

# APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #3 — OCTOBER 24, 2023

## FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT

*APPROVED NOVEMBER 29, 2023*

APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE  
EASTPOINT, FLORIDA



MEETINGS FACILITATED AND SUMMARIZED BY JEFF A. BLAIR

**APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD  
 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #3 — OCTOBER 24, 2023  
 FACILITATOR’S WORKSHOP SUMMARY REPORT**

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APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD  
OCTOBER 24, 2023 COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FACILITATOR'S SUMMARY REPORT



## OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2023**

### I. WORKSHOP SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

At the October 24, 2023 Community Workshop Forum the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB) conducted the third of three Community Workshop Forums planned for Phase V (2023) of the ABSI project. The Community Workshop Forum was convened for the purpose of providing information on ABSI restoration experiments and seeking public feedback on the *CAB's Draft Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* (Plan). The Workshop was conducted at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) in Eastpoint, Florida.

During the Workshop, Community participants were provided an overview of the ABSI Project Workplan and Schedule, an update on ABSI restoration experiments, and a summary of the CAB's Report and Recommendations for the Plan. Following the presentations participants were provided with opportunities to move among three information stations and ask questions and provide feedback on: 1) the CAB's recommendations for management and restoration strategies for the Plan; 2) ABSI science and restoration experiments; and 3) FWC fisheries management and restoration projects.

## II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jeff Blair, ABSI CAB Facilitator, opened the Workshop at 6:00 PM and welcomed all participants. A brief overview of the CAB process and Workplan for the remainder of the project were provided, followed by an explanation of the various ABSI related information stations and an invitation to ask questions and provide feedback on the CAB's recommendations for the Plan.

## III. WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

Seven (7) Apalachicola Bay Community members participated in the Tuesday, October 24, 2023 Workshop conducted in-person at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve in Eastpoint, Florida. In addition, there were eleven (11) ABSI and FWC representatives present to receive feedback and answer questions.

*(Attachment 1 – Workshop Participation)*

### PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Jeff Blair, Sandra Brooke, Ross Ellington, and Madelein Mahood.

*(Attachment 1 — Workshop Participation)*

### MEETING FACILITATION

Meetings and workshops are facilitated and reported on 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. WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Jeff Blair reviewed the Workshop objectives as follows:

- To Receive an Update on the Project Workplan and Schedule.
- To Receive an Update on ABSI and FWC Restoration Projects.
- To Receive a Summary of the CAB's Draft Report and Recommendations for the Plan.
- To Ask Questions and Provide Feedback ABSI Science, Restoration, and the Plan.
- To Review Next Steps.

*(Attachment 2—Workshop Agenda)*

## Community Workshop Participants October 24, 2023 – ANERR



### V. REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT WORKPLAN AND SCHEDULE

Jeff Blair provided the Workshop’s participants with a review of the updated Project Workplan and Schedule and answered participants’ questions.

For the most recent CAB meeting held on September 27, 2023, the CAB discussed the Organizational Framework for the *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* (CAB Successor Group), and evaluation and approval of the *CAB’s Draft Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* (Plan). The components of the Draft Plan were 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 have been vetting the strategies and actions under consideration with their leadership to gauge support and feasibility of implementation. The CAB is in the final stages of evaluating the relative priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identifying 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.

Jeff reported as follows:

- The focus of the September 27, 2023 meeting was the discussion of the organizational framework for the CAB Successor Group, approval of the *CAB's Draft Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*.
- The focus of the November 29, 2023 meeting will be approval of the organizational framework for the CAB Successor Group, and adoption of the *CAB's Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*.
- 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.
- The CAB is conducting planning for transitioning to the *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* (CAB 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. *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* 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 approve the Organizational Framework for the Successor Group, and finalize their recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* at the November 29, 2023 meeting, and the *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* 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 reported that Phase V (2023) consists of six meetings and concludes with the final CAB meeting on November 29, 2023 when the CAB will adopt their final package of recommendations for inclusion in the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay (CAB Successor Group) is expected to initiate in early 2024 to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time with the support of the Community.

