

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/>

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

MEETING #2 OF PHASE V — WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 2023 — 8:30AM

APALACHICOLA NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE
108 ISLAND DRIVE (STATE ROAD 300) AT CAT POINT IN EASTPOINT, FLORIDA

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Meeting Agenda and Summary Report)
- ✓ To Review Updated Workplan and Meeting Schedule
- ✓ To Receive Science and Data Collection, and Restoration Updates
- ✓ To Receive Reports from RFWG, Community Outreach, and CAB Successor Group
- ✓ To Review and Acceptability Rank Restoration and Management Plan Framework Strategies
- ✓ To Identify and Agree on the Next Suite of Strategies for Ranking
- ✓ To Identify Next Steps: Information, Presentations, Assignments, Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ABSI COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA

All Agenda Times — Including Public Comment and Adjournment — Are Approximate and Subject to Change

1)	8:30am	WELCOME AND ROLL CALL
2)	8:35	SOCIAL SCIENCE SURVEY
3)	8:40	AGENDA REVIEW AND MEETING OBJECTIVES
4)	8:45	APPROVAL OF FACILITATOR'S CAB SUMMARY REPORT (February 1, 2023)
5)	8:50	REVIEW OF UPDATED PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN (Attachment 3)
6)	9:00	SCIENCE AND DATA COLLECTION, AND RESTORATION UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Public Interface Tool for Fisheries Model Update</i>. Fabio Caltabellotta, FSUCML (25)• <i>FWC (NFWF Phase 2) Restoration Project Update</i>. Devin Resko, FWC (10)
7)	9:40	WORKING GROUP AND SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Successor Group Subcommittee Update</i>. Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield (5)• <i>Restoration Funding Working Group Update</i>. Joel Trexler (5)• <i>Community Outreach Subcommittee Update</i>. Chad Hanson (10)
8)	10:00	ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF CAB'S ADOPTED RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK STRATEGIES USING THE STRATEGIES EVALUATION WORKSHEET
~10:25am		BREAK
	10:40	ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF STRATEGIES — CONTINUED
~12:00pm		LUNCH — ON CAMPUS
9)	12:30	ABSI MODELING UPDATES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Hydrodynamic and Larval Dispersal Modeling Results</i>. Steve Morey, FAMU. (30)
	1:00	ACCEPTABILITY RANKING OF STRATEGIES — CONTINUED



10)	2:00	IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIES FOR NEXT ROUND OF RANKING: INCLUDING COMBINATIONS OF STRATEGIES, NEW STRATEGIES, AND ANY STRATEGIES TO BE REMOVED FROM FURTHER EVALUATION
11)	~2:10pm	PUBLIC COMMENT — THREE MINUTES PER PERSON
12)	~2:25	ACTION ITEMS AND AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (May 31, 2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Action Items and Assignments from Meeting • Identify Agenda Items, Presentations, and Information Needs for Next Meeting • ABSI CAB Community Forum Workshop #1 • Complete Meeting Evaluation
	~2:30pm	ADJOURN

PROJECT RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

PROJECT WEBPAGE: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/the-apalachicola-bay-system-initiative/>

PROJECT EMAIL: fsucml-absi@fsu.edu

PROJECT FACILITATION: Jeff Blair of Facilitated Solutions, LLC.
Information at: <http://facilitatedsolutions.org>.



ABSI CAB ORGANIZATIONAL AND PROCEDURAL POLICES AND GUIDELINES
Located under the ABSI CAB Procedures and Reports Menu: <https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>

ABSI CAB RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT
Located under the ABSI CAB Framework Adopted 16 November 2021 Menu Tab:
<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>

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ATTACHMENT 1
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND REPRESENTATION

