

Using a Multistakeholder Process to Improve Seagrass Conservation through Actionable Research

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February 2024





MSPs require a ROADMAP

Phases * Beginning, Middle, End



* Diverse interactive spaces

Interviews Fieldtrips Webinars Workshops
Moderated Panels small group work



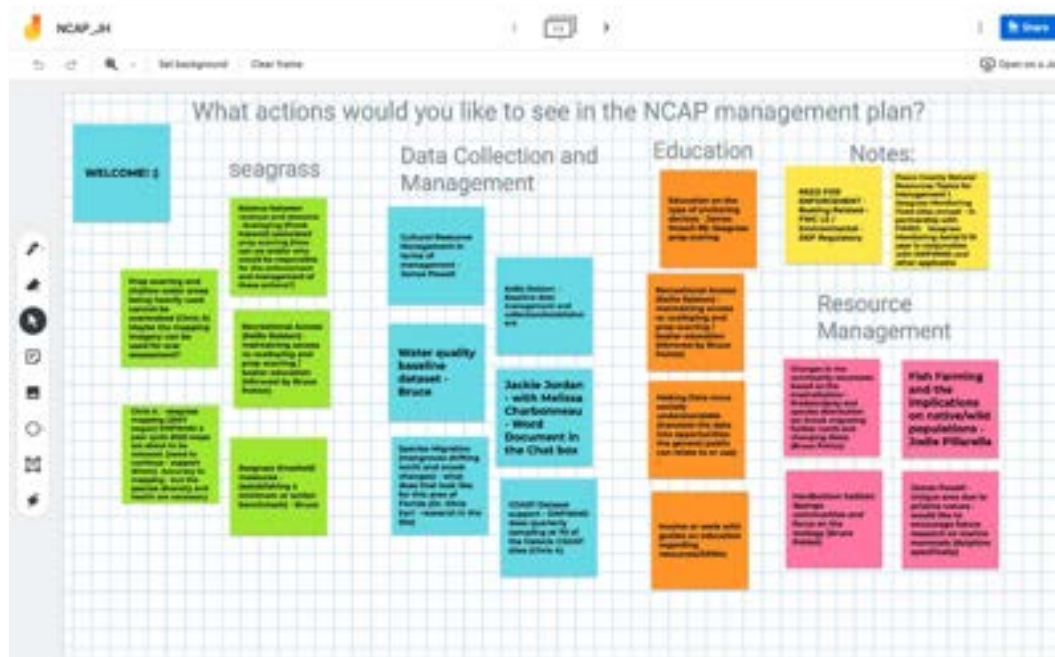
To engage NCAP stakeholders in the development of the 10-year management plan



To form an advisory committee who will identify issues, goals, objectives and strategies for NCAP management plan