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

\*The CAB's Draft Report and Recommendations for the Plan is available at the following URL:

<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>

(Attachment 3 — Workplan, Schedule, and Project Flowchart)

## VI. ABSI AND FWC RESTORATION PROJECTS UPDATES

Sandra Brooke, FSUCML Faculty and ABSI Principal Investigator, provided Workshop participants with an update on ABSI restoration experiments.

### 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

Sandra reported as follows:

### Summary of FWC and FDEP Restoration Site Monitoring

- In 2021-2022 only three of 55 sites reached the performance goal of 300 bags/acre.
- The acreage of the 3 sites is less than 50 acres total.

### *Summary of Status of Oysters in the Bay*

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

**FWC monitoring 2022**

Parcel Name	2022 (Number of Bags Per Acre)				
	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**

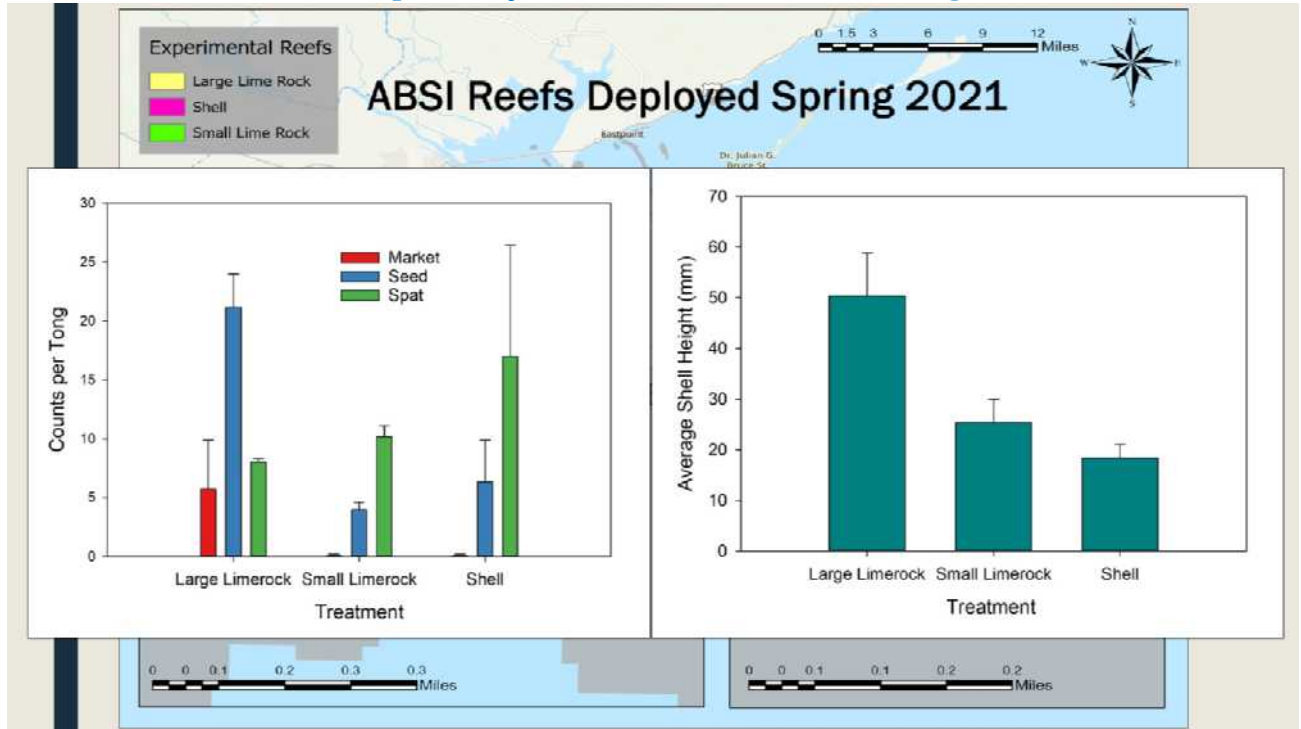
Site	Round 3
8-Mile	175.07
9-Mile B	4.80
Cabbage Top	33.58
Cat Point	97.53
Cat Point Spur	441.27
East Hole #1	31.18
East Hole #2	2.40
Hotel Bar #1	4.80
Hotel Bar #2	28.78
King 9-Mile	81.54
Monkey's Elbow	285.39
North Spur #2	0.00
Peanut Ridge	402.90
South Bulkhead	652.32

