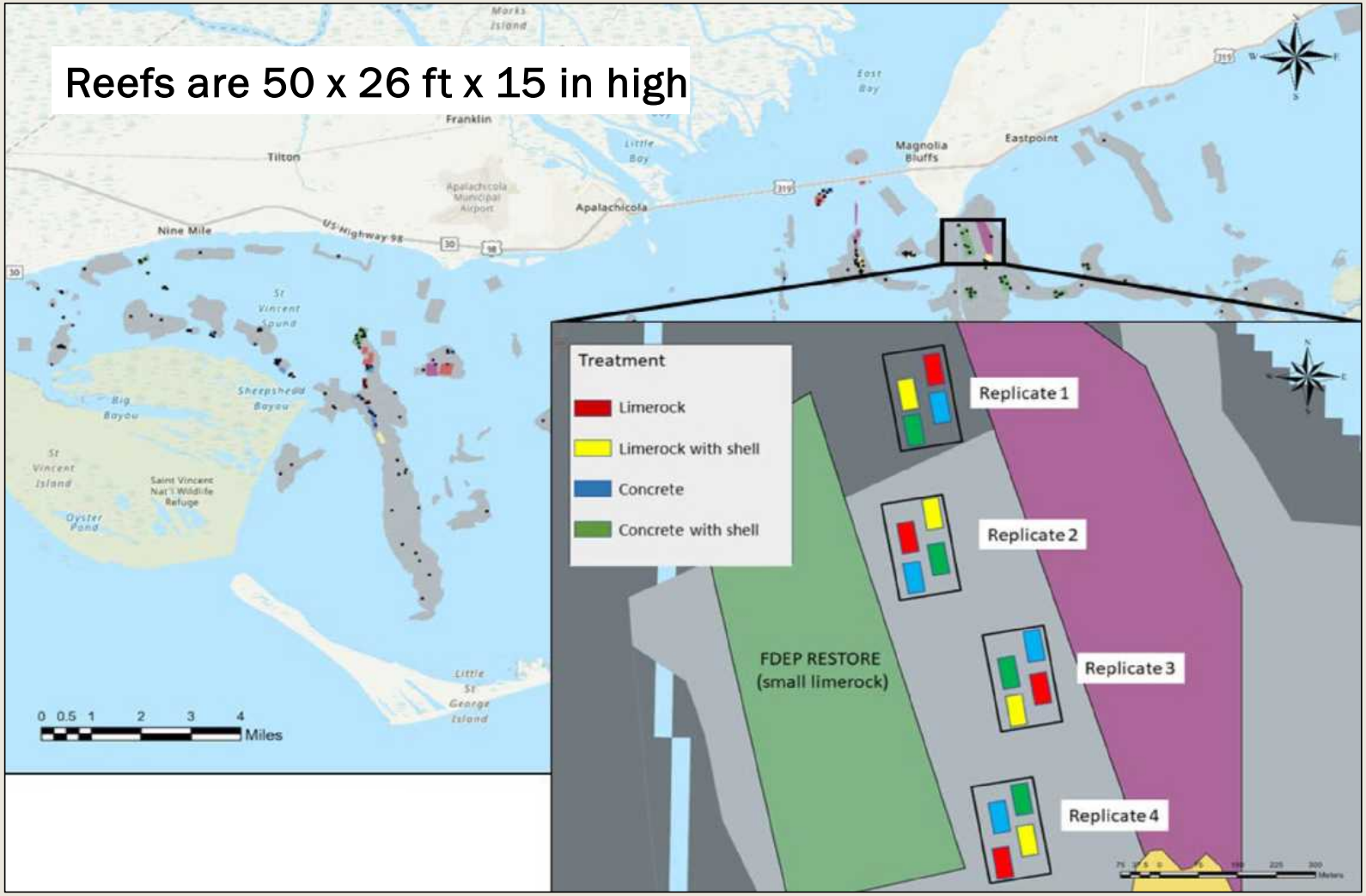



ABSI Reefs Deployed Spring 2021
Experimental Reefs
Large Lime Rock
Shell
Small Lime Rock
0 1.5 3 6 9 12
Miles
N
W
E
S
Eastpoint
Dr. Julian G. Bruce St. George Island State Park
Saint Vincent Nat'l Wildlife Refuge
30
98
A
B
Dry Bar
1
2
3
4
5
0 0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.3
Miles
Peanut Ridge
1
2
3
4
5
0 0 0.1 0.1 0.2 0.2
Miles

ABSI Reefs Deployed Spring 2021



Spring 2023 Restoration Experiment



Spring 2023 Restoration Experiment

Large Limerock treatment October 2023


Questions?
For additional information:
ABSI website: https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/
ABSI email: fsucml-absi@fsu.edu