To build community support for the NCAP

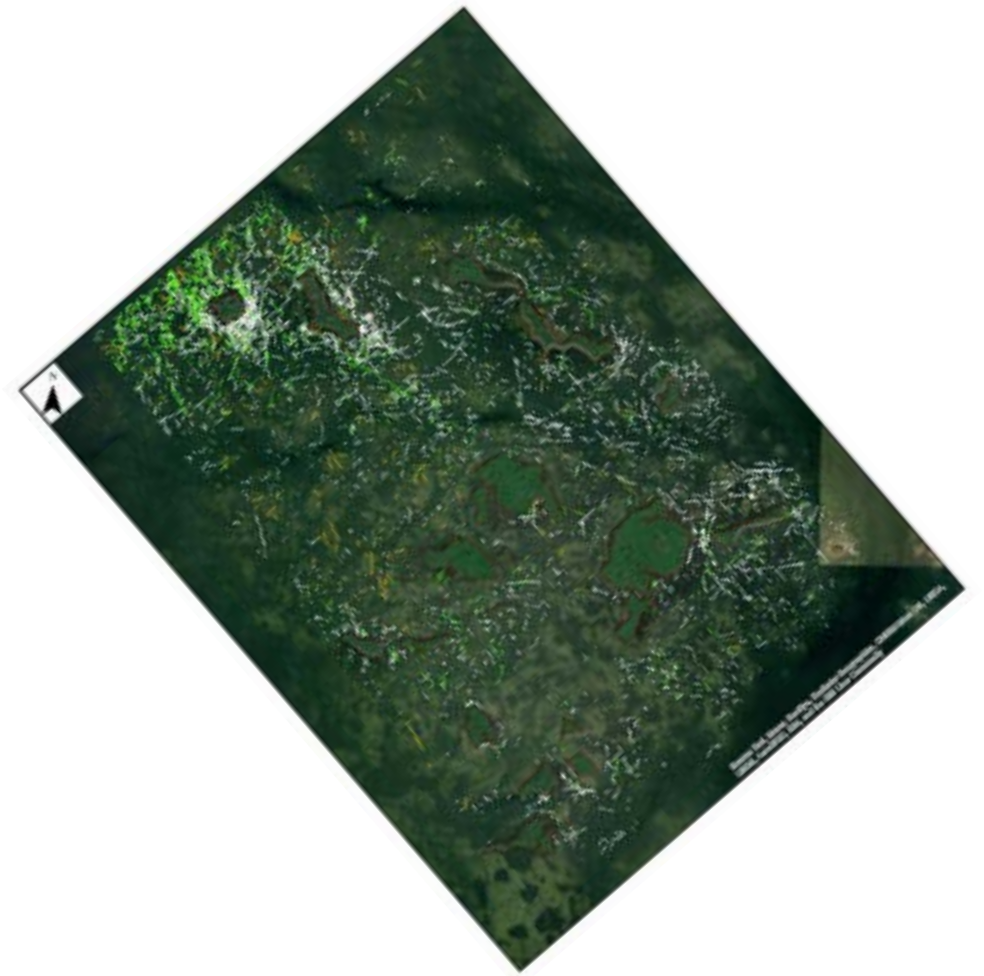




NCAP Issues

- Issue One: **Water resources**
- Issue Two: **Submerged resources**
- Issue Three: **Climate change**
- Issue Four: **Human dimensions**

10 ACTIONS!





RESTORE

SCIENCE PROGRAM

Overview of FFO-2021 – Planning for Actionable Science

This federal funding opportunity (full announcement) provides natural resource managers, researchers, and other stakeholders with the chance to compete for funding to plan a research project that informs a specific management decision impacting natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

This funding opportunity lays the foundation for the co-production of actionable science in two ways. One way is by focusing on the creation of partnerships between natural resource managers and researchers. The second way is by providing those partnerships with funding to jointly scope and design a research project that informs a future natural resource management decision. At least one natural resource manager must either lead or be on each project team.

This funding opportunity is an open competition. All proposals will be evaluated and scored individually using an independent peer review process. This process is designed to identify the strongest proposals based on the merit of the work being proposed.

As the planning projects awarded in this competition conclude, the Science Program expects to release a second competition for funding to execute and apply actionable science in the Gulf of Mexico.