**FLDEP NRDA project  
Sampling 7-12/2021**

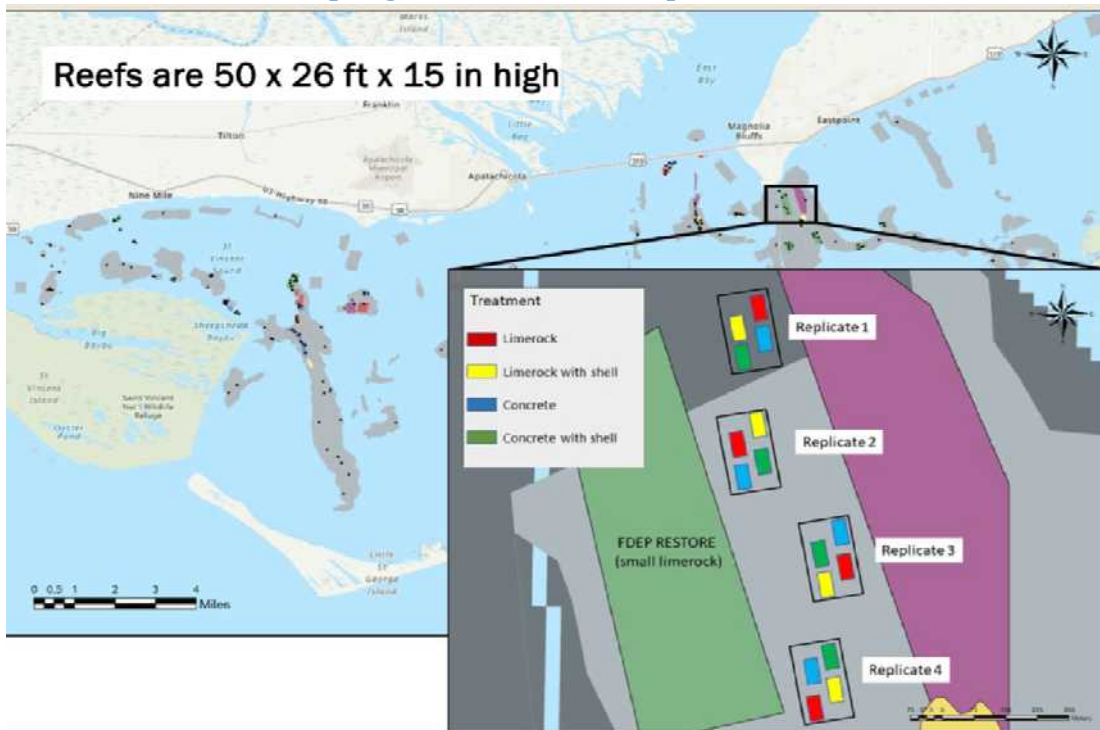
Site	Bags/acre
Bayou Flats	23.98
Cabbage Lumps	14.39
Cabbage Top	0
Cat Point	4.8
Dry Bar	0
Eleven Mile North	4.8
Eleven Mile South	19.19
Green Point	0
Hotel Bar	0
Lighthouse	16.79
Little Gully	0
Norman's Bar	
Middle	9.59
Norman's Bar	
North	21.58
North Spur	0
Redfish Creek 1	4.8
Redfish Creek 2	4.8

