OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE GREATER PENSACOLA BAY SYSTEM GPBS STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

MEETING III—JANUARY 15, 2020 SANDERS BEACH-CORINNE JONES RESOURCE CENTER 913 SOUTH I STREET PENSACOLA, FL 32502

HOST: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, FLORIDA FACILITATOR: FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC

MEETING III OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Agenda and Meeting II Summary Report)
- ✓ To Receive Requested Presentations: Regulatory Requirements, Communications Strategy
- ✓ To Review and Refine As Needed: Vision Themes, Goals, Outcomes, Key Issues
- ✓ To Review and Refine Preliminary Options, and Performance Measures
- ✓ To Identify Needed Next Steps and Information, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

	G	SPBS STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP MEETING III AGENDA—JANUARY 15, 2020				
All Ag	enda Times—	Including Public Comment and Adjournment—Are Approximate and Subject to Change				
1.	8:30 AM	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS				
2.	8:40	REVIEW AND APPROVAL of Agenda				
3.	8:45	APPROVAL OF FACILITATORS' SUMMARY REPORT (NOVEMBER 15, 2019 MEETING)				
4.	8:50	STAKEHOLDER REQUESTED PRESENTATIONS AND BRIEFINGS				
		Overview of Oyster Management in the State of Florida (20 min.) [FWC/FDACS]				
		How Communications Can Help Move the Needle (20 min.) [TNC]				
~9:45		BREAK				
5.	10:00	 A.) A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE OYSTER REEF ECOSYSTEM Review and Revise Vision Theme, Goal Statement, and Outcome as Needed Identification of Additional Key Topical Issues Identification of Preliminary Options to Address Key Topical Issues Identification of Information Needs 				
6.	11:00	 B.) THE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE Review and Revise Vision Theme, Goal Statement, and Outcome as Needed Identification of Additional Key Topical Issues Identification of Preliminary Options to Address Key Topical Issues Identification of Information Needs 				
12:00 PM		LUNCH—ON SITE Lunch Provided by The Nature Conservancy				

7.	12:30	C.) A Thriving Economy Connected to the Greater Pensacola Bay System		
		Review and Revise Vision Theme, Goal Statement, and Outcome as Needed		
		Identification of Additional Key Topical Issues		
		Identification of Preliminary Options to Address Key Topical Issues		
		Identification of Information Needs		
8.	1:15	D.) An Engaged and Informed Public		
		Review and Revise Vision Theme, Goal Statement, and Outcome as Needed		
		Identification of Additional Key Topical Issues		
		Identification of Preliminary Options to Address Key Topical Issues		
		Identification of Information Needs		
9.	2:00	PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION OF DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES		
10.	2:30	PUBLIC COMMENT		
11. 2:45 NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING • Review of the Working Group meetings schedule		NEXT STEPS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING		
		 Review of the Working Group meetings schedule 		
		 Review of action items and assignments 		
		 Identify agenda items and any needed information for the next meeting 		
		 Meeting evaluation 		

Please contact Andrea Graves if you have individual needs or dietary restrictions for lunch <u>agraves@tnc.org</u>.

MEETING FACILITATION

Meetings are facilitated by Jeff Blair and Robert Jones from Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Information at: <u>http://facilitatedsolutions.org</u>.





GPBS STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

1.	Shelby Johnson	Johnson Construction of Pensacola, Inc.		
2.	Glen Miley	biome Consulting Group		
3.	Will Dunaway	Environmental Lawyer		
4.	Donnie McMahon	Business and Aquaculture		
5.	Christian Wagley	Healthy Gulf		
6.	Shelley Alexander	Santa Rosa County Environmental Programs		
7.	Chips Kirschenfeld	Escambia County Natural Resources Management		
8.	Matt Posner	Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program		
9.	Keith Wilkins	Pensacola City Administrator		
10				
10.	Chris Phillips	Hot Spot Charters		
11	Pasco Gibson	Conford Inductor/Materman		
	Josh Neese	Seafood Industry/Waterman Aquaculture		
	Pete Nichols	Seafood Industry/Waterman		
		Seafood Dealer		
	Tommy Pugh Phil Rollo	Seafood Dealer		
	Calvin Sullivan	Oyster Harvester		
	William (Hub) Williamson	Oyster Harvester		
17.		Oyster Harvester		
18	Beth Fugate	FDEP/Aquatic Preserves		
	Kent Smith	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation		
	Mike Norberg	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management		
	Portia Sapp	FDACS Division of Aquaculture		
	Paul Thurman	NWFWMD		
24.	Jane Caffrey	UWF		
25.	Rick O'Connor	UF/IFAS Escambia County		
26.	Chris Verlinde	UF/IFAS/Sea Grant Santa Rosa County		
Anr	ne Birch	Marine Program Manager		
Robert Brumbaugh		Senior Marine Scientist		
Andrea Graves				
AII		Marine Projects Coordinator		
	Blair	Working Group Facilitator		
Dok	pert Jones	Working Group Facilitator		

