

## Successor Group Subcommittee Agenda

**Members:** Shannon Hartsfield, Anita Grove, Ricky Jones, Steve Rash, Chad Hanson, Chad Taylor, Georgia Ackerman, Joel Trexler FSU, Jim Estes FWC

1. Purpose- To develop a strategy to form a permanent, representative stakeholder successor group to advocate for the adoption and implementation of the restoration plan.
2. Who needs to be on the committee?
3. Develop scope of work
4. Structure of group
5. Set future meeting time and date

## Subcommittee tasks developed from Apalachicola Bay Systems Initiative Goals and Strategies

**GOAL C:** The Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan is supported by the Apalachicola Bay System stakeholders and is fully funded.

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a productive and sustainably managed ecosystem. A fully funded and well-executed science-based Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan that incorporates the monitoring necessary for evaluation and adaptation is broadly supported by Apalachicola Bay System stakeholders with guidance from a permanent stakeholder advisory board.

### GOAL C OBJECTIVES

C1) To establish a fully funded permanent, representative stakeholder process to monitor the long-term implementation of the Plan.

1) The ABSI Team and the CAB will continue to have an open and transparent process for the development of the Plan with many opportunities for stakeholder engagement and input in a variety of forums (e.g., workshops, online, public/ government meetings) for generating awareness and support while incorporating any changes the CAB deems appropriate and necessary to fulfill the goals and objectives.

*Action 1-A.):* Continue CAB meetings and public workshops as outlined in the FCRC proposal for 2021.

2) During 2021 Prior to completion of the Plan, the ABSI Team will form a sub-committee within the CAB to evaluate the efficacy of forming a CAB successor group. The intent of a successor group would be to ensure continuity between the CAB members and the agencies responsible for oyster management. [Status: initiated]

*Action 2-A.):* The subcommittee will define a plausible scope of work for the successor group, including evaluating regulatory processes and engaging with and being accountable to decision-makers and the public for the actions laid out in the Plan and the implementation thereof.

*Action 2-B.):* The subcommittee will evaluate the best organizational structure for ensuring longevity of the successor group, including working under the auspices of a state agency, an estuary program, or private/public partnerships.

3) A successor group to the CAB will be developed and in place by the time the Plan is completed.

*Action 3-A.):* The successor group actively engages with state programs to encourage their adoption of ABSI's long-term monitoring guidelines and metrics for assessing water quality, oyster abundance, and demographics and to regularly review and update these guidelines and metrics to maintain a healthy and sustainable oyster harvest and ecosystem.

*Action 3-B.):* The successor group encourages agencies to prioritize the Plan’s recommendations for investing more funding in the management and restoration of oyster resources.

*Action 3-C.):* The successor group should evaluate whether to initiate the development of an Apalachicola Bay Estuary Program (ABEP) to coordinate and lead in the implementation and monitoring of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The successor group should explore whether it’s a better model to be a part of EPA’s National Estuary Program or to model the ABEP after the EPA program with funding provided from other entities as was done with the St. Andrew and St. Joe Bays Estuary Program.

**GOAL E:** The broader Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a fully restored Apalachicola Bay System.

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, the broader Apalachicola Bay Region is thriving economically as a result of a restored Apalachicola Bay System that reflects a unique coastal cultural heritage, based on a vibrant oyster fishery, while simultaneously providing new opportunities for sustainable and responsible development, business, recreation and tourism.

#### **GOAL E OBJECTIVES**

E1) To ensure that economic indicators of the commercial oyster fishery and associated industries in the ABS demonstrate increasing viability and growth.

E2) To ensure that industries and businesses within the ABS are compatible with a healthy and well-managed ABS ecosystem.

E3) To develop growth management policies, plans and regulations affecting the ABS that are

#### **GOAL E DRAFT STRATEGIES**

1) Work with existing partners (e.g., the Chamber of Commerce, Apalachee Regional Planning Council, and city and county staff) to monitor and report on the economic benefits of a restored ABS, including key economic indicators relevant to the commercial oyster fishery and associated industries in the region. This can be displayed as a dashboard that includes key economic indicators over time based on restoration efforts in the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS).

2) Recommend monitoring<sup>2</sup> and enforcement programs continue with appropriate metrics to measure output from and impact of harvest on oyster reefs.

3) Support planning tied to economic indicators that consider future conditions (climate, SLR, reduced river flow) and their effects on the ABS.

4) Work with oystermen and other community stakeholders to promote post-recovery Apalachicola oysters.

- 5) Develop complementary industries in wild oyster harvest and oyster aquaculture that provide new economic opportunities by building a network of experts that can help Franklin County citizens build successful programs through business training, identifying sources of funding for equipment, and developing products that will enhance and diversify local industries.
- 6) Develop new markets for selling oysters to areas within and outside of Florida in part by investing in location (Apalachicola Bay) branding.
- 7) Review land development regulations to provide flexibility while supporting and enhancing efforts to maintain and revitalize working waterfronts in Apalachicola and Eastpoint to ensure preservation of Franklin County's cultural heritage and a viable seafood industry.
- 8) Coordinate with the local business community and governing bodies (i.e., city and county commissions) to ensure that growth management plans, land use and development regulations meet strong standards that are compatible with and minimize the environmental impact of industry and business activities within the ABS and are conducive to a healthy ecosystem.
- 9) Engage commercial fishermen in the restoration of the bay and encourage future participation in restoration such as monitoring, shell recycling, shelling, and relaying.

#### **ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES OUTSIDE OF ABSI SCOPE TO BE REFERRED TO OTHER PROGRAMS OR ENTITIES**

- 1) Develop surveys or other tools that can be used to measure and track changes in stakeholder and public understanding of the issues important to the health and restoration of the Bay.
  - 2) Engage the general public (students, residents and tourists) in learning about the history and the ecological and economic importance of the Apalachicola Bay region, including the natural resources, and lumber, cotton shipping, and fishing industries.
  - 3) Build Gulf-wide mechanism for communities interested in the restoration and revitalization of fisheries to exchange best practices and lessons learned. [Status: this is developed through FWC]
  - 4) Provide training and financial support for new workforce entrants (particularly young entrants) interested in being employed in existing industries as well as and developing industries in new fisheries, aquaculture, and restoration science.
  - 5) Work with State legislators and state agencies to develop funding strategies, and incentives for involving local watermen, seafood dealers, restaurants, aquaculture operations, and private citizens in oyster reef restoration efforts that will increase the viability of oyster resources.
- Action 5-A.):* Identify source of shell, or other restoration material.

*Lead:* ABSI CAB Successor Group *Partners:* Stakeholder groups, Chamber of Commerce, local