Situation

- 700 miles of coastline
- 3.2 million residents
- Low-lying
- $170 billion regional economy
- Largest open-water estuary
- Diverse cultural and natural resources
We are nationally facing impacts from climate change and associated sea level rise

Governments must plan for emerging threats to

- Infrastructure
- Public Health
- Natural Resources
Local entities were initiating their own planning efforts but... 

Challenges – Lack Capacity

• Lack Staff
• Lack Funding
• Lack Scientific Expertise
Florida Sea Grant offered Leadership

• Trained in Facilitation and Managing Wicked Issues
• Flexibility to adjust plan of work
• Long-range plans (UF, Sea Grant, County) support Climate Change planning
• County office, but part of 2 state-wide and national networks
Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel

Objective = to provide scientific support to local governments planning for a changing climate
What do I do?

• Facilitate Climate Science Advisory Panel
• Serve as Expert to Regional Planning Council
• Keep Engaged with Competing Efforts
Lessons Learned: Challenges

- Balance competing efforts
- Stops and starts
- Ad-Hoc
- Cannot control implementation
Lessons Learned: Successes

- Funding is great, but can start without
- Do not reinvent wheel
- Be transparent
- Make use of local experts, networks
- Take time to build trust in community
Lessons Learned: Successes

- Work regionally, share best practices
- Utilize best available science
- Establish framework to update
- Stops and starts can be frustrating, but...
- ...getting everyone on board has rewards!
The Groan Zone is Real, Embrace It!

Facilitator’s Guide to Participatory Decision Making, Sam Kaner
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