

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Board of County Commissioners*

04/24/18



## **Okaloosa County Hosts Northwest Florida Estuary Program Workshop**

**Okaloosa Island** – The Emerald Coast Convention Center will play host to the Northwest Florida Estuary Program Workshop from 9AM to 1PM April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Estuary program works to preserve the environment across the Florida Panhandle, by combining the resources of Okaloosa, Walton and Washington counties, to protect the more than \$1.6 Billion tourism industry which provides 36,000 jobs in our area.

The program will focus on improving stormwater infrastructure, dirt road paving and habitat restoration in the area.

Representatives from these counties and from Eglin Air Force Base will be present at the workshop.

Estuaries are partially enclosed bodies of water with one or more rivers or streams flowing into it and a free connection to the open sea, like the Choctawhatchee Bay

The Keynote speaker is Holly Greening, the former Executive Director and Senior Scientist of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program

The speaker and attendees will spend the day discussing the Economic Value of a Healthy Bay and the details behind the success of the Tampa Bay Area Estuary.

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