



June 27, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor  
Plaza Level, The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo  
President  
The Florida Senate  
409 The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1100

The Honorable Paul Renner  
Speaker  
The Florida House of Representatives  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300

VIA EMAIL DELIVERY

RE: Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. Semi-Annual Report January 2023 – June 2023

Dear Governor DeSantis, President Passidomo, and Speaker Renner:

Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc. was originally created in statute in 2013 and received its first funding from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Settlement in 2017. In the ensuing years, Triumph Gulf Coast has become one of the most successful and effective economic development engines in Florida history. As the stewards of \$1.5 billion awarded to Florida by the federal court for economic damages caused by the oil spill, Triumph Gulf Coast's statutory mission is to strengthen and diversify the economy of coastal Northwest Florida through job creation, workforce development, and public infrastructure.

Since its first grant award of \$10 million in 2018 to expand the Port of Panama City, Triumph has awarded more than \$410 million to 56 projects in all eight counties disproportionately affected by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

The highly respected business and governmental economist, Dr. Rick Harper, reports that every \$1 awarded by Triumph is creating \$18.8 in beneficial economic growth for Northwest Florida, an extraordinary return on investment.

With approximately \$1 billion remaining to be awarded, Triumph's milestones to date already include:

- More than \$234.9 million in infrastructure investments including expansions of two seaports, a major bypass to support military missions, a maritime industrial park making possible as much as \$10.3 billion in Coast Guard construction, outside the gate airfield expansion to substantially expand Naval support missions, three industrial parks across the Highways 90 and Interstate 10 corridors with a majority of sites already committed. Job creation projects include an aircraft maintenance-repair-overhaul campus with international partners and customers, electrical transformer manufacturing, pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturing, marine manufacturing, and multiple logistics and distribution facilities.
- \$145.9 million in education workforce training including facilities and faculty for airframe, aircraft maintenance and pilot training, a joint venture with the University of Florida and a local school district for artificial intelligence instruction, a Florida State University STEM lab school supporting the post-Hurricane Michael rebuild of Tyndall Air Force Base, four Unmanned Systems drone training programs linked to K-12 school districts, a nurse training program that will add 4000 new nurses and provide \$315 million of additional household income to the Triumph region within the next 10 years, Career Technical Education (CTE) training in welding, pipefitting, carpentry, construction and industrial trades, HVAC, agriculture sciences, emergency management, fire sciences, health care services, information technology, commercial driving licenses, and engineering/design sponsored by seven K-12 districts, two universities, four state colleges, and a county sheriff's office.
- \$8 million in Triumph-sponsored research to restore the aquaculture of Florida's legendary Apalachicola oyster beds. This funding has induced federal and state research grants of over \$20 million.
- Nearly \$12 million in Triumph-funded equipment housed in the brand-new, state-of-the-art IHMC Center for Human Healthspan, Resilience, and Performance research facility at the Institute of Human and Machine Cognition in Pensacola. This equipment will allow IHMC to attract no less than \$35 million in competitively awarded research grants to our region.
- \$19 million in ad valorem tax benefits to assist local governments in covering emergency post-hurricane costs and support counties in attracting private job-creation industry.

- Of the more than \$145.9 million in education and workforce training, more than \$41 million is in programs with a primary focus in cybersecurity and IT training with education partners for Northwest Florida residents, active-duty military families, and separating uniformed military to qualify them for high-skill, high-wage jobs in Northwest Florida.

The net effects of those milestones include:

- 5,700 net new jobs, with all incentivized jobs paying 115% or more of the prevailing wages in the area
- 41,900 national industry certifications or milestones earned by K-12, college, and university, retiring military and military spouses in the very occupational categories most needed in our coastal economy
- More than \$615 million in net new family income annually
- Uncommon risk-sharing by attracting over \$878 million in matching funds, attracting private and public sector partners as full investors in every project
- A regional economy more diversified, resilient, and self-reliant than at any other time in our area's history

A highly unusual feature of Triumph's operation is the strict, objective, measurable performance metrics applied to every project. Binding contracts with qualified applicants and partners ensure that Triumph can reclaim funds in all cases if metrics aren't achieved. When hurricanes and pandemic conditions justified flexibility, the Triumph board renegotiated with a few applicants. But, to date, not one of the funded projects has been cited for non-performance nor have any funds had to be clawed back.

Triumph has provided extensive hands-on help to applicants to qualify for funding, evaluated every proposal with due diligence, return on investment, and job-creation viability prior to every award, and managed and monitored every project for contract compliance and faithful performance. These functions are carried out by Executive Director Susan Skelton, Program Administrator Cori Henderson, Economic Advisor Dr. Rick Harper, Education/Workforce Advisor Dr. Frank Fuller, and Construction Compliance Advisor Randy Lewis, AIA, together with the accounting firm of Tipton, Marler, Garner and Chastain, and the Clark Partington law firm.

Total operational costs – including financial management, legal services, and research have cost less than 3/4 of 1 percent of Triumph funds, a nearly unprecedented record for low overhead and financial stewardship. The 2022 legislative session agreed that \$5 million of interest earned by Triumph on its unexpended funds could be used for the ever-growing project management and compliance over the lifetime of the grant awards. This session the Legislature agreed to allow Triumph to keep its earned interest for one year for expenditures on grant awards and administrative costs to assure project compliance.

Over the last several months the Board has held a workshop and two Committee of the Whole meetings to provide new members with opportunities to discuss discretionary priorities that were set by prior boards and to determine what, if any, changes needed to be made to those priorities. After much discussion, the consensus has been that maintaining flexibility to adjust those priorities is important but that no major changes appear to be necessary at this time. The Board can make any future changes as needed at their discretion. The Board recognized the importance of reducing match requirements for specific hardship situations and for workforce grants as needed. Particular focus was given to providing additional ongoing assistance to the small counties in identifying and supporting transitional projects.

Triumph Gulf Coast is independently audited by outside auditors and is examined and audited annually by the Auditor General of Florida. Not once in its existence has Triumph been cited or criticized by any auditor or oversight body.