\$2.5M for 20 one year projects

FFO-2023

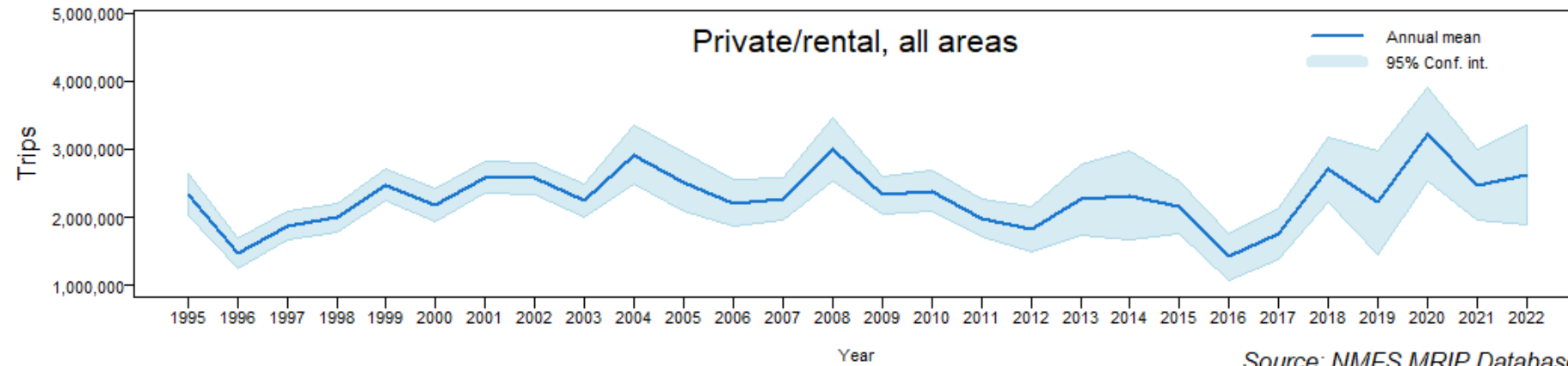
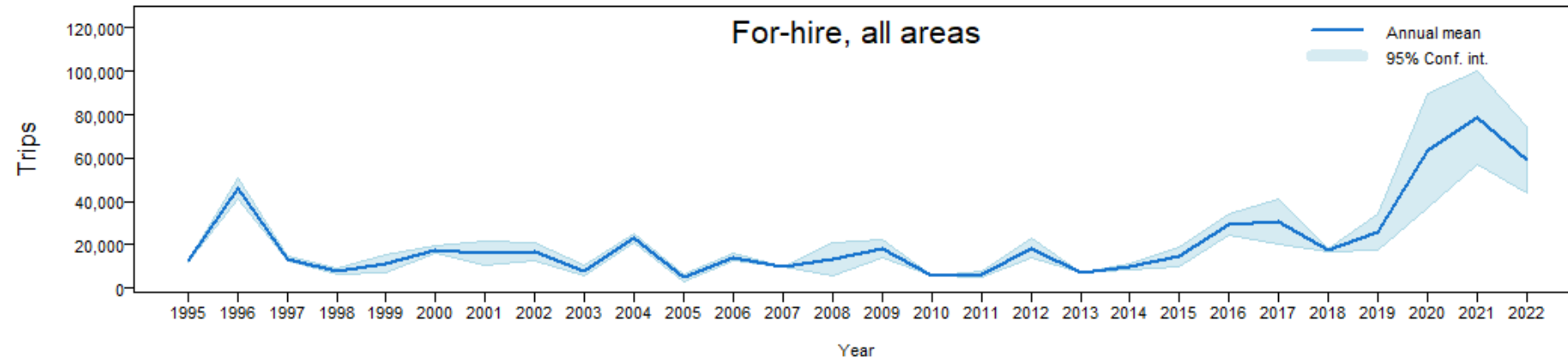
Overview of FFO-2023 - Actionable Science

This federal funding opportunity (full announcement) provides natural resource managers, researchers, and other stakeholders with the chance to compete for funding to conduct a collaborative, previously planned research project that informs a specific management decision impacting natural resources in the Gulf of Mexico.

This funding opportunity supports the co-production of actionable science by providing funding to established teams of researchers, natural resource managers, and stakeholders to collaboratively execute a previously planned (i.e., scoped and designed) research project and apply its findings and products to a future natural resource management decision. At least one natural resource manager must either lead or be on each project team.

This funding opportunity is now closed. Awards will likely be made in September 2023.

\$15M for 10 five year projects



Source: NMFS MRIP Database

Options for addressing scarring

- Education
- Navigational Aids
- Enforcement
- Spatial Management
 - Slow speed zones
 - Anchor exclusion zones
 - Motor exclusion zones
 - No entry zones
- Restoration



