

Casting a Wider Net: Identifying Communications Barriers in FWC

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Communication gaps between FWC's Divisions of Marine Fisheries Management (MFM) and Law Enforcement (LE) can impede the priorities and mission of each division. Our practicum goal was to assemble a group of varying perspectives from marine fisheries management and law enforcement subject matter experts across Florida to have those difficult conversations regarding communication barriers, identify the challenges, and develop solutions. Specifically, our goals were to improve communication, build community, and advance the thinking between the divisions. On April 19th and 20th we held a two day interactive workshop in Ocala, FL with fourteen regional FWC law enforcement and marine fisheries managers from across the state. We applied our NRLI skills and techniques to facilitate conversation, brainstorming, and conflict management between the participants. The group identified top communication barriers, discussed consequences of these issues, and narrowed down actionable solutions to implement both regionally and statewide. Two main communication barriers identified by the group were lack of face-to-face interactions and challenges with information flow. A survey was distributed to a broader group of LE and MFM staff to help frame the conversation around communication between divisions prior to the workshop. Over 250 stakeholders provided input to the survey. Our next step is to develop a report summarizing the results of the workshop and distribute to leadership in order to take actionable steps to implement proposed solutions.