Triumph Gulf Coast's original directors completed their terms in 2022, which, by law, cannot be extended. Directors who have served since the organization's inception, and their appointing authorities, are:

Governor appointees:

Stan Connally, Jr. - June 3, 2017 – September 1, 2018  
Lewis Bear, Jr. – March 26, 2019 – June 2, 2021 (Vice Chair 2020)  
David Bear – August 13, 2021 – June 2, 2025 (Chair 2022 - 2023)

Attorney General appointees:

Pam Dana, Ph. D – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2021 (Vice Chair 2021)  
Collier Merrill – July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025 (Vice Chair 2022 - 2023)

Chief Financial Officer appointees:

Stephen Riggs, IV – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2021 (Treasurer 2017 – 2021)  
Reynolds Henderson – July 20, 2021 – June 2, 2025 (Treasurer 2022 - 2023)

Senate President appointees:

Allan Bense – June 3, 2017 – June 2, 2022 (Original Chair 2017)  
Jason Shoaf – June 30, 2017 – June 20, 2019  
Matt Terry – August 13, 2019 – June 29, 2022  
Bryan Corr – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026  
David Humphreys – July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2026

House Speaker Appointees:


Robert Bonezzi – June 3, 2017 – January 10, 2018  
Ben Lee – January 18, 2018 – June 2, 2022 (Assistant Treasurer 2020-2022)  
Don Gaetz – June 30, 2017 – June 29, 2022 (Chair 2018-2022)  
Jay Trumbull, Sr. June 27, 2022 – June 1, 2026  
Leslie Weiss – August 18, 2022 – June 30, 2026

The Governor, Chief Financial Officer, and Attorney General made their most recent appointments in 2021. The Senate President and House Speaker also appointed new directors in 2022 to carry out Triumph's statutory mission for the next four years.

The Triumph directors express our gratitude for the opportunity to serve the State and our coastal communities. We are particularly grateful to Executive Director Susan Skelton and her small but highly effective team. We look forward to building on Triumph Gulf Coast's past successes and making many more transformational projects come to fruition.

On behalf of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board of Directors,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Bear". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Bear, Chair Attachment

Attachments

CC: Members of the Florida Cabinet  
Members of the Northwest Florida Congressional Delegation  
Members of the Northwest Florida Legislative Delegation  
Members of the Triumph Gulf Coast Board



Preapp #	Applicant	Project	Amt Requested	County	Eligible
<b>Current Pre-Applications</b>					
275	Bay Haven Charter Academy, Inc.	North Bay Haven Career Academy	\$6,000,000	Bay	Yes
286	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project SPARK	\$2,100,000	Escambia	Yes
287	Global Lynx, Inc.	Florida's Future IT Workforce Development	\$250,000	N/A	Yes
295	Bay County Commission	Project Aqua	\$15,000,000	Bay	Yes
297	P.R.I.D.E Enterprises	Construction Trades Training Program	\$1,000,000	Escambia	Yes
298	Destin High School	Career Academy Expansion	\$10,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
299	Pensacola State College	Diesel Mechanic Training	\$5,900,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
311	Goodwill Big Bend Foundation	Workforce Training	\$10,000,000	ALL	N/A
312	Florida State University - Panama	Center for Manufacturing & Aerospace Tech	\$100,000,000	Bay	Yes
317	Pensacola State College	A&P	\$5,457,424	Escambia	Yes
318	Santa Rosa County District School	Santa Rosa Center for Innovation	\$7,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
319	Warrington Preparatory Academy	Rocketing to the Future: Phase 1	\$5,500,000	Escambia	Yes
<b>Archived Pre-Applications</b>					
2	Miracle Strip Mgmt, LLC	Lynn Haven Office/Warehouse	\$3,670,000	Bay	No
3	Miracle Strip Mgmt, LLC	Miracle Strip Warehouses	\$4,100,000	Bay	No
6	Robert Condon	Petrochemical Clean Up Co.	\$2,100,000	Escambia	No
7	Dr. Phillip Renfro	Airport Multispecialty Medical Clinic	\$3,500,000	Escambia	No
8	City of Destin	Crosstown Connector	\$5,700,000	Okaloosa	Yes
12	Escambia County	OLF8/OLFX Land Swap with DOD	\$29,900,000	Escambia	Yes
13	Escambia County	Beulah Interchange Connector	\$11,250,000	Escambia	Yes
15	La Vie Et Belle	Papillion Pavillion	\$1,632,700	Walton	No
16	Cellarus Partners, LLC	Emerald Coast Motorsports Park	\$70,000,000		No
17	FSU College of Law	Center for Econ Opportunity for Veterans	\$600,000	Wakulla	No
18	North Pt St Joe PAC	MLK Boulevard Redevelopment Project	\$5,750,000	Gulf	No
21	Santa Rosa Co. School Dist.	Innovation High School	\$40,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
22	City of Carrabelle	Northwest Downtown Rivalitization - Ave B	\$860,000	Franklin	Yes
23	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle Airport Improvements	\$30,000	Franklin	Yes
24	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle City Hall Construction	\$280,000	Franklin	Yes
25	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle Septic Tank Abatement	\$590,000	Franklin	Yes
30	Okaloosa Co School District	Vocational Ed in Need of Support Project	\$45,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
31	St. Marks Refuge Association	Lighthouse Repair and Improvements	\$300,000	Wakulla	No
33	City of Apalachicola	Workforce Housing Revolving Fund	\$400,000	Franklin	Yes
36	South Walton Fire District	Training/Maintenance Facility	\$3,300,000	Walton	Yes
37	SocialDesk Enterprises	Tri-Net Fiber Optic Project Planning	\$600,000	Multi	No
39	Okaloosa County	Bridge to Bridge Multi-Use Path	\$5,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
40	Okaloosa County	Digital Okaloosa Phase 1	\$6,352,814	Okaloosa	Yes
41	Okaloosa County	Eastern Crestview Bypass	\$4,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
42	Okaloosa County	Forensic Hospital Pilot Diversion Program	\$5,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
47	Wakulla County	Wakulla County Library Construction	\$2,900,000	Wakulla	Yes
50	Town of Jay	Water Quality Improvement Project	\$1,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
51	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP Crosswind Runway	\$15,600,000	Bay	Yes
52	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP SoHo Infrastructure	\$3,400,000	Bay	Yes
53	PC - Bay Co Airport District	ECP Hangar Facility anda Infrastructure	\$7,000,000	Bay	Yes
57	City of Lynn Haven	Emergency Operations Center	\$1,800,000	Bay	Yes
62	Bay District Schools	Environmental Sciences Center	\$4,500,000	Bay	Yes
63	Bay District Schools	Triumph Pre-K Academy	\$10,000,000	Bay	Yes
66	B & C Technologies	Manufacturing Partnership	\$5,000,000	Bay	No
67	Pumpout USA, Inc.	Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project	\$11,590,000	Bay	No
71	Good Samaritan Institute	Green Jobs for Wallton County	\$200,000	Walton	Yes
74	Town of Jay	Makerspace Initiative	\$375,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
75	City of Lynn Haven	Marina Island Boulevard Project	\$10,000,000	Bay	Yes
76	City of Gulf Breeze	TownCenter Infill Redevelopment Project	\$15,817,500	Santa Rosa	Yes
77	City of Gulf Breeze	MedicalTechnologyPark Infill Redev Project	\$15,253,125	Santa Rosa	Yes
78	City of Pensacola CRA	Youth Environmental Empowerment Prog.	\$1,000,000	Escambia	Yes
79	City of Pensacola CRA	West Moreno Stormwater and Streetscape	\$9,100,000	Escambia	Yes
80	City of Pensacola CRA	Downtown Infrastructure Project	\$20,800,000	Escambia	Yes
81	City of Pensacola CRA	Hollice T. Williams Greenway	\$12,500,000	Escambia	Yes

