

Dr. Mark Rains
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Dear Dr. Rains,

My name is _____ and I live in _____

I own _____ (Business name and location) and location) or (retired from) _____ or I work at _____ (Business or institution name) or something to identify yourself.

We understand that Baysavers Group has requested that the Corps of Engineers initiate a study to investigate the problems in Apalachicola Bay, St. Joe Bay, and St. Andrews Bay. These bays are the foundation of the biological and seafood productivity and economy of the region. NFWMD flowmeters have proved the substantial diversion of freshwater and sediment away from Apalachicola Bay and its subsequent discharge into St. Joe Bay and St. Andrew Bay. As a 5th generation resident, I have observed how the sediment has affected our bay. Many of us feel this could be a major factor adversely affecting St. Joe Bay and that restoration will substantially benefit the oyster rehabilitation in Apalachicola Bay.

A study would also address, among other issues, the connected problems associated with saltwater intrusion into Lake Wimico and the consequential losses of freshwater marshes and other native vegetation.

We understand that a study could begin in early 2025, would take a maximum of 3 years and would only cost the State a maximum of \$500,000 a year for three years, and probably less with in kind contributions. This study would lead to projects and solutions to the problems of these bays. That would be a low price to pay for the revitalization of these bays and the economy of the region.

We wholeheartedly support the Baysavers request and urge the State of Florida and the Corps of Engineers to move forward expeditiously.

Please keep us informed on this very important matter.

Sincerely,