



**Johnson Education Center
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute at Florida Atlantic University
Fort Pierce, Florida**

Friday, February 24, 2023 – *Indian River Lagoon 2023 Update: Seagrass*

Seagrasses are a critical component of the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem, playing important roles in biological productivity and species diversity. In the last decade, there has been a catastrophic loss of seagrass, which is affecting the entire IRL system. This loss has triggered an interest in seagrass restoration, including the development of IRL seagrass nurseries. Join us for presentations that provide an overview of seagrasses in the lagoon, their threats, status, and plans to restore them. Our panelists are leaders in IRL seagrass research and management efforts. Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions of the presenters during the panel discussion and engage in demonstrations before and after the session.

**8:30 - 9:00 a.m. Registration Check in and Coffee & Tea
Demonstrations/exhibits**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Welcome

M. Dennis Hanisak, FAU Harbor Branch

Presentations

Moderator: Lori Morris, St. Johns River Water Management District

An Overview of IRL Seagrass, Threats, and Current Status

Lauren Hall, St. Johns River Water Management District

Update on IRL Manatee Mortalities

Tom Reinert, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Seagrass Recovery and Restoration: Bottlenecks and Knowledge Gaps

Bob Virnstein, Seagrass Ecosystems Analysts, Inc.

Building Capacity for Restoration of IRL Seagrass: IRLNEP Seagrass Nursery Network

Daniel Kolodny, Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program

Short Presentations: IRLNEP Seagrass Nursery Network Members

Tess Sailor-Tynes, Marine Discovery Center

Jody Cassell, Brevard Zoo

M. Dennis Hanisak, FAU Harbor Branch

Loraé Simpson, Florida Oceanographic Society

Carter Henne, Sea and Shoreline, Inc.

Panel Discussion

**12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
Demonstrations/exhibits**