MEMBERS (22)	AFFILIATION
AGRICULTURE/ACF STAKEHOLDERS/RIPARIAN COUNTIES	
1. Chad Taylor [^]	Riparian County Stakeholder Coalition/ACF Stakeholders/Agriculture
BUSINESS/REAL ESTATE/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/TOURISM	
2. Chuck Marks	Business (Insurance Industry)
ENVIRONMENTAL/CITIZEN GROUPS	
3. Georgia Ackerman ^{^*#}	Apalachicola Riverkeeper
4. Chad Hanson ^{^*#}	The Pew Charitable Trusts
5. Katie Konchar [#]	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT	
6. Otlice Amison	Franklin County Commissioner
7. Anita Grove ^{^*#}	Apalachicola City Commissioner
RECREATIONAL FISHING	
8. Frank Gidus	CCA Florida
9. Grayson Shepard	Hang on Charters (Charter Fishing)
SEAFOOD INDUSTRY	
10. David Barber	Barber's Seafood
11. Shannon Hartsfield [^]	Seafood Management Assistance, Resource Recovery Team (SMARRT)/Oysterman
12. Gayle Johnson	Indian Lagoon Oyster Company (Aquaculture)
13. Steve Rash [^]	Water Street Seafood
14. TJ Ward	Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood
STATE GOVERNMENT	
15. Jenna Harper [#]	ANERR/DEP
16. Becca Hatchell	FWC Division of Habitat and Species Conservation
17. Alex Reed [#]	FDEP Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection
18. Devin Resko ^{^*#}	FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management (Replacing Jim Estes)
19. Portia Sapp [#]	FDACS Division of Aquaculture
20. Paul Thurman [#]	NFWFMD
UNIVERSITY/RESEARCHERS/SCIENTISTS	
21. Mike Allen	Scientist: Director of UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station (NCBS)
22. Erik Lovstrand [#]	UF/IFAS/Florida Sea Grant/Franklin County Extension
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD SUBCOMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUP	
* Community Outreach Subcommittee	Lead: Chad Hanson
# Restoration Funding Working Group	Lead: Joel Trexler
[^] Successor Group Subcommittee	Co-Leads: Anita Grove and Shannon Hartsfield
PROJECT TEAM AND CAB FACILITATOR	
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY	
Sandra Brooke [*]	Marine Biologist
Ross Ellington	Professor Emeritus of Biological Science
Madelein Mahood [*]	Outreach and Education
Joel Trexler ^{^#}	FSUCML Director
FACILITATED SOLUTIONS, LLC	
Jeff Blair	Community Advisory Board Facilitator



ATTACHMENT 2
ABSI CAB PROJECT MEETING SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN

UPDATED AS OF THE 12 APRIL 2023 CAB MEETING

PHASE I (2019) — STANDING UP AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABSI CAB
May 2019 – December 2019 (Assessment Process, Questionnaire, and 2 CAB Meetings) — Status Complete

PHASE II (2020) — SCOPING OF ISSUES, IDENTIFICATION OF PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STRATEGIES
Jan. 2020 – Dec. 2020 (7 CAB Meeting & 1 Oystermen’s Workshop) — Status Complete

PHASE III (2021) — BUILDING CONSENSUS ON CAB RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ABS ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN
Adoption of Final Draft Management and Restoration Plan Framework for Phase IV and V Evaluation
Jan. 2021 – Nov. 2021 (7 CAB Meeting & 2 Oystermen’s Workshops) — Status Complete

PHASE IV (2022) — EVALUATION OF DRAFT ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN FRAMEWORK’S RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING
Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022 (6 CAB Meetings, 1 Oystermen’s Workshops, and 1 Community Workshop) — Status Complete

PHASE V (2023) — EVALUATION AND FINALIZATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE *APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN*, RESTORATION AND FUNDING PLANNING
Jan. 2023 – Dec. 2023 (6 CAB Meetings, 3 Community Workshops) — Status Initiated

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (CAB). The CAB initiated Phase V in January of 2023 and is currently evaluating the best combination of strategies predicted to achieve restoration and management objectives for the Bay using decision support tools including predictive models coupled with available and emerging data, research, and stakeholder knowledge. The strategies are being evaluated with the overarching goal of restoring oyster reefs to a level that can sustainably provide needed ecosystem services for the System, and concurrently provide for a sustainable and economically viable level of commercial oyster harvesting.

