TAYLOR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

COASTAL TAYLOR

NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2024

Sea Grant FLORIDA

Updates

MARINE EXTENSION PROGRAMS

FROM ENVIRONMETAL LITERACY, TO FISHERIES SUSTAINABLE USE AND CONSERVATION, WATERWAYS SAFETY, AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE ALL ABOUT PROVIDING SOLUTIONS

THAT MAKE YOUR LIFE BETTER

UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Welcome to 2024 with Taylor County Coastal and Marine Programs! As we embark on another year of conservation, education, and community engagement, we're thrilled to share our commitment to protecting and enhancing Florida's coastal and marine environments.

Our programs focus on four main areas of marine extension:

Environmental Literacy: Through workshops, outreach events, and educational materials, we strive to increase awareness and understanding of coastal ecosystems, biodiversity, and conservation practices among residents and visitors alike.

Sustainable Use and Conservation of Fishing Resources: We work closely with anglers, charter captains, and fishing enthusiasts to promote sustainable fishing practices, support fisheries management initiatives, and ensure the long-term health of our local fish and shellfish populations.

Navigation Safety on Coastal Waterways: Safety is paramount on Florida's waterways. We provide resources, training, and guidance to boaters, kayakers, and other recreational watercraft users to promote safe and responsible navigation, reducing the risk of accidents and protecting our precious marine habitats.

Youth Development: Investing in our youth is investing in our future. Our youth programs offer hands-on learning experiences, leadership development opportunities, and outdoor adventures to inspire the next generation of marine stewards and conservation leaders.

Join us in making 2024 a year of progress, collaboration, and stewardship for Taylor County's coastal and marine environments. Together, we can ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for our coastal community.

Victor Blanco
Taylor County
Marine Extension Agent

"The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat."
Jacques Yves Cousteau

INSIGHTS
SPRING 2024

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ON THE COVER

Photo: Bay Scallops, (Argopecten irradians). By UF/IFAS Extension.

KEEP AN EYE ON THE SEAGRASS

A resume of the publication "*Extensive and Continuing Loss of Seagrasses in Florida's Big Bend*", by L. Yarbro, P. Carlson, and E. Johnsey - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute.

In the northeastern Gulf of Mexico, Florida's Big Bend is home to one of the largest continuous underwater meadows of seagrass in the continental United States. These seagrass meadows play a vital role in our ecosystem, helping to cycle and store carbon and providing important services to marine life.

Recent data spanning over two decades show concerning declines in the size and health of these seagrass meadows. In 2022 alone, the area covered by seagrass decreased by 15%, with some areas in the southern Big Bend experiencing even more dramatic losses of up to 90-100%.

The decline in seagrass coverage is particularly alarming near the mouth of the Suwannee River, where some species have completely disappeared. However, in other areas further away from the river, there's still hope for recovery if environmental conditions improve.

This decline in seagrass coverage could have serious consequences for marine life and the overall health of our coastal ecosystems. It's crucial that we work together to protect and restore these vital habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and future generations.

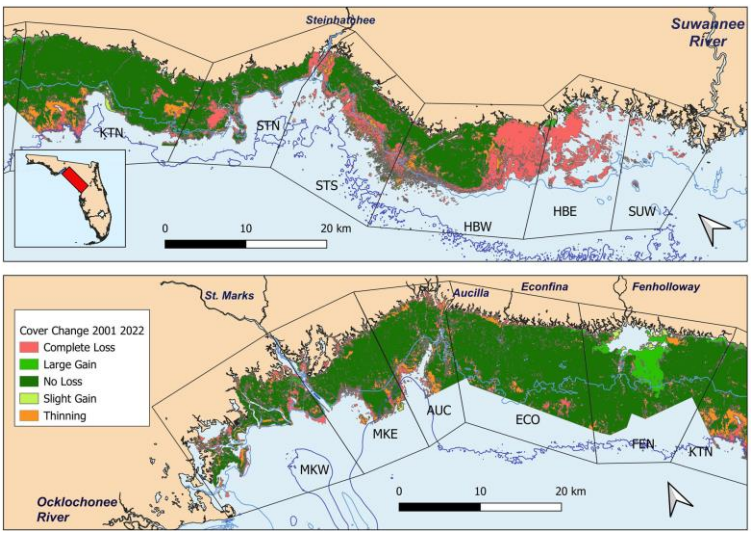
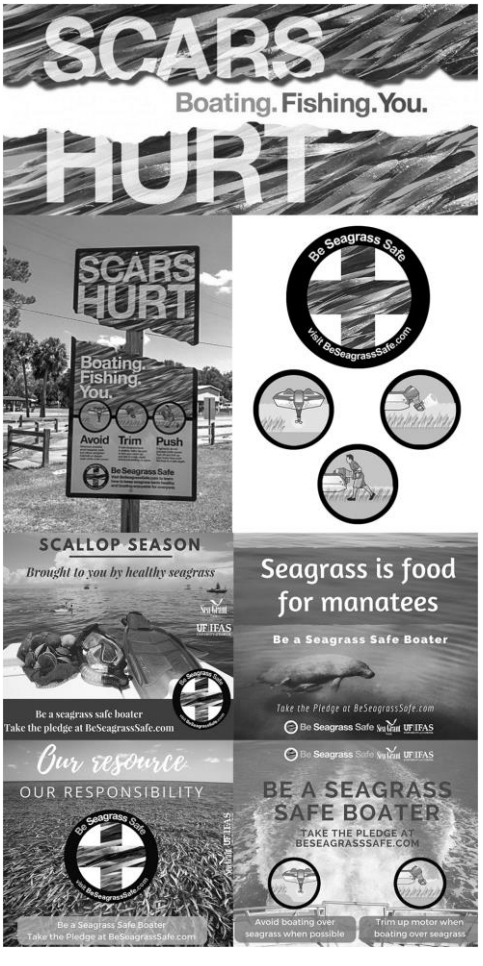


