



# Florida Oyster Recovery Science (FORS) Working Group

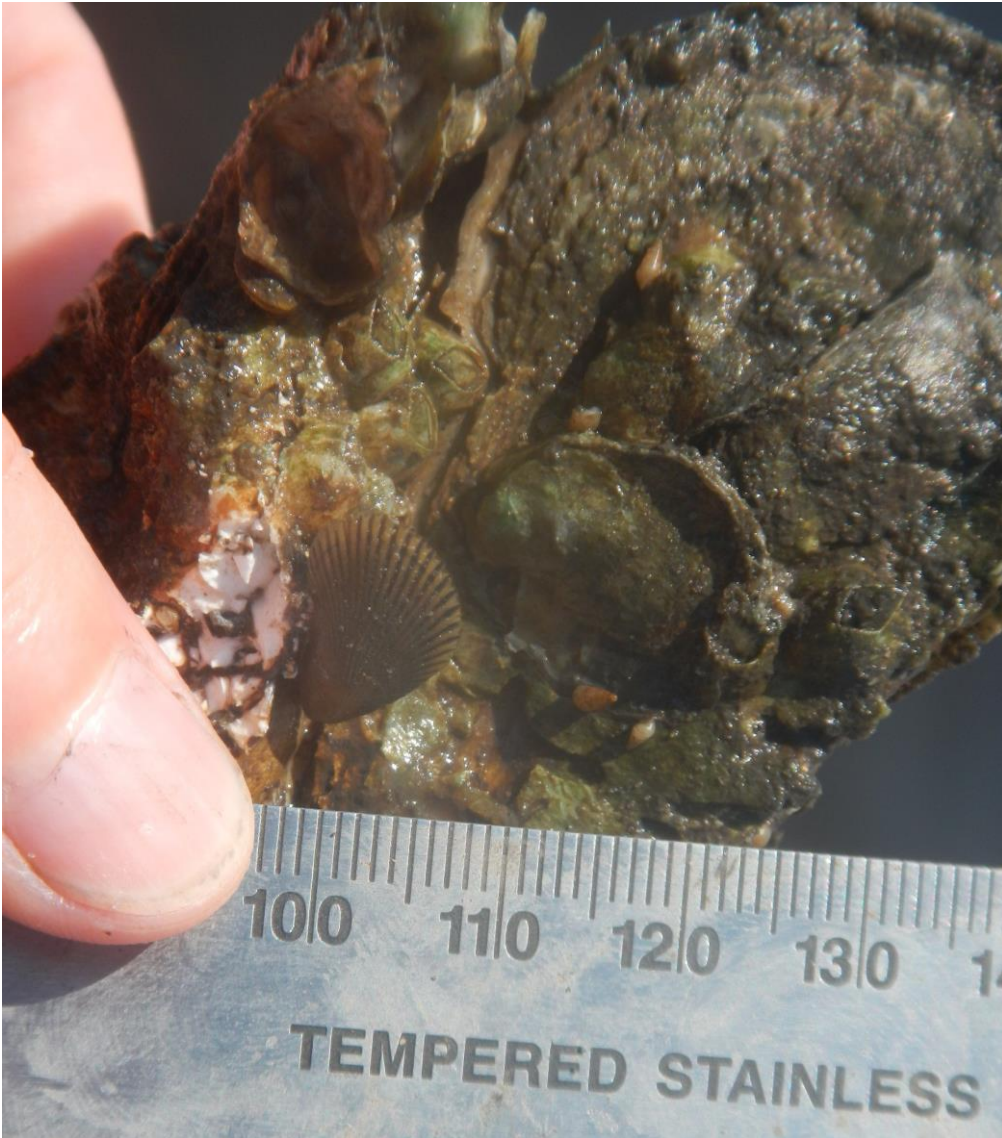
Est. November 2019

Katie Konchar, FORS Coordinator  
OIMMP/FORS Joint Workshop, May 10-11, 2022

# History of FORS

**A network for oyster scientists and practitioners to share scientific information & collaborate on oyster recovery efforts across Florida.**