# ABSI Restoration Experiments Results Summary

## Comparison of Treatments with Counts Per Tong



## Spring 2023 Restoration Experiments



### Reef Surveys of ABSI Restoration Sites 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 2020-2021 survey data: no sites reached the 400 bag/acre threshold.
- There was a 2022-2023 Bay-Wide monitoring of 227 sites.
- ABSI reefs deployed Spring of 2021:
- Dry Bar and Peanut Ridge.
- The treatments for the sites included areas with large lime rock, shell, or small lime rock.
- The results indicated that the large lime rock treatments (4'-7') performed best, yielding the most market size oysters.
- The large lime rock treatments performed best in the 2020-2021 and 2022-2023 surveys.

A summary of the questions and answers from all the presentations and the 3 information stations is provided in Section VIII. of this Report. The presentations are available on the project webpage: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>.

## **FWC (NFWF PHASE 2) RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE**

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

### **Summary and Overview of Update**

#### **NFWF Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund**

- FWC received funding totally \$20,057,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF).
- The funding is for Apalachicola Bay and Suwannee Sound to:
  - Gather baseline ecological data,
  - Oyster reef restoration,
  - Develop oyster management plans,
  - Multiple partnerships,
  - Important to stress collaboration with management agencies, universities, and local, public stakeholders.

#### **Current Oyster Reef Conditions in Apalachicola Bay**

- Recent mapping shows approximately 2,000 acres of potential oyster habitat.
- Most of this area is degraded and does not support oyster spat settlement.
- The east and central east sides of the Bay are the main areas supporting oysters and likely represents the core of the oyster population in the Bay.
- Mapping shows areas where restoration would be most beneficial.
- Additional \$10 million allocated from Governor DeSantis' Framework for Freedom Budget.
  - Exclusively for Apalachicola Bay oyster reef restoration.

#### **Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration – Pilot Study**

- NFWF has requested FWC conduct a restoration pilot study prior to extensive restoration.
  - Past restoration operations in the Bay did not perform as well as expected.
- Large number of unknowns still present.
- Perform a large-scale pilot study.

- FSU will conduct complementary studies.
- FWRI will conduct sampling and monitoring oversight.
- Utilizing these studies, FWC will have more data to construct and perform larger restoration activity.