Fig. 1 Map of coastal Big Bend, showing subregions and seagrass extent, with gains and losses 2001–2022. Source: Yarbro and collaborators (2023).

A picture of the exposed seagrass flats during extreme low tides shows miles and miles of propeller scars on this sensitive habitat. Photo credits: FDEP - Big Bend Seagrass Aquatic Preserve.

In the collaborative publication "Evaluation of interventions focused on reducing propeller scarring by recreational boaters in Florida", prepared by Savanna Barry and collaborators from the University of Florida, they state that boat propellers causing damage to seagrass in Florida is a well-known problem. Despite efforts to spread awareness about it over many years, there is not much progress in solving this problem. The good news is, since this damage is caused by human actions, like how people drive their boats, it's something that can be changed with the right tools and strategies.

In the past, different ways to tackle this issue have been implemented, but haven't really checked if they worked. This lack of information makes it hard for people who manage natural resources, teach others, and create policies to know what to do. So, the group decided to try two different approaches in Florida: one focused on teaching people and the other on using signs to guide boaters.



Graphic Source: Barry and collaborators (2020)

They found that the signs were more effective at getting boaters to change their behavior compared to the educational approach. However, they also learned that different groups of boaters might need different messages to help protect seagrass in the future.

These findings will help everyone involved, from managers to educators, to come up with better ways to stop propeller damage in Florida's seagrass areas.

Learn more and sign a pledge to preserve seagrasses at https://beseagrasssafe.com/

Fish species like the Spotted seatrout and Red Drum, as well as the bay scallop heavily depend on healthy seagrass beds. Do you need any other reason to protect seagrass?

Victor Blanco

COASTAL STEWARDSHIP IN TAYLOR COUNTY

A project funded by Florida Sea Grant focused on the heart of Steinhatchee.

by Victor Blanco and Lisa Strange

The main goal of the project was to build stewardship capacities in Taylor County school youth, parents, and community members and visitors through a series of activities that will introduce participants into the natural value of the resources that sustain their economy.

Outcome/Impact Summary

Training seminars and workshops that took place at a Steinhatchee School, and the Steinhatchee Community Center with a total of 39 participants. Workshop I - Planting for Pollinators & Butterfly Gardens with Natives. Workshop II - Invasives Plant.

Install habitat and coastal stewardship signage: A total of eight (8) signage about natural and panoramic assets from the area were placed in public spaces of Steinhatchee. The school project created content about these assets that are being hosted on the Steinhatchee Chamber of Commerce Website and visitors access them through a QR code or the following link https://steinhatcheechamber.com/coastal-stewardship/.

Plant "Florida Friendly" native vegetation: The area near the Steinhatchee public boat ramp was cleared and replanted with "Florida Friendly" native vegetation, and information material was placed on site.

School stewardship project: The Taylor County Steinhatchee School selected the development of content for the local Chamber of Commerce Website. It includes aspects of what to see, what to do, and how to help preserve the coastal areas.

Youth Coastal Stewardship Summer Camp: A hands-on activities camp to get youth more involved with their natural surrounding. Activities included a field day to Grassy Island and a guided visit to the Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory in Panacea.

Stewardship 1

Steinhatchee School

Students of 2nd to 5th grade participated in a activity to define their vision of the coastal conservation of Steinhatchee.

Stewardship 2

Steinhatchee School

Students prioritized coastal issues and listed solutions for the most important problems in coastal Taylor County.

Summer Camp 1

Grassy Island

The group of youth visited Grassy Island to enjoy a full day of experiential learning, sampling and observing flora and fauna.

Summer Camp 2

Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory

A visit to the laboratory allowed youth participants to expand their awareness and knowledge on coastal topics.