GPBS STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN										
	STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE GPBS STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP									
Meeting I. Studer Institute	Oct. 9, 2019	Scoping and organizational meeting, review and refinement of overal project purpose, vision and goal framework.								
Meeting II. UF/IFAS SRC Extension	Nov. 15, 2019	Introduction to decision-support tools and member requested presentations on oyster ecology and restoration. Review and refinement of vision themes and goal framework.								
S	COPING OF GPBS IS	SUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES & OPTIONS								
Meeting III. Sanders Beach	Jan. 15, 2020	Member requested presentations on Regulatory Framework, and Strategic Communications. Review and refinement of 4 goals framework continued. Introduction to performance measures.								
Meeting IV. UF/IFAS SRC Extension	March 18, 2020	Perspectives and insights from Oyster Industry members. Economic framing and integration with regional economic agendas. Review of performance measures. Review of draft objectives for the Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan.								
Meeting V. Sanders Beach	May 19, 2020	Review of decision-support tools scenarios and consensus rating of options. Review and agreement on Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan goals, objectives, and preliminary options. Public Workshop Draft.								
Public	June 2020	Review of Vision, Goal Framework, Plan outline, issues & preliminary								
Workshop 1	Tentative Date	options.								
Buili	DING CONSENSUS ON	I GPBS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN								
Meeting VI. UF/IFAS SRC Extension	July 22, 2020	Review of public comments from Workshop 1, review of decision support tools scenario results and consensus rating of options, draf performance measures.								
Meeting VII. Studer Institute	Sept. 16, 2020	Review of Draft Plan, recommendations on policy issues, decision- support tools scenario results, and consensus rating of options.								
FINAL	IZING CONSENSUS O	N GPBS OYSTER ECOSYSTEM-BASED FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN								
Meeting VIII. UF/IFAS	Nov. 18, 2020	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and recommendations.								
Meeting IX. Studer Institute	Jan. 27, 2021	Review and consensus testing of Draft Plan and implementation guidance and agreement on Workshop Draft Plan.								
Public Workshop 2	February 2021 Tentative Date	Review of GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan and implementation guidance.								
Meeting X. UF/IFAS SRC Extension	March 17, 2021	Review of public comment, refinement and consensus on the GPBS Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan and implementation guidance.								

PROJECT WEBPAGE URL <u>https://myescambia.com/our-services/natural-resources-management/restore/pensacola-perdido-bay-estuary-program/gpbs-oyster-ecosystem--based-fisheries-management-plan</u>

PROJECT FACILITATION: Meetings are facilitated, and meeting reports drafted by Jeff Blair and Robert Jones from Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Information at: http://facilitatedsolutions.org.



WORKING GROUP GOAL STATEMENT

The goal of the Greater Pensacola Bay System Working Group is to develop a package of consensus recommendations informed by the best available science, data, and stakeholders' experiences for the management and restoration of the Greater Pensacola Bay System.

The goal of the project is to ensure that the regulation and management of the oyster fishery, and oyster restoration polices are informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder stewardship values.

The process will be designed so that members can evaluate oyster fishery practices and management options and restoration policies in the Greater Pensacola Bay System. The Working Group's recommendations, in the form of a Greater Pensacola Bay System Oyster Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management Plan, will be directed to the TNC Project Team, the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program, state managers and regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate.



GOAL FRAMEWORK

A.) A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE OYSTER REEF ECOSYSTEM

Vision Theme A: The oyster reef ecosystem is managed in a manner that supports ecosystem services by protecting and enhancing the habitat and resource in a sustainable and productive manner.

Draft Goal: The Greater Pensacola Bay System sustains a healthy and productive oyster reef ecosystem.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the oyster reef ecosystem within the Greater Pensacola Bay is managed in a sustainable manner providing measurable ecosystem services.

