

# SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM: MEETING 6 SUMMARY REPORT



# SARASOTA BAY FISHERIES FORUM

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



Photo: J. Struve

**October 1<sup>st</sup>, Thursday**  
**6 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Mote Marine Laboratory**  
Keating Building (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

1599 Ken Thompson Parkway  
Sarasota, FL 34236

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

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

**Guest speaker:** John Ryan, Sarasota County Public Utilities Dept.

**FREE ADMISSION • RSVP REQUIRED BY September 29.**

Contact Paula Clark: 941-388-2252, [pclark@mote.org](mailto:pclark@mote.org)

### **Forum Partners:**

**UF** UNIVERSITY of  
**FLORIDA**



**Sea Grant**  
Florida

**Sarasota Bay Fisheries Forum 6 – October 1st, 2015.**  
**Mote Marine Laboratory**  
**1599 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota, FL. 34236**

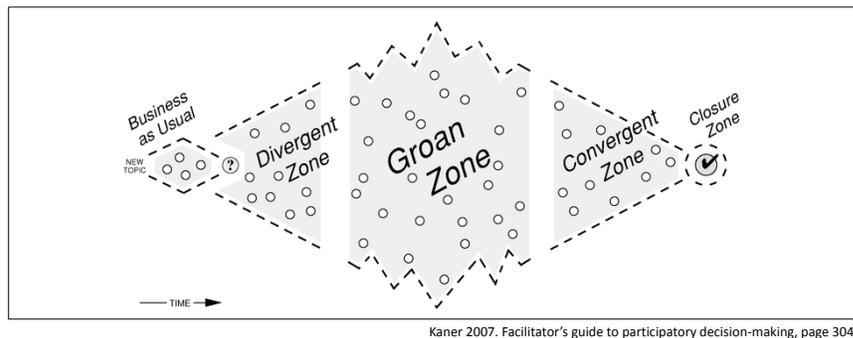
**Report**

On Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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. 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.

In total, 13 fisheries stakeholders attended the sixth forum meeting (“stakeholders” is defined as anyone who has an interest, or stake, in fish, fishing, and fisheries). UF researcher Dr. Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli led and facilitated the meeting and graduate student Thalita Ribeiro was also present.

After the research team introductions, Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli explained the meeting agenda and objectives, and the ground rules for the meeting were agreed upon. Next, participants introduced themselves and briefly explained how they are connected with Sarasota Bay fisheries. Following this, facilitator Jynessa gave an overview of the project, and a hand-out containing an overview of the fisheries forum concept, a description of the fisheries forum goals, and previous meeting summaries was distributed to participants (Attachment 1). The objectives of this meeting were to learn more about coastal habitat issues in the Bay, and to develop questions for the stakeholder on-line survey that is being built to explore local issues for the forum to focus on.

Next, Jynessa discussed the idea that the forum is a complex process, particularly with a diversity of user groups and different points of view, which can present challenges. She then explained the **Groan Zone** concept (Figure 1), reminding all that it is part of the dynamic group process, and that the research team would help facilitating the procedure.



Kaner 2007. Facilitator's guide to participatory decision-making, page 304

Figure 1. Diamond of participatory decision making.

## **Forum activities:**

### **1- Guest speaker:**

John Ryan, Environmental Manager from Sarasota County in the Stormwater Environmental Utility group, served as a guest speaker for the meeting and gave an overview of his work in Sarasota Bay. John gave a dynamic presentation on coastal habitat protection, regulatory programs, and stormwater management issues. Afterwards, forum participants engaged the speaker in an open-discussion focusing on local issues.

### **2- Google Drive Docs:**

Researcher Richard Flamm, from FWC, explained the google drive doc that he created on-line so that the group can work on documents collaboratively and share information easily.

### **3- Mapping exercise:**

Jynessa Dutka-Gianelli worked with participants through a mapping exercise, showing different examples of how the group could start working with a base map from the Bay and add scientific data, such as habitat data layers (e.g., seagrass, mangrove, and marsh). Another example presented was a map from the Bay with habitat data and snook collection sites from the FWC FWRI Fisheries Independent Monitoring Program. She also explained how a base map from the Bay could be incorporated into the survey that the group is working on.