During the course of the project the CAB will vet their recommendations with restoration and management agencies to gauge support and feasibility for implementation. The CAB will evaluate the priority and efficacy of strategies and associated actions and identify conceptual and general in scope restoration and management approaches for inclusion in the *Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan* (Plan).

Phase V focuses on the evaluation and finalization of recommendations for inclusion in the Plan, and restoration projects and funding planning. The CAB will vote to approve their package of consensus recommendations during their 29 November 2023 meeting. *Status: Initiated*

- 1. COMMUNITY OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT.** The CAB working through the Community Outreach Subcommittee initiated a community feedback initiative by providing information and seeking community input on the Plan Framework. The CAB will vet the results of their prioritized strategies with the larger ABS community through multiple forums including questionnaires administered through a variety of methods including Facebook, online via the ABSI website, and direct mailings. In addition, community workshops will be conducted at appropriate times to provide the Community with information on ABSI and solicit community input. *Status: Initiated*



- 2. RESTORATION FUNDING WORKING GROUP (RFGW).** Initiated in late 2021 the Restoration Funding Working Group’s role is to seek resources and political, governmental, and organizational support for the CAB’s priority recommendations. *Status: Initiated*
- 3. CAB SUCCESSOR GROUP.** The CAB Successor Group will be ready to convene when the CAB completes their work on the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan. The Successor Group’s role will be to organize a group of key stakeholders committed to working collaboratively for the long-term, once the CAB process is complete and to ensure that the Plan is implemented, monitored, and adaptively managed over time and has the support of the Community. The CAB Successor Group process will formally initiate January 2024. *Status: Conducting Organizational and Planning Meetings. Formal Convening Pending CAB Approval of Recommendations for Plan on 29 November 2023.*

ABSI CAB PHASE V MEETINGS SCHEDULE AND WORKPLAN — 2023

Meeting #1 ANERR 8:30am	Feb. 1, 2023 • Fisheries Model Simulation Results & Scenarios Refinements • Review of Plan Framework Strategies	Initiation of Phase V of ABSI. ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Review of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> and Strategies Evaluation Worksheet process. Summary and discussion of Fisheries Model simulation results for revised priority Habitat Restoration (Goal A) and Fisheries Management (Goal B) scenarios. Agreement on next suite of scenarios for model simulations. Public comment.
Meeting #2 ANERR 8:30am	April 12, 2023 • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #1	April 12, 2023 ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, Management Strategies, ABSI Science, and Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage.
Meeting #3 ANERR 8:30am	May 31, 2023 • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Evaluation of Community Workshop input. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
Meeting #4 ANERR 8:30am	July 26, 2023 • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #2	July 26, 2023 ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on ABSI Restoration Approaches, Management Strategies, ABSI Science, and Preservation of Franklin County Socio-Cultural and Historical Heritage.



Meeting #5 ANERR 8:30am	Sept. 27, 2023 • Acceptability Ranking of Strategies	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Acceptability ranking of the <i>Apalachicola Bay Restoration and Management Plan Framework</i> strategies using the Strategies Evaluation Worksheet Process. Agreement on next suite of strategies for ranking. Public comment.
Community Workshop Forum #3	October 24, 2023 ANERR 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Community Input on the CAB’s recommendations for the <i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan</i> .
Meeting #6 ANERR 8:30am	Nov. 29, 2023 • Adopt Final CAB Recommendations for ABS Plan	ABSI science and data collection and restoration project updates. Sub-committee reports and public engagement initiative update. Review and discussion of Community Workshop input. Finalize and adopt recommendations for strategies and actions for inclusion in the <i>Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (Plan)</i> and submit to FSUCML. Public comment.



