

Educating with Extension



By Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator, and in collaboration with Alicia Betancourt, Shelly Krueger, and Michelle Leonard-Mularz

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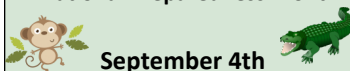
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SEPTEMBER HAPPENINGS



- National Honey Month

- National Preparedness Month



September 4th

National Wildlife Day!

September 8th-11th

Fl Keys Lionfish Derby & Islamorada

Call (305) 852-0030 for more information



September 5th

County Office closed to observe Labor Day!

September 13th 8:30AM-4PM

GI-BMP Training via Zoom

Call (305)292-4501 to Register



September 17th

Native Plant Sale 10AM-4PM
Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden



**Catch a Tagged
Amberjack,
Collect \$250!**

By Shelly Krueger,
Sea Grant Agent

Greater Amberjack *Seriola dumerili* is considered overfished and overfishing is occurring in the Gulf of Mexico but not in the South Atlantic Ocean. In the Gulf, Greater Amberjack populations have not been recovering for more than 20 years, and the reasons are unknown. To address management and stakeholder concerns about the Greater Amberjack fisheries in both regions, Congress authorized funding for a Greater Amberjack Research Program.



Photo above: External tag placed on either side of the fish, used to track mortality and movement

Greater Amberjack in the Florida Keys

As frequently happens in the Florida Keys, since these fish migrate in schools along with other jack species (Almaco Jack, Lesser Amberjack, and Banded Rudderfish) we likely get fish visitors from both of these stocks! Most Greater Amberjack are caught recreationally (73%) and 27% are caught commercially. Monroe County has the largest commercial Greater Amberjack fishery in Florida. Researchers have found Greater Amberjack spawning peaks in South Florida during May-April, and there are sites where they mate and form spawning aggregations in the Florida Keys (Harris et al. 2007). These fish also migrate to the Caribbean. Tag retrieval is important to track where these fish were tagged, and where they were caught!

Plant Clinics

Every Saturday

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Grimal Grove

258 Cunningham Lane
Big Pine Key

Wednesday, September 2nd

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Murray Nelson Govt.
Center

102050 O/S Hwy. #244
Key Largo

Plant Clinic

Canceled, will resume in the fall

Key West Garden Club
1100 Atlantic Blvd.
Key West

Wednesday, September 17th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Garden Club of Upper Keys
94040 O/S Hwy.
Tavernier

Saturday, September 17th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

KW Botanical Garden Nursery

5210 College Rd.
Stock Island

Saturday, September 17th

Plant Clinic

9 a.m. to Noon

Marathon Home Depot
4555 O/S Hwy,
Marathon

Thursday, September 22nd

Plant Clinic

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Island Home Nursery
88720 O/S Hwy,
Islamorada

Sea Grant News



Shelly Krueger
UF/IFAS Florida Sea Grant Agent

Shelly recently accomplished the following activities:

- Shelly is leading the Reef Futures conference session "Coral Communication: Building a Community of Practice" at Ocean Reef. We have 87 registered attendees to learn more about creating an international coral conservation communication working group through the Coral Restoration Consortium.



- Greater amberjack is overfished and overfishing is occurring in the Gulf of Mexico. The reasons the fishery has not recovered over more than 20 years of raising size limits and reducing the season has not reversed these declines. Shelly has been working with recreational anglers, commercial fishers, and wholesalers to connect university researchers and those with their eyes and ears on the water to learn more about greater amberjack. This is part of a larger Congressionally funded study from Texas to North Carolina. Monroe County has the largest commercial greater amberjack fishery in Florida. Shelly helps to reach stakeholders in the Florida Keys and provide them with science-based information regarding greater amberjack and to fisheries managers in the Gulf and South Atlantic Ocean.



- Pasco county is experiencing water quality issues in the residential canals. Shelly met virtually with Pasco county staff in their legislative, engineering, and parks and recreation departments to discuss educational programming related to residential canals and poor water quality. Shelly connected them with Rhonda Haag and the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan as well as sharing information about Florida Keys Water Watch that could be adapted to the needs of their county.



The Environmental Horticulture Program and Master Gardener Volunteers remain dedicated to helping you with your plant related questions.



CALL OUR OFFICE:
(305)292-4501

We have many different ways we can assist!

EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS TO:
mastergardener@monroecounty-fl.gov

Please include a detailed description of the problem and photos if available

VISIT OUR OFFICE:

Email Monroe@ifas.ufl.edu or
Call (305)292-4501 to schedule an appointment

FACEBOOK PAGE:

Visit our Facebook page for updates, requests, information and so much more!

<https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyExtension>



Horticulture News



Michelle Leonard-Mularz
UF/IFAS Environmental Horticulture Agent

Michelle recently accomplished the following activities:

- Michelle is working with Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Eco Discovery Center on a volunteer work day to remove invasive plants from the property on National Public Lands Day on September 23rd.



- Michelle met with the City of Key West and R. Alexander & Associates regarding the biosolid composting facility being proposed for the City.

