

MEETING SUMMARY

Coastal Oceans Task Force Meeting
Thursday Mar 12, 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
Tom Campenni, City of Stuart
Bonnie Fischer, Town of South Palm Beach
Susan Haynie, City of Boca Raton
Dawn Pardo, City of Riviera Beach
Stuart Dodd, Town of Lauderdale-by-the-Sea
Dana Wusinich-Mendez, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Jeff Torode, South Florida Dive Headquarters
Mike Kennedy, Recreational Fishing
James Byrne, The Nature Conservancy
John Sprague, MIAF

Alternates present:

Mason Smith, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Ed Tichenor, Reef Rescue
Chuck Collins, Marine Industries Assn. of Palm Beach

COTF Members absent:

Frank Caplan, Village of Key Biscayne
Daniel Dietch, Town of Surfside
Ernie Marks, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Joanna Walczak, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
Dick Dodge, Nova Southeastern University, Ocean Center
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Becky Hope, Port of Miami

Also present:

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

Meeting started approximately 1:35 PM.

Commissioner Abrams opened the meeting.

A motion to approve the Feb 12, 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.

Presentation: Little Fish, Big Role: Protecting Florida's Forage Fish, Cameron Jaggard, Senior Associate U.S. Oceans, Southeast, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Recommendations

- Guiding the development of new and existing fisheries for forage fish is important
- Need to incorporate into management plans
 - Dietary needs of predator fish
 - Needs of habitat conservation

May have more after April FWC meeting.

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

General Recommendations: No changes.

Water Quality:

Item 1. The Indian River Lagoon should be added to the list of areas to be under management.

- Bulleted additions.
 - Derelict boat management should be added under marine debris.
 - Encourage development of less toxic marine products for boat maintenance etc.
- Bulleted deletions.
 - Require governmental entities to ID point-source inputs into estuaries and retrofit them as needed to reduce pollutant loadings to restore health estuaries
 - Regulate point-specific water quality discharges from facilities, such as power plants, and their proximity to coral reefs helps know stress factors on the reef.
 - Develop and enforce new regulations that manage the use of toxic marine products (e.g. anti-fouling products) to reduce pollutant impacts on the reef ecosystems.
 - Develop and implement a "Green Club TM" certification program for golf courses (similar to Blue Star for dive industry and clean marina programs) to provide an incentive mechanism for golf courses to reduce their impact on marine environment.
 - Provide financial incentives for land owners who convert to "ocean friendly" landscaping, especially the conversation of golf courses and lawns to a native paspalum turf to reduce pollutants to reefs and conserve water.

Beaches:

Item 1.

- Bulleted additions.
 - International sand should be considered as an alternate to dredging as a source of sand.
 - Add “where appropriate” to wrack line protection.

Item 2. No changes.

Item 3. No changes.

The balance of revisions indicated on the draft copy not otherwise changed will be consolidated into more concise statements to avoid repetition.

Public Comment:

Next meeting will be April 9, 2015 at the Boca Raton Community Center.

Meeting adjourned approximately 3:25 PM.