Key Topical Issues: At the November 15, 2019 meeting members brainstormed key topical issues including: Identifiable and achievable targets; Growth; Public understanding and support; Best practices as a framework for recommendations; Link the Plan to the Estuary Program; Model successes from other estuaries and scale up faster; Leverage and support funding for advance wastewater treatment facilities; Geo spatial mapping; Integrate and build on existing management plans; Identify existing and planned projects; Resiliency and adaptive management as guiding principles; Clarify and mitigate potential impacts to sustainably managing the PBS.

List Additional Key Topical Issues you think need to be addressed:

Note below any Strategies/Options to address the Key Topical Issues:



B.) THE MANAGEMENT AND REGULATION OF THE OYSTER FISHERY AND AQUACULTURE INDUSTRY

Vision Theme B: The management, regulation, and restoration of the oyster fishery and aquaculture industry is conducted by working collaboratively with stakeholders to create and monitor a plan that ensures that protection of the fishery and habitat is implemented in a manner that is supported by science, data, and field and industry experience and observation, and provides fair and equitable access to the oyster resource.

Draft Goal: A productive, and sustainably managed and regulated oyster reef fishery and ecosystem and aquaculture industry in the Greater Pensacola Bay System.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, stakeholders have established and supported a productive, science driven, sustainably managed, monitored, and appropriately and fairly regulated oyster fishery reef ecosystem and integrated with the aquaculture industry in the Greater Pensacola Bay System.

Proposed Alternate Outcome: By 2030, oyster reefs in the Greater Pensacola Bay System support a productive fishery that is integrated with the aquaculture industry and supported by stakeholders who use best available science and monitoring to manage and regulate fishery and aquaculture activities in a fair and equitable manner.

Key Topical Issues: At the November 15, 2019 meeting members brainstormed key topical issues including: Ongoing funding for management; Ecological restoration principles; Fish and oyster production objectives; Adapt for future changes and circumstances; Incorporate state vetted plans; Address enforcement of regulation; Manage wild harvest differently than aquaculture; and Regulation of aquaculture.

List Additional Key Topical Issues you think need to be addressed:

Note below any Strategies/Options to address the Key Topical Issues:



C.) A THRIVING ECONOMY CONNECTED TO THE GREATER PENSACOLA BAY SYSTEM

Vision Theme C: The Greater Pensacola Bay System oyster fishery, aquaculture, and oyster reef ecosystem serve as key components of the region's cultural heritage and economic viability, and serve to sustain an economically viable and thriving fishery, recreation and tourism industry.

Draft Goal: A healthy Bay System contributes measurably to a thriving economy for the Greater Pensacola Bay region.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Greater Pensacola Bay region is thriving economically, enhanced by achieving and sustaining a healthy Bay System that supports a cultural heritage of an oyster fishery, oyster reef ecosystem, and aquaculture, and provides opportunities for sustainable and responsible industry, development, business, recreation and tourism.

Proposed Alternate Outcome: By 2030, recovery of the Greater Pensacola Bay ecosystem spurred by restoration of oyster reef ecosystems and a sustainable oyster fishery and development of aquaculture has led to a thriving economy that provides opportunities for sustainable and responsible industry, development, business, recreation and tourism.

Key Topical Issues: At the November 15, 2019 meeting members brainstormed key topical issues including: Growth and conflicts among users. Aquaculture regulation and user conflicts; Aquaculture Use Zones; Economic activities that rely on a health bay; Social science; Controlling runoff; Public pushback for living seashore projects; Revenue generation and the plan; and local government involvement.

List Additional Key Topical Issues you think need to be addressed:

Note below any Strategies/Options to address the Key Topical Issues:



D.) An Engaged and Informed Public

Vision Theme D: Stakeholders of the Greater Pensacola Bay System are committed to working together collaboratively to serve as a hub for best practices and research, and provide education and communication on the importance of maintaining the health and productivity of the oyster reef ecosystem, fishery, and aquaculture, and the role they play in ensuring a thriving community.

Draft Goal: The oyster reef ecosystem of the Greater Pensacola Bay System is supported and protected by an engaged and informed public.

Draft Outcome: By 2030, the Greater Pensacola Bay System, stakeholders, private and nonprofit civic leaders, and the public are informed of the importance of sustaining the health of the Bay System, and work actively together along with elected and appointed leaders and managers to invest in and implement the Plan.

