

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP OCT 24, 2023

# THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

Consensus Built Recommendations  
on How to Restore and Maintain a  
Healthy, Apalachicola Bay System



# ***THE PROJECT***

## THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

### MISSION

- To understand why the oysters declined, why they haven't recovered, and how to reverse the downward trend
- To develop a set of community-based recommendations for the management and restoration of Apalachicola Bay

### FUNDING

Funded in 2019 by Triumph Gulf Coast Inc. and Florida State University



# ***THE PROJECT***

## THE APALACHICOLA BAY SYSTEM INITIATIVE (ABSI)

### PROJECT GOALS

1. Develop tools (e.g. models, metrics), based on previous and ongoing research, to understand the ABS and assist restoration and management decisions
2. Develop effective oyster reef restoration approaches
3. Work with community members to develop an *Apalachicola Bay Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan (The Plan)*

# PLAN DEVELOPMENT

## COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

- Community Advisory Board members come from many stakeholder groups, including the seafood industry, local businesses, government agencies and non-governmental organizations.
- The CAB will have met 28 times since 2019 by the conclusion of the process in November of 2023.



## THE PROCESS



Community Advisory Board members represented their stakeholder groups and worked with the other members - *through a consensus building process* - to develop a plan that everyone could accept

# THE PLAN

This Plan represents a *series of options and recommendations* from the Community Advisory Board on management and restoration of the Apalachicola Bay System.

# THE PLAN FRAMEWORK

	GOALS	OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIES	ACTIONS
A	A Healthy and Productive Bay Ecosystem	4	7	33
B	Sustainable Management of Oyster Resources	2	9	40
C	The Plan is Supported and Implemented	2	2	12
D	Stakeholder Education and Engagement	2	2	7
E	A Thriving Economy Connected to a Restored Bay	4	2	10
	Additional Strategies		4	0

# GOAL A

## A HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE BAY ECOSYSTEM

**VISION:** The Apalachicola Bay System is sustainably managed to ensure the ecosystem is productive and economically viable.

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System is a healthy, productive ecosystem that supports a viable oyster fishery and other economic opportunities