Invasive Plants

Workshop

Bacon ipsum dolor amet rump drumstick cowkielbasapigsalamikevin. Hamporkbelly shank turducken cow alcatra turkey tongue

Florida Friendly Landscaping

Steinhatchee Boat ramp demonstration

Bacon ipsum dolor amet rump drumstick cowkielbasapigsalamikevin. Hamporkbelly shank turducken cow alcatra turkey tongue

BUCKEYE REEF MONITORING

A citizen science program started in 2018 has assessed fish abundance and composition in six reef sites within Buckeye Reef in Taylor County. A look at the most recent results from 2023.

FISH DATA ON THE GO

Picture: Concrete pyramids or tetrahedron at Buckeye Reef.
Photo credit: Taylor County Reef Research Team.

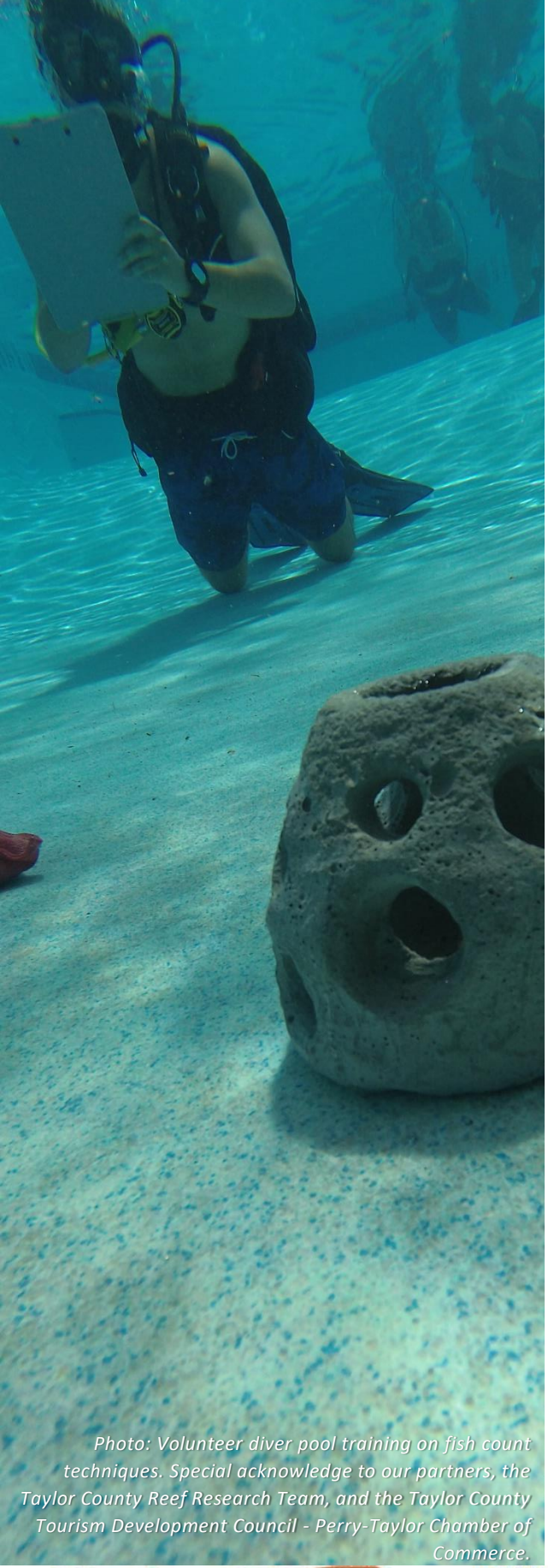


Photo: Volunteer diver pool training on fish count techniques. Special acknowledge to our partners, the Taylor County Reef Research Team, and the Taylor County Tourism Development Council - Perry-Taylor Chamber of Commerce.

ARTIFICIAL REEF FISH MONITORING ON A CITIZEN SCIENCE-BASED PROGRAM IN TAYLOR COUNTY, FLORIDA.

Taylor County have been deploying artificial reef materials to create an artificial reef at Buckeye, located 22 miles offshore East of Steinhatchee, Gulf of Mexico. As it has become a popular fishing spot, it is necessary to describe the fish structure associated to the artificial reefs and assess the structures. Grant funds from FWC were allocated to perform the Buckeye Reef Monitoring Program. A Social media campaign helped enroll volunteer divers to support the efforts on a Citizen Science-based program. The divers training session, including an online module for fish identification, and an in-person training for fish census, artificial reef structure assessment and fish identification methods was held in 2018, 2021, and 2023. A total of 65 volunteer divers have been trained. The goal was to collect valid scientific data over fish population and artificial reef structures at eighteen (in 2018) and six (in 2021 and 2023) different deployment sites in Buckeye Reef to promote this location for recreational fishing and diving and to evaluate the impact of the county reef program. During the 2018-2023 period volunteer divers invested 1,680 hours, of which 165 are diving hours, equivalent to $37K in contributions.

