



COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

**Escambia County Central Office Complex
3363 West Park Place
Pensacola, FL 32505**

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED

RESUME OF MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2014, 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Earle Rader		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Cathy Watson		District 1/Commissioner Wilson Robertson
Sidney Clopton		District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Merrick Van Landingham	Chair	District 2/Commissioner Gene Valentino
Dave Mucci		District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV
Walt Woodfin	Secretary	District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry
Gabe Jackson	Vice Chair	District 5/Commissioner Steven Barry
Ed Fish		County Interim Administrator

Staff Present

Robert Turpin	CED/ Marine Resources Division Manager
Rick O'Connor	Sea Grant Agent for Escambia County
Shelly Marshall	Marine Resources Division
Gracie Barnes	Marine Resources Division

Absent Excused

Lynn Laird	District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
David Dodson	District 4/Commissioner Grover Robinson IV

Absent Unexcused

Eilene Beard	District 3/Commissioner Lumon May
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Visitors Present

Mathew Johnson	National Park Services
Keith Johnson	Wetland Sciences, Inc.
Kristen Dahl	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Brian Klimek	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Mark H Saltz	Gulf coast Blue Water Adventures
Will Patterson	Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Russel Bradley	
Andy Ross	NIUHI Dive Charter

Chuck Chunn	Chuck Chunn Marine Art
John A Harris	
Bryan Clark	Coast Watch
Anna Clark	Coast Watch
Kelly Roberts	FWC
Sharon Tatem	FWC
Brandy Keahey	
Melissa Lerch	
John Kealay	
Kevin Lerch	
Michael Hoyt Williamson	Catchin' Fish Show
Barry Shively	
Robert Wellen	H2O Below
Brad Bane	Escambia County Resident
John Chiasson	Blue Sky Divers
Kerry Freeland	Dive Pros
Mike Sandler	Navarre Beach Marine Sanctuary
Candy Hansard	Emerald Coast Reef Association
Kitty Byers	
J Patterson	Patterson Construction
Cheye Galantz ?	RUSS
James Scott	RUSS
Ashlee Kimpel	RUSS
Dalton Kennedy	Due South IGCLFC
Shawn Walker	Edu.
David Cambran	UWF
Madison Walker	NWF
Randy Trun ?	A?
Jeff Helml	At?
Mike Asher MD ?	Gulf Coast Pro Diver Customer
Mike Pitts Jr.	
Jessica Koelsch	NWF
Debbie Cross	MBT Divers
Russell Cotton	Individual
Elizabeth Major	Individual
Josh Gay	Individual
Capt. Jim Meyers	Pr Dive
Scott Thompson	
Bob Pitts	
Mike Pitts	
Chris V	Fish Grant

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 4:41 pm
2. **Attendance:** Quorum Present?
3. **Minutes Approval:** Earle Rader made the motion to approve, Dave Mucci seconded the motion, All voted in favor

4. **SPECIAL WORKSHOP: REGIONAL LIONFISH CONTROL:**

Gracie Barnes (MRD) spoke on the issue of publicizing the lionfish issue.

Brian Clark (Coast Watch) spoke on coordinating with dive/charter boats to eradicate the lionfish from Gulf structures and document for research purposes.

Rick O'Connor (Sea Grant) spoke on marketing lionfish to seafood wholesalers, markets and restaurants. There are some concerns on liabilities associated with the processing and sale of lionfish. Training on the proper handling and processing of lionfish will be required. There are concerns with the acquisition of a saltwater products license changing a one's fishing status from recreational to commercial for insurance purposes.

Mrs. Clark (Coast Watch) spoke on the issues of research. There is a limited baseline in the research of lionfish and funding is not currently available. There is a need to establish the baseline and control methods for the research.

Robert Turpin (MRD) spoke on the need for resource managers and agencies to coordinate efforts. There needs to be a defined plan of action. Any efforts will require the building of political support and acquisition of funding. Volunteers will need to be coordinated. The FWC is currently looking to hire a volunteer coordinator.

Sharron Tatum (FWC) demonstrated the FWC's apps for mobile devices. One app will play an informational lionfish video when scanning a lionfish illustration on a t-shirt. The other is to record and send sighting and collection data to the FWC.

Brian Clark (Coast Watch) demonstrated the functionality of and the continuing development of the website, lionfishmap.org

Robert Turpin (MRD) moderated discussions on various lionfish issues with the guests.

Dave Mucci made a motion to request as follows:

"The Marine Resources Division submit a request to the Escambia County School Board to integrate education on the lionfish issue into the curriculum in coordination with IFAS and FWC materials, to promote awareness."

Gabe Jackson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

5. **Perdido Key Snorkeling Reef:** 24 of 33 modules have been deployed. Waiting on suitable weather to deploy the remaining modules.

- 6. Mahogany Mill Public Boat Ramp Construction:** Contractor on target for completion by end of May. Ribbon Cutting ceremony planned for 21 May. MAC members desiring invitations by mail should provide their mailing address to MAC Secretary.
- 7. Perdido River Public Boat Ramp Design/Engineering/Permitting:** Awaiting Army Corps of Engineers determination of proposal to use eastern pond for storm water retention.
- 8. 10836 Lillian Highway Public Boat Ramp:** Florida Boating Improvement Program grant application submitted to FWC.
- 9. Natural Resources Damage Assessment - Oil spill Restoration & Recovery:** Awaiting final determination from Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.
- 10. Waterways Access Management:** Next steps for MAC is deliberation and recommendation to BCC regarding boat ramps and fishing bridge.
- 11. Old Business:** None
- 12. New Business:** Sidney Clopton expressed a concern with go-carts, lights and camping at Lakewood Park. (Parks & Recreation) Also noted that there is a concern with four-wheelers on the dock structure and beer consumption at Juanita Williams facility and subdivision.
- 13. Adjourn:** Gabe Jackson made the motion to adjourn. Dave Mucci seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.