**Reef Characteristics Required for the Restoration**

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

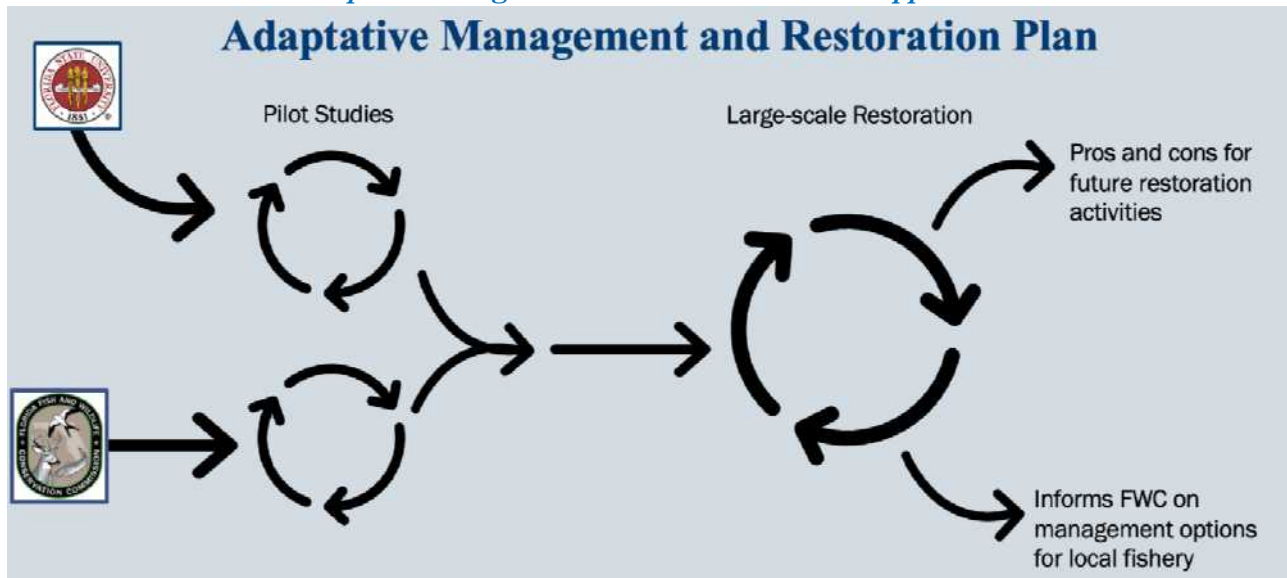
*Proposed Locations for Pilot Study*



**Pilot Study – Continued**

- Pilot study will test multiple reef heights: 1 ft (low) and 2 ft (high).
  - Material will be *Kentucky Blue* limestone.
- Not using large rock, unable to be tonged.
- Each restored reef will be 1 acre in size.
- Site observer will be hired to oversee restoration efforts.
- FWC will exhaust the \$10 million state allocation → *need your input!*
- FSU ABSI’s complimentary study.
  - Increases scientific scope of work done in Apalachicola Bay.
  - Provides more data to assist in future, larger restoration activities.

### *Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan Approach*



#### **Apalachicola Bay Oyster Fishery Management**

- FWC continues to gather public feedback to inform oyster fishery management.
- Continue to monitor and analyze biological data.
  - Most recent monitoring efforts have shown improvements where restoration has occurred.
- Decisions on future restoration and reopening of the Bay will be data informed as well as include public input.
- Actively researching additional funding opportunities. Examples include:
  - NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant.
  - Recurring state funding.

#### **Conclusion**

- ~\$20 million for preliminary data gathering and analyses, restoration efforts, stakeholder-informed, regionally specific oyster management plans.
  - Additional \$10 million allocated from the State for reef restoration.
- Restoration pilot study underway.
  - Material in the Bay early Spring 2024.
  - Inform FWC for large-scale restoration.
- Continually looking for additional funding sources.
- Successful Apalachicola Bay oyster restoration through the culmination of work from management entities, university researchers, and local stakeholders.

A summary of the questions and answers from all the presentations and the 3 information stations is provided in Section VIII. of this Report. The presentations are available on the project webpage: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>.

## **VII. ABSI CAB DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLAN SUMMARY**

Jenna Harper, CAB member and director of ANERR, provided the participants with a summary of the CAB's recommendations for the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan*. Subsequently an opportunity was provided for questions and answers.

A summary of the questions and answers from all the presentations and the 3 information stations is provided in Section VIII. of this Report. The presentations are available on the project webpage: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>.

## **VIII. COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON ABSI SCIENCE, FWC MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION, AND THE CAB'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLAN**

Three information stations staffed by ABSI and FWC subject area experts as relevant were provided for the Workshop. The three information stations provided opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback on the following topics:

- Station 1: The ABSI CAB's recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan.
- Station 2: ABSI science and restoration experiments.
- Station 3: FWC restoration projects and fisheries management.

### **ABSI Science and Restoration Experiments Station**

A station was staffed by Florida State University Coastal and Marine Laboratory (FSUCML) personnel led by Dr. Sandra Brooke, principle investigator for the ABSI project. Community members were provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ASBI) science and restoration experiments.

### **ABSI CAB's Recommendations for the Plan Station**

A station was staffed by Jenna Harper and Anita Grove, Community Advisory Board members. Community members were provided an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on the CAB's recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Management and Restoration Plan.

