

MEETING SUMMARY

Coastal Oceans Task Force Meeting

Thursday Apr 16, 2015 1:30 PM

Boca Raton Community Center

6500 Congress Ave. Suite 100

Boca Raton, FL 33487

COTF members present:

Steven Abrams, Palm Beach County Commission
John Haddox, Martin County Commission
Beam Furr, Broward County Commission
Bonnie Fischer, Town of South Palm Beach
Susan Haynie, City of Boca Raton
Stuart Dodd, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Dana Wusinich-Mendez, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Joanna Walczak, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Dick Dodge, Nova Southeastern University, Ocean Center
Mike Kennedy, Recreational Fishing
James Byrne, The Nature Conservancy

Alternates present:

Mason Smith, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Ed Tichenor, Reef Rescue
Chuck Collins, Marine Industries Assn. of Palm Beach
Jim Bohnsack, Protected Resources and Biodiversity Div.
Chip LaMarca, Broward County Commission

COTF Members absent:

Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne
Daniel Dietch, Town of Surfside
Ernie Marks, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
John Sprague, MIAF
Jeff Torode, South Florida Dive Headquarters
Dawn Pardo, City of Riviera Beach
Becky Hope, Port of Miami

Also present:

Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County
Leanne Welch, Palm Beach County ERM

Meeting started approximately 1:43 PM.

Commissioner Abrams opened the meeting.

A motion to approve the Mar 19, 2015 meeting summary was offered, seconded and passed.

Welcome to new Broward County representatives, Commissioner Beam Furr and Commissioner Chip LaMarca as alternate.

Vacant Chair: Commissioner Steve Abrams was elected as new Chair with Commissioner John Haddox as Vice Chair.

Our Florida Reefs update: The working groups were supplied with the technical recommendations regarding their 191 initial recommendations from the SE Florida Coral Reef Initiative April. They have now whittled everything down to about 50 recommendations that will be moved forward for more refinement and then presented to the SEFCRI team for review. Revised recommendations are slated to be ready for public review in early spring 2016.

Comment: Mason Smith, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. FWC sent letters to Florida senators Rubio and Nelson regarding the level of stakeholder engagement needed when considering an area for marine sanctuary nomination. FWC wants COTF to know the letter was not referencing South Florida nor was the FWC endorsing any marine sanctuary nomination. Copies of the letter referenced will be sent to the membership.

Comment: Dr. Jim Bohnsack, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service. He presented handouts listing advantages, disadvantages and myths of Marine Reserve MPAs and Traditional Fisheries Management and why he believes Marine Reserve MPAs are an appropriate method for Florida's coastal ocean management.

Draft Recommendations: After much discussion, the following was decided upon, based on the draft recommendations as presented:

In addition to all additions, deletions, and changes indicated in draft recommendations handout dated 4/10/15, the following additional changes should be made:

General Recommendations:

Item 1. Add "In addition to application to NOAA, apply to the State of Florida for management status similar to that of a NMS". (Delete "If the application to NOAA is unsuccessful or")

Water Quality:

- Wastewater
 - iv. Delete " Revisit and amend sewage outfall legislation, work to get clean up in place before 2025 and without the 5% loophole to prevent sewage/nitrogen from reaching and impacting southeast Florida coral reefs."

Beaches:

Item 1.

- Inlet sand bypassing
 - i. Delete “Require and provide money for long-range planning and implementation for sand bypassing at inlets to reduce overall costs and avoid adverse ecological impacts associated with intermittent large-scale dredge projects.”
 - ii. Delete “Change regulations” replace with “obtain Congressional authorization and direction”.

Item 2. Beach nourishment

- Reword item regarding offshore sediment dredging to reflect concern for sediment impact on corals.
- Add bullet regarding using recycled glass.

Item 3. Coastal Construction

- Third bulleted item. Add in “that are likely to impact coral reef resources” between projects and activity.

Item 5. Shoreline Development

Reword item regarding CCCL to be based on “sea level rise analyses or predictions”, instead of “2060 predictions”.

Fisheries:

Item 1. Add language indicating it is the intent to identify sub-regional approaches that can be used by SEFCRI to complement the larger FWC regional approaches for species management.

Coral Reefs

1. Remove reference to creating a regional oversight committee and add in reference that we value our coral reefs.
2. Perhaps add a recommendation that the legislature could mandate BMP’s for coral reef protection in regards to construction permits.

Items requiring more information before a decision can be made:

- Water flow and estuaries
 - iv. Require governmental entities to ID point-source inputs into estuaries and retro-fit them as needed to reduce pollutant loadings to restore health estuaries.
- Nutrient pollution
 - ii. Develop TMDLs and mass balance for water going to tide to help prioritize effective management actions and make informed management decisions.

Public Comment: Dan Clark, Cry of the Water. This Task Force is doing a good job and glad the process is going forward.

Next meeting will be May 14, 2015 at the Boca Raton Community Center (if available). Meeting adjourned approximately 3:25 PM.