ATTACHMENT 3

CAB PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES (ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019)

CAB PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES

- ✓ Look to the Facilitator to be recognized.
- ✓ Please raise your hand and/or place your name card vertically to speak.
- ✓ Speak one person at a time. Please don't interrupt each other.
- ✓ Focus on issues, not personalities. *“Using insult instead of argument is the sign of a small mind.”*
- ✓ Avoid stereotyping or personal attacks. *“Mud thrown is ground lost.”*
- ✓ Speak only when recognized by the Facilitator.
- ✓ Facilitator will call on participants in turn.
- ✓ Facilitator may change the speaking order in order to promote discussion on a specific issue or, to balance participation and allow those who have not spoken on an issue an opportunity to do so before others on the list who have already spoken on the issue.
- ✓ Offer one idea per person without explanation.
- ✓ No comments, criticism, or discussion of other's ideas.
- ✓ Listen respectfully to other's ideas and opinions.
- ✓ The CAB Process is an opportunity to explore possibilities. Offering or exploring an idea does not necessarily imply support for it.
- ✓ Listen to understand. Seek a shared understanding even if you don't agree.
- ✓ Be focused and concise—balance participation & minimize repetition. Share the airtime.
- ✓ To the extent possible, offer options to address other's concerns, as well as your own.
- ✓ Refrain from using electronic devices during the meetings; Keep electronic devices turned off or silent.

CAB GUIDING PRINCIPLES

FOUR PERSONAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES: Be impeccable with your word, don't take things personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best.

OVERARCHING GUIDING PRINCIPLE: *Seek first to understand, and then seek to be understood.*

WE WILL BE SUCCESSFUL AND HAVE GOOD CONVERSATION WHEN:

- ✓ All voices are invited, respected and heard.
- ✓ All experiences are treated as valid.
- ✓ We listen to each other actively, attentively, and respectfully.
- ✓ We observe time frames.
- ✓ We seek common ground and action.
- ✓ There is full and active attendance.
- ✓ We make the time and space to connect with each other.



- ✓ We participate actively and share opinions in the conversation—engage fully in this process.

ATTACHMENT 4
COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD CONSENSUS BUILDING PROCESS
(ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY OCTOBER 30, 2019)

The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) Community Advisory Board (CAB) will seek consensus on its recommendations for options to be evaluated using the best available science and decision-support tools for management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS).

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 Community Advisory Board 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 Community Advisory Board 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 Community Advisory Board. The report that will be a product of the Community Advisory Board process will clearly describe the level of agreement between Community Advisory Board members on each specific recommendation as well as on the suite of recommendations as a whole.

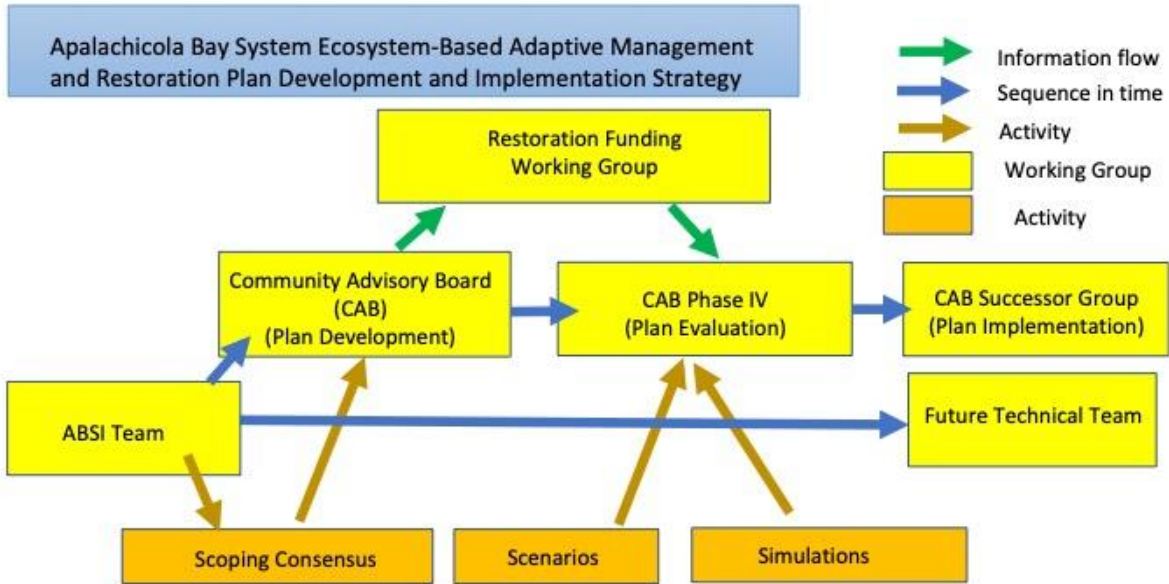
The Community Advisory Board will develop its recommendations using consensus-building techniques with the assistance of the facilitator. Techniques such as brainstorming, ranking and prioritizing approaches will be utilized. The Community Advisory Board’s consensus process will be conducted as a neutrally facilitated consensus-building process. Community Advisory Board members, project staff, and the facilitator will be the only participants seated at the table. Only Community Advisory Board members may participate in discussions and vote on proposals and recommendations. The facilitator, or a Community Advisory Board member through the facilitator, may request specific clarification from a member of the public in order to assist the Community Advisory Board 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 in writing will be included in the next meeting’s facilitator’s summary report.