Fish data documented 31 species of 19 families for the stationary count method. For roving dive counts, a total of 37 species of 25 families were recorded. Gag groupers and Amberjacks represent the largest abundant fish in the Sportfish group, followed by Hogfish, Red grouper, Barracudas, Sheepshead, Red Snapper, and Gray triggerfish. No Lionfish has been recorded during the monitoring program. Fish have a relative higher abundance in scrap metal, followed by tetrahedrons, culverts, and concrete cubes, respectively, mainly due to material's footprint and habitat complexity. In average, 98% of the reef material is intact with incrusting algae, sponges and anthozoans as predominant coverage species. The bottom coverage of reef materials assessed is 5,576 sqft (scrap metal accounts for 75%).

Photos: Volunteer divers during the training and at the boat ramp to go on the first survey to Buckeye Reef.

by Victor Blanco. Taylor County Marine Extension Agent. Florida Sea Grant – UF/IFAS Extension.

Monitoring of Patch Reefs at Buckeye: A Comprehensive Analysis of Fish Abundance and Diversity in Taylor County, Florida, using citizen science-based data.

This report presents findings from a project aimed at assessing the ecological status of six patch reefs at Buckeye through scuba diving surveys conducted between April 8th and July 29th, 2023, and comparing with citizen science data collected in 2018 and 2021. The study utilized two fish census methods – Stationary Visual Census and R.E.E.F.'s Roving Diver method – to collect data on species composition, abundance, and diversity.

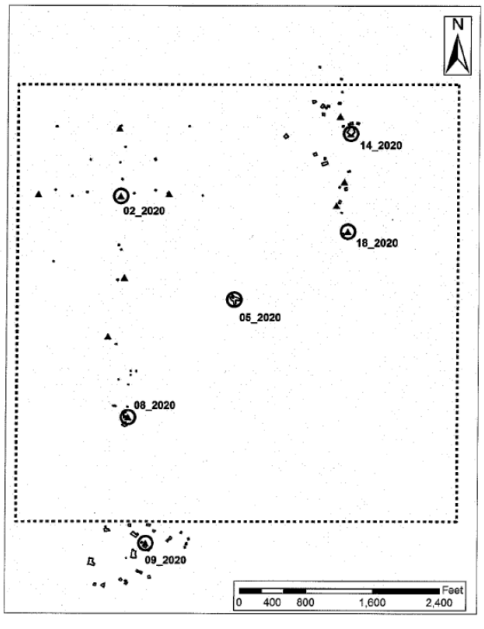
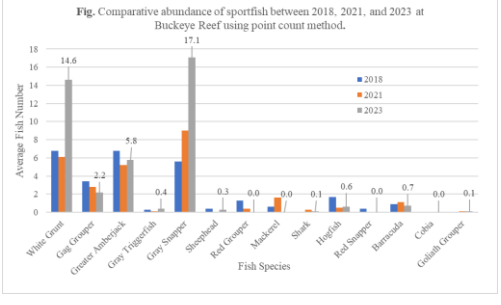


Figure and Table. Buckeye Reef Monitoring Site Location and characteristics.

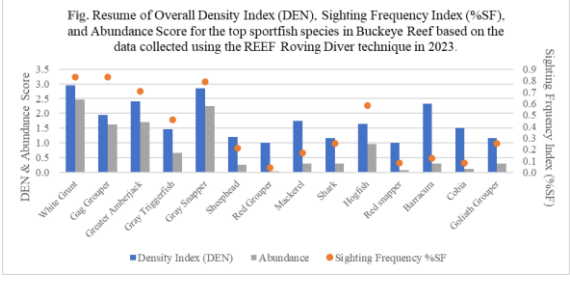
A total of 24 reef site surveys revealed 40 fish species across 26 families, indicating a 25% increase in species and 18% increase in families compared to 2021.

The Serranidae family (groupers) exhibited the highest diversity. Scrap metal at Reef site 14 demonstrated the most diverse fish composition, with 27 species, while Reef site 2 (concrete cubes) showed the lowest diversity with 11 species. The Margalef's biodiversity index suggested homogeneous diversity across all reef sites and materials in 2023, unlike 2021, where scrap metal sites exhibited higher biodiversity.

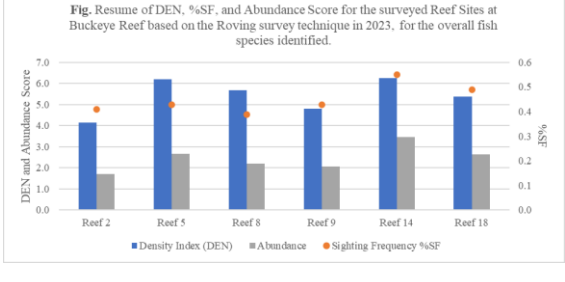


The analysis of sportfish species over time revealed variations in abundance, with Gray Snapper and White Grunt dominating in 2023. However, statistical significance and trends require further investigation.

The Roving Diver method indicated changes in Density Index and Sighting Frequency Index values for various sportfish species in 2023 compared to 2021 and 2018. While some species exhibited a decrease, others showed an increase.