82	City of Pensacola CRA	W Cervantes St - Mobile Hwy Corridor	\$30,000,000	Escambia	Yes
86	TechFarms Capital Mgmt	Triumph Angel Fund - TechFarms Capital	\$8,000,000	Multi	No
88	City of Fort Walton Beach	Landing Ferry System and Dock Expansion	\$7,500,000	Okaloosa	Yes
89	City of Fort Walton Beach	Municipal Marina	\$10,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
94	Bay Defense Alliance	Defense Technology Innovation Center	\$0	Bay	No
96	City of Pensacola	Unity Project	\$3,000,000	Escambia	Yes
97	City of Pensacola	Affordable Housing Program	\$15,000,000	Escambia	No
99	Walton County Sheriff	Public Safety Communications Training Fac	\$8,000,000	Walton	Yes
101	Alaqua Animal Refuge	Advanced Animal Medical Facility	\$1,750,000	Walton	No
102	Stone Clinical Laboratories	Clinical Lab and Training Facility	\$6,914,368	Walton	Yes
103	Medical Risk Solutions	Primary Care/Pharmacy	\$900,000	Walton	No
104	Flotilla 1-4	Multi-purpose Vessel	\$437,000	Okaloosa	No
106	Pens/Escambia PEDC	The Bluffs Corridor-Beck's Lake Rd Segment	\$8,000,000	Escambia	Yes
107	Destin Fisherman's Co-op	Fisherman's Boatyard Construction-Freeport	\$1,275,000	Walton	No
107.1	#107 Amended Destin Fisherman	Fisherman's Boatyard Construction-Freeport	\$1,275,000	Walton	No
109	Walton County BOCC	Education and Research Center at Owls Head	\$10,000,000	Walton	Yes
110	St. Andrews Bay Center	The Ark of the Bay	\$584,743	Bay	Yes
111	Walton County School District	Emerald Coast Technical College	\$2,931,000	Walton	Yes
112	Lake Erie College Osteo Med	Academic Health Clinic Expansion	\$3,623,736	Walton	Yes
113	Finch Transportation	Walton County Transit System	\$2,190,000	Walton	No
114	Walton County BOCC	Broadband Initiative	\$900,000	Walton	Yes
115	City of Pensacola	Morris Court Complex	\$18,000,000	Escambia	Yes
116	The Seaside School, Inc.	STEM Center of Excellence	\$5,000,000	Walton	Yes
117	Bruce Craul/Dr. Mark Bonn	Hospitality Development Center	\$5,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
118	Ron & Peggy Childs	Port Theater & Cultural Center	\$60,000	Gulf	No
121	Quiq Silver	Comm. Kitchen Equip. Assembly Plant	\$6,120,000	Bay	No
122	Fish 2.0	Aquaculture Investment	\$250,000		No
124	Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife Recovery Funding	\$233,130	Multi	No
125	NWF Black Business Chamber	MLK Blvd Mixed Use Corridor	\$5,750,000	Bay	No
127	Pensacola Heritage Foundation	THE GALVEZ MONUMENT PROJECT	\$50,000	Escambia	No
128	Franklin County Schools	STEM in Education Program	\$720,000	Franklin	Yes
129	Franklin County Schools	Workforce Dev. And Voc Training	\$2,955,700	Franklin	Yes
130	Florida A&M University	Construction & Infra Tech Innovation Center	\$35,000,000	Multi	No
131	Pensacola State College	Co:Lab Expansion	\$5,000,000	Escambia	Yes
132	OWV Company, LLC	Sweetwater Springs Marketing	\$2,898,000	Santa Rosa	No
134	Coast Watch Alliance	Lion Fish Harvesting Program	\$1,121,600	Escambia	No
136	City of Laurel Hill	Water System Upgrades	\$872,662	Okaloosa	Yes
137	American Marine Research Co. &	Protection for Marine Fisheries Against Lionf	\$1,242,180	Escambia	No
138	Division of Aquaculture, FDACS	Shellfish Aquaculture Economic Incubator	\$750,000	Multi	No
139	Panama City Rescue Mission	Facility Construction and Remodeling	\$3,000,000	Bay	No
140	Opportunity Place, Inc	Shelter Services and Landscaping of Family	\$30,000	Okaloosa	No
141	St. Marks Refuge Association, Inc	Revised St. Marks Lighthouse Restoration P	\$300,000	Wakulla	No
142	Panama City Beach Public Library	Community Program Room Expansion	\$200,000	Bay	No
144	North Bay Haven Career Academy	Athletic Field Complex Project	\$4,500,000	Bay	No
146	Navarre Beach Sea Turtle Conser	Construction of New Facility	\$1,800,000	Santa Rosa	No
149	Gulf District Schools	School Bus Fleet Expansion	\$600,000	Gulf	No
150	Hanning LLC DBA STEMWERX	STEMWERX Mobile STEM Lab	\$1,342,867	Multi	Yes
151	Biotech Restorations Holdings, LL	Biotech Gulf Coast	\$4,000,000	Multi	No
152	Point Washington Medical Center	Operating Funds		Walton	No
156	Range Project LLC	Range Project	\$3,000,000	Walton	No
158	Biotility - University of Florida	Secondary Biotechnology CTE Programs	\$275,000	Multi	Yes
159	Panhandle Affordable Housing LL	Walton County Workforce Housing	\$5,500,000	Walton	No
160	Casa Laxmi Foundation, Inc.	Centre for Excellence	\$20,000,000	Bay	No
162	CareerSource Gulf Coast	Triumph Workforce Consortium	\$22,283,836	Multi	Yes
164	The Joe Center for the Arts	Community Arts and Cultural Center	\$350,000	Gulf	No
165	Twin Rivers Land & Timber, Inc.	St. Joe Port Project	\$47,066,695	Gulf	No
166	Gulf County Board of County Com	Local Government Funding Assistance	\$21,680,000	Gulf	Yes
170	N/A				
171	N/A				
172	Air Force Enlisted Village, Inc.	All-Service Military Retirement Village	\$172,000	Okaloosa	No