Key Topical Issues: At the November 15, 2019 meeting members brainstormed key topical issues including: A communication strategy to bring the PBS back to health; Marine habitats- out of sight out of mind; Plan should fit into the Estuary CCMP; Local government support; Unique community/state partnership; and Distrust of science.

List Additional Key Topical Issues you think need to be addressed:

Note below any Strategies/Options to address the Key Topical Issues:



DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

HARVEST

- Total harvest in bushels
- Harvest by size category
- Harvest by location
- Harvest by fishery type (recreational/commercial)
- Timing of harvest during the fishing season
- Harvest per licensed harvester
- Effort expended harvesting
- Catch per unit effort (catch per trip)
- Amount of illegal harvest
- Number of full-time harvesters that the fishery can support
- Fraction of oysters that are being harvested

ECONOMICS

- > Frequency of harvest that meets an economic minimum for sustainability
- ➢ % of oysters in the local market
- Number of fishermen participating in the fishery
- Revenue per harvester (and perhaps its distribution)
- Travel time costs, and distance travelled
- > Investment in management measures (e.g., restoration and/or fishery enhancement efforts)
- Revenue raised in fees/bushel taxes
- Restoration costs avoided
- Social benefits (value of ecosystem benefits)
- Harvest rate (bags per day)
- > Performance metric for economic sustainability of the community
- > Total economic investment versus outcome to economy

POPULATION

- Abundance of oysters in the population
- Density of oysters (number per m²)
- Size of oysters by location/region
- Number of large oysters (>5") by location/region
- Biomass of the population
- > Amount of brood stock (spawning stock biomass) protected in the population
- Spat production (Recruitment)



DRAFT PERFORMANCE MEASURES

ΗΑΒΙΤΑΤ

- Surface area of reef
- Reef structure (vertical relief) suitability for settlement, fish production, shoreline protection, climate change
- > Habitat suitability area suitable for settlement and changes over time
- Change in oyster habitat/year (area or volume)

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- Biomass of reef-enhanced species supported
- > Change in abundance of enhanced fishery species (e.g., blue crabs, stone crabs)
- Volume of water filtered
- Days to filter estuary volume
- > Water clarity
- Reduction in suspended matter
- Area of the bottom (<6ft deep) with enough light to support seagrass</p>
- Reduction in nitrogen in pounds
- Value of nitrogen reduction
- > Nitrogen removed as percentage of inputs



GPBS PROJECT SUMMARY AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

PROJECT SUMMARY. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Florida is convening stakeholders to develop an oyster ecosystem-based fisheries management plan for the Greater Pensacola Bay System (GPBS). For the purpose of this initiative the system is defined as Escambia, Pensacola, East and Blackwater Bays in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. TNC has been supporting and implementing projects in the GPBS for the past several years in collaboration with partners. Oysters and the once vibrant fishery are disappearing from the System. Significant funding as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is being dedicated to restoration of oysters throughout the Gulf of Mexico. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reverse the trend and create a robust future for oysters and the fishery in Florida and the Gulf.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE. The goal of the initiative is that by 2022 an oyster ecosystem-based fisheries management plan (Plan) for the GPBS is approved by the stakeholders. The Plan will be offered as a model for management of oyster resources throughout Florida's estuarine systems, the Gulf of Mexico and other regions. The intent is for the Plan to be developed, owned and implemented by the community and the State, not a "TNC plan".

The Working Group and the resulting Plan will seek to address and determine the priority of multiple objectives including wild harvest, oyster aquaculture, ecosystem service outcomes (i.e., clear water, more crabs and fish, nitrogen removal), and social benefits (e.g., recreational angling opportunities, and opportunity to participate in defining credible management processes) for the GPBS.

The Plan resulting from this initiative will help to define long-term estuary-scale goals for restoring and sustaining oysters in the estuary. It will work in the broader context of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program that received EPA funding in 2018 as part of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill settlement. The program hired an executive director in 2019 and is organizing to develop a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) for the Estuary Program's planning region.

WORKING GROUP GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WORKING GROUP DRAFT GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1.) Working Group members will strive to work together collaboratively and seek to understand and respect differing perspectives.

2.) The Working Group will strive to achieve consensus on the evaluation and development of recommendations submitted to the TNC Project Team and appropriate management and regulatory agencies.





3.) The Working Group will operate under policies and procedures that are clear, concise, and consistently and equitably applied.