ATTACHMENT 5 PROJECT FLOWCHART, MISSION AND GOAL STATEMENT, & PROJECT SUMMARY

ABSI CAB PROCESS FLOWCHART AND PROJECT AREA MAP



- Notes**
1. Yellow boxes are groups of people. Blue arrows connecting yellow boxes indicate some or all of the people in one group may comprise the next group in time sequence



ABSI Project Area Map



ABSI MISSION STATEMENT, PROJECT SUMMARY, AND CAB GOAL STATEMENT

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE MISSION STATEMENT. The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI) seeks to gain insight into the root causes of decline of the Bay's ecosystem and the deterioration of oyster reefs. Ultimately, the ABSI will develop a management and restoration plan for the oyster reefs and the health of the Bay.

PROJECT SUMMARY. In response to the rapidly declining health of the Apalachicola Bay System (ABS) and the collapse of the oyster fishery and reefs therein, Florida State University sought and was awarded a grant from Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. to undertake a series of scientific approaches intended to aid in the development of an ecosystem-based oyster management and restoration plan for the Apalachicola Bay System. The plan will be informed by science while involving representative stakeholders and the public in its creation, development and implementation by state and federal management agencies. Developing such a plan will help the state agencies responsible for marine resources improve the overall health and the rich biological diversity of the bay, including that of other ecologically and economically important species. Because oyster populations are declining in estuaries across the Florida panhandle, ABSI project leads will work with scientific, non-profit and governmental entities working on similar issues throughout this region to develop a consistent oyster management framework.

The vitality of Apalachicola Bay is key to the socio-economic prosperity of Franklin County and the surrounding area. Specifically, as the bay's health has declined, so has the area's once-booming oyster industry, resulting in widespread job loss and increased economic insecurity for many Franklin County residents whose livelihoods are tied to the Bay.

Florida State University through its Coastal and Marine Laboratory is investigating what precipitated the dramatic decline of the Apalachicola Bay System and working with the ABSI Community Advisory Board (CAB) and Science Advisory Board determine a viable course of action for improving its condition.

APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD GOAL STATEMENT. The overarching goal of the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Community Advisory Board 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 Apalachicola Bay System, and to ensure there is a reliable mechanism and process for the monitoring, funding, and implementation of the Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan.

A critical component of the management plan is oyster reef restoration with full consideration of factors affecting the biology, ecology and sustainable management of the resource. Restoration related actions, as indicated above, should be informed by the best available science and shared stakeholder values, that in turn, result in an economically viable, healthy, and sustainable Apalachicola Bay System.

The process is designed so that members can explore and evaluate oyster fishery practices and management options, and restoration policies in the Apalachicola Bay System. The Community Advisory Board's consensus recommendations, in the form of an Apalachicola Bay System Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan, will be directed to the Apalachicola Bay System Initiative Project Team, natural resource managers and environmental regulators, and other agencies/entities as appropriate.