### **FWC Management and Restoration Project Station**

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staffed a station on Apalachicola Bay management strategies and FWC restoration led by Devin Resko (CAB Member, FWC) and Emily Abellera (FWC). Community members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback on FWC's management of the oyster fishery, and FWC's NFWF funded restoration project.

### **Summary of Community Feedback from the Presentations and the Three Information Stations:**

Community member asked questions and provided feedback as follows:

- Use local watermen to assist with the restoration work.
- What the condition of the Bay is regarding oyster production and readiness for harvest.
- Feedback on the NFWF funded restoration pilot project including locations, type and size of materials, and height of the restoration reefs.

- When the restoration project would start.
- General feedback on FWC management approaches and alternatives.
- The Bay has undergone multiple rounds of restoration, and these do not appear to have produced the desired results. Why? Why do you think that the proposed Plan will achieve a different outcome?
- The Plan has a variety of suggested strategies and associated actions. How will these be implemented by the agencies conducting restoration and management? How will the choices of strategies/actions be made?
- What is the role of “the Partnership” in ensuring that the Plan is followed through and implemented?
- Poaching in the Bay is on-going. Won’t this work against restoration and how will this problem be mitigated?

## **IX. NEXT STEPS**

Jeff Blair noted that the ABSI CAB process would conclude with the final CAB meeting on November 29, 2023. In addition, *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* (CAB Successor Group) will be ready to convene when the CAB completes their recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay’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, *Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay* is anticipated to formally convene in early 2024 after the CAB’s adoption of their recommendations in November 2023.

The Workshop agenda and summary report will be posted to the project webpage as follows:  
<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>.

The next and final CAB meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2023 and will focus on:

- Approval of Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report)
- Review of Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule
- Science and Data Collection, and Restoration Updates
- Reports from RFWG and Community Outreach Subcommittee
- Approval of Organizational Framework of the CAB Successor Group
- Public Comment Prior to Adoption of CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations
- Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum #3 Input
- Adoption of CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Plan
- Public Comment After Adoption of the CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations
- Identification of Next Steps

The meeting will be conducted on site at ANERR starting at 9:00 a.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Facilitator thanked the community participants and ABSI Project Team members for their participation, and closed the Workshop at 8:00 PM on Tuesday, October 24, 2023.

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
**KEY TO COMMON PROJECT ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>ABBREVIATION</b>	<b>DEFINITION</b>
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  
WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

1. David Alderstein	The Apalachicola Times
2. Even Blythe	ARPC (F-98)
3. Anthony Del Campo	Public (No Affiliation Provided)
4. Scott Hausmann	Public (No Affiliation Provided)
5. Donna Ingle	Public (No Affiliation Provided)
6. Leny Kuny	Public (No Affiliation Provided)
7. Captain T.J. Saunders	Florida Guides Association (FGA)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE**

1. Emily Abellera	FWC
2. Jared Fuqua	FSUCML
3. Anita Grove	ABSI CAB Member, City of Apalachicola Commissioner
4. Jenna Harper	ABSI CAB Member, ANERR
5. Gayle Johnson	ABSI CAB Member, Indian Lagoon Oyster Company
6. Betsy Mansfield	FSUCML
7. Devin Resko	ABSI CAB Member, FWC

**PROJECT TEAM MEMBERS AND CAB FACILITATOR**

**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Sandra Brooke	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
Madelein Mahood	FSCCML

**FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC**

Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator
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**ATTACHMENT 3  
WORKSHOP AGENDA**