- Michelle attended the composting pilot program informational meeting at the City of Key West commission chambers.



Be sure to "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

Extension Director's News

Alicia Betancourt
UF/IFAS Family and Community Development Agent and
Monroe County Extension Director

Alicia recently accomplished the following activities:



- Alicia participated in leadership planning for the 22-23 fiscal year for the Community Voices, Informed Choices (CIVIC) program. The group will offer agents professional development training in September.



- Alicia worked in the Initiative 6 priority work group to develop roadmap goals for public policy Extension programming.

- Alicia was invited to present at the 2022 World Community Development Conference in October. The conference theme is "Inclusion as a Global Challenge for Community Development". Alicia will be sharing the use of deliberative discussions and community forums to increase inclusion and representation.

- Alicia spoke to two groups about "How to protect yourself from scams".

- Alicia worked with the Southeast Florida Climate Compact to put forward recommendations for the Regional Climate Action Plan update. We have finished taking public input and the draft will be complete soon.



- Alicia worked with municipal staff to guide them in using the Handbook of Municipal Action on Climate Change.

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Angler Tag Returns

The tagging study will only be successful if anglers report the capture of tagged Greater Amberjack, and the \$250 reward per tagged fish is to encourage angler participation. External tags may be located on either (or both) side(s) of the fish so be sure to check both sides of the fish if you catch one. Undersized and legal sized fish have been tagged. If you plan to catch and release the fish, you can still cut off both tags and collect the \$250 reward from a fish you plan to release. Don't pull the tag out of the fish — cut near the area of insertion and keep the tags. Clip the tag(s) off and call our Tag Return Hotline (1-833-515-5137) which is printed on the tag. It is very important that you clip off the tags because **you cannot collect a reward without mailing us the physical tag**. If you have captured a tagged fish, please read the detailed [Greater Amberjack Tag Reporting Step-by-Step Instructions](#). If the fish is out of season or undersized, you can still cut the tags before releasing the fish back to the water.



For 2022, the Gulf of Mexico season is open from September 1 to October 31 in state and federal waters compared to the year-round open season in the South Atlantic Ocean. The minimum fork length is 34" in the Gulf compared to 28" in the Atlantic, with the same daily recreational bag limit of one fish per angler. Greater Amberjack is a long-lived fish (~17 years) that reproduces around 4 years of age and can grow to 200 pounds and 6 feet long. Greater Amberjack are distributed throughout the globe, and can be found in the Mediterranean, Pacific, Indian Ocean, Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico. Greater Amberjack is a good tasting fish and makes a great smoked fish dip. There are two similar species, the Lesser Amberjack and the Banded Rudderfish.

More information can be found on the [Florida Sea Grant Greater Amberjack Website](#).

If you have questions, please contact Shelly Krueger, Florida Sea Grant agent for the UF/IFAS Monroe County Extension, 305-292-4501 and shellykrueger@ufl.edu.

Be sure to "Like" us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)!

UF IFAS Extension

UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



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Newsletter Editor: Brynn Morey, Extension Coordinator

This newsletter can be accessed online at:

<http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>

We're on the Web at: <http://monroe.ifas.ufl.edu>



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University of Florida (UF)

<http://SolutionsForYourLife.ufl.edu>

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<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>

Scan this code to go directly to our UF/IFAS Website for more information!



UF/IFAS Extension is
Putting Florida First

An Equal Opportunity Institution. UF/IFAS Extension, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Nick T. Place, dean for UF/IFAS Extension. Single copies of UF/IFAS Extension publications (excluding 4-H and youth publications) are available free to Florida residents from county UF/IFAS Extension offices.

<https://ics.ifas.ufl.edu/ufifas-diversity-and-legaleeo-statements/>

UF/IFAS/MCES QUARTERLY CONTACTS

	June	July	Aug	Totals
Phone calls	62	41	41	144
Office visitors	53	52	71	176
Email Consultations	134	92	122	348
Learning events	26	15	18	59
Participants	156	192	222	570
Media submissions	4	2	7	13
Publications distributed	576	108	234	918
TOTAL contacts	1,011	502	715	2,228

Attention Boaters!

Florida is now on the Pumpout Nav App



Help keep our water clean and download the free Pumpout Nav app today!

- 1 SCAN THE QR CODE
- 2 FIND A PUMPOUT NEAR YOU
- 3 CREATE ACCOUNT



www.flseagrant.org/clean-vessels



Sea Grant
Florida



Green Industries Best Management Practices (GI-BMP) Online Training!

Tuesday Sept. 13th 8:30AM-4PM via Zoom

GI-BMP is an educational program for people working in lawn-care and landscape maintenance.

This program teaches environmentally safe landscaping practices that help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters.

Florida law states that all commercial fertilizer applicators must be trained in GI-BMPs and receive a certificate of completion from UF/IFAS and FDEP.

To Register call (305) 292-4501 or click on the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/green-industries-best-management-practices-gi-bmp-tickets-396115160107>