

MEETING SUMMARY

Coastal Oceans Task Force Meeting
Thursday January 8, 2015 1:30 PM
Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center
Center of Excellence in Coral Reef Ecosystems Science
8000 North Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004

COTF members present:

Steven Abrams, Palm Beach County Commission
John Haddox, Martin County Commission
Eula Clarke, City of Stuart
Bonnie Fischer, Town of South Palm Beach
Susan Haynie, City of Boca Raton
Dawn Pardo, City of Riviera Beach
Claire Schubert, Town of Hillsboro Beach Commission
Stuart Dodd, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne
Ernie Marks, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation
Joanna Walczak, FDEP, Coral Reef Conservation Program
Dana Wusinich-Mendez, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Dick Dodge, Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center
Jeff Torode, South Florida Dive Headquarters
Mike Kennedy, Recreational Fishing
James Byrne, The Nature Conservancy
John Sprague, MIAF

Alternates present:

Ed Tichenor, Reef Rescue

COTF Members absent:

Kristin Jacobs, Broward County Commission
Daniel Dietch, Town of Surfside
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Becky Hope, Port of Miami

Also present:

Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County
Leanne Welch, Palm Beach County ERM
Chuck Collins
Jim Bohnsack, NOAA NMFS-SEFSC

Meeting started approximately 1:35 PM.

Commissioner Abrams opened the meeting.

A motion to approve the January 8, 2015 meeting summary was offered, seconded and passed.

Our Florida Reefs update: The 191 initial recommendations or options are going through a review process to assess their feasibility. They will then go back to the working groups in April for prioritization. See www.ourfloridareefs.org for more information.

Draft Recommendations: After much discussion, the following was decided based on the draft recommendations presentation:

Fisheries

Item 1 should be listed under the Water Quality recommendation, protection of estuarine habitat is tied to coastal habitat.

Item 2 should be listed under Coral Reefs recommendation as item 1.

Fisheries recommendations still need to be formulated. Staff will work with FWC to formulate and bring back to the task force for consideration.

Coral Reefs

Item 1 can be shortened to Apply to NOAA for National Marine Sanctuary status for the entire SEFCRI region and moved to general recommendations.

Item 2 can be added to overarching language not a separate recommendation.

Item 5, 7 should be deleted.

Estuaries

Item 2 add without interfering with navigation.

Socioeconomics

Item 2 add coastal before ecosystem and delete land use.

Item 3 can be merged into Item 1.

General Recommendations

No change

Public Comment: Power point presentation from Dan Clark, Cry of the Water of pictures from the Port of Miami dredging project.

Joanna Walczak, FDEP. The 2014 coral bleaching had significant mortality associated with it and the 2015 forecast is expected to be even worse than that, perhaps as bad as 1998 where 20% of the world's coral reef were lost.

Next meeting will be February 12 at the Boca Raton Community Center.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:25 PM.