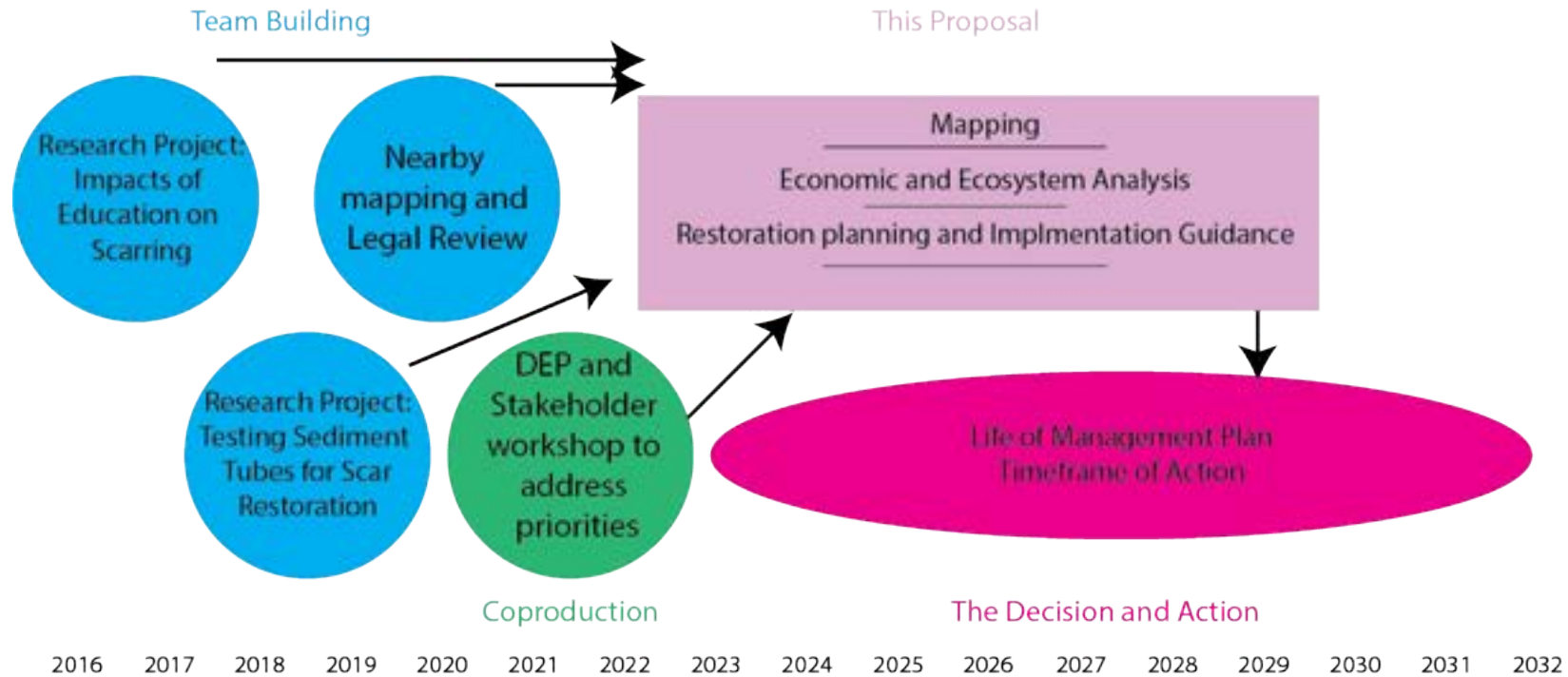
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Team

1. **Savanna Barry**, PI, UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station & Florida Sea Grant
2. **Timothy Jones**, Co-PI & Manager, Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3. **Laura Reynolds**, Co-PI, UF/IFAS Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences
4. **Mark Clark**, Co-PI, UF/IFAS Soil, Water, & Ecosystem Sciences
5. **Edward Camp**, Co-PI, UF/IFAS Forest, Fisheries, & Geomatics Sciences
6. **Kelly Grogan**, Co-PI, UF/IFAS Food & Resource Economics
7. **Micheal Allen**, Co-PI, UF/IFAS Nature Coast Biological Station
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12. **Capt. William Toney**, KP & End User, Homosassa Guides Association



SCAR MAPS Project



SCAR MAPS: Seagrass Conservation through Actionable Research: Management Areas for Prevention of Scarring

- 5-year project within NCAP/SMMAP to investigate:
 - Scarring hotspot locations
 - Management options such as spatial zoning
 - Socioeconomic factors
 - Ecosystem effect of prop scars
 - Restoration needs
- Project activities advised by:
 - BBSAP and Regional managers
 - Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Funded by NOAA RESTORE Science Program (\$1.8M)



RESTORE
SCIENCE PROGRAM

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RESTORE
SCIENCE PROGRAM

MSPs require a

ROADMAP

Phases

* Beginning, Middle, End

① Preparation

③ Collaboration

End Date

Timeline
Start Date

② Community Building

④ Closure

Measure Success

Stakeholder Recruitment

monitoring

* Diverse interactive spaces

Plan + Debrief

Interviews

Fieldtrips

Webinars

Workshops

Moderated Panels

small group work

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What positions need to
be represented?

