

Connecting scientists to citizens regarding sea level rise

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Project collaborators

- Funded by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance
 - Education and Engagement Team
- Collaborators:
 - Apalachicola, Grand Bay, Weeks Bay NERRs
 - University of Central Florida, Louisiana State University
 - NOAA OCM-Gulf Region, The Nature Conservancy
 - Alabama Coastal Foundation
 - Weeks Bay Foundation



Project locations



Project goals

1. Connect citizens to scientists to improve decision making to protect local infrastructure and human and ecological resources affected by sea level rise.
2. Engage citizens and scientists to increase local capacity to plan and prepare for effects of sea level rise.

Year 1 (2014) activities

- 6 total focus groups (2 at each NERR) for citizens organizations and municipal officials to:
 - Identify critical local resources and infrastructure needs
 - Provide collaborators information about local needs
 - Explore how needs may be met using online sea level rise tools

Year 2 (2015) activities

- Development of information packet:
 - SLR information
 - Steps to take to respond to SLR
- Information about 3 SLR viewers:
 - LSU/UCF's *MIRA-CDSL*R
(<http://champs.cecs.ucf.edu/CDSL/>)
 - NOAA *SLR Viewer* (<https://coast.noaa.gov/slr/>)
 - TNC's *Coastal Resilience*
(<http://maps.coastalresilience.org>)



Year 2 (2015) activities (cont'd.)

- Workshop implementation (two at Weeks Bay and Grand Bay, one at Apalachicola):
 - Demonstrate tailored uses of SLR viewers in response to focus group feedback
 - Panel of community members' narratives about SLR





Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Mission

Protect and understand our coastal resources and ecosystems through long-term research and monitoring.

Provide the immediate and long-term benefits of research and monitoring to the community.

www.grandbaynerr.org

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Research and Monitoring

Develop a greater understanding of coastal ecosystems in order to contribute to the management of important coastal habitats.

www.grandbaynerr.org

**Understand
Protect Plan
Connect**

Thank you!



GULF OF MEXICO ALLIANCE

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Stewardship

Promote the conservation of coastal resources through monitoring, adaptive management and restoration of coastal habitats based on sound scientific principles.

Advance the practice of coastal conservation through community involvement.

www.grandbaynerr.org

Grand Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Education, Interpretation and Outreach Programs

Engage coastal decision-makers, community members, visitors, teachers and students in hands-on activities and programs to help teach them the value of our coastal resources and to enable them to make positive decisions regarding the health of our coastal ecosystem.

Promote the reserve as a Living Laboratory for students, teachers, researchers, conservationists and the public.

www.grandbaynerr.org



Outcomes: Year 1

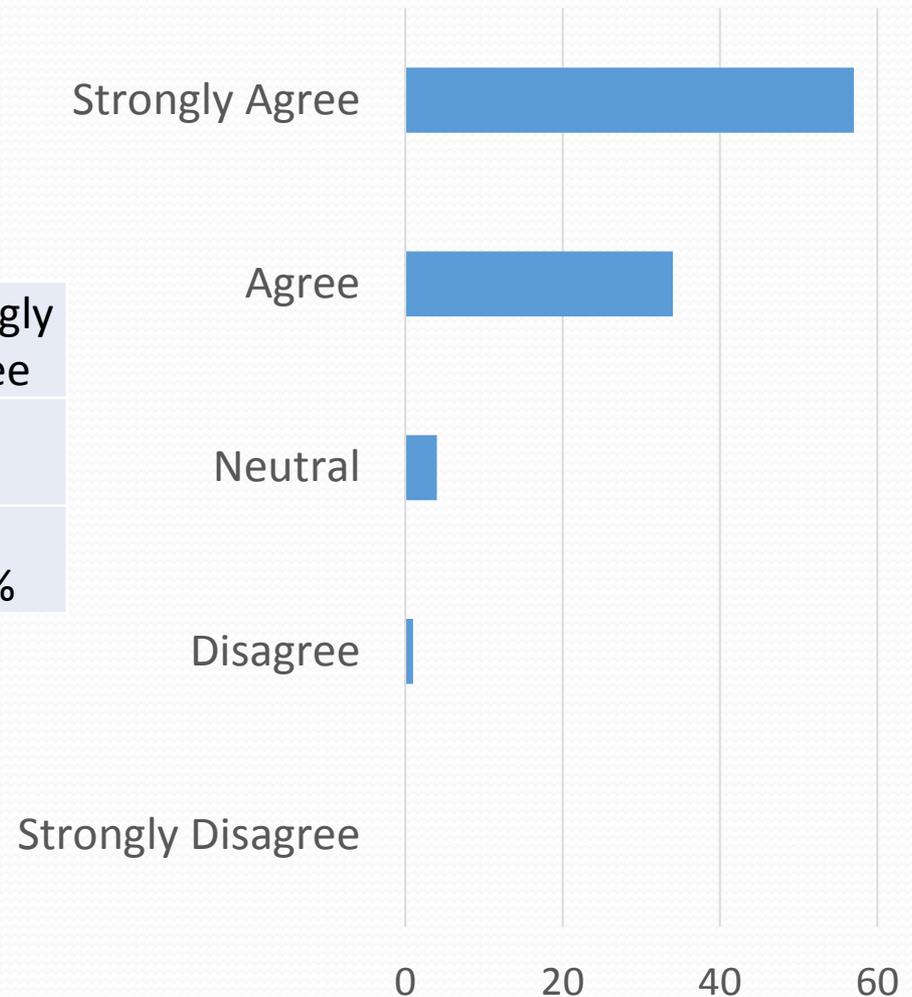
- Three main categories of findings:
 - *Information content needs*: making planning decisions related to ecology, the economy, health, and safety
 - *Format and features needs*: making information engaging, trustworthy, and accessible
 - *Outreach recommendations*: using existing networks, connecting to representatives from a wide array of organizations, and sharing personal narratives about SLR

