



Eric Hutchins
NOAA Marine Habitat Resource Specialist

Eric has 31 years of experience with the federal government, primarily focused on fisheries management. He grew up in Gloucester, Massachusetts, a fishing port, and has dedicated his career to fisheries work. His role has evolved from permit review to habitat restoration, particularly in removing dams and restoring coastal environments. Eric addressed questions about the economic incentives for eel conservation and the potential for aquaculture.

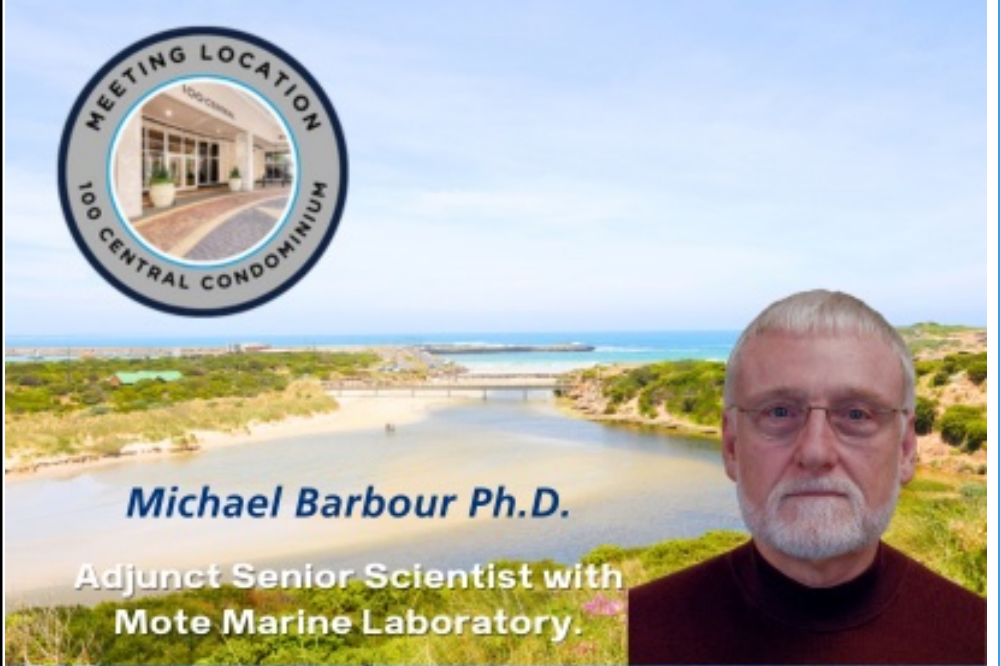
He noted that while there is interest in eel farming, significant challenges remain in developing sustainable practices.

Eric mentioned his involvement in the Alligator Creek restoration project in Sarasota County, which aims to restore natural habitats and improve fish passageways. The project received a \$20 million grant from NOAA, highlighting its significance.



Meeting Dates

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| March 100 Central | 4th |
| March 100 Central | 18th |
| April 100 Central | 1st |
| April 100 Central | 15th |
| April Field Trip | 29th |



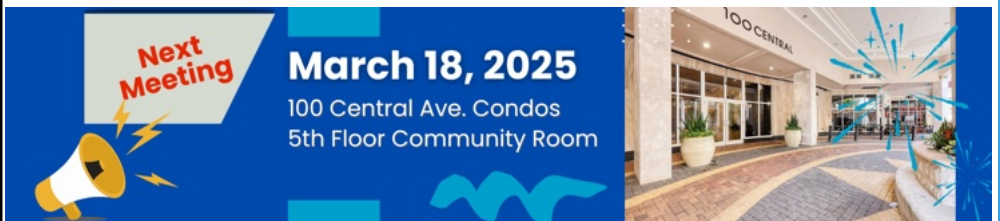
Dr. Barbour has more than 28 years of experience in environmental assessment of various waterbody types including both freshwater and estuarine systems. He will share some of his insights with our club from his over 50 publications.