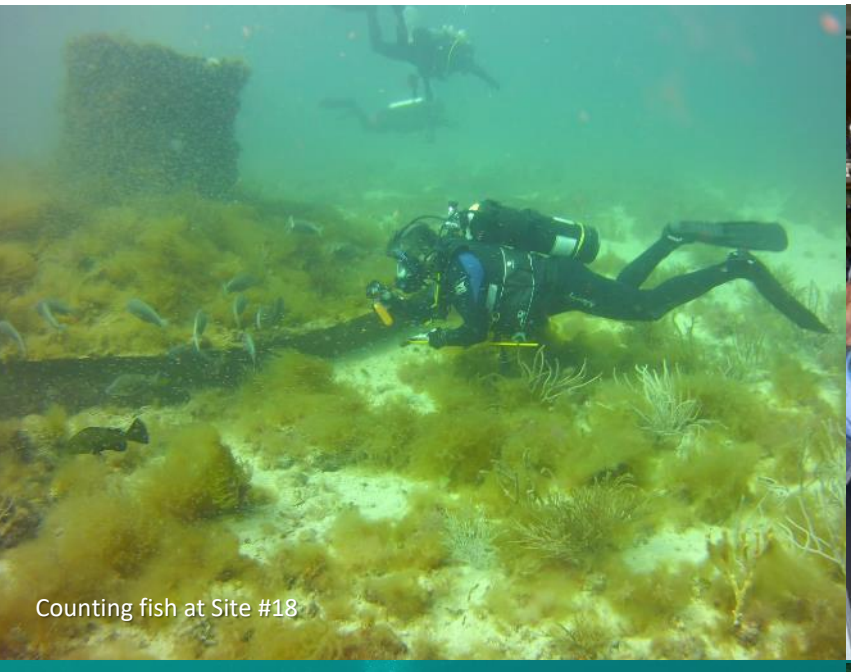


Reef sites with larger bottom footprints, particularly those with scrap metal, demonstrated higher fish diversity and abundance, consistent with stationary method results. This study highlights the importance of continuous monitoring and emphasizes the need for more samples and robust statistical analysis to discern trends and causative factors influencing fish abundance and diversity in Buckeye's patch reefs. The results underscore the role of habitat complexity, with larger bottom footprint sites displaying higher biodiversity, providing valuable insights for future conservation efforts.



Reef Name	Deployment ID (FWC)	Deploy Year	Location	Material	Depth
#2-2020	TA0030	08/2013	29° 38.877' N, 83° 54.766' W	Modules (4 cubes)	50'
#5-2020	n/a	n/a	29° 38.675' N, 83° 54.507' W	Scrap metal	50'
#8-2020	TA0031	09/2013	29° 38.442' N, 83° 54.753' W	Culverts	50'
#9-2020	TA0013	05/2003	29° 38.169' N, 83° 54.733' W	Modules	51'
#14-2020	TA0010	06/1996	29° 39.008' N, -83° 54.244' W	Scrap Metal	47'
#18-2020	TA0034	08/2015	29° 38.804' N, 83° 54.262' W	Hopper Vessel 29' (2)	50'

by Victor Blanco. Taylor County Marine Extension Agent. Florida Sea Grant – UF/IFAS Extension. *Project Funded by FWC, Grant Agreement 22011*


Counting fish at Site #18

Volunteer divers


Concrete pyramids


Nurse shark inside a pyramid


Amberjacks on the reef


Fish at the scrap metal

Check short videos of all Buckeye reef survey dives at the Taylor County Reef Research Team YouTube page here.

Baitfish at concrete cubes

A look at Concrete culverts

White grunt at Scrap metal

Scrap metal at Site #5

Capt. Brian Smith (Big Bend Charters) supporting the surveys

Volunteer divers

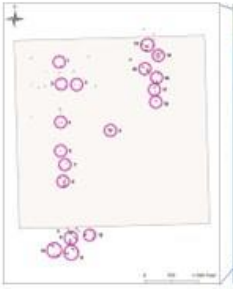
Check short videos of all Buckeye reef survey dives at the Taylor County Reef Research Team YouTube page here.