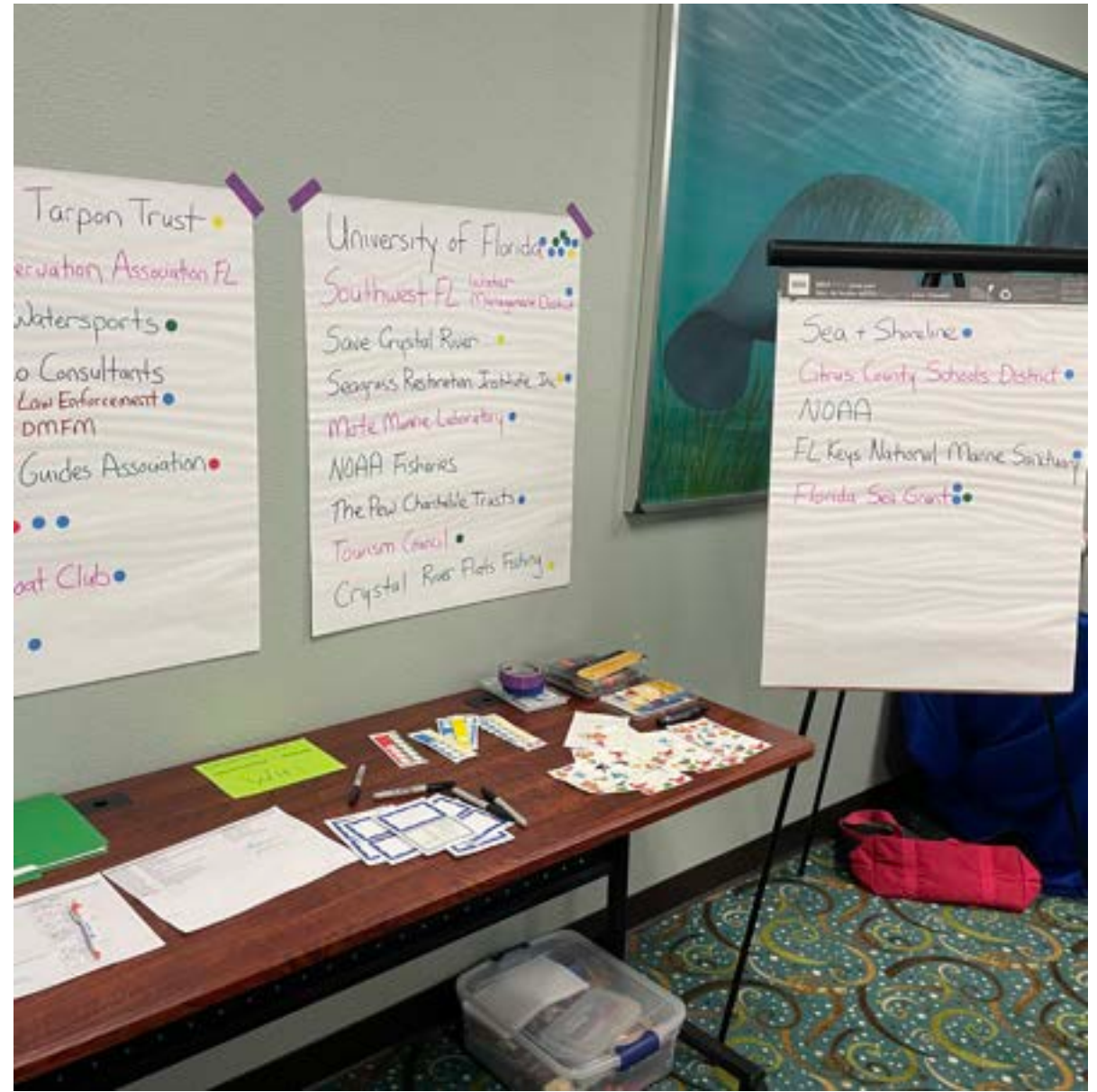
Who should represent
those positions?