- ✓ 2019 – Established working group
- ✓ 2020 – Expanded membership statewide; Established sub-committees (mapping, monitoring, ecosystem services)
- ✓ 2021 – Formalized FORS Charter; Prepared guidance documents
- ✓ 2022 – Disseminate 3 guidance documents
- ✓ Anticipated – Establish additional sub-committees (modeling & restoration); Prepare additional guidance





## VISION

Florida's oyster habitat is thriving and providing ecosystem services, oyster fisheries are sustainable, and oysters are effectively managed through plans that are science-based, adaptable to changing conditions, and coordinated through partnerships among community stakeholders including natural resource agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and businesses.

## MISSION

To support the recovery and management of Florida's oyster habitat and fisheries with science and through collaboration.







The FORS Working Group nurtures a community of resource professionals that:

1. Foster the comparability of science-based metrics, methods, and models used to recover and manage Florida's oyster habitats and fisheries;
2. Develop science-based guidance products;
3. Support status and trend assessments;
4. Work to eliminate barriers to oyster recovery; and
5. Share information with the broader community.





# Member Affiliations

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## FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

- Habitat & Species Conservation
- Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
- Marine Fisheries Management

## FL Dept. of Environmental Protection

- Aquatic Preserve Program
- Coastal Resilience & Protection

## FL Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Div. of Aquaculture

## Northwest FL Water Mgmt. District

## National Estuarine Research Reserves

- Guana Tolomato Matanzas
- Apalachicola

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Coastal Program

## National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association, Habitat Conservation

## Academia:

- University of Florida
- Florida State University
- University of Central Florida

## Indian River Lagoon Council

## Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program

## Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation

## The Nature Conservancy





How will FORS advance its mission  
and achieve its vision?

**Goal 1.** Develop and foster a **community of practice** of natural resource professionals committed to recovering and managing Florida's oyster habitat and fisheries.

**Goal 2.** Develop **science-based guidance** to inform oyster recovery and management of Florida's oyster habitat and fisheries by fostering comparability among metrics, methods and models.

**Goal 3.** Support the assessment of **status and trends** in Florida's oyster habitat and fisheries.

**Goal 4.** **Identify and overcome barriers** and challenges for oyster recovery and management.

**Goal 5.** **Share information** with the broader community of natural resource managers, researchers, and restoration practitioners working towards Florida's oyster recovery.

# Community of Practice

Quarterly, virtual meetings

Facilitated by Katie Konchar  
[Katie.Konchar@myfwc.com](mailto:Katie.Konchar@myfwc.com)



# Science-Based Guidance



MAPPING



MONITORING



ECOSYSTEM  
SERVICES  
QUANTIFICATION



MODELING



RESTORATION

**Develop science-based guidance to inform oyster recovery and management by fostering comparability among metrics, methods and models.**



# Science-Based Guidance

01

Review and summarize methods, materials and/or metrics

02

Reach consensus on a core set of methods, metrics, modeling parameters, materials, and/or approaches to recommend

03

Conduct end-user assessments to inform document development

04

Update guidance products as needs, methods and science evolve

# OIMMP

- Led by FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
- Started in 2016
- Grant funded (SWG, DEP)
- Mapping and monitoring focus (but inclusive of other topics)
- Statewide report with ongoing updates
- Ongoing mapping compiling and gap filling
- Pilot monitoring programs
- Workshops 2017-2022
- Websites, email list

FWC with  
partners

Shared  
members

Aim to improve  
communication

Promote  
collaboration and  
oyster data  
sharing

2022  
workshop

# FORS

- Facilitated by FWC Habitat and Species Conservation
- Started in 2019
- Not grant funded
- Recovery and management science focus
- Science-based guidance (mapping, monitoring, modeling, ecosystem services quantification & restoration)
- Working subcommittees
- Ongoing community of practice
- Quarterly online meetings



Thank you and welcome  
to OIMMP/FORS 2022!