SPORTFISH COMPOSITION AT BUCKEYE REEF

Taylor County, Florida

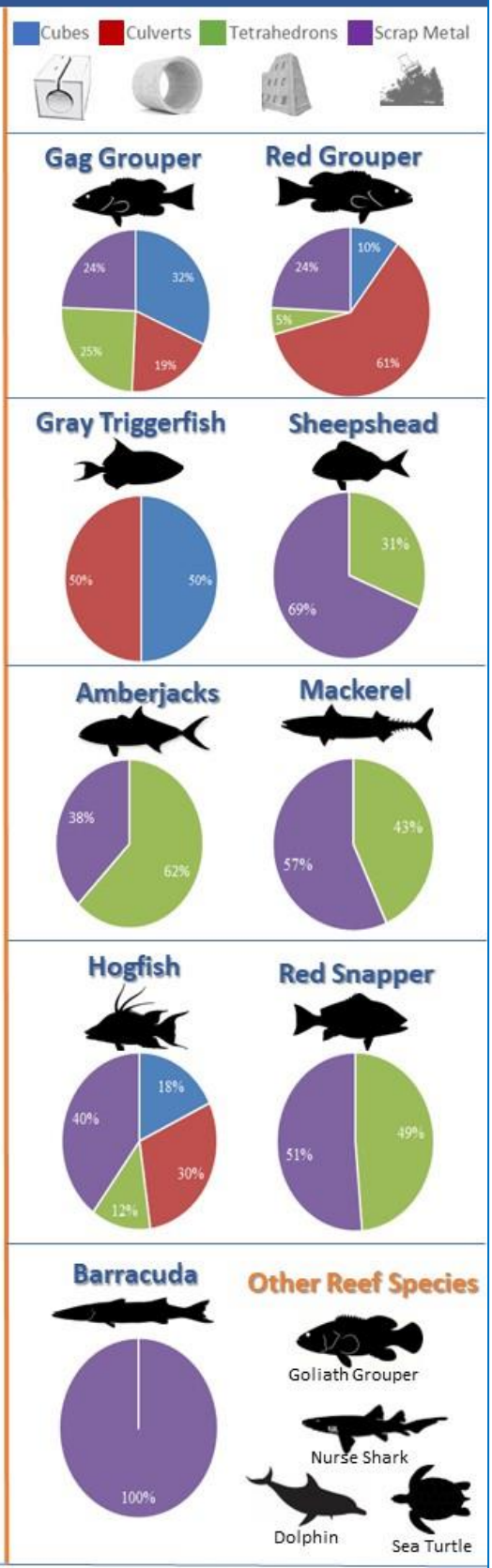
These are findings from the Artificial Reef Monitoring Program in Buckeye Reef, located 22 miles offshore in Taylor County waters in the Gulf of Mexico. Information was gathered by volunteer divers and UF/IFAS Extension – Florida Sea Grant staff using the Point Count methods.

Reef	North	West	Material	Depth (ft)	Date Deployed
1	29° 39.019'	83° 54.767'	Lindberg Cube	50	2013
2	29° 38.877'	83° 54.766'	Lindberg Cube	50	2013
3	29° 38.885'	83° 54.660'	Lindberg Cube	49	2013
4	29° 38.717'	83° 54.760'	Lindberg Cube	45	2013
5	29° 38.660'	83° 54.500'	Scrap Metal	49	n.a.
6	29° 38.601'	83° 54.795'	Boat Replica	51	2015
7	29° 38.525'	83° 54.743'	Culverts	47	2013
8	29° 38.442'	83° 54.753'	Culverts	52	2013
9	29° 38.169'	83° 54.733'	Tetrahedrons	49	2003
10	29° 38.153'	83° 54.829'	Tetrahedrons	49	2003
11	29° 38.132'	83° 54.717'	Tetrahedrons	48	2003
12	29° 38.200'	83° 54.650'	Tetrahedrons	49	2003
13	29° 39.058'	83° 54.310'	Scrap Metal	50	2012
14	29° 39.008'	83° 54.244'	Scrap Metal	48	1996
15	29° 38.944'	83° 54.304'	Scrap Metal	46	n.a.
16	29° 38.894'	83° 54.256'	Scrap Metal	46	2013
17	29° 38.868'	83° 54.269'	Scrap Metal	48	2013
18	29° 38.804'	83° 54.262'	Scrap Metal	48	2013



ARTIFICIAL REEF FISH DIVERSITY

School of grunts (Tomtate) and baitfish were abundant in 82% of all reef sites. The findings support the premise that newer reef material holds a smaller diversity of fish species and families, which increases with time. Gag grouper is the most abundant sportfish in all artificial reef types, followed by Amberjacks, Hogfish, Mackerel and Red grouper. **Graphs to the right show the probability of finding different fish species by artificial reef type.**



The information of this report was produced by Florida Sea Grant and University of Florida IFAS Extension staff with grant funding provided by the Perry-Taylor Chamber of Commerce and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, through the Florida Artificial Reef Program, to the Taylor County Board of County Commissioners and the Taylor County Reef Research Team. Information was collected with the support of trained volunteer divers on a Citizen Science-based Extension Program in Taylor County. For more information contact: Victor Blanco, Taylor County and Florida Sea Grant Extension Agent, (850) 838-3508, victorblancomar@ufl.edu

Let'em Grow

Sorting Scallops in the Gulf of Mexico

Harvesting scallops has become a traditional Summer activity for many Floridians and visitors to the Big Bend / Nature Coast regions.