### **4- Stakeholder survey activity:**

Next, Jynessa explained how the researchers prepared a draft of survey questions using the Qualtrics software which will be used for the on-line survey distribution. She explained the survey questions framework and participants offered suggestions on how to improve these questions and assure questions are relevant to all and work for everyone's needs. The research team will revise the questions including all suggestions presented and send the new version to forum participants for input.

## **Looking Forward and Next Steps: where do we go from here?**

The researchers will create a final draft of the survey and send a pilot version to the forum participants for input. Prior to distributing the link for the on-line pilot survey, the researchers will send an email to forum participants to announce that they will receive a notice with the on-line survey link. The pilot survey will be sent out as soon as possible for forum participants' revision, and the final survey will be distributed before the next forum meeting.

## **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:** Next forum meeting was changed for **December 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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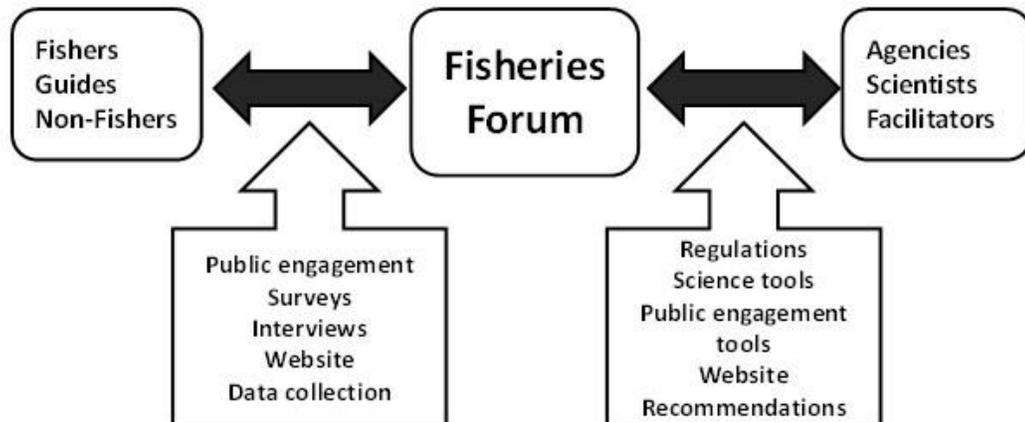
## **Background:**

### ***Why have a forum?***

- People care about “their” local fisheries
- Different places have different fisheries issues (and some shared ones)
- Stakeholders have in-depth knowledge complementary to scientific knowledge and data
- Stakeholders feel that opportunities for input to management decision making are limited, and that “official science” may be at odds with their local knowledge

### ***Fisheries Forum Aims:***

- Provide a venue for long-term engagement of stakeholders
- Promote in-depth consideration of important local fisheries issues
- Improve links between stakeholder knowledge and science
- Represent place-based perspectives to management agencies



Forum I Nov/2014	Forum II Feb/2015	Forum III April/2015	Forum IV June/2015	Forum V August/2015
<p><b>Introduction to Project</b></p> <p><b>Who should be involved?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholder list</li> </ul> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet every other month; Thursday, from 6-8:30 pm at Mote</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revisited stakeholder list</b></p> <p><b>Structure:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep open and inclusive,</li> <li>Work on getting more people involved</li> </ul> <p><b>“Proactively addressing fisheries management issues in the Sarasota Bay area with the intent to influence/affect change”</b></p> <p>Facebook Page</p>	<p><b>Speaker:</b> <b>Jay Leverone</b> (SBEP)</p> <p><b>What are some issues that the forum could focus on?</b></p> <p>Brainstorm Activity</p>	<p><b>Speaker:</b> <b>Tim MacDonald</b> (FWRI FIM program)</p> <p><b>Narrow down the list of topics for the forum to address</b></p> <p><b>Survey sent to forum participants</b></p>	<p>Survey to forum participants: topic issues</p> <p><b>Group consensus &amp; Survey</b></p> <p>Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat management and conservation</li> <li>Fisheries regulations</li> </ul> <p><b>1- Develop a survey for more specific issues</b> <b>2- Google docs page</b> <b>3- Education</b></p>

<https://www.facebook.com/SarasotaBayForum>