4.) Working Group members will serve as accessible liaisons between the stakeholder groups they have been appointed to represent and the GPBS Working Group and should strive to both inform and seek input on issues the Working Group is addressing from those they represent.

WORKING GROUP CONSENSUS-BUILDING PROCEDURES

The GPBS Stakeholder Working Group (Working Group) will seek consensus on its recommendations for options to be evaluated using the best available science and decisionsupport tools for management and restoration of the GPBS. General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose. In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final package of recommendations, and the Working Group finds that 100% acceptance or support is not achievable, final consensus recommendations will require at least 75% favorable vote of all members present and voting. This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with. In instances where the Working Group finds that even 75% acceptance or support is not achievable, publication of recommendations will include documentation of the differences and the options that were considered for which there is more than 50% support from the Working Group. The report that will be a product of the Working Group process will clearly describe the level of agreement between Working Group members on each specific recommendation as well as on the suite of recommendations as a whole.

Working Group members, staff, and facilitators will be the only participants seated at the table. Only Working Group members may participate in discussions and vote on proposals and recommendations. The facilitators, or a Working Group member through the facilitators, may request specific clarification from a member of the public in order to assist the Working Group in understanding an issue. Observers/members of the public are welcome to speak during the public comment period provided at each meeting, and all comments submitted on the public comment forms provided will be included in the facilitators' summary reports. In order to provide balance to the Working Group process, members agree to represent and consult with their stakeholder interest groups.

ACCEPTABILITY RATING SCALE FOR OPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During an early meeting Working Group members will be asked to propose an initial suite of options to address each of the Key Topical Issues in turn. During subsequent meetings Working Group members will be asked to review existing proposed options and will be invited to propose any additional options for Working Group consideration, and subsequently to rate the options



for acceptability. In addition, following discussion and refinement of options, members may be asked to do additional ratings of proposed options if requested by a Working Group member or project scientist. Members should be prepared to offer specific refinements to address their reservations.

Once rated for acceptability, options with a 75% or greater number of 4s and 3s in proportion to 2s and 1s will be considered preliminary consensus recommendations for inclusion in the final package of recommendations.

At any point during the process, any option may be re-evaluated and rated at the request of any Working Group member. The status of a rated option will not be final until the final Working Group meeting, when a vote will be taken on the entire package of consensus ranked recommendations.

The following scale will be utilized for acceptability rating exercises:

Acceptability	4 = Acceptable,	3 = Acceptable,	2 = Not Acceptable, I don't	1 = Not
Rating Scale	l agree	agree with minor	agree unless major reservations	Acceptable
		reservations	are addressed	



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES: The Working Group's Guiding Principles reflect the broad values and philosophy that guides the operation of the Working Group and the behavior of its members throughout its process and in all circumstances regardless of changes in its goals, strategies or membership.

VISION: An idealized view of where or what the stakeholders would like the oyster resource and ecosystem to be in the future.

VISION THEMES: The related key topical issue area strategies that characterize the desirable future for the oyster resource and ecosystem. The Vision Themes establish a framework for goals and objectives. They are not ordered by priority.

GOAL: A goal is a statement of the project's purpose to move towards the vision expressed in fairly broad language.

OUTCOME: Outcomes describe the expected result at the end of the project period – what is hoped to be achieved when the goal is accomplished (*e.g., an ecologically, and economically viable, healthy and sustainable Greater Pensacola Bay System oyster fishery and ecosystem*).

OBJECTIVE: Objectives describe in concrete terms how to accomplish the goal to achieve the vision within a specific timeframe and with available resources. (*e.g.*, *By 2023*, *the State of Florida has approved a stakeholder developed oyster ecosystem-based fishery management plan for the Greater Pensacola Bay System."*)

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: The regular measurement of outcomes and results that generates reliable data on the effectiveness and efficiency of programs and plans. Performance measure will be used to measure the results of proposed management and restoration options.

STAKEHOLDERS: All interest groups whether public, private or non-governmental organizations who have an interest or concern in the success of a project and can affect or be affected by the outcome of any decision or activity of the project. For purposes of the Greater Pensacola Bay System Working Group process, stakeholders include but are not limited to: agriculture, silviculture, business, real estate, economic development, tourism, environmental, citizen groups, recreational fishing, commercial seafood industry, local government, state government, federal government, universities, and research interests.

