

Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force Meeting September 15, 2021 (1:00 – 4:12 p.m. EST)

This meeting was open to the public by remote access, <http://fwc.adobeconnect.com/hab/>

In attendance, HAB Task Force Members: Leanne Flewelling (Chair), Donald Anderson, Rick Clark, Duane DeFreese, Quay Dortch, Jill Fleiger, Charles Jacoby, Barb Kirkpatrick, Sherry Larkin, Andrew Reich, Rhonda Watkins, David Whiting

Guests: Kate Hubbard and Meghan Abbott, FWC-FWRI

Public participants: 13 in virtual meeting room, also live streamed by the Florida Channel

Minutes:

1:00 – 1:31 p.m. Welcome, introductions, and updates

Leanne Flewelling welcomed members of the public, and noted the meeting is not a regular quarterly meeting but ancillary meeting to review the draft recommendations discussed at the previous meeting. She conducted roll call of members and reviewed the agenda. Flewelling stressed this working meeting and the October 6 working meeting will be to develop final draft recommendations for a second report that will be posted for public comment prior to finalizing.

Kate Hubbard provided an overview of the current *K. brevis* bloom.

Flewelling gave an overview of the planned structure and content of the second recommendations document the HAB Task Force is developing, and the review process. The recommendations report will be completed prior to the end of the calendar year for legislature to have prior to the new year session start.

1:32 – 1:40 p.m. Public comment period

Flewelling opened the public comment period and reminded attendees that comment can always be submitted through the online form available at MyFWC.com/HABTaskForce.

Mark Parker, St. Pete Catalyst, spoke. He has been covering the bloom since it started in July. He inquired about the Goliath Grouper opening and if the HAB Task Force had any considerations for it.

1:40 - 2:40 p.m. HAB Task Force discussion of 2nd recommendations report

Members of the HAB Task Force discussed recommendations regarding red tide (*K. brevis*) blooms for a second document to be drafted and available for public comment (anticipated late October, early November). Priority recommendations in the key areas of Public Health, Communications, and related research, was discussed.

2:40-2:55 p.m. Break

2:55 – 4:55 p.m. Continued HAB Task Force discussion of 2nd recommendations report

Members of the HAB Task Force continued discussion of recommendations regarding red tide (*K. brevis*) blooms. Priority recommendations in the key areas of and Management and Response, including related research, was discussed.

Sherry Larkin gave an overview of draft ideas for capturing the 2017-19 event story in the document.

3:55 – 4:11 p.m. Closing remarks

Flewelling reminded members, the next meeting on October 6, 2021 is another half-day working meeting to complete discussion of the second recommendations document. The full-day quarterly meeting with broader agenda is November 4, 2021, location TBD.

Summary of **ASSIGNED** items:

- HAB Task Force members to send all comments to Meghan Abbott for compiling for the October 6 meeting. Include suggested revisions to recommendations report layout or content, input on the 2017-19 bloom story presented by Sherry Larkin.
- Quay Dortch and Barb Kirkpatrick to develop a list of related federal HAB programs for inclusion.
- Dave Whiting to provide a 1-paragraph overview of DEP progress related to initial consensus document recommendations, where applicable.
- Leanne Flewelling to draft an information piece on coastal resilience.
- Rhonda Watkins to draft an information piece on nutrients.
- Meghan Abbott to send a doodle poll to schedule 2022 quarterly meetings (January, April, August, December)

Adjourned 4:11 p.m.