

# Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team

NOAA SE Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC)  
Statistics Building Conference Room  
75 Virginia Beach Drive, Miami, FL 33149

May 20, 2015

## Attendees

Phil Everingham  
Sarah Bellmund  
Caroline McLaughlin  
Dan Kipnis  
Nancy Diersing  
Michelle Metcalf  
Joan Lawrence  
Rebecca Eliot  
Jennifer Tisthammer  
Mark Bailey  
Laura Eldredge  
Jeffrey Mullins  
Tom Jackson  
Joe Serafy  
J. Jamir  
Sanni Barma

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Phil Everingham, Chairman of the BBRCT, called the meeting to order.

### **2. Cultural & Ecological Field Station at Deering Estate:**

Jennifer Tisthammer, Assistant Director Deering Estate, gave a presentation on the new Ecological & Cultural Field Station at the Deering Estate. The Field Station will provide living laboratories for students, researchers, and the general public interested in the environment and conservation. Jennifer's presentation can be found in the BBRCT section on The Task force website at:

[http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrct\\_handouts.html](http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrct_handouts.html)).

### **3. BBRCT Recommendation Letter to SFERTFWG on the Integrated Delivery Schedule:**

Sarah Bellmund led a discussion on the proposed letter to be sent to the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force Working Group to recommend that land acquisition, construction, and planning for the Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands (BBCW) Comprehensive Everglades Restoration

Plan (CERP) Project be prioritized in the IDS process. The letter will be discussed further and finalized at the June BBRRCT Meeting.

**4. Biscayne Bay Boating and Angling Guide:**

Lisa Krinsky presented information about the updates to the Boating & Angling Guide to Biscayne Bay. Commenters were asked to provide concise comments/edits regarding the text. For example:

- Is the text relevant to Biscayne Bay?
- Does it need to be edited to be appropriate?
- Are there topics of interest that should be included in the guide? (provide example text)
- Are there topics of interest that should be included on an expanded website? (provide example text)

Lisa asked commenters to go to this website: [http://ocean.floridamarine.org/boating\\_guides/biscayne\\_bay/products/interactive\\_maps/side\\_be\\_2015draft.html](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/boating_guides/biscayne_bay/products/interactive_maps/side_be_2015draft.html) to look at the maps and determine if any changes need to be made.

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**5. Biscayne Bay Water Watch-Update:**

Lisa Krinsky, Miami-Dade County Extension Agent for Florida Sea Grant, gave an update presentation on the Biscayne Bay Water Watch. The Biscayne Bay Water Watch is a Citizen Science Water Monitoring Program. Participants are community groups, organizations, & institutions that are on and have a stake in the health of Biscayne Bay. They adopt 1 to 2 sites for monthly water and data collection. This program adds to the collection of information regarding the health of Biscayne Bay. Lisa's presentation can be found in the BBRRCT section on the Task Force website at: [http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrrct\\_handouts.html](http://www.evergladesrestoration.gov/content/bbrrct_handouts.html)).

**6. Historical and Future Restored Habitat of the Small Toothed Sawfish (*Pristis pacinata*) in Biscayne Bay:**

Tom Jackson, Research Fisheries Biologist, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration, gave a presentation on the Small Toothed Sawfish as a case for Restoration of Historical Nursery Habitat and Call for Endangered Species Act designation for part of the Biscayne Bay. Tom's presentation will be posted when received.

**7. Wrap-Up:**

Dan Kipnis informed the Team of damage that dredging at the Port of Miami has done to the reef tract and warned of similar damage that may happen at Port Everglades regarding sediment and turbidity.

Biscayne National Park's GMP is expected to be published in the Federal Register in early June.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.