Harvesting bay scallops (*Argopecten irradians*) is one of the most important recreational fisheries during the Summertime in part of Florida's Gulf Coast. To avoid the collapse of the scallop population a diverse group of best practices are promoted among harvesters. In 2022 and 2023, Florida Sea Grant initiative focused in developing, promoting, and implementing of promotional materials to reduce the harvesting of undersized scallops. Implementing needs assessment, focus groups and surveys, almost 5,000 scallop users received free scallop sorters for this practice mainly in Hernando and Taylor County. A total of 75.4% of participants stated that they used the scallop sorter, 66% stated that they shared information about the scallop sorter with others, and 20.7% displayed the educational sticker on their coolers, and 11.3% on their vessels.

It's crucial to note that the recreational harvesting of bay scallops in the Gulf of Mexico is regulated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Further details about regulations can be found on their website. Unlike many other sportfish, scallop size is not regulated by the FWC. Bay scallops can grow up to a shell height of 3.5 inches and live up to two years.

The Scallop sorter tool recommended to be attached to the mesh bag.

Charter captains have developed their own sorting tools.

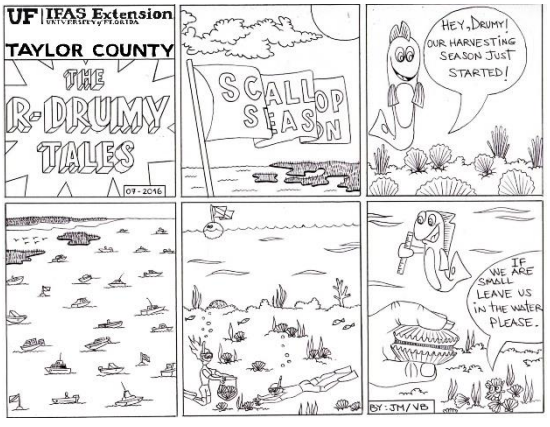
The Chamber of Commerce posted educational signs about scallop size

However, in Florida, they rarely exceed 3 inches in size or live beyond one year, resulting in a mostly renewed population annually. Recommendations for adopting best practices are promoted by UF/IFAS, which include keeping scallops that are 2 inches or larger and returning smaller ones to the water.

BACKGROUND

A focus group consisting of nine charter captains participated in evaluating two scallop sorting tool ideas. After assessing the pros and cons of each proposed tool, the group suggested an alternative: the scallop ring. This involved using a "ring" with a hole of at least 1 3/4 inches, preferably 2 inches in diameter, attached to the mesh bag to sort scallops as they are collected in the water. The focus group dismissed the original options and recommended sorting scallops in the water rather than after harvesting. They unanimously agreed that a tool with a hole, such as a ring or a flat board, used in the water, would be the optimal alternative.

"THE ADOPTION OF SCALLOP THE SORTER IS A NON-REGULATORY PRACTICE TO REDUCE FISHING PRESSURE ON A VALUABLE RESOURCE."



THE SCALLOP SORTER

The scallop sorter initiative aims to integrate education and outreach to promote sustainable recreational bay scallop harvest. The project objectives included developing and printing a scallop measuring device to encourage keeping scallops that are 2 inches or larger during the harvesting season, and assessing behavior change and adoption of the measuring device through a follow-up survey of recipients at boat ramps.

FOLLOW-UP SURVEY RESULTS

A total of 829 boat ramp users received free scallop sorters at public boat ramps mainly in Taylor County (412 users), and Hernando County (396 users), who provided their contact information for follow-up survey.

Survey responders were predominantly recreational anglers (86.8%), followed by charter captains (7.5%) and others (5.6%). Most participants received their scallop sorter and sticker at a public boat ramp (90.5%), with the rest obtaining them at a marina or by mail.

The geographic distribution of survey participants included Hernando County (41.5%), Taylor County (35.8%), Gulf County (9.4%), Dixie County (1.8%), and 13.2% who did not provide their location. A majority of participants stated they used the scallop sorter (75.4%), with 58.5% using it in 1 to 3 trips.

When asked about where participants sorted scallops, 39.6% said on the boat, while 35.8% stated in the water. Regarding plans to use the sorter tool during the 2024 season, 52.8% stated "yes, they plan to use it again," and 13.2% stated "maybe." A majority of participants chose to use the scallop sorter tool to allow scallops to reproduce and replenish the next scallop season (56.6%), while 7.9% used it because it was a free tool provided to them. Finally, 66% of participants stated that they shared information about the scallop sorter with others.

by Victor Blanco

By Victor Blanco and Abbey Tharpe

An award-winning innovative initiative in Taylor County

Diving into Aquatic Sciences: 4-H Dive Camp

The Marine Extension Agent for Taylor County, delved into the world of diving at the age of 12, igniting his passion for marine biology. His inaugural dive sparked a profound shift in perspective, driving his desire to explore and comprehend the ocean's enigmatic realm and its inhabitants, ultimately shaping his journey towards becoming a marine biologist. Leveraging his expertise and aided by 4-H, the Taylor County Extension office explored the potential of scuba diving as an educational tool for youth, aiming to expose them to aquatic sciences while fostering vital life skills such as teamwork and critical thinking.

