

Community Issue Performance Evaluation

1. State Agency:

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

2. State Program (or Type of Program):

Research/ FWC Fish & Wildlife Institute

3. Project Title:

Research and Outreach Program Staffing

4. Recipient name and address:

Smithsonian Marine Station – Research Lab

701 Seaway Dr.

Fort Pierce, FL 34949

Location county/counties:

St. Lucie County

5. Is the recipient a governmental entity, a private non-profit entity, or a private for-profit entity:

Private not-for-profit

6. FUNDING:

FY 2012-13 Recurring
General Revenue

\$0

FY 2012-13 Recurring
Trust Funds

\$124,800

FY 2012-13 Recurring
TOTAL FUNDS

\$124,800

GAA Specific Appropriation
Number
(ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.)

1893

7. FY 2012-13 GAA proviso specifically associated with the project (if any):

N/A

8. Project Purpose/Description: This funding supports the ongoing efforts of a resident marine scientist at the Smithsonian Marine Station to engage in long-term data collections and to document the diversity of species and habitats in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie Estuary.

9. Number of years this project has received state funding:

13

10. Does this project align with the core missions of the agency or the program area in which it is funded? (Explain):

Yes, in keeping with such strategies as “Build a collaborative workforce built on professionalism, with the skills and resources needed to maximize effectiveness” and such guiding principles as “Be proactive in our actions, anticipating emerging issues and getting out in front of them” and “Make resource decisions based on the best available science with a balance of enforcement and management practicality”, educational and outreach activities are essential to the mission of FWC.

11. Does the program meet a demonstrated need in the community that is not otherwise being met?

(Explain):

Yes. There is no other entity conducting long-term ecological monitoring of benthic biodiversity in the region.

12. What are the intended outcomes/impacts and benefits of the project? The research activities are intended to address long-term changes in biodiversity in the Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie Estuary. Long-term studies of regional marine and estuarine ecosystems are of fundamental importance to understand this economically and culturally important estuary and related marine habitats of Florida and to document and preserve these diverse natural resources. The monitoring program also is used to address long-term and short-term impacts related to changes in water management in both South Florida and St. John's Water Management Districts's, in particular to impacts related to the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan.

13. What performance data does the agency/entity regularly collect and report that demonstrates the value of the program to the State of Florida?

Output data (e.g., number of clients served, students educated, units produced); Enumerate:

Smithsonian collects quarterly samples at each of 15 sites in the Indian River and St. Lucie River Estuary: three benthic faunal samples, three sediment samples, and several water quality parameters.

Outcome data (data on the effectiveness or quality of services, e.g., percentage of clients successfully completing treatment); Enumerate:

Smithsonian provides sample overviews quarterly and interpretive long-term summaries annually.

Unit cost data (e.g., cost per unit produced); Enumerate: n/a

Other (Explain):

14. How is program data collected and has it been independently validated for accuracy and completeness?

Smithsonian personnel provide quarterly and annual reviews. FWC conducted one site visit in 2011-12 fiscal year and plans to conduct another in 2012-13.

15. Is there an executed contract between the agency and the recipient?

Yes – FWC #08017

16. If there is a contract, are the outputs, measures and costs specified in a contract between the agency and the recipient?

The contract has a schedule, objectives, and statement of work. The payment is on a fixed cost basis.

17. How do the unit costs compare to those of comparable or alternative projects or services? (EXPLAIN AND SPECIFY):

FWC is unaware of other entities performing similar ecological monitoring, especially the long-term aspects of this project. If the only service provided were the benthic sampling, the costs would appear to be higher than other available services, but it is difficult to compare the long term value, creation of a benthic diversity baseline, and integrative activities with such large scale efforts as Everglades Restoration.

18. Based on performance data, is this project meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes? (Explain): Yes. SMS collects and analyzes samples in a timely fashion in accordance with their contract. They have developed a 7-year data set which will serve as a baseline with which to compare for future conditions as resulting from Everglades restoration or other water management actions.

19. Describe how the information upon which the answer above is based was obtained and validated: Smithsonian personnel provide quarterly and annual reviews. FWC conducted one site visit in 2011-12 fiscal year and plans to conduct another in 2012-13.

20. How much additional funding or matching funding from non-state sources is available for this project and what are the sources?
SMS also received approximately \$89,000 from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to support this research in 2012-13.

21. List any audits or evaluative reports that have been published for this project (including website links, if available):
Benthic Infaunal and Environmental Monitoring in the Southern Indian River Lagoon and the St. Lucie Estuary. 2012. B.G. Tunberg.

22. Provide any other information that can be used to evaluate the performance of this project:
Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce maintains a website (<http://www.sms.si.edu/>) which describes their activities.