<b>WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ To Provide an Update on ABSI Restoration Projects</li> <li>✓ To Provide a Summary of CAB's Recommendations for the Plan</li> <li>✓ To Receive Community Feedback on the CAB's Draft Report and Recommendations for the Plan</li> </ul>		
<b>ABSI COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM #3 AGENDA — OCTOBER 24, 2023</b>		
<i>All Agenda Times—including Public Comment and Adjournment—are Approximate and Subject to Change</i>		
<b>1.)</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>WELCOME AND REVIEW OF WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES</b>
<b>2.)</b>		<b>REVIEW OF WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES</b>
<b>3.)</b>		<b>REVIEW OF REMAINING ABSI CAB MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN</b>
<b>4)</b>		<b>ABSI AND FWC RESTORATION PROJECTS UPDATES AND CAB'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PLAN SUMMARY</b>
<b>5.)</b>		<b>PARTICIPANTS ROTATE BETWEEN STATIONS TO ASK QUESTIONS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Station 1: ABSI CAB Management and Restoration Recommendations</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Station 2: ABSI Science and Restoration Experiments</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Station 3: FWC (Management and Restoration Pilot Project)</b></li> </ul>
<b>6.)</b>	<b>7:55</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>
<b>~8:00 PM</b>		<b>ADJOURN</b>



**ATTACHMENT 4**  
**ABSI CAB PROJECT SCHEDULE, WORKPLAN, AND FLOWCHART**

<b>UPDATED AS OF THE SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 CAB MEETING</b>
<p><b>PHASE I (2019) — STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB</b>  <i>May 2019 – December 2019 (Assessment Process, Questionnaire, and 2 CAB Meetings) — Status Complete</i></p>
<p><b>PHASE II (2020) — SCOPING OF ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES</b>  <i>Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2020 (7 CAB Meeting &amp; 1 Oystermen’s Workshop) — Status Complete</i></p>
<p><b>PHASE III (2021) — BUILDING CONSENSUS ON CAB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN</b>  <b>Adoption of Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV and V Evaluation</b>  <i>Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2021 (7 CAB Meeting &amp; 2 Oystermen’s Workshops) — Status Complete</i></p>
<p><b>PHASE IV (2022) — EVALUATION OF DRAFT ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FRAMEWORK’S RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING</b>  <i>Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022 (6 CAB Meetings, 1 Oystermen’s Workshops, and 1 Community Workshop) — Status Complete</i></p>
<p><b>PHASE V (2023) — EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE <i>APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN</i>, RESTORATION FUNDING PLANNING, SUCCESSOR GROUP PLANNING</b>  <i>Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023 (6 CAB Meetings, 3 Community Workshops) — Status Initiated</i></p>

**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.

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* (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 November 29, 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*

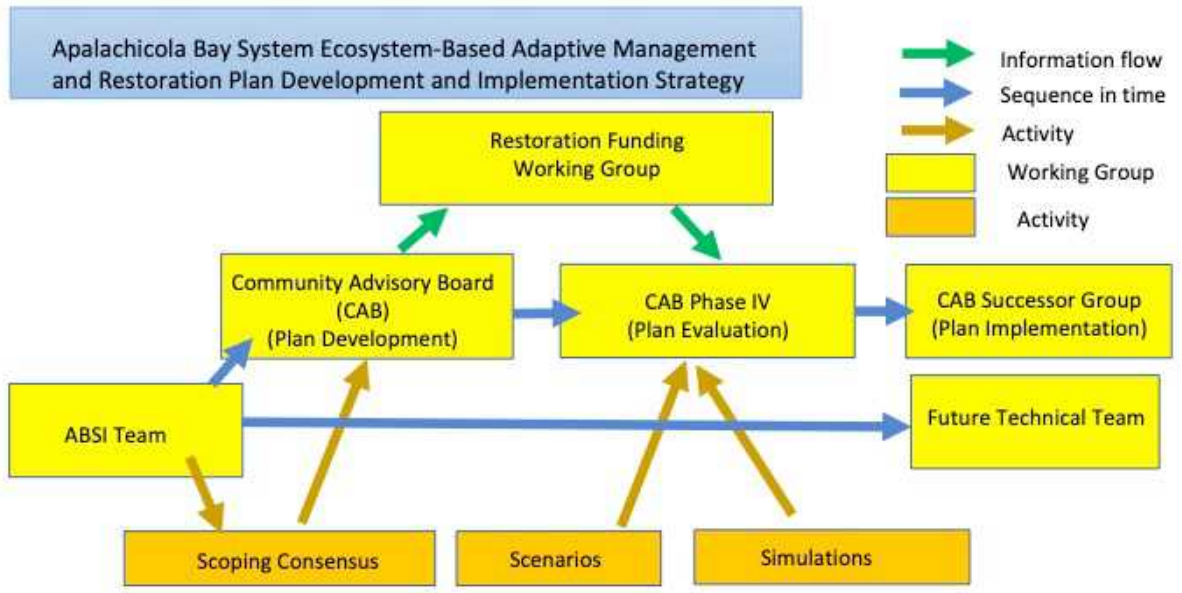
2. **RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP (RFWG).** Initiated in late 2021 the Restoration Funding Working Group’s role is to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB’s priority recommendations. *Status: Initiated and Ongoing*
3. **CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP.** The CAB 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 is 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 will approve the Organizational Framework for the Successor Group at the November 29, 2023 meeting, and the Successor Group process will formally initiate January 2024. *Status: Ongoing Organizational and Planning Meetings. Discussion of Organizational Framework during CAB meetings. Formal Convening Pending CAB Approval of Consensus Recommendations for the Plan and the Organizational Framework for the Successor Group at the November 29, 2023 meeting.*