173	Port of Pensacola	Marine Modification Maintenance Repair Overhaul	\$16,329,406	Escambia	Yes
174	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Clear	\$7,350,000	Bay	Yes
175	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Purple	\$4,635,000	Bay	Yes
176	Fran Vellanti	Mental Health Out Patient Day Treatment Program		N/A	No
178	City of Apalachicola	Workforce Housing and Infrastructure	\$800,000	Franklin	Yes
179	The Oyster Restoration Company	Apalachicola Bay One Billion Oyster Restoration	\$15,000,000	Franklin	WD
181	Coastline Environmental Materials	Artificial Reef Creation Project	\$6,510,000	Franklin	WD
182	Port Authority of the Port of Port St. Joe	Dredging of Shipping Channel	\$15,000,000	Gulf	Yes
183	Liberty Fire District	Aerial Ladder Apparatus for North Walton County	\$720,000	Walton	Yes
184	Liberty Fire District	North Station	\$962,500	Walton	Yes
188	City of Lynn Haven	ACMT Tax Abatement	\$104,000	Bay	Yes
192	FSU Panama City	Engineering, Science, Technology & Workforce	\$14,700,000	Bay	Yes
193	City of Destin	Public Beach Initiative Project	\$12,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
194	Port Theater Art and Cultural Center	Art and Cultural Center	\$575,000	Gulf	Yes
195	City of Panama City	Panama City Marina Convention Center	\$40,000,000	Bay	Yes
196	City of Carrabelle	Carrabelle-Thompson Airport Improvements	\$2,000,000	Franklin	Yes
197	Keep Pushing Foundation, Inc	Help Empower Our Youth	\$1,825,000	Okaloosa	No
199	The BioCarburante Company	Port St. Joe Biorefinery Project	\$25,250,000	Gulf	No
203	Earth Steps LLC	Renewable Energy Product Manufacturing	\$13,000,000	Wakulla	No
204	Rocky Bayou Christian School	STEM Training and Certifications	\$215,730	Okaloosa	Yes
208	Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc.	Re-Entry Workforce Training and Housing	\$2,500,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
212	Freedom Life Compass, Inc.	Life Recovery Center	\$150,000	Okaloosa	No
214	Project Star	Project Star	\$750,000	Walton	N/A
218	Bay District Schools/Haney Technical Center	Project Good Wrench Phase 1	\$2,498,475	Bay	Yes
219	Northwest Florida Beaches International Airport	Aviation Center of Excellence MRO Campus	\$35,178,050	Bay	Yes
220	City of Milton	Project Recall	\$6,000,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
225	FL Dept. of Agriculture and Conservation	Apalachicola Bay Oyster Aquaculture Training	\$75,000	Franklin	Yes
226	Economic Development Council of Okaloosa County	Project Reese	\$34,822,786	Okaloosa	Yes
235	Andrews Research & Education Foundation	Center for Human Healthspan, Resilience & Recovery	\$4,000,000	Santa Rosa	No
239	Northwest Florida Supercomputer Center	Operation of Supercomputers	\$964,170	Okaloosa	No
241	Lamar West Townhomes HOA	Hurricane Sally Restoration	\$100,000	Okaloosa	No
242	Northwest Florida Supercomputer Center	Operation of Supercomputers	\$2,159,800	Okaloosa	No
247	Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation	Destin Aquatic Center	\$2,000,000	Okaloosa	No
248	Kuhn Strategic Consulting	Gulf Coast Digitized Campaign	\$254,100	ALL	No
252	Wakulla County BOCC	Project Game Stop	\$500,000	Wakulla	Yes
253	Bay County BOCC	Project Beacon	\$1,600,000	Bay	Yes
255	James B. Washington Education and Sports Center	James B. Washington Education and Sports Center	\$2,200,000	Escambia	No
256	Gulf Coast State College	Sea-X	\$2,561,226	Bay	Yes
260	The Arc of the Bay	Restaurant Readiness Program	\$250,000	Bay	N/A
262	Navarre Beach Fire Rescue	Project Safe and Sound	\$500,000	Santa Rosa	No
263	Northwest FL State College	Cloud Computing Industry Training	\$92,500	Okaloosa	Yes
266	Northwest FL State College	Career Acceleration Pathways for Early College	\$10,267,474	Okaloosa	Yes
267	Northwest FL State College	CDL Expansion	\$1,826,770	Okaloosa	Yes
268	Pensacola State College	A&P Expansion	\$10,700,000	Santa Rosa	Yes
272	HSU Educational Foundation	FieldWerx	\$56,195,000	Okaloosa	N/A
277	DEFENSEWERX	Digital Engineering Center of Excellence	\$20,000,000	Okaloosa	Yes
278	Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy	Educational Materials and Facility Upgrades	\$150,000	Walton	No
279	The Modern Vender	The Modern Vender	\$950,000	Bay	No
281	Jacob Cline Consulting LLC	Senior and Health Care Franchise	\$1,500,000	Bay	No
283	Roderwill Consulting Services	Aviation Operations Expansion	\$3,715	N/A	No
285	Port of Pensacola	Supply Chain Enhancement Project	\$53,048,217	Escambia	Yes
288	Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola, Inc.	Residential Transitional Facility	\$3,000,000.00	Escambia	No
289	Bay BOCC	Project Tachyon	\$5,250,000.00	Bay	Yes
292	Booker T. Washington High School	Chorus Carnegie Hall Trip	\$75,000	Escambia	No
301	Transport America Project, Inc.	Triumph EV & Tech Edu & Training Center	\$20,000,000	ALL	No
302	Transport America Project, Inc.	Bay EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Bay	No
303	Transport America Project, Inc.	Escambia EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Escambia	No
304	Transport America Project, Inc.	Franklin EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Franklin	No
305	Transport America Project, Inc.	Gulf EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Gulf	No
306	Transport America Project, Inc.	Okaloosa EV Charging Station & Convenience Store	\$1,000,000	Okaloosa	No

307	Transport America Project, Inc.	Santa Rosa EV Charging Station & Conveni	\$1,000,000	Santa Rosa	No
308	Transport America Project, Inc.	Wakulla EV Charging Station & Convenience	\$1,000,000	Wakulla	No
309	Transport America Project, Inc.	Walton EV Charging Station & Convenience	\$1,000,000	Walton	No
310	The Leadership Hospital	Leadership Certificate Program	\$1,896,465	Bay	No
314	NERD Lab, LLC.	Materials Science & Engineering Experience	\$500,000	Okaloosa	No
316	Navarre Beach Fire Rescue	Fire Rescue Boat	\$141,476	Santa Rosa	No