23. CONTACT INFORMATION for person completing this form:
Name: Steve Geiger
Title: Research Scientist, FWRI-FWC
Phone number and email address: 727-502-4918 , steve.geiger@MyFWC.com
Date: 1-9-13

Community Issue Performance Evaluation

1. State Agency:
Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

2. State Program (or Type of Program):
Research/FWC Fish & Wildlife Institute

3. Project Title:
 Smithsonian Marine Station's (SMS) Extension of Public Outreach and Education Program

4. Recipient name and address:
 Smithsonian Marine Station
 420 Seaway Drive
 Fort Pierce, FL 34949
Location county/counties:
 St. Lucie County

5. Is the recipient a governmental entity, a private non-profit entity, or a private for-profit entity:
 Private not-for-profit

6. <u>FUNDING:</u> FY 2012-13 Recurring General Revenue	FY 2012-13 Recurring Trust Funds	FY 2012-13 Recurring TOTAL FUNDS	GAA Specific Appropriation Number (ch. 2012-118, L.O.F.)
\$0	\$80,000	\$80,000	1893

7. FY 2012-13 GAA proviso specifically associated with the project (if any):
 N/A

8. Project Purpose/Description: This funding supports the ongoing efforts of resident marine scientists at the Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS) to promote and utilize the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit as an educational resource. The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit is a collaborative public outreach and educational effort with regional governmental and educational entities, displaying living models of marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and a coral reef, along with supplementary static and video exhibits on marine biodiversity, and ongoing research projects at the Smithsonian Marine Station.

9. Number of years this project has received state funding:
 9

10. Does this project align with the core missions of the agency or the program area in which it is funded? (Explain):
 Yes, in keeping with such guiding principles as "Effectively involve citizens and staff who are closest to an issue in the decision-making process" and "Communicate well up and down the organization, across the organization, and externally with others", educational and outreach activities are essential to our mission.

11. Does the program meet a demonstrated need in the community that is not otherwise being met?

(Explain):

This institution fills a unique community need. In particular, the summer camps are full to capacity and a waiting list occurs each summer.

12. What are the intended outcomes/impacts and benefits of the project?

The public outreach program provides information and education on Florida's marine biota and environments through public exhibits, training, collaboration with schools, tours and lectures. A major public outreach effort is devoted to the oversight and continued development of the Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit (SMEE) and the utilization of the facility as an educational resource. The Marine Ecosystems Exhibit is a collaborative public outreach and educational effort with regional governmental and educational entities, displaying living models of marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, and a coral reef, along with supplementary exhibits on marine biodiversity and ongoing regional research projects. Major objectives of the education and outreach program include: 1) a Marine Biology Educator who teaches school programs and leads tours, interprets to visitors in the Exhibit galleries, develops interpretive tools and signage for the Exhibit, and creates interactive school programs and curricula; 2) a Marine Education Specialist is responsible for public exhibits, lectures, tours, demonstrations, newsletters, web site development, informational literature, and other educational activities.

13. What performance data does the agency/entity regularly collect and report that demonstrates the value of the program to the State of Florida?

Output data (e.g., number of clients served, students educated, units produced); Enumerate:

SMS provides quarterly progress reports to FWC. In the quarter ending October 15, 2012 (the most recent report available) SMS conducted a 1-week teacher workshop (15 participants); developed an 11-minute video on oceanic larvae for the museum; enhanced social media sites (~ 42 visits per day & 4931 video views); developed three new interactive displays for the museum; coordinated volunteer and intern programs; conducted 54 school-group tours; presented one off-site educational seminar; coordinated a National Estuaries Day festival attended by ~ 2000 visitors and drawing 38 exhibitors; provided 1-week summer camp sessions for 78, 9-11 year olds; produced a hard-copy quarterly newsletter; and coordinated with Indian River State College to train students by developing educational signage for the aquaria.

Outcome data (data on the effectiveness or quality of services, e.g., percentage of clients successfully completing treatment); Enumerate: n/a

Unit cost data (e.g., cost per unit produced); Enumerate: n/a

Other (Explain):

14. How is program data collected and has it been independently validated for accuracy and completeness?

Smithsonian personnel provide quarterly and annual reviews. FWC conducted one site visit in 2011-12 fiscal year, and plans to conduct another in 2012-13.

15. Is there an executed contract between the agency and the recipient?

Yes – FWC #08017

16. If there is a contract, are the outputs, measures and costs specified in a contract between the agency and the recipient?

The contract has a schedule, objectives, and Statement of Work. The payment is on a fixed cost basis.

17. How do the unit costs compare to those of comparable or alternative projects or services? (EXPLAIN AND SPECIFY):

FWC is unaware of similar programs with which to conduct direct comparisons.

18. Based on performance data, is this project meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes? (Explain):

Based on the self-reported outcome data the project is meeting the expected outputs and having the intended outcomes, as described in the contract.

19. Describe how the information upon which the answer above is based was obtained and validated:

Smithsonian personnel provide quarterly and annual reviews. FWC conducted one site visit in 2011-12 fiscal year, and plans to conduct another in 2012-13.

20. How much additional funding or matching funding from non-state sources is available for this project and what are the sources?

SMS also received approximately \$23,000 from St. John's River Water Management District, \$15,000 from the Link Foundation, \$2,750 from Ft. Pierce Community Redevelopment Agency, and \$3,300 from South Florida Water Management District to support outreach activities in 2012.

21. List any audits or evaluative reports that have been published for this project (including website links, if available): n/a

22. Provide any other information that can be used to evaluate the performance of this project:

Smithsonian Marine Station at Fort Pierce maintains a website (<http://www.sms.si.edu/>) which describes their activities.

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