### ABSI CAB PHASE V MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN — 2023

<b>Meeting #1</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Feb. 1, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Fisheries Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements <input type="checkbox"/> Review of Plan Framework Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 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 <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> 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.
<b>Meeting #2</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>April 12, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of proposed strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.
<b>Community Workshop Forum #1</b>	<b>April 12, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.
<b>Meeting #3</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>May 31, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 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 proposed revisions to strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Public comment.
<b>Meeting #4</b> ANERR	<b>August 9, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement

8:30am	<input type="checkbox"/> Acceptability Ranking of Proposed Revision to Strategies and Actions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment	initiative update. Discussion on the Organizational Framework for the CAB Successor Group. Acceptability ranking of proposed revisions to strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Draft Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan</i> using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. CAB Report and Recommendations Outline overview. Public comment.
<b>Community Workshop Forum #2</b>	<b>August 9, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, ABSI Management Strategies, and ABSI Science.
<b>Meeting #5</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Sept. 27, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Approve Draft Report and Recommendations for the Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Discussion on the Organizational Framework for the CAB Successor Group. Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum #2 input. Approval of the <i>CAB Draft Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> . Public comment.
<b>Community Workshop Forum #3</b>	<b>October 24, 2023</b> ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on the CAB’s recommendations for the <i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> .
<b>Meeting #6</b> ANERR 8:30am	<b>Nov. 29, 2023</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Reports and Updates <input type="checkbox"/> Final Plan Revisions <input type="checkbox"/> Public Comment <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Adopt Final CAB Report and Recommendations for the Plan</b>	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Approval of the Organizational Framework for the <i>Partners for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay</i> (CAB Successor Group). Evaluation of Community Workshop Forum #3 input. Adoption of the <i>CAB Draft Final Report and Recommendations for the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> , and submittal 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**  
**COMMUNITY WORKSHOP FORUM FEEDBACK WORKSHEET**

<b>A) ABSI Restoration Projects and Experiments Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>B) Goal A — CAB’s Restoration Strategies and Actions for the Plan Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>C) Goal B — CAB’s Management Strategies and Actions for the Plan Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>D) Goal C — CAB’s Successor Group Strategies and Actions Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>E) Goal D — CAB’s Engaging the Community Strategies and Actions Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>F) Goal E — CAB’s Economic Viability of the Plan Strategies and Actions Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>

<b>G) Other Feedback</b>
<i>Comments/Recommendations:</i>