
Re: Thank you

From McIntyre, Claire <Claire.McIntyre@MyFWC.com>

Date Thu 8/28/2025 1:25 PM

To Bill Pine <Bill.Pine@swca.com>

Cc Burgess, Erika <Erika.Burgess@MyFWC.com>; Scholze, Tomena <Tomena.Scholze@MyFWC.com>; Barbieri, Luiz <Luiz.Barbieri@MyFWC.com>

 5 attachments (2 MB)

density shapefile data - public workshop map.xlsx; public workshop map - copy.docx; density shapefile data - internal.xlsx; density shapefile data.xlsx; project description.docx;

Hi Bill,

Within the body of this email and attached are the data you requested. We have also included a word document that explains the survey specific goals and sampling procedures.

1. We respectfully request copies of the oyster density data referenced near the 21:28 mark of the *May 1, 2025 FWC Public Workshop video*

Attached is the file named “density shapefile data – public workshop map.xls”.

Please note that the way we calculated the FDACS categories for bags/acre and harvest sustainability are based on a subsample of shell height measurements, the average density of legal-sized oysters at each location (oysters/m²), and an assumption of 225 oysters/bag. All locations in the “Sustainable Harvest” category were in areas where FDACS prohibits harvest, and very few “Limited Harvest” locations were in areas where harvest is permitted. That’s not to say harvest is the reason, just that densities of legal-sized oysters are low in harvestable areas.

These are all “intertidal” bars with the exception of 2023 subtidal survey stations (to ground-truth newly-identified reefs from UNH mapping efforts) and East Pass and Big Reef shell budget sites – approximately circled in blue on the attached copy of the public workshop map (“public workshop map – copy”).

The file named “density shapefile data – internal”, was used for an internal request, but contains additional information you requested, such as, time, depth, salinity, etc.

This data (summarized on the maps and in above mentioned Excel files) is from 2021-2023.

- **Sampling methods used**

Sampling methods can be found in Chapter 11 of the OIMMP report:

<https://myfwc.com/research/habitat/coastal-wetlands/oimmp/>

- **Spatial coordinates of all samples — including sites with zero oyster counts**

Coordinates are included in the above summarized data files. "FixedLocationID" links raw data to coordinates provided.

Note re: "zero oyster counts" – the referenced map refers only to legal-sized oysters that were measured (up to 50 shell heights are recorded), other oysters may be present. Additionally, it may have been a station that was visited but not sampled due to absence of suitable oyster habitat (e.g. during ground-truthing bay-wide surveys) or logistics or time constraints.

- **Raw data on oyster counts, size structure, bottom type, depth, and any associated environmental variables (i.e., salinity, DO) from coastal Levy, Dixie, and Citrus counties.**

The raw data that was summarized into the referenced map is compiled in "all raw data.xls".

- **Metadata detailing units of measurement and variable definitions and date and time of sampling (to tidally correct data for depth to ascertain whether these are intertidal bars)**

Included in all provided data files.

Thank you,

Claire



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From: Bill Pine <Bill.Pine@swca.com>

Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 1:53 PM

To: McIntyre, Claire <Claire.McIntyre@MyFWC.com>

Cc: Burgess, Erika <Erika.Burgess@MyFWC.com>; Scholze, Tomena <Tomena.Scholze@MyFWC.com>; Barbieri, Luiz <Luiz.Barbieri@MyFWC.com>

Subject: Re: Thank you

[EXTERNAL SENDER] Use Caution opening links or attachments

Hi,

Thank you for reaching out — we appreciate the ongoing collaboration and the valuable work FWC is doing in the region.

1. We respectfully request copies of the oyster density data referenced near the 21:28 mark of the *May 1, 2025 FWC Public Workshop video* ([5/1/25 Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Public Workshop on Commercial and Recreational Oyster Harvest - The Florida Channel](#)).

We anticipate using these data to inform site selection for our current restoration project, in combination with Lone Cabbage project data (previously shared with FWC) and planned on-the-water assessments.

Specifically, we request:

- Sampling methods used
- Spatial coordinates of all samples — including sites with zero oyster counts
- Raw data on oyster counts, size structure, bottom type, depth, and any associated environmental variables (i.e., salinity, DO) from coastal Levy, Dixie, and Citrus counties.
- Metadata detailing units of measurement and variable definitions and date and time of sampling (to tidally correct data for depth to ascertain whether these are intertidal bars)

We've attached a PDF containing:

1. A screenshot from the workshop video highlighting the requested information
2. Summaries from manuscripts surveying the same region and documenting divergent findings — particularly noting over 30% of sites with no adult oysters and low legal adult densities in areas that appear to be in the same sampling domain we have worked extensively.