Preapp #	Applicant	Project	Amt Requested	County	Score	Application Rec'd
<b>Grants Awarded</b>						
29	Wakulla County School Board	Career and Technical Education Center	\$3,926,867	Wakulla	A	02/12/18
49	Panama City Port Authority	PC Port Authority Eastern Terminal Dev.	\$10,000,000	Bay	A	02/23/18
120	City of Pensacola	Comm. Aircraft Maintenance Campus	\$66,000,000	Escambia	A	03/16/18
43	Okaloosa County	Hwy 90 East Water and Sewer Expansion	\$1,500,000	Okaloosa	A	03/22/18
143	Bay District Schools	HVAC	\$847,955	Bay	A	04/13/18
72	Santa Rosa County	Whiting Aviation Park	\$8,523,655	Santa Rosa	A	04/18/18
69	FSU Marine Lab	Apalachicola Bay System Initiative	\$7,998,678	Franklin	A	04/20/18
46	Okaloosa County	Southwest Crestview Bypass	\$64,100,000	Okaloosa	B	05/22/18
153	Gulf County School District	Unmanned Systems	\$710,000	Gulf	A	08/28/18
157	Franklin County School District	Franklin Environmental Career and Technical Training	\$2,327,322	Franklin	A	10/08/18
148	Gulf District Schools	Agri-Science Program Expansion	\$108,646	Gulf	A	11/05/18
98	Walton County Sheriff	Vocational/Technical Training Program	\$2,417,967	Walton	A	11/19/18
180	Gulf County School District	WHS Welding Program	\$250,000	Gulf	A	01/08/19
185	City of Panama City	Panama City Industrial Complex	\$20,000,000	Bay	A	02/20/19
186	Gulf County Board of County Commission	Hurricane Michael Recovery Ad Valorem Request	\$4,271,683	Gulf	A	03/07/19
187	Northwest Florida State College	Walton Works Training Center of Excellence	\$2,856,216	Walton	A	03/07/19
189	Bay County Board of County Commission	Hurricane Michael Recovery Ad Valorem Request	\$10,728,317	Bay	A	03/19/19
190	Walton Economic Development Alliance	US 331 Infrastructure	\$1,742,407	Walton	A	03/28/19
198	Wakulla County School Board	UAS/VSO Certification Program	\$2,160,000	Wakulla	A	05/19/19
200	Franklin County School District	Career and Technical Training, Phase II	\$1,265,000	Franklin	A	05/24/19
191	Franklin County BOCC	Apalachicola Regional Airport Fuel System Upgrade	\$2,311,182	Franklin	B	07/17/19
202	Gulf Coast State College - Gulf/Franklin Campus	Tech Center for Emergency Response and Comms	\$5,147,750	Gulf	B	08/07/19
209	Santa Rosa County BOCC	Project Lionheart - Northwest Florida Industrial Park	\$3,484,728	Santa Rosa	A	11/15/19
213	Florida's Great Northwest (FGNW)	Education ROI Research and Marketing	\$733,000	ALL	A	11/25/19
207	Gulf Coast State College - Gulf/Franklin Campus	Nursing Simulation Center	\$2,200,358	Gulf	B+	12/04/19
216	Northwest FL State College	Center of Aviation Excellence: Airframe & Powerplant	\$7,064,665	Okaloosa	A	02/14/20
210	Gulf Coast State College	UAS Pilot Boot Camp for Exiting Military	\$2,259,063	Gulf	B+	02/14/20
215	Wakulla County School Board	Wakulla/Lively Tech A&P Cert Program	\$3,250,000	Wakulla	A	02/18/20
221	Locklin Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$182,000	Santa Rosa	A	02/21/20
222	Okaloosa Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$200,000	Okaloosa	A	02/21/20
223	Emerald Coast Technical College	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$200,000	Walton	A	02/23/20
224	Wakulla County School Board/Lively Tech	Hurricane Michael Skilled Labor Recovery Fund	\$200,000	Wakulla	A	02/24/20
217	AMKids Pensacola Inc.	AMKids Pensacola Workforce Development Program	\$408,000	Escambia	A	04/13/20
228	Pensacola State College	Infrastructure and Logistics Training Fund	\$74,000	Escambia	A	04/27/20
229	Tallahassee Community College	Infrastructure and Logistics Training Fund	\$276,500	Wakulla	A	04/28/20
227	Panama City Port Authority	Intermodal Distribution Center Expansion	\$3,000,000	Bay	A	04/29/20
48	Wakulla County	First Response Communications System	\$11,038,669	Wakulla	B	05/19/20
206	AMKids Panama City Marine Institute	STEM AND BUSINESS ENTREPRENEURSHIP LABS	\$1,747,500	Bay	A	06/15/20
230	Walton County School District	IT and Healthcare Certification Program	\$3,846,000	Walton	A	06/27/20
240	Santa Rosa County BOCC	Santa Rosa Industrial Park East	\$6,000,000	Santa Rosa	A	09/10/20
233	IHMC	Center for Human Healthspan, Resilience and Performance	\$11,968,119	Escambia	A	11/18/20
211	Pensacola State College	Logistics & Distribution: Ground Transportation	\$3,862,951	Santa Rosa	A	02/01/21
265	Florida State University, Panama City	FSU Panama City Collegiate Lab School	\$7,651,600	Bay	A	02/28/21
237	Port St. Joe Port Authority	Dredging of Shipping Channel	\$15,000,000	Gulf	A	03/11/21
243	Okaloosa Co School District	Artificial Intelligence Learning Institutes	\$2,840,000	Okaloosa	A	04/05/21
246	Florida State University, Panama City	ASCENT Cybersecurity and New Technologies	\$11,500,702	Bay	A	04/16/21
251	Santa Rosa BOCC	Milton Interchange Park	\$15,378,683	Santa Rosa	A	07/11/21
258	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Lightning Strike	\$7,000,000	Bay	A	09/24/21
259	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	PEDC-Project Pioneer	\$2,500,000	Escambia	A	10/06/21
257	Pensacola State College	Cyber Security and IT Programs Expansion	\$11,998,919	Escambia	A	10/22/21
264	Wakulla County School Board	War Eagle Career Academy	\$20,011,606	Wakulla	A	01/20/22
244	Bay District Schools	Thunderbird Tech Program	\$147,900	Bay	A	01/31/22
270	Northwest Florida State College	Nursing Program Expansion	\$21,787,560	Okaloosa	A	05/06/22
273	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Cast	\$3,675,000	Bay	A	05/10/22
271	Okaloosa County School District	Health Academy of Northwest Florida	\$1,291,000	Okaloosa	A	05/31/22
276	Bay District Schools	Triumph Training Center	\$8,075,000	Bay	A	09/20/22
<b>Current Applications</b>						
245	Florida A&M University	AI and Data Science Edu and Training in Aquaculture	\$8,430,136	Okaloosa		04/06/21
249	Gulf County Board of County Commission	Floating Drydock	\$26,000,000			05/12/21
269	Holy Nativity Episcopal School	Applied Computer Science and Engineering Center	\$1,140,000	Bay		05/03/22
290	Escambia County BOCC	OLF-8 Phase 1 Infrastructure	\$14,200,000	Escambia	A	10/17/22
282	Gulf Coast State College	Nursing Simulation Center	\$40,713,569	Bay		11/15/22
291	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project LASER	\$6,000,000	Escambia	A	11/22/22
54	Panama City Beach CVB	Sports Park/Stadium Complex	\$18,500,000	Bay		12/09/22
284	City of DeFuniak Springs	Emerging Professional Technologies in Aviation	\$40,975,000	Walton		12/23/22
296	Bay EDA	Project Maple	\$11,250,000	Bay	A	04/21/23
293	University of West Florida	Nursing and Respiratory Therapy	\$6,685,757	Escambia	B	04/24/23
315	City of Pensacola	American Magic at Port of Pensacola	\$8,500,000	Escambia	A	04/27/23
313	Bay EDA	Project Stamper	\$90,000,000	Bay		05/05/23
<b>Archived Applications</b>						
59	Bay District Schools	STEM Workforce Training Center	\$10,000,000	Bay	C	02/27/18
83	City of St. Marks	ADA Compliant Kayak Launch	\$65,000	Wakulla	C	02/27/18
84	City of St. Marks	River Walk	\$1,295,000	Wakulla	C	02/27/18
61	Bay District Schools	Haney Industrial Pipefitter Prog Expansion	\$584,000	Bay	NA	02/27/18
60	Bay District Schools	Manufacturing Academy Expansion	\$965,000	Bay	WD	02/27/18
28	Wakulla County School Board	Career and Prep Academy	\$5,396,521	Wakulla	WD	03/05/18
90	E. O. Wilson Biophilia Center	Camp Longleaf	\$600,000	Walton	C	03/07/18
70	University of West Florida	Innovation Network Project	\$14,500,000	Escambia	WD	03/07/18
11	Escambia County	Downtown Sports Complex	\$25,000,000	Escambia	C	03/08/18
65	Bay Youth Summer Work Fnd	BayYouth Summer Work Foundation	\$71,271	Bay	H	03/12/18
38	Okaloosa County	Bob Sikes Water Reclamation Facility	\$1,500,000	Okaloosa	C	03/22/18
44	Okaloosa County	N. Gulf of Mexico FAD Network	\$500,000	Okaloosa	C	03/22/18
5	Escambia Co. School Board	Workforce Education Director	\$2,329,303	Escambia	A	03/26/18

