

SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM: MEETING 4 SUMMARY REPORT



SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM

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



6 – 8:30 p.m. on June 4

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 next 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: Tim MacDonald, from FWC FWRI Marine Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program, St. Petersburg

FREE ADMISSION • RSVP REQUIRED BY JUNE 1

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FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/SarasotaBayForum

Forum Partners:

UF UNIVERSITY of
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Florida

Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum 4 – June 4, 2015.

Mote Marine Laboratory

1599 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL. 34236

Report

On Thursday June 4, 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, 12 fisheries stakeholders attended the fourth 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. Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli, Dr. Juliane Struve 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 focus on.

After research team introductions, Dr. Ken Leber 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. Chelsey Crandall then presented a short overview of the project objectives and forum definition and summarized the previous meetings. This was followed by a presentation by FWC researcher Tim MacDonald on the Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program, with particular emphasis on Sarasota Bay fisheries. Finally, stakeholders participated in an activity designed to help narrow down the list of topics developed at the previous meeting to move towards focus topics for the forum to address.

Forum Activity:

The list of issues and potential forum topics developed and categorized in Meeting 3 was revisited. Each category was written on a flip chart, with the relevant issues/topics listed below. Participants were then asked to add any topics that seemed to be missing, for a final list of issues. Next, participants were divided into two small groups. Each group was asked to pick their top 5 issues that they would like the forum to address, and then to assign each a number from 1-5, with 5 representing their top topic (and so on). One member from each group then wrote their numbers next to the chosen topics on the flip charts. Results are summarized below, with group 1 represented in red and group 2 represented in blue. Points were then tallied for a final ranking of potential forum topics.

Conservation

Fisheries resource education for all users (give back)
Maintain juvenile snook/tarpon habitat in 18 Sarasota County creeks
Community-based conservation initiatives - 4, 3 (total=7)

Impacts

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

Data

Long term ways to monitor fish biomass
Understand fisher/wildlife interactions (problems? Dolphins/birds/etc.)
Catch and release mortality/impact assessment
Increase frequency of FIM data sampling - 2

Education

Increase environmental awareness and public participation - 2
Promote sustainable seafood choices at local restaurants
Youth education (faces in the water)
Minimize gear loss/debris

Restoration

Fisheries restoration (after oil spills, red tides for ex)
Promote "living shorelines" (on receptive residential/commercial properties)
Involvement in mangrove restoration
Litter control/clean up
Snook aquaculture (effect on total population) - 1, 1 (total=2)

Public domain

Who owns the shorelines?

Access

Additional access points for kayakers/waders

Habitat

Habitat conservation/restoration - 5, 5 (total=10)

Water pollution

Microhabitat quality (which is most important?)

Beach renourishment (affect red tide?)

Coastal development and habitat loss

Protect/maintain critical habitat (e.g. mangroves, beach renourishment issues)

Stormwater management effects on habitat

Management

Fishing regulations tailored to Sarasota Bay

Beach renourishment strategy for better ecosystem (smaller sections more often)

Any no fish zones? Would it help? Grouper spawning areas?

Estuary management regulations/Overfishing: management of fisheries - 3, 4 (total=7)

Final ranking

1. Habitat conservation/restoration (10 points)
2. Estuary management regulations/Overfishing: management of fisheries (7 points)
2. Community-based conservation initiatives (7 points)
3. Snook aquaculture (effect on total population (2 points)
3. Increase environmental awareness and public participation (2 points)
3. Increase frequency of FIM data sampling (2 points)



Figure 1. Small groups discussing and ranking potential forum topics (left); presentation by guest speaker Tim MacDonald (right).

Next Steps: where do we go from here?

The group decided it would be useful to gain input from those not in attendance regarding ranking of potential topics and issues. In this light, a survey will be created and distributed prior to the next meeting, and results from the individual surveys will be compared to the group consensus at Meeting 5.

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: TUESDAY August 4