



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 96TH TEST WING (AFMC)
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE FLORIDA

Mr. Thomas L. Chavers
Chief, Natural Resources
96 CEG/CEVSN
501 Deleon Street, Suite 101
Eglin AFB FL 32542-5133

1 October 2012

Attn: Grant Review Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my support for the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge receiving the Prescott Grant to assist with marine mammal stranding documentation. We have worked with staff from the refuge on numerous occasions and have found them to be professional and knowledgeable. Eglin manages natural resources on 464,000 acres of upland habitat and has responsibility for protecting resources on 20 miles of Barrier Island in 3 different counties. As is the case with many federal agencies we are understaffed and stretched thin to accomplish all of the tasks to support the Air Force. The staff from the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge has been a tremendous help when dealing with issues concerning orphaned and injured wildlife and in particular with strandings of marine mammals and sea turtles. We strive to coordinate well with all interested parties to allow access to Air Force Property to assist with important activities such as these but improvements can always be made.

While Eglin wildlife management staff has been responding to stranded seas turtles and marine mammals for many years to collect basic data, we lack the training and expertise to conduct a full necropsy or evaluate the need for rescue operations. In addition we are often shorthanded or lack the necessary equipment or tools to fully deal with every situation. Having a partner organization locally that is fully trained and equipped would significantly enhance marine mammal rescue operations and data collection efforts in Northwest Florida.

The Natural Resources Section will be glad to support this team in their endeavors by coordinating access to Air Force property as necessary, assisting occasionally in the field, and providing data pertinent to marine mammals in the area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Thomas L. Chavers
Chief, Eglin Natural Resources



IFAS Extension
Okaloosa County

5479 Old Bethel Road
Crestview, FL 32536-5512
850-689-5850
850-689-5727 Fax
<http://okaloosa.ifas.ufl.edu>

September 24, 2012

Attn: Grant Review Committee

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express the support from University of Florida IFAS Extension and Florida Sea Grant as the Marine Science Extension Agent of Okaloosa and Walton Counties. I fully support the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge (ECWR) in receiving the requested funding to support the "Enhancement of marine mammal stranding response and necropsy capability in the western Florida Panhandle." This organization provides many services to our local areas from education to coordination of the marine mammal stranding response team. Not only do they provide great care to our native animals both marine and terrestrial, but they also provide essential educational outreach programs to the local community.

The representatives from the ECWR have provided countless hours of education and support for our organizations outreach programming efforts to include serving on the Sea Grant Marine Extension Agent Advisory Board. ECWR is well respected in the community and has a great support system to achieve their primary goal of animal rehabilitation and reintegration, while sustaining effective partnerships and support with various community organizations.

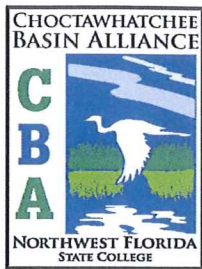
As a member of the Marine Mammal Stranding Team, I see no organization more deserving of this support. Please consider funding this project to keep this important service available to our area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Brooke Saari'.

Brooke Saari
Marine Science Extension Agent
University of Florida IFAS & Florida Sea Grant
Okaloosa & Walton Counties



Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance

Northwest Florida State College
100 College Boulevard
Niceville, FL 32578
Phone: 850-200-4171
Fax: 850-267-8315
cba@nwfsc.edu
www.basinalliance.org

NOAA/NMFS/Office of Protected Resources (F/PR2)
Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program
1315 East-West Highway, Rm 13620
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

September 20, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance (CBA), I strongly support the efforts of the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge in Fort Walton Beach, Florida.

CBA, a program of Northwest Florida State College, is an organization committed to sustaining and providing optimum utilization of the Choctawhatchee Basin watershed. We provide opportunities for citizens, educators, and technical experts to promote the health of the Choctawhatchee Basin watershed. As such, we include the Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge (ECWR) among our partners.

