

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP)**

**Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI)
Our Florida Reefs (OFR)
North Community Working Group Meeting**

Wednesday, September 24, 2014, 9 am – 4:30 pm

**Indian River State College, Chastain Campus
2400 SE Salerno Rd, Stuart, FL 34997**

In person:

NCWG: Andrea Graves, April Price, Butch Olsen, Carman Vare, Dana Wusinich-Mendez, Greg Braun, Irene Arpayoglou, Jeff Beal, Kathy Fitzpatrick, David Anderson, Mike Brescher, Mitch Comiskey, Nikole Ordway, Richard Harvey, Tom Warnke, Vincent Encomio

Absent: Lee Shepard, Lou Romano, Oliver Green, Peter Friedman, Ron Messa, Scott Fawcett

FDEP CRCP: Jamie Monty, Ben Wahle, Meghan Balling, Caiti Pomerance, Karen Bohnsack

Facilitator: Carol Lippincott (Florida)

Public: Scott MacDonald, Brittany Holbrook, Amber Nabors, Mason Smith, Jocelyn Karazsia, Joanna Walczak, Kurtis Gregg, Eula Clarke, James Byrne

Key points are highlighted in yellow

Action items are highlighted in yellow and will be labeled as **Action Item**

Group decisions are highlighted in yellow and will be labeled as **Decision**

Meeting Summary

9:00 AM – Welcome and Meeting Overview

Review of Work Plan Progress

- Finished 6 learning curve meetings (32 presentations)
- This and next meeting are for developing management actions
 - At the end of today you'll identify gaps in the management action list and develop more MAs as homework

Purpose of today's meeting:

- Hear from SEFCRI about implementation information worksheets that you need to fill out
- Walk through how you will prioritize your management actions
- List management actions

Housekeeping

- **Approval of previous meeting minutes: APPROVED**
- Review of vision statements
 - Correct spelling of "gold course" in LBSP section

- Correct spelling of “well cited” in Direct Impacts to Reefs

FWC Statement on COTF Recommendations

Speaker: Mason Smith, FWC Marine Fisheries

- The FWC sent a letter to the Coastal Ocean Task Force (COTF) regarding their draft management recommendations
 - COTF is a separate body making recommendations about oceans (some had to do with MPAs and marine reserves)
- FWC regional director wanted to clarify FWC position on no-take marine reserves
 - “Commission has concerns about zoning in this effort”
 - Concerns regarding economic impacts and displacement of fishing effort
- No-take reserves would be considered as a last resort
 - If other efforts have been tried and failed
 - OR –
 - When it supports broader conservation measures (ex. Tortugas Research Natural Area – due to strong evidence of significance to Tortugas and greater Keys as a nursery area)
- FWC wants OFR recommendations to be successful and needs them to be science-based in order to support them

Notes from discussion on FWC letter:

- As an alternative to marine reserves (no-take areas), FWC has supported less restrictive measures such as higher size classes for take, maximum size limits, and seasonal closures
 - FWC worked with Biscayne National Park to develop alternatives to the Park’s proposed no-take area
- Part of the reason FWC is challenging establishment of no take reserves is because of its responsibility to maintain public access to marine resources - historically, the perspective has been equal access across the board

Action Item: Meghan will send the FWC letter with the action items email

9:05 AM – *Our Florida Reefs Process Overview*

Speaker: Meghan Balling, FDEP CRCP

Management action phase (Now that educational meetings are over)

- Take information from educational phase and use it to develop management actions
- Today you will develop your first set of draft recommendations and approve it with the quality check
 - Quality Check elements:
 - An action that will enhance or maintain condition of coral reef ecosystem
 - Written as a short phrase
 - If it doesn’t pass the quality check, you will take it home and revise it
 - If it does pass the quality check it will go up on the wall

- Once all proposed actions are on the wall, you will combine very similar management actions
- You will then identify gaps in the focus areas and come up with recommendations for those gaps for homework
- At the end of the day you will sign up for every management action that you want to fill out implementation information (Tier worksheets) for

October (Your recommendations from September will already be on the wall)

- New or revised recommendations will be quality checked
 - This is the last opportunity for listing management actions, so won't be able to edit them for homework
- Combine similar management actions again
- You will sign up to fill out implementation information as homework using the Tier 1&2 worksheets **online**

November

- During this or another meeting, you can decide to wean out some of the outliers to narrow down and focus your list of management actions
- Combine, augment and split management actions as needed
- Vote on a subset of management actions that will be built into the marine planner for marine spatial planning
 - Vote on spatial descriptors for those management actions

Dec-Feb: SEFCRI and TAC review

March-June: Review and incorporate SEFCRI recommendations

July-August: Second SEFCRI review

September-December: Combine list with South Group

January: Plan public meetings

February: Public meetings to unveil recommendations

9:20 AM – Review of Tier 2 Worksheet

Speaker: Karen Bohnsack, FDEP CRCP

Last meeting you saw 2 worksheets:

- Tier 1: critical information needed from CWG members
- Tier 2: supplementary info from CWG members and SEFCRI (where most implementation info will be captured)

Homework from last meeting: review Tier 2 and identify info that is missing – is anything missing?

