

# SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM: MEETING II SUMMARY REPORT



*Photo by Thalita Ribeiro*



# SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM



Left to Right: G. Lowe Morrison, Dr. Michael P. Crosby (Mote President & CEO) and Captain Scott Moore

6 – 8:30 p.m. on Feb. 5

Mote Marine Laboratory's  
Keating building (3rd floor)

1599 Ken Thompson Parkway,  
Sarasota, FL 34236

**Sarasota anglers: Your knowledge can help our fisheries thrive.**

Join local researchers for the second meeting of the Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum — an independent, community discussion to help inform fisheries management and science.

**FREE ADMISSION • RSVP REQUIRED BY FEB. 2**

Contact Vicki Wiese: 941-388-4441, ext. 172, [vicki@mote.org](mailto:vicki@mote.org)

Forum Partners:

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA



**Sea Grant**  
Florida

**Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum 2 – February 05, 2015.**  
**Mote Marine Laboratory**

**Report**

On Thursday, February 05, 2015, Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida (UF) convened the meeting to facilitate the development of the Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum. The meeting in Sarasota Bay, Florida, was open to the general public and participants were invited through emails, local media, fliers distributed locally, and personal invitations.

In total, 19 fisheries stakeholders attended the second forum meeting (“stakeholders” is defined as anyone who has an interest, or stake, in fish, fishing, and fisheries). Local Mote Marine Laboratory researcher Dr. Ken Leber led and facilitated the meeting. UF researchers Dr. Kai Lorenzen and Dr. Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli and graduate student Chelsey Crandall were also present.

The Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum is a collaborative effort to provide a venue for public engagement in local fisheries issues and build links between stakeholder knowledge, science, and management. The objectives of this second meeting were to continue forward with outlining the forum structure and action plan.

After research team introductions, Dr. Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli explained the meeting agenda and objectives, and ground rules for the meeting were agreed upon. Next, participants introduced themselves and briefly explained how they are connected with Sarasota Bay fisheries. Dr. Kai Lorenzen then presented a short overview of the project objectives and forum definition, and Captain Scotty Moore presented a summary of the first forum discussions. This was followed by the following in depth discussions:

**1. The stakeholder list from Meeting I was revisited.** New groups were added, and it was then determined which groups had representatives present at Meeting II. Below is the complete list: those in blue are those groups identified as not having representation at Meeting II.

Local fishing clubs/associations	Financial institutions
Government	Police/sheriffs
Scientists	Mote benefactors
Commercial fishers	Media
Tourism agencies	Diving community
Charter captains/guides	Anyone water/resource related
Recreational fishers	Kayakers/paddle boarders
Anyone interested in the ecosystem	Bird watchers
Estuary programs	High school kids (clubs), college kids
FWC	Spearfishers
Children	Coast guard auxiliary
Fishery managers	Ecotourism
Local home/waterfront property owners	Visit Sarasota
Dock/bridge workers	Boaters
General public	Marine science groups/science educators and clubs
Fishing supply retailers	Sea wall workers/dredge teams
Boat dealers	Artificial reef builders
Non-profits	Citizen scientists
Waterfront businesses	Snook light retailers
Educators	Stormwater/management district
Water management districts	Parks and recreation
Markets	Marinas
Real estate	Law enforcement
Beach renourishment groups	

**2. The idea of creating small focus groups or a core guiding group was suggested based on Meeting I discussions.** Participants decided they would prefer to continue as one large group for now, with the possibility of smaller focus groups falling out naturally in the future.

**3. Engaging those not present:** The group decided that they would like to create a Facebook page to aid in forum communication. Mr. Courtland Hunt volunteered to create the page. The link for the **Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum** Facebook page is:

[www.facebook.com/SarasotaBayForum](http://www.facebook.com/SarasotaBayForum).

It was also suggested that listserves and the Mote intern pages might be helpful in advertising, as would a press release in the fisheries section of the paper.

**4. Additional ways to invite people:** it was brought forward that having a blurb for advertising the forum would be helpful in inviting others to attend. The group settled on the draft:

- **“Proactively addressing fisheries management issues in the Sarasota Bay area with the intent to influence/affect change”**

**5. Next steps:** During the next meeting, which will be held at Mote on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the group would like to discuss:

- **Creation of a forum mission statement**
- **Discuss and narrow down issues that the forum will focus on addressing**

**Forum evaluation and feedback:**

The final activity of the meeting was a series of evaluation questions to assess the success of the meeting and to gather participants’ suggestions on how to improve future meetings.