CBA enjoys a vital and longstanding collaboration with the ECWR. Mr. Steve Shippee, ECWR's Marine Mammal Stranding Team Coordinator, has helped CBA collect water quality data in Choctawhatchee Bay on a voluntary basis for several years. We have likewise supported his work by providing staff and volunteers for his research efforts when possible. Both CBA and ECWR work tirelessly to educate our local community about the critical importance of our water resources and the life they sustain.

ECWR is unique in its ability and commitment to: respond to strandings of live and deceased animals, collect vital life history and health data, provide triage and transport of live animals to approved rehab centers, conduct enhanced necropsy exams, submit Level A data to the NOAA stranding network, and properly recover and dispose of carcasses from area beaches. This important work is essential to a healthy ecosystem, and it is worthy of your full support.

Sincerely,

Sarah Kalinoski
Volunteer Coordinator, CBA

From: "Coisman,James G" <coismanj@ufl.edu>
To: "erin.fougeres@noaa.gov" <erin.fougeres@noaa.gov>,
"elizabeth
tuohy-sheen" <Elizabeth.Tuohy-Sheen@noaa.gov>
CC: "sshippee@ecwildliferefuge.com" <sshippee@ecwildliferefuge.com>,
"Coisman,James G" <coismanj@ufl.edu>,
"blair.mase@noaa.gov"
<blair.mase@noaa.gov>,
"awilkerson@ecwildliferefuge.com"
<awilkerson@ecwildliferefuge.com>
Date: Tue, 15 Feb 2011 11:09:09 -0500
Subject: Support for laparoscopy project

Erin and Liz,

I just wanted to drop a note letting you know how super the crew at Emerald Coast is. Steve, Amanda, and the two Stephanie's went way out of their way to help out with the Kogia and my project. They willingly volunteered to bring the specimen all the way from their facilities to UF, participate in the scoping and help in the necropsy including submission of the samples. I truly appreciate how helpful they were and look forward to working with them again!

Respectfully Yours,

Jay



Department of Biology

September 19, 2012

Steve Shippee
Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge and
105 Santa Rosa Blvd,
Fort Walton Beach FL 32548

Dear Steve,

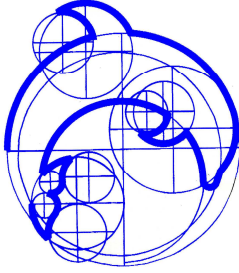
I am happy to provide this letter strongly supporting the proposal that you are submitting to the Prescott Stranding Program. As you know I routinely use tissues collected from stranding programs to assess the feeding ecology and habitat use of coastal cetaceans. You and your colleagues at ECWR have provided critical samples to me and I am highly supportive of efforts and resources that would facilitate continued collaboration to conduct tissue analysis for the foraging ecology work.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graham Worthy".

Graham A.J. Worthy, Ph.D.
Provosts Distinguished Professor of Biology and Hubbs Professor of Marine Mammalogy
Director, Physiological Ecology and Bioenergetics Lab

**Department of Biology, University of Central Florida,
4000 Central Florida Blvd, Orlando, FL 32816-2368
407/823-4701 voice 407/823-5769 FAX**



Sarasota Dolphin Research Program

*A Collaborative Effort of the
Chicago Zoological Society and Mote Marine Laboratory*
c/o Mote Marine Laboratory
1600 Ken Thompson Parkway Phone: (941) 388-2705
Sarasota, Florida 34236 USA Fax: (941) 388-4223
www.sarasotadolphin.org

Steve Shippee
Marine Mammal Stranding Team Coordinator
Emerald Coast Wildlife Refuge
105 Santa Rosa Blvd.
Fort Walton Beach FL

28 September 2011

Dear Steve,

With this letter I am confirming my program's support for your Prescott proposal to conduct stranding response in the Florida panhandle. Our ongoing collaboration with photo-ID surveys in the region should prove very helpful with the project you have described.

Sincerely,

Randall S. Wells, PhD
Director, Sarasota Dolphin Research Program