The goal of Diving into aquatic sciences is to offer participants the opportunity to explore the underwater world beyond a lecture or power point slide, educate them about the systems and resources in aquatic ecosystems through experience learning, develop essential skills for life, and expose them to potential future career opportunities in this field. Summer 2022 and 2023 allowed the Marine Extension Agent, and the 4-H Extension Agent, Abbey Tharpe, to offer the new 4-H Summer Dive Camp, a 40-hour certification-seeking training, to 13 youth in Taylor County.

This course engaged youth into scuba principles encompassing physics, physiology, and safety protocols. Moreover, the program delved deeper into coastal and marine environmental issues, exposing participants to various career prospects. Through an 8-hour pool session and five check-out dives, participants not only acquired and honed vital skills but also gained practical insights into real-world applications.

All participants scored 80% or higher in the final written exam as an exit requirement to get the scuba diving certification for Open Water. Also, all participants passed the swim exit requirements. The program evaluation showed an awareness increase of 82% and a knowledge gain of 95% on freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, like springs, seagrasses, artificial reefs, and coral reefs. Two youth participants have decided to pursue a career in marine biology as part of their participation in this dive camp.

SCUBA DIVING COURSES

Register anytime at victorblancomar@ufl.edu

Summer is coming!!! This Spring get your Certification as Open Water Diver (OWD), Advance Diver, Nitrox, Night and Low Visibility, Rescue, Navigation, Search and Rescue, Handicapped Diver or Dive Buddy, Divemaster, or Assistant Instructor (AI). Courses for youth (12 years old and up) and adults. People with disabilities and Veterans are welcome. For more information contact our instructor, Victor Blanco, at 850-838-3508 or victorblancomar@ufl.edu. Online or in-person lectures. Serving Taylor, Dixie, Jefferson, Lafayette, and Madison county.

Friday March 8, 2024 – HORSESHOE CRAB MONITORING TRAINING

FWC and UF/IFAS Extension have partnered to coordinate the State Horseshoe Crab Watch Program. Trained volunteers collect data on Horseshoe Crab in specific locations which is shared with FWC and NOAA to understand the population status of this magnificent creature. Taylor County coordinates surveys at Hagen's Cove during Spring and Fall every year. Come to the training event and learn the basics of this wonderful program and support efforts for the sustainable use and conservation of Horseshoe Crabs.

The two-hour training includes Welcome and introductions, Basics of Horseshoe Crabs ,Beach Nesting Survey protocol, Tagging data protocol, Hands-on activity, and videos. For more information contact Victor Blanco, Taylor County Marine Extension Agent, at victorblancomar@ufl.edu. Spring Surveys start March 10, and occur for three days during Full Moon and New Moon during high tide (PM) until April 24. Register https://www.eventbrite.com/e/horseshoe-crab-watch-training-spring-2024-tickets-853706197217?aff=oddtdtcreator

Saturday March 9, 2024 – BUCKEYE REEF MONITORING TRAINING

Join us for an exciting opportunity to learn about reef monitoring and conservation efforts in Taylor County! This in-person event will be held at the Steinhatchee Community Center. Dive into the world of marine life and contribute to important research alongside fellow ocean enthusiasts. Get ready to make a splash and make a difference! Diving experience and certification required, and a passion for protecting our underwater ecosystems. Don't miss out on this chance to dive in and give back! The one-day FREE training includes: Welcome and introductions. Basics of Artificial ref Monitoring. Fish count techniques: Stationary method and Roving diver method. Artificial reef structure assessment. Fish identification. Mock about survey protocols. After participating in the training you can join the group to go offshore and dive the artificial reefs and help collect fish abundance and composition data, as well as reef structure assessment. All dives are free of charge to volunteer divers. This program is Funded by FWC Artificial Reef Program to the Taylor County Board of County Commissioners through the Grant Agreement No. 23055. For more information call Victor Blanco, Taylor County Marine Extension Agent at victorblancomar@ufl.edu or (850) 838-3508. Registration at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/buckeye-reef-monitoring-volunteer-divers-training-taylor-county-tickets-853743318247

Saturday March 23, 2024 – HORSESHOE BEACH REEF MONITORING TRAINING

Join us for the DIXIE Horseshoe Beach Reef Monitoring Volunteer Divers Training event! Dive into the world of marine conservation and learn how to monitor artificial reef health as a volunteer diver. The training will be held at the Dixie County Public Library in Cross City, FL, USA. Training content is the same as the one for Buckeye Reef. This program is Funded by FWC Artificial Reef Program to the Dixie County Board of County Commissioners through the Grant Agreement No. 23056. For more information call Victor Blanco, Taylor County Marine Extension Agent at victorblancomar@ufl.edu or (850) 838-3508. Registration: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dixie-horseshoe-beach-reef-monitoring-volunteer-divers-training-tickets-853774060197?aff=oddtdtcreator

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