Outcomes: Year 2

- Workshop participants:
 - Are aware of and informed about tools for SLR planning and preparedness
 - Know how to use basic functions of these tools
- Outreach materials available across the region via the Internet and interpersonal networks.
 - Website materials/links, information packet
- Participant evaluation survey results

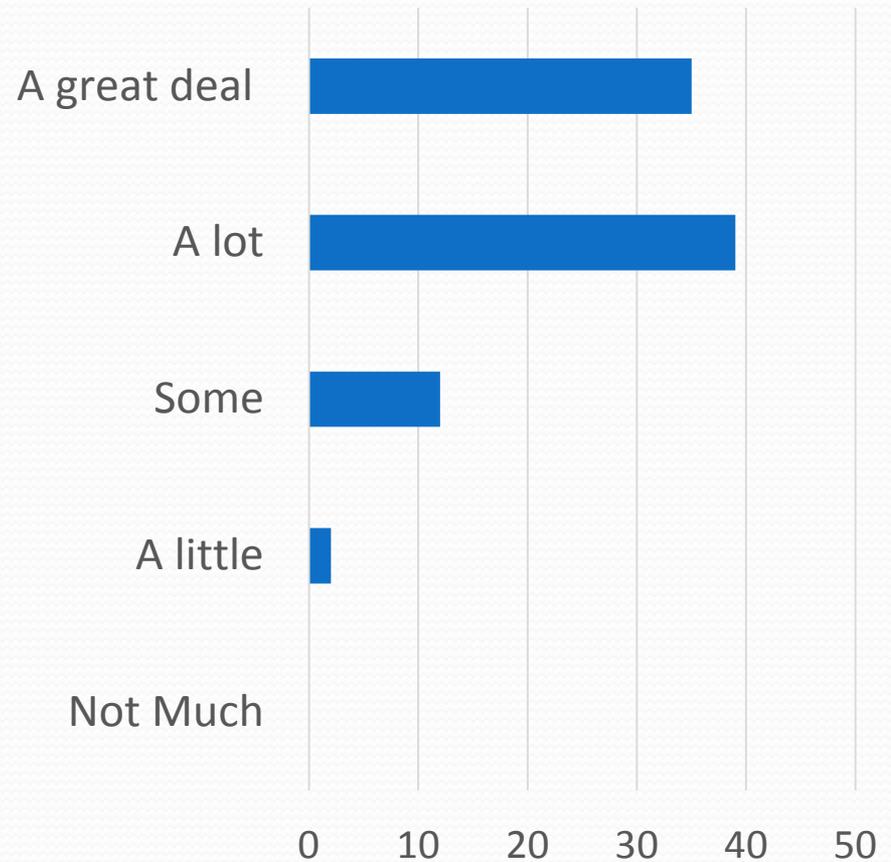
Q1. Participating in this workshop was a good use of my time.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
0	1	4	34	57
0%	1%	4%	35%	59%