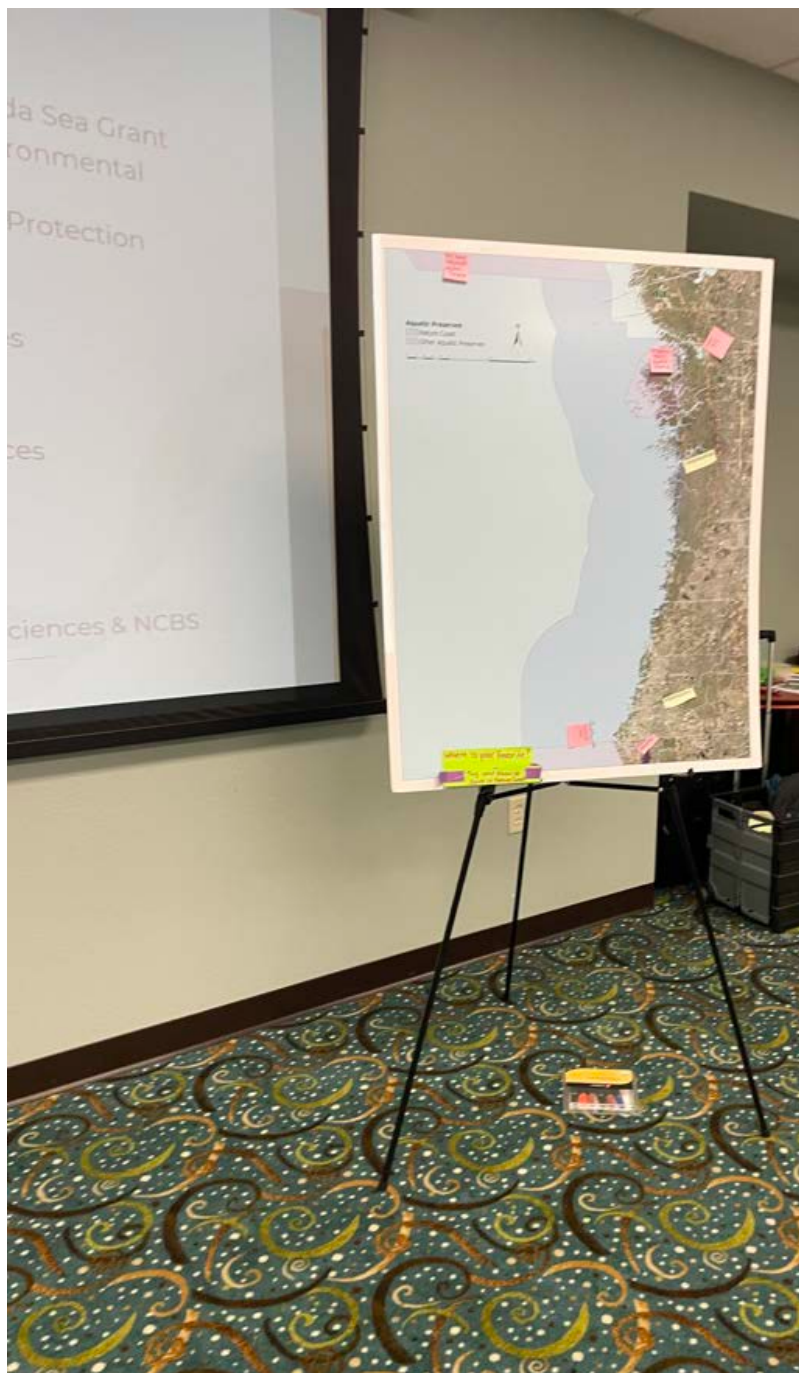
How many people?