85	Westonwood Ranch	Autism Job Training Facility	\$1,078,230	Walton	C	04/03/18
135	Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance of NWFSC	Gulf Coast Economy Preservation Project	\$11,273,070	Okaloosa	H	04/09/18
14	Northwest FL State College	NWFSC Regional Trfecta Project	\$22,630,000	Multi	WD	04/09/18
73	Santa Rosa County	NW FL Industrial Park@ I-10 - Phase 2	\$5,301,164	Santa Rosa	H	04/18/18
26	City of Apalachicola	Port of Apalachicola Improvements/Mgmt	\$1,100,000	Franklin	WD	05/04/18
58	City of Mexico Beach	Mexico Beach Pier	\$3,700,000	Bay	C	05/15/18
105	Project Lead The Way	STEM Training	\$4,000,000	Multi	C	05/18/18
9	FL Comm. Svcs Corp - Utility	US 331 Water Transmission Line - Phase One	\$4,410,114	Walton	C	05/22/18
27	Gulf County BOCC	Port of Port St Joe Project	\$28,425,000	Gulf	WD	05/22/18
32	City of Apalachicola	Johnson Center Renovations	\$1,750,000	Franklin	C	05/30/18
35	City of Apalachicola	Stormwater/Wastewater Improvements	\$2,660,000	Franklin	C	05/30/18
133	FGNW	RISE Fund	\$15,000,000	Multi	C	05/30/18
55	Eastem Shipbuilding Group, Inc.	EastShip Manufacturing/Haul Out Facilities	\$20,025,000	Bay	A	06/06/18
20	Franklin County BOCC	Fort Coombs Amory Renovation	\$1,800,000	Franklin	C	06/06/18
119	Smart Horizons COHS	Career Online High School (revised)	\$1,816,562	Multi	C	06/21/18
4	City of Pensacola	CDOT-Port of Pensacola	\$15,000,000	Escambia	A	06/22/18
10	Base IT, Inc.	Mobile STEM Workshops	\$170,000	Bay	C	06/28/18
19	City of Niceville	Niceville Landing Project	\$180,000	Okaloosa	C	06/28/18
56	City of Lynn Haven	Sports Park Expansion	\$15,843,762	Bay	C	07/13/18
108	Walton County BOCC	US 331 & US 90 Water/Wastewater Expansio	\$14,247,468	Walton	C	08/14/18
147	Gulf District Schools	Culinary Arts Center and Electives Suite	\$300,000	Gulf	H	08/30/18
95	Gulf Specimens Marine Lab	Infrastructure Upgrades and Operations	\$4,950,000	Wakulla	C	09/09/18
1	Bryant Enterprises (BEOP)	Curriculum Development	\$585,000	Multi	F	09/15/18
126	HSU Educational Foundation	Hsu Innovation Institutes	\$7,160,000	Multi	H	09/18/18
64	Gulf Coast State College	Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Inst.	\$17,112,356	Bay	WD	09/27/18
87	City of Milton	N. Santa Rosa Reg. Water Reclamation Fac.	\$9,000,000	Santa Rosa	C	10/05/18
34	City of Apalachicola	Apalachicola Solar Project	\$900,000	Franklin	C	11/16/18
91	Tallahassee Comm College	WEI Ocean Shellfish Nursery Hatchery Processing Facilit	\$13,500,000	Wakulla	C	11/28/18
167	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Unmanned Vehicle Systems Center of Excellence	\$1,959,382	Wakulla	B	11/29/18
168	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Elevated Technology Training (ETT <sup>2</sup> )	\$2,593,083	Wakulla	C	11/29/18
100	Veterans Lodge	Veterans Lodge Village	\$25,000,000	Walton	F	12/07/18
177	Tallahassee Community College	WEI Marine Service Occupational Training Program	\$1,500,000	Wakulla	WD	12/13/18
154	Panacea Oyster Co-op	Wakulla Oyster and Aquaculture Expansion	\$19,241,000	Wakulla	WD	02/01/19
169	City of Lynn Haven	Industrial Park Expansion	\$15,764,360	Bay	H	02/27/19
161	Children's Home Society of Florida	Creating Tomorrow's Workforce with Weis	\$3,283,484	Escambia	C	06/28/19
163	Santa Rosa County	Project Runner Ad Valorem Tax Reduction	\$3,500,000	Santa Rosa	H	07/26/19
205	Santa Rosa County BOCC	Project Runner Infrastructure	\$4,500,000	Santa Rosa	H	07/29/19
201	Wakulla County	Wakulla Community Hub	\$9,625,148	Wakulla	WD	09/30/19
155	City of Mexico Beach	Artificial Reef	\$970,000	Bay	C	01/06/20
231	Northwest Florida Beaches Intemational Airport	Project Gator	\$4,780,800	Bay	WD	07/07/20
234	Walton Economic Development Alliance	Woodlawn Industrial Park - 7/23	\$471,500	Walton	WD	11/17/20
261	Bay Economic Development Alliance	Project Arrow	\$2,000,000	Bay	A	03/25/22
280	Pensacola-Escambia PEDC	Project Arbor	\$1,500,000	Escambia	H	06/07/22
274	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	Embry-Riddle Okaloosa	\$52,980,000	Okaloosa	WD	06/09/22