Tuesday Noon
March 4, 2025

Zoom Meeting ID: 860 6855 4560
Passcode: 908057

Club of Sarasota Bay
Rotary
District 6960

Dr. Michael T. Barbour is an Aquatic Ecologist. He was the 2014 recipient of the International Environmental Stewardship Award given by a scientific society represented by 62 countries. This award was given because of his efforts in assisting EPA in updating the Biological and Physical Integrity components of the U.S. Clean Water Act and participating with scientists from the European Union to develop their biological protocol of their Water Framework Directive. He has been a member of the Heritage Oaks Healthy Lakes Initiative since its inception 4 years ago and has consulted with other Associations and Sarasota County EPD. He is currently an Adjunct Senior Scientist with Mote Marine Laboratory. Welcome to the Sarasota Bay Rotary Club.



WHAT SOME OF OUR DGE GUESTS SAID



DGE John Campbell Australia

Finally home! The grass appears to have not cut its self in my absence though. Thank you all for a wonderful experience.



Judith and DGE Robert Shore Australia

It's so nice to see everyone checking in safely back in their homelands. We also arrived home to Australia yesterday morning and back to our home in the afternoon. We feel blessed to have been part of this year's home stay. It was the highlight of the trip. All the best for the busy year ahead. Cheers Judith and Robert.



Sabine & DGE Ralf Peters Germany

We are back in Germany as well ! Thank you to all of you for a Great time together in Sarasota !! We will always remember the time spend with you and your generosity and hospitality!! Warm Regards Carmen & Rolf



DGE Marshal Chilenga Malawi

Thank you Barry for organizing everything Thank you for the home stay You availed me the opportunity to connect with other PDGs and Rotarians in the world.

I have now arrived in Malawi 🇲🇼 Thank you for the fellowship and friendship



Shemecka Mcneil Raleigh, North Carolina

Good evening I am Shemecka Mcneil from district 7710 in Raleigh, NC. I will be traveling to Sarasota the first weekend in February for a women in VR conference. If possible I would like to meet some of your members. When I travel I love to reach out to fellow Rotarians

Hey thanks for the invite and the ride home. We had a great time and very appreciated. I wanted to ask if there was a address where I can send you one of our flags



WHAT SOME OF OUR DGE GUESTS SAID



DGE Princess Okoye-Okoro Nigeria

I arrived safely to Abuja, Nigeria. All my Love to wonderful Rotarians in Sarasota especially my Mum's name sake, amazing Lady, Carol. Remain blessed.

DGE Amita & Anil Mohindru India

Dear Sarasotian Rotarians,

Anil and I are truly grateful to each and every one of you for welcoming us with such warmth and generosity. From the very first moment, you didn't just open your homes to us—you opened your hearts. What we found in Sarasota was not just hospitality, but family. It was truly HOME away from HOME.

The friendships we built, the laughter we shared, and the bonds we forged will forever be etched in our hearts. Whether it was through service, fellowship, or simply enjoying each other's company, every experience was a reminder of what makes Rotary so special—the power of human connection.

More than just a visit, this was a celebration of Rotary's spirit—of friendships beyond borders, of collaboration beyond projects, and of a commitment to making the world a better place, together.

We will cherish these memories for a lifetime, and we look forward to strengthening this incredible bond—through service, through fellowship, and through countless moments of joy ahead!

A Special Mention of our eternal inspiring hosts **ROB FISH & LINDA CHRISTOFERIE**

With gratitude and warmest regards,

DGE Ximena Caicedo

Hello everyone, good morning. After a few difficult days with my health, I ended up with a fractured vertebra in Orlando and I could not have surgery until I got back to Colombia. I am now slowly improving and beginning my life and activities as governor. I can say that the experience in Sarasota has been one of my best experiences in Rotary, because of the friendship, the hospitality and the various activities. Once again, a thousand and one thanks for so much coordination and teachings. In Colombia you have a friend who will always be waiting for you.



CAN YOU TELL WHICH PEOPLE WERE NOT ORIGINALLY IN THESE PHOTOS?



2025 Sarasota DGE HomeStay

