

SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM: MEETING 3 SUMMARY REPORT



Photo by J. Struve



SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM

Proactively addressing fisheries management issues in the Sarasota Bay area with the intent to affect change.



PHOTO BY: Juliane Struve

6 – 8:30 p.m. on April 2

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 third meeting of the Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum — an independent, community discussion to help inform fisheries management and science.

Meeting Goals: To discuss and narrow down on key topics.

Guest Speaker: Jay Leverone, Sarasota Bay Estuary Program; *"Sarasota Bay Estuarine Habitats: Status & Restoration Efforts"*

FREE ADMISSION • RSVP REQUIRED BY MARCH 30

Contact Vicki Wiese: 941-388-4441, ext. 172, vicki@mote.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/SarasotaBayForum

Forum Partners:

UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA



Sea Grant
Florida

Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum 3 – April 2nd, 2015.

**Mote Marine Laboratory
1599 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL. 34236**

Report

On Thursday, April 2nd, 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, 15 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 researcher 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 meeting were to discuss and narrow down on key topics for the forum to cover.

After research team introductions, the agenda and meeting objectives were explained and ground rules were agreed upon. Next, participants introduced themselves and explained briefly how they are connected with Sarasota Bay fisheries. Chelsey Crandall then presented a short overview of the project objectives and forum definition, and presented a brief summary of the second forum discussions. This was followed by a presentation by Jay Leverone of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program on seagrass and other fish habitat in the bay.

Potential Topics Brainstorm: What are some issues that the forum could focus on?

Dr. Ken Leber led the next forum activity, which focused on brainstorming potential topics for the forum to focus on. Participants were asked to write on sticky notes potential key topics for the forum to focus on and then to attach each note to the wall. Next, the notes were sorted and categorized into major topics by the whole group.

Brainstorm results:

Conservation

Conservation (Fisheries Resource Education for all takers-give back)
Maintain juvenile tarpon/snook habitat in 18 Sarasota County creeks

Data

Long term ways of monitoring fish biomass
Understanding wildlife interactions with fishers-ongoing problems? With dolphins/ birds/
turtles/ etc.?
Catch and release mortality/impacts assessment

Management

Estuary management regulations
Fishing regulations tailored to Sarasota Bay
Beach renourishment strategy for better ecosystem-do smaller sections less often
Are there any no fish zones? Would it help? Are grouper spawning areas?

Habitat

Habitat conservation and restoration
Water pollution
Microhabitat quality (which micro-habitats are disproportionately imp.)
Beach renourishment-affects red tide?
Coastal development and habitat loss
Protecting/maintaining critical habitat (e.g., mangroves, beach nourishment issues)

Restoration

Fisheries Restoration (example-snook after cold kills, red tide kills)
Promoting "living shorelines" on receptive residential/commercial properties
Involvement in mangrove restoration
Litter control and clean up
Mangroves: does planting help? Is it being done?
Snook aquaculture: has it had an effect on total population?

Education

Increase environmental awareness and public participation
Promotion of sustainable seafood choices at local restaurants
Youth education: faces in the water
Minimizing gear loss and debris

Impacts

Global warming impact on fisheries
Nutrient loading in the watershed
How has development affected mangroves?
Stop water pollution

Public Domain

Who 'owns' the shore line? Only down to high tide mark? Hotels? Private?

Access

Additional access points for kayaks/waders

Next Steps: where do we go from here?

Stakeholders agreed to focus on further narrowing the list at the next meeting in June. There was discussion regarding advertising, in particular getting the event into the Herald Tribune's weekly activities list.

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.

Next Forum: Thursday, June 4th/2015.