- Fishing Guides
- K12 Educators
- NGO's
- Boat Rentals
- Advocates
 - PEW
- Land Managers
 - FWC
 - DEP
 - National Park Service
 - WMDs
- Law Enforcement
- Business Owners
 - Seagrass Restoration Practitioners
 - Eco-tourism

First Meeting Objectives

- Introduce members of the Project Team and Stakeholder Advisory Council to develop a shared community
- Introduce the SCAR MAPS project, research questions, and implementation questions for a better understanding of the problem and project plan
- Describe the project plan and its goal of creating actionable science
- The SAC provides feedback and clarifying questions about the project plan and research questions







EVALUATION ---- STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL

SCARMAPS February 12th 2024, Crystal River, FL

1. To what degree did we achieve our stated objectives:	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Don't know
Introduce the SAC to the project	1	2	3	4	5	6
Facilitate Feedback from the SAC	1	2	3	4	5	6

2. Evaluate the following aspects of the workshop on a scale of 1-5	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Don't know
a. Effectiveness of meeting structure	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Use of time	1	2	3	4	5	6
a. Effort to engage all participants	1	2	3	4	5	6
b. Clarity of next steps	1	2	3	4	5	6

3. On a scale of 1-5, to what degree do you feel that your perspectives were heard and your feedback was integrated into today's discussions? (Circle one)

Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Don't know
1	2	3	4	5	6

4. Please list any specific concerns you have about future meetings, including the plan to meet 2 times per year (1 in person, 1 virtual).



SCAR MAPS

**Seagrass Conservation through Actionable Research:
Management Areas for the Prevention of Scarring**

Damage to seagrasses by **propeller scarring** in aquatic preserves of Florida's Nature Coast is a growing issue that is of increasing concern to managers and stakeholders, including anglers, fishing guides, natural resource managers, tour operators, and civic groups.



Data gaps to be addressed include:

- Exact location and severity of scarring hotspots
- The nature of socioeconomic outcomes of spatial zoning options such as pole-troll areas
- The magnitude of ecosystem impacts caused by propeller scarring
- Details that inform restoration needs and targets
- Best practices for implementing and enforcing management zones or policies
- Understanding how decision-makers weigh scientific information about propeller scarring
- Perceptions concerning proprietary and regulatory agency jurisdiction and authority

Stakeholder-driven management plans for **Aquatic Preserves in the Nature Coast** region repeatedly identify propeller scars as a priority issue and outline multiple actionable strategies related to propeller scarring and seagrass protection. These grow more important as boating pressure increases in the region. But, addressing propeller

scars is complex. There are uncertainties that must be addressed before effective actions can be taken because managers lack the data needed to inform specifically how and where to act.

SCAR MAPS is a 5-year project funded through the **RESTORE Science Program's Actionable Science** call. Our team will collect geographic, biological, logistical, and socioeconomic data to pair with stakeholder guidance through a co-production model to address data gaps. The goal is to ultimately enable prudent, science-based decisions and management actions.

For more information, contact Savanna Barry at savanna.barry@ufl.edu or 352-325-6080

<https://bit.ly/scar-maps>



GOALS

The ultimate goal is to identify spatial areas to target for future seagrass propeller scarring prevention and subsequent restoration, based on the results of the scientific studies and stakeholder guidance. Recommendation of pole-troll zone(s) is one possible result of this project, but none are presently being proposed or pursued.

Project activities are guided by input from a stakeholder advisory committee that is made up of a broad array of members from groups such as boating & fishing clubs, for-hire charter captains, natural resource management and enforcement agencies, seagrass restoration practitioners, and local government staff.

SCAR MAPS:

Seagrass Conservation through Actionable Research: Management Areas for the Prevention of Scarring

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

February 12, 2024

2:00 PM to 4:30 PM

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SCAR MAPS is funded by the National Science Foundation's RESTORE Science Program under award number OCE-2003000001 to the University of Florida (UF). UF also receives funding from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) through the Florida Department of Transportation's (FDOT) Seagrass Restoration Program. SCAR MAPS is managed by FDEP's Office of Seagrass and Coastal Protection. The views, statements, findings, conclusions and recommendations expressed herein are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the State of Florida or any of their state agencies. Seagrass Graphics: Integration and Application Research Center (Seagrass Graphics), Auburn, AL. 01/24

Lessons Learned

- MSPs and NRLI skills are really valuable.
- Space is important
- Time is important
- One on one conversations yield different insights
- This will be a fun project to work on for the next 5 years!