As part of our ongoing restoration planning discussions, we will integrate these data with historic habitat maps, a site occupancy framework, and biological reference points for cultch and live oyster metrics. We think fully integrating the available information will be useful in characterizing why certain sites are proposed for restoration.

The PDF also includes previously discussed results from our work with FWRI, such as spatial distribution data, site occupancy analysis, and depletion sampling from subtidal reef habitats. We've included manuscripts (currently in review) detailing this work and its connections to HSI, as well as information on intertidal oyster height distributions. As you can see from the heights manuscript developed from intertidal reefs and then the depletion summaries on subtidal reefs the oyster population structure can differ over a small spatial area.

Given our minimum oyster size threshold (18 mm) and evidence that oysters may reach sexual maturity on intertidal bars around 25 mm or smaller, most of our observed individuals would be classified as adults. This might explain differing documentation outcomes across datasets — potentially a result of varying definitions applied to the species.

This request is not solely academic; if these data can be shared, we plan to compare them directly with ongoing predictive site occupancy modeling efforts. We would be happy to share those results with you as they develop. As done with the Lone Cabbage project, we anticipate continuing to follow open science efforts with all of our continuing work in the region.

If a brief conversation would be helpful before reviewing the request, I'm happy to set up a time to clarify any aspect of what I have provided. I'm generally available today 7/29 and tomorrow 7/30 and feel free to just call 352 225 1643.

We are hoping to have a group of possible restoration sites identified in September, so if you determine this data request is reasonable and can provide the data by September 8 that would be great.

Note I will be out of the office on family leave from late Thursday July 31 until likely August 18. I will be irregularly checking email and working a little bit during this time.

Thank you again for considering our request, and please don't hesitate to reach out if we can support FWC's efforts in the region.

Best regards.

bp

From: McIntyre, Claire <Claire.McIntyre@MyFWC.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 12:41 PM
To: Bill Pine <Bill.Pine@swca.com>
Cc: Burgess, Erika <Erika.Burgess@MyFWC.com>; Scholze, Tomena <Tomena.Scholze@MyFWC.com>; Barbieri, Luiz <Luiz.Barbieri@MyFWC.com>
Subject: Re: Thank you

Hi Bill,

To streamline and help facilitate FWRI data requests we ask that you submit a written memo outlining the specifics of your request. This should include date range, locations, data types (water quality, oyster counts, oyster morphometrics, landings), methods, etc. This enables me to better keep track of requests and not duplicate efforts.

Thanks,

Claire



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From: Bill Pine <Bill.Pine@swca.com>
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 9:04 PM
To: Jerald Beckham <jeraldbeckham333@gmail.com>; Wynn, Chris <Chris.Wynn@MyFWC.com>; Bill Pine <Bill.Pine@swca.com>; Daniel Dourte <DDourte@balmoralgroup.us>; Amy Bainbridge <ABainbridge@balmoralgroup.us>; Micheal S <msal@ufl.edu>; morgan.easton@MyFWC.com <morgan.easton@MyFWC.com>; Matt Weldon <weldon-matt@levycounty.org>; Levy County Commission District 3 <Mills-Desiree@levycounty.org>; Laws, Anna <Anna.Laws@MyFWC.com>; Burgess, Erika <Erika.Burgess@MyFWC.com>; Eason, Morgan <Morgan.Eason@MyFWC.com>;

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Scholze, Tomena <Tomena.Scholze@MyFWC.com>; McIntyre, Claire <Claire.McIntyre@MyFWC.com>
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Thank you everyone for meeting today. We covered a lot of material and I appreciate your time, interest, and support for completing the Levy County/CKOA restoration project.

I will be following up with individual people on the action items. We will also meet with DEP again on Thursday of this week.

Attached is the fact sheet for the project that was distributed prior to the meeting today. We will revise the fact sheet in a few weeks after we have more feedback from permitting agencies on possible site selection to work and other new information that becomes available.

As always if you have any questions, concerns, or comments please feel free to give me a call anytime 352 225 1643.

Regards,
Bill Pine