## 2023 Spring Review of Annual Grant Award Reports

Triumph Staff reviewed the information provided by Grantees with projects due for annual review under s. 288.8016 , F.S. and recommended the following determinations which were accepted by the Triumph Board.

*s. 288.8016, F.S. Triumph Gulf Coast, Inc.; duties.*

*(3) Monitor, review, and annually evaluate awardees and their projects or programs to determine whether an award should be continued, terminated, reduced, or increased.*

**Staff recommended to continue to fund the following grant:**

### **69 Florida State University, Apalachicola Bay Systems Initiative**

Triumph Grant Award – \$7,998,678

Grantee Match – \$1,501,323

Total Project Cost- \$9,500,001

Executive Summary of Annual Report Attached. The full Annual Report can be found at <https://www.myfloridatriumph.com/proposal-details/534/> .

**ANNUAL REPORT TO TRIUMPH GULF COAST INC.**

**Project #69:** Apalachicola Bay System Initiative (ABSI)

**Awardee:** Florida State University

**Reporting Period:** March 15, 2022-March 15, 2023



**Submitted by ABSI LEADERSHIP TEAM**

Dr. Sandra Brooke (Principal Investigator)

Dr. Joel Trexler (Co-Principal Investigator)

April 10, 2023

**Report Contributors**

**FSUCML Faculty:** Dr. Josh Breithaupt, Dr. Tara Stewart Merrill, Dr. Andrew Shantz

**FSUCML Post-doc:** Fabio Caltabellotta

**Collaborators:** Dr. Amy Baco, Dr. Xu Chen, Dr. Steve Leitman, Dr. Steve. Morey, Dr. Michael Martinez-Colon, Dr. Nicole Morgan,

**Graduate Students:** Adam Alfasso, Donaven Baughman, Jenny Bueno, Emily Fuqua, Morgan Hawkins, Barry Walton, Michael Wintermantel,

**ABSI Technicians:** Rand Romas, Lillian Bradshaw, Adin Domen, Jazzy Jones, Cassandra Zimmer, Shannon Murphy

**Hatchery Team:** Emily Fuqua, Morgan Hawkins, Louis Lockhart, Bailey Kilroy, Landon Millender, Hayden Mock, Reid Tilley

**Outreach Team:** Jared Fuqua, Madeline Mahood.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Apalachicola Bay System Initiative comprises a number of objectives and associated deliverables, each of which had a timeline for completion over the duration of the award. These deliverables are listed with their respective timelines in the table below. Some of the deliverables comprise multiple parts; for example, Experimental Ecology includes multiple research studies, but others are very specific, such as the population genetic study. This report presents accomplishments for the fourth year of this large multi-disciplinary effort. There is also a section on other items that are not directly associated with the specific objectives.

Project Deliverables Timeline	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Assess temporal and spatial changes in status of oyster communities	█	█			
Construct a pilot-scale oyster hatchery	█	█	█		
Bio-physical modeling		█	█		
Monitoring of oyster communities and their environment	█	█	█	█	█
Oyster population genetic structure		█	█		
Experimental ecology		█	█	█	
Coupled Ecosystem-Life History model				█	█
Management and restoration plan development				█	█
Targeted outreach to the community	█	█	█	█	█

### Status of project deliverables

**Assess temporal and spatial changes in oyster communities in Franklin County** There are two components to this objective, which was initiated in the first year of the project. The first was to create a database of literature on the ABSI ecosystem and the second was to analyze historical data to identify ecosystem change over time, with particular focus on oyster populations. ABSI has collected over 400 documents peer reviewed manuscripts and technical reports). These documents are contained in a searchable database, which is available on the ABSI website (<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/research/absi-literature-database/>). This database will continue to be augmented as the project progresses. Documents include historical and contemporary sources for data on oyster reef distribution, reef associated fish and invertebrate communities, oyster ecology.

## **1. Construct a pilot-scale ABSI Research Hatchery**

Construction of the permanent hatchery building was completed in spring 2022, but internal construction (plumbing, electrical work, insulation etc.) was ongoing until recently (spring 2023). The hatchery is now fully operational and is housed in a 50 x 70 ft insulated metal building, and has an algal culture room, a brood-stock conditioning room, spawning area with spawning racks, six larval culture tanks, and setting systems for spat-on-shell and single set oysters. The purpose of the ABSI hatchery is to produce shellfish larvae and juveniles for restoration and research only. Details of the hatchery operations can be found in section 7

## **2. Bio-physical modeling**

This objective is comprised of two models: fresh-water flow and hydrodynamics. These models have been combined to create the final bio-physical model of the System.

Fresh-water flow models were accomplished through a consultancy contract with Dr. Steve Leitman with the following objectives: 1) Develop a set of metrics to define optimal management of the watershed with regards to sustainable ecological productivity of both the river and estuarine aquatic resources; 2) Examine potential modifications to the current Water Control Manual operations, taking into account the metrics developed in objective 1; 3) Test current and proposed revised operations against alternative climate scenarios with regard to changes in both the volume of water being delivered to the river and estuary and the timing of rainfall events; 4) Encourage an adaptive management approach based on the outputs from the objectives above.