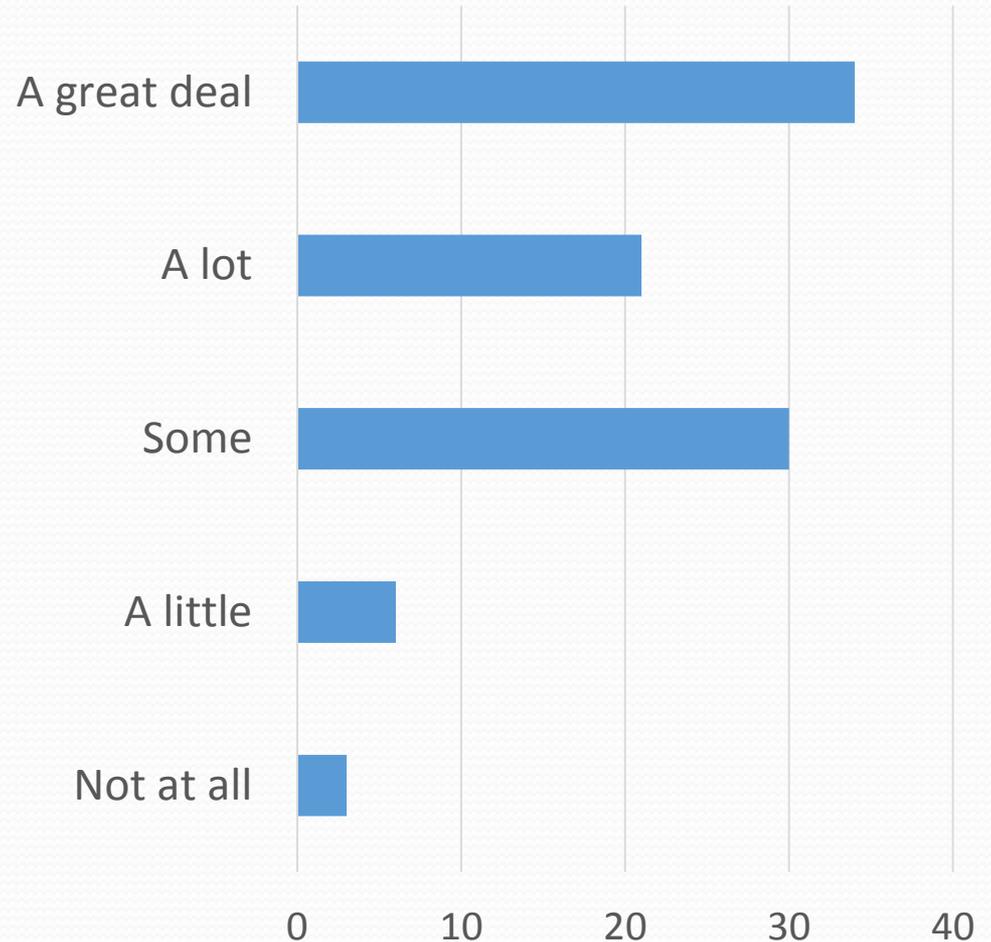
Q2. How useful do you find the information packet?

Not Much	A little	Some	A lot	A great deal
0	2	12	39	35
0%	2%	14%	44%	40%



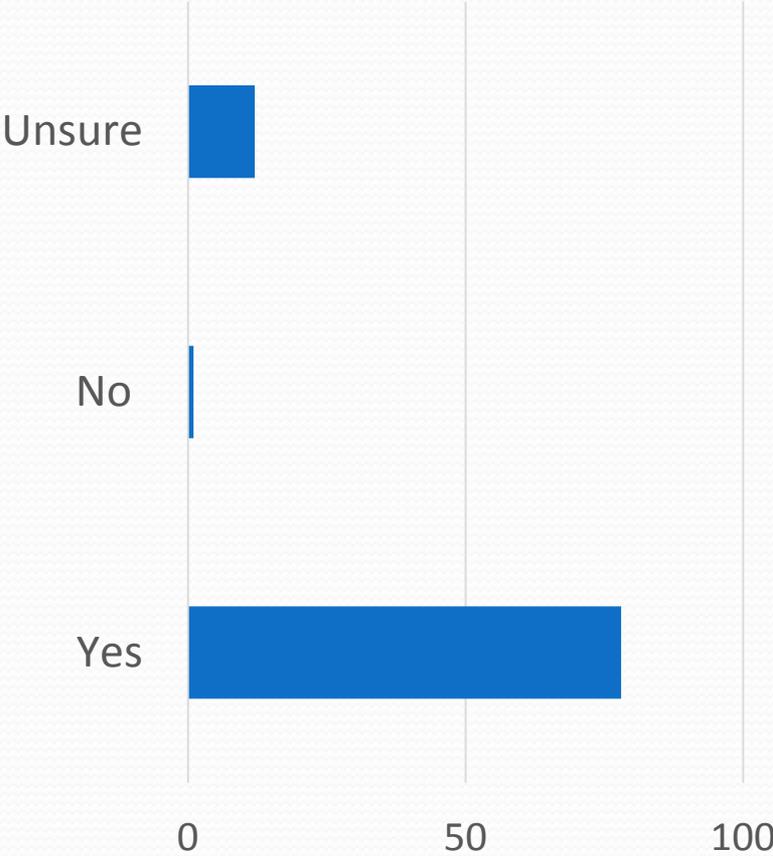
Q3. How much did this workshop increase your understanding of SLR?