Group: NO

9:40 AM – Prioritization Scoring Process

Steps to achieve mission:

- 1) Develop management actions
- 2) Prioritize them

Prioritizing management actions

- You will use the Prioritization Score Sheet
 - 3 criteria: benefits, feasibility, cost
 - Scored on a scale of very high, high, medium, low (one score for each criteria)
 - Each criteria has several “considerations” sub-bullets
 - Information for these considerations is available in marine planner, bibliography, Tier sheets, presentations
- Benefits Considerations
 - Scope/scale of outcome: how much of a positive impact will this management action have for coral reefs
 - (ex. mooring buoys – how many buoys will be installed, where they go, how much coral cover in the area)
 - Duration of outcome: long lasting environmental, social, economic benefits (i.e. how long will benefits last?)
 - Leverage: does this support implementation of other management actions and achieve other objectives? (ex. mooring buoys in Dade spur creation of mooring buoy network across SEFCRI region)
- Feasibility Considerations
 - Lead individual or institution (availability of some entity with sufficient time, experience, and capabilities – i.e. lead agency or organization)
 - Consider if they have previous experience and authority
 - Ability to motivate key stakeholders (people whose involvement is necessary to implement – people who will be affected (support or opposition))
 - Ease of implementation: less technically complex, successfully implemented previously, achieves SEFCRI goals/objectives, funding is available
- Cost Considerations
 - Direct costs: one time expenditures (equipment, staff, etc.), annual expenditures (salaries, staff time, maintenance) – i.e. monetary costs
 - Captured in Tier 2 worksheet
 - Indirect costs: level of perceived or potential environmental, social, or economic impacts and how long they could last
 - (ex. bottom disturbance from mooring buoys, more trash found at mooring buoy sites)
 - Captured in Tier 2 worksheet

How prioritization works

- Each working group member will score each management action independently following the scoring process and using these considerations

Notes from discussion on Prioritization:

- The score sheets will be filled out on the computer and will be assigned a code that corresponds to each individual management action
- The benefits criteria are weighted the most

Action Item: Add a new consideration to Benefits – “Level of risk associated with NOT implementing this action”

Action Item: send NCWG link to SEFCRI reports page and a document of status of all SEFCRI projects

10:40 AM – 3:55 PM – List Management Actions That Meet the Quality Check/Combine Similar Management Actions

Elements of the Quality Check

- 1) Activity that helps enhance or maintain or reduce threats to coral reef ecosystems
- 2) Written as a short phrase (35 words or less)
 - The quality check is designed to make sure management actions are focused on your mission
 - If a management action passes, it does not necessarily mean you support it
 - The quality check is simply designed to glean out unusable recommendations

How listing works

- 1) Work at tables to decide if recommendations meet the quality check
- 2) Vote as a group on whether it meets the quality check
- 3) Look at the wall and combine identical recommendations
- 4) Identify gaps on the wall
 - Come up with new management actions to fill in these gaps for homework

Actual Steps for Listing Management Actions:

- 1) Each table designates moderator to manage discussion and take polls to approve management actions that meet quality check
- 2) Going around the table, each person presents one management action – no explanation
 - Moderator asks the group if it meets the quality check, if vote is unanimous, it goes on the GO sheet
 - If the vote is not unanimous, it goes back in pile and will be brought up again in round 2
- 3) Take management actions that didn't pass the quality check and discuss and edit them until they pass

4) Each table presents out their list of passing management actions to be approved by the entire group
Steps for Combining Similar Management Actions (Goal is to eliminate redundancy)

1) Each table is assigned a focus area

2) If table members unanimously agree that two or more management actions are nearly identical, they combine them by rewriting them or replacing them with one of the existing management actions

3) The entire group votes to approve the combinations

Listed and Combined Management Actions

To view the table of draft management actions*, please go to: <http://ourfloridareefs.org/north-working-group/09242014-north-community-working-group-meeting/>

*This table represents the draft list that resulted from the day-long process of listing and combining management actions. To see the individual management actions that were combined together into one, please send an email to Benjamin.Wahle@dep.state.fl.us.

Key for Interpreting Columns

- (1) “New Primary (y/n)” → This basically asks “Did the CWG members create a NEW management action to represent the duplicates, or did they keep an existing management action to represent the duplicates?” Yes means the CWG members created a new management action. No means the CWG members retained an existing management action.
- (2) Duplicates → The management actions that were considered duplicates are still represented in the excel sheet, however, they exist as comments to the cell that hosts the “primary” or “new primary” management action.
- (3) Rearranging focus areas → Any management action that I thought we could reconsider placing in another focus area is indicated by lacking any color. The suggested alternate focus area is mentioned in parentheses after the management action.
- (4) Initials and names → I did my best to replace individuals’ initials with their names, but I do not believe all the CWG members are listed in the contact sheet. Thus, you will still find some initials on the sheet.

Action Item: CRCP staff will reassign management actions to a different focus area or recommend a separate focus area as needed

3:55 PM – Identify gaps in management actions

- The working group members identified gaps in each focus area that need more management actions
- They also signed up to begin filling out the Tier information worksheets on listed management actions

4:10 PM – Homework/Activities for Next Meeting

Homework - 2 tasks:

- Identify gaps in the focus areas and write additional management actions to fill them in
- Fill out Tier 1 and 2 worksheets for all management actions that you are interested in on paper
 - Sign up to work on management actions that you are interested in - you can work together with others to fill out worksheets and write new management actions (Meghan's email will say who signed up for what so you can get in touch)
 - Print out paper copies of the Tier 1&2 worksheets

Available Resources to help you do your homework:

- Your stakeholder groups
- Public comments
- OFR Marine Planner <http://ourfloridareefs.org/tool/>
- Presentation index <http://ourfloridareefs.org/north-working-group/north-working-group-presentation-index/>
- Your own notes
- SEFCRI, FL, and CRCP goals and objectives document <http://ourfloridareefs.org/north-working-group/>
- Coastal Ocean Task Force DRAFT recommendations http://ourfloridareefs.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/COTF-Recommendations_running-list-7.21.pdf

Activities for next meeting:

- Finish listing and combining your management actions
- You may vote to wean outliers if there is time
- Start assessing which management actions may require the Marine Planner for a spatial components