Hydrodynamic modeling of the ABSI system is being conducted by Dr. Steven Morey and Dr. Xu Chen from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). Specific objectives of this work are: 1) Configure a hydrodynamic model for the lower Apalachicola River, Apalachicola Bay and the surrounding coastal and inner shelf regions (including Cape San Blas through Cedar Key, FL) based on the latest bathymetric and topographic data; 2) Run hindcast and future climate and management scenario simulations, incorporating flow inputs from Dr. Leitman's model; 3) Perform analyses of the simulations to characterize the variability of hydrographic properties throughout Apalachicola Bay; 4) Using a numerical particle tracking approach to simulate oyster larvae, conduct and analyze larval transport simulations to quantify factors such as larval recruitment, retention and inter-estuarine exchange.

These two projects have made good progress in 2022 and the project is nearing completion; however some complications were discovered during the hydrodynamic modeling process that has delayed complete resolution of the freshwater flow dynamics into Apalachicola Bay. In summary, some of the flows into the Apalachicola River appear to be diverting west into Lake Wimico, reducing the estimated flows into Apalachicola Bay. The effects of this diversion are more pronounced during extreme climate events (droughts and floods). The modelers are making progress on resolving this critical and previously undocumented issue. Further details on these modeling efforts can be found in sections 2.2 and 2.3

## **3. Monitoring of oyster communities and their environment**

Intertidal monitoring of four oyster reef areas throughout Franklin County (Indian Lagoon, East Cover, Carrabelle River and Alligator Harbor) continued throughout 2022 and into 2023, collecting monthly information on disease and condition. Additional studies include assessing the use of high-resolution drone surveys to monitor intertidal habitats. Further details of intertidal research can be found in sections 4.1 and 4.2.

The FWC oyster team surveys specific subtidal reef areas monthly using SCUBA and



obtains density samples from these sites twice annually. This effort generates a valuable dataset that shows trends over time at the same sites but does not provide a broad view of the oyster population status across the Bay. In October 2020, ABSI partnered with a former Apalachicola oysterman, Shannon Hartsfield, to survey subtidal areas throughout Apalachicola Bay using small oyster tongs. Comparisons of the tonging sampling data and SCUBA sampling have shown comparable data can be collected with both approaches. Tong data has broader spatial coverage than the SCUBA surveys and can be collected quickly with fewer weather limitations than diving. In 2021, 2022 and 2023, the tong sampling was repeated, with slight data collection modifications and is presented in section 4.3.

The Apalachicola Estuarine Research Reserve (ANERR) has five YSI Exo2 data sondes deployed in Apalachicola Bay; these instruments collect *in situ* data on temperature (°C), salinity, conductivity (mS), dissolved oxygen (%), mg/L pH and turbidity (NTU). To provide a broader spatial understanding of environmental conditions, ABSI deployed additional instruments of the same type in West Pass, Sikes Cut, the Miles, Indian Lagoon, the Apalachicola River mouth and St George Sound. Three of these instruments were lost in 2021; one in the Miles was destroyed by a shrimp trawler and the three near the passes are missing, despite repeated efforts to locate them. The instrument that was previously deployed at the mouth of the Apalachicola River was destroyed during a storm event in 2022. Within the past year, two Manta Sub 3 Eureka Water Probes were deployed, which replaced lost instruments in the Miles and St. George Sound. To provide a broader spatial perspective, the FWC fisheries independent monitoring program monthly water quality data were interpolated to generate maps of annual average water quality parameters (temperature, salinity, pH, oxygen). Details can be found in section 2.1

#### **4. Oyster population genetic structure**

This component of the ABSI is intended to help identify distributions of oyster sub-populations within Franklin County and the wider Florida Panhandle. Sub-populations may have characteristics that enhance survival under particular environmental conditions and thus could be used as different genetic lines of broodstock for restoration and aquaculture. It is important to understand local population structure so that genetic integrity (and any associated adaptation) can be maintained. Analysis of population distribution will also help ground-truth connectivity predictions generated by the bio-physical model. This project is complete and indicates some genetic structuring along the study region. Details of study can be found in section 3.1

#### **5. Experimental ecology**

This category includes a broad range of projects that are designed to help understand the ABSI system, with a view to identifying and addressing specific ecological problems and developing effective restoration approaches. These include projects focused on oyster biology and ecology and broader Apalachicola Bay System ecology. Some of these projects are complete and were documented in the 2021-2022 ABSI report, available on the FSU ABSI website. According to the project timeline, this objective was due to be completed by the end of Y4; however, several new projects have been initiated and progress on others was delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The ongoing and new projects are listed below:

- Pathogen transmission and disease impacts on oysters (section 3.2)
- Oyster stress responses and physiological tolerances (section 3.3)
- Effect of salinity on juvenile oysters (section 3.4)

- Responses of oyster early life-stages to pesticide exposure (section 3.5)
- Impacts of oyster populations on community development (section 4.4)
- Fish communities associated with oyster habitats (section 4.5)
- Oyster and scallop restoration (section 5)
- Ecosystem ecology (section 6)

## **6. Coupled ecosystem life-history model**

Three models are being developed by ABSI 1) freshwater flow (section 2.2), 2) bio-physical (section 2.3) and habitat suitability (section 2.4). Aspects of these models will be incorporated into the others as appropriate. An oyster population model developed by our collaborator Dr. Ed Camp (University of Florida) is being used to model management strategies as requested by the Community Advisory Board. Dr. Fabio Caltabellotta (ABSI Postdoc) is developing a decision support tool that can be used through cell phones and computers. This tool uses Dr. Camp's model to provide a user friendly platform to assess the effects of different fishery management strategies on oyster populations (section 6.3)

## **7. Development of a Management and Restoration Plan for the Apalachicola Bay System**

This task was originally scheduled for the final year but was initiated in 2019 with the establishment of the Community Advisory Board (CAB). A draft framework for the Plan was approved by the CAB in November 2021 and is available through the ABSI website (<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/documents/>). This objective will terminate in November 2023 with the completion of the Management and Restoration Plan, which will contain a series of options that have the consensus approval of the CAB. Development of the final document will proceed through bi-monthly CAB meetings. These are open to the public and are held at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve. Meetings are recorded and all information and presentations are available on the ABSI website (<https://marinelab.fsu.edu/absi/cab/>). The final Plan will also be posted on the ABSI website. More information on the CAB can be found in section 8.1

## **8. Targeted outreach to the community**

Community support is critical to the success of ABSI, and with Covid-19 restrictions diminished, ABSI's engagement with the public and local stakeholders increased in 2022. In-person events included (but were not limited to) the continuation of the CAB meetings and CAB-associated sub-committees, presentations at city and county commission meetings, an oystermens workshop and a public meeting (both in conjunction with FWC), and attendance at local festivals. Digital outreach included regular posts on the FSUCML Facebook page, creation of a bi-monthly ABSI newsletter, and an expanded website that houses more research data and educational materials. Section 8 details the many ABSI community engagement and outreach events conducted in 2022.