Not at all	A little	Some	A lot	A great deal
3	6	30	21	34
3%	6%	32%	22%	36%



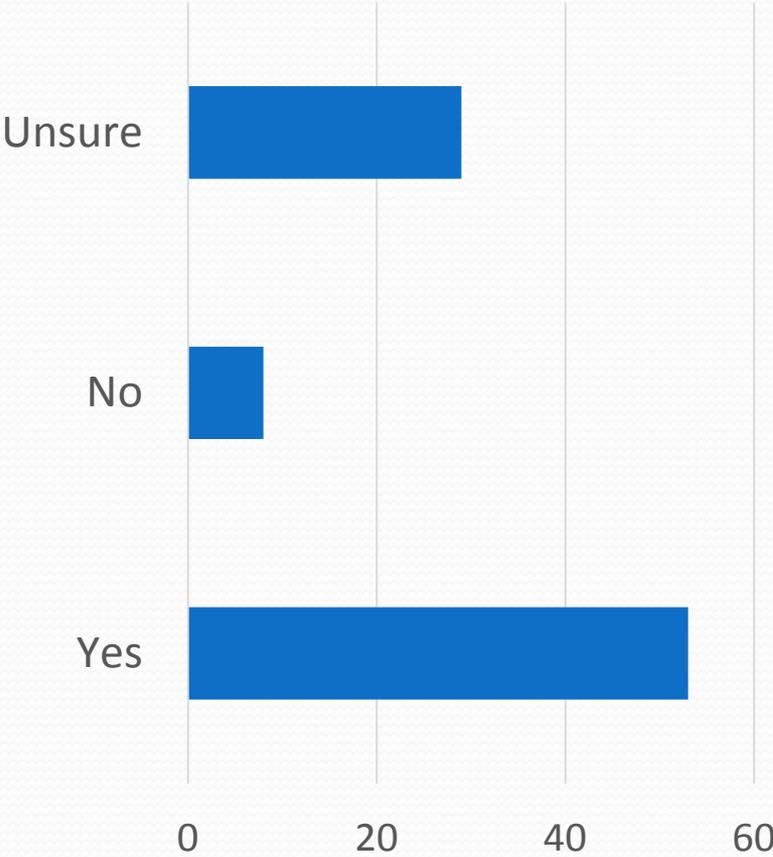
Q4. Did you learn something that you will apply in your work or future decisions?

Yes	No	Unsure
78	1	12
86%	1%	13%



Q5. Do you feel you want additional training on this topic or other topics related to SLR?

Yes	No	Unsure
53	8	29
59%	9%	32%



Continuing impact: sharing info beyond the project

- Outreach packet:
 - Incorporated into existing programs of project partners
 - Formatted for easier printing & distribution by users
- “Prezi” developed using workshop materials and outreach packet for “self-guided” use
 - <https://goo.gl/pIDWT9> (shortened link)
- Additional outreach events:
 - Water Rally, Mobile, AL, May 20-23, 2016
 - At least one workshop scheduled in Mobile Co., AL

For more information:

- Project website: www.joinacf.org
- Related publications:
 - Stephens, S.H., D.E. DeLorme, & S.C. Hagen (in press) “Communicating Coastal Risks with Interactive Sea-Level Rise Viewers: A Comparative Analysis.” *Envtl. Comm.*
 - Stephens, S.H., D.E. DeLorme, S.C. Hagen (2015) “Evaluating the Utility and Communicative Effectiveness of an Interactive Sea-Level Rise Viewer through Stakeholder Engagement.” *J. of Bus. & Tech. Comm.*, 29:314-343.
 - Stephens, S.H., D.E. DeLorme, S.C. Hagen (2014) “An Analysis of the Narrative Elements of Interactive Sea Level Rise Viewers.” *Sci. Comm.*, 36:675-705.

