THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

Community Advisory Board July 27, 2022

ABSI funding is provided by Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. and Florida State University
Sub-tidal surveys using tongs

6 samples per site
Volume: Rock, dead shell, live oysters
Counted: spat, adults, market, boxes
Measured: live oysters (<25, 25-76, >76)
Sub-tidal Monitoring (2020-2021)
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Tonging data showing mean # oysters/site for different size classes relative to longitude (2021-22 data)
Relationship between material volume and spat per tong
Predicted relationship between spat counts and material volume

- East Bay
- West Bay
Restoration experimental design

Reef size and height
30 ft x 30 ft x 1.5 ft = 50 cubic yards of material

Materials
- Natural oyster shell – good for spat settlement, can be harvested with tongs
- Small Limerock (2”) creates mound, small spaces, many layers, can be harvested with tongs
- Medium Limerock (6-8”) – creates stable structure, medium spaces, few layers, good for habitat development, can be harvested once oysters develop.
Deployment

26 May – Peanut Ridge Shell
27 May – Peanut Ridge Small Lime-rock
3 June – Dry Bar Small Lime-rock
4 June – Dry Bar Shell
9 June – Dry Bar Large Lime-rock
24 June – Peanut Ridge Large Lime-rock
Restoration Experiment Design
Tonging results for restoration reefs (April-May 2022)

Average number of live oysters (per tong) by treatment and site

Average % live oysters (per tong) by treatment and site
Size distribution results for restoration experiment

Average size class distribution by treatment and site
- Spat = < 25 mm
- Juveniles = 25-75 mm
- Market = >75 mm
For those traps that had spat, there is higher settlement in 2021 than in recent years. However, these values are not anomalous and are within the range of variation observed since 2015.

How has settlement changed over time?
Mean number of spat/trap (FWC data)
Questions?

For additional information:

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