7 Strategies

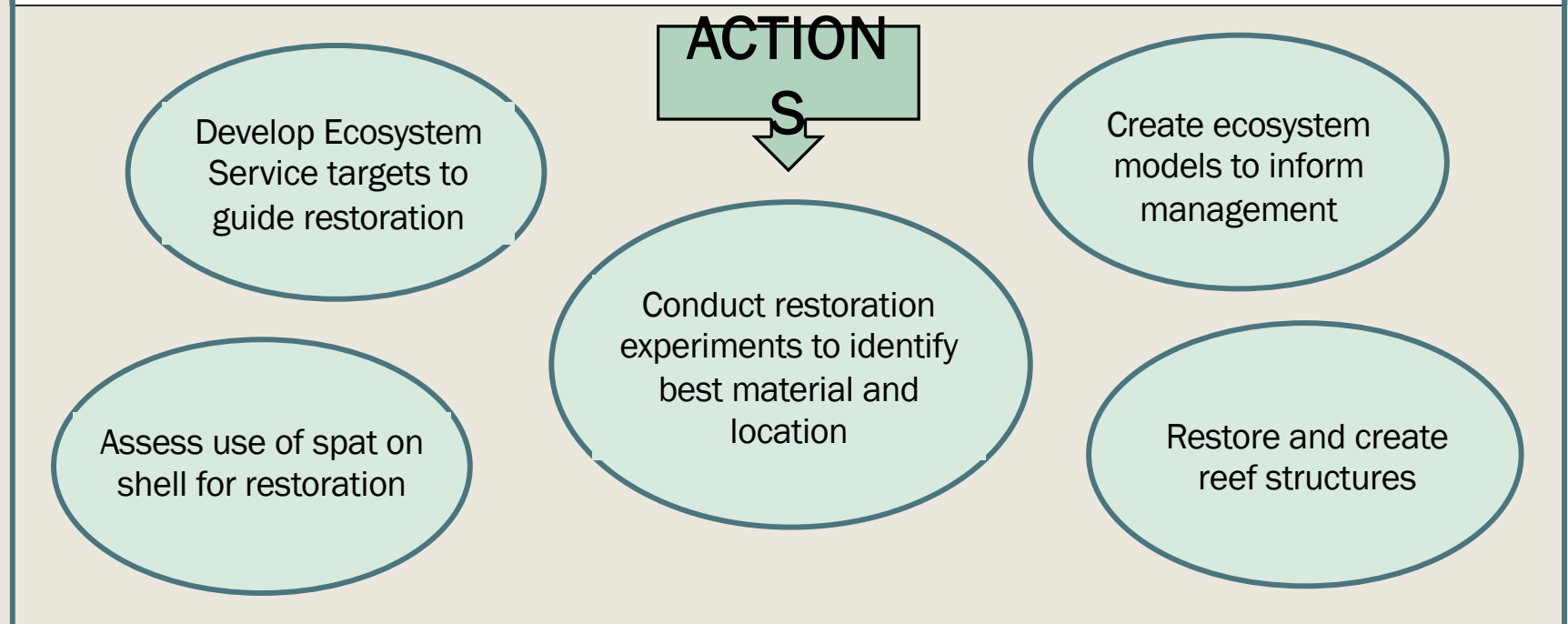
33 Actions



# GOAL A

## STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS - *Example*

1) Establish monitoring methods that can be used to help restore and manage the Apalachicola Bay System, including oysters.



## GOAL B

### SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF OYSTER RESOURCES

**VISION:** A sustainably managed and enforced wild oyster fishery, with a management plan that protects the resource and provides fair access to stakeholders

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, a science-driven plan will be in place to sustainably manage oyster resources in the Apalachicola Bay System.



9 Strategies

40 Actions

## GOAL B

### KEY STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS – *Example*

1) Evaluate management approaches that could be used to maintain a sustainable wild oyster fishery

**ACTION**



Evaluate potential for limited entry fishery

Consider Bay-wide summer closure of oyster fishery

Consider recreational daily harvest limit

Manage harvest areas to avoid effort concentration

Impose daily harvest limits

# GOAL C

## MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

**VISION:** The Apalachicola Bay Management and Restoration Plan is developed with support from stakeholders, who will help implement the Plan

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, the Apalachicola Bay System will be a productive and sustainably managed ecosystem with an Ecosystem-Based Adaptive Management and Restoration Plan



2 Strategies

12 Actions

# GOAL D

## STAKEHOLDER EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

**VISION:** Community members support the implementation of best management practices and serve as a communication hub between stakeholders and management.

**OUTCOME:** By 2030 the public are aware of the importance of sustaining the health of the Apalachicola Bay System and are working together to implement the Plan.



2 Strategies  
7 Actions

## GOAL E

### A THRIVING ECONOMY CONNECTED TO A RESTORED BAY

**VISION:** Apalachicola Bay sustains commercial fisheries, aquaculture, tourism and other development opportunities that support a strong economy and resilient coastal community.

**OUTCOME:** By 2030, Apalachicola Bay is thriving economically due to a restored Apalachicola Bay System



2 Strategies

10 Actions

## *NEXT STEPS*

**NOVEMBER 29, 2023:** COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD FINAL VOTE ON THE PLAN\*

**DECEMBER 2023:** THE PLAN WILL BE POSTED ON THE ABSI WEBSITE AND HARD COPIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO MANAGEMENT ENTITIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

**DECEMBER 2023:** THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD WILL BE REPLACED BY THE *PARTNERSHIP FOR A RESILIENT APALACHICOLA BAY*

\**THE ABSI-CAB APALACHICOLA BAY ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN*

## *Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay*

THE PARTNERSHIP FOR A RESILIENT APALACHICOLA BAY WILL BE A LONG-TERM WORK GROUP THAT WILL ADVOCATE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN INTO THE FUTURE.

THE PARTNERSHIP WILL REVIEW RESEARCH AND MONITORING DATA TO UNDERSTAND THE CONDITION OF THE RESOURCES AND THE SUCCESS OF RESTORATION. THEY WILL THEN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO DECISION-MAKERS ON FUTURE MANAGEMENT OR RESTORATION

FUNDING HAS BEEN SECURED TO HIRE A PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR FOR THE FIRST YEAR AND WILL CONTINUE WITH FUNDING THROUGH ANERR FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS.



# QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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