My internship at the Key Largo Anglers club was truthfully one of the best experiences of my life. Being a girl from Ohio, living in paradise for 6 weeks was a nice change. My main focus as an environmental scientist is studying algae blooms and how to improve the conditions of bodies of water. The Angler’s club had plenty of algae for me to examine which certainly kept me busy and always kept my interest. I took numerous water samples from the lakes and worked to identify the different species of algae found within the ecosystem. I spent the majority of my time there working on finding the best schedule for water sampling and figuring out what the best testing (phosphorus testing, pH, etc.) was to ensure that there was a thorough and consistent log of the water conditions within the lake. I also spent a lot of time working with Brian (the lake tech) on finding the best course of action for placing microbes into the lakes in hopes that they outcompete algae for food sources and the algae die off, creating a safer environment for the wildlife to live in and a more aesthetically pleasing look. I also worked to try and find the best supplies to update the lab a bit. Ben and I considered myself to be the “personal lakes shopper” while I was there because I would spend hours on amazon finding new supplies for the lab such as a brand microscope to better look at the algae and other microorganisms found in the lakes.

While a lot of my time was spent working, I had a great time doing it and also found time to go out and do fun things. One of my fondest memories was lobster hunting with Ben as well as him teaching me how to drive a boat! My favorite off duty memory was taking a trip to Key West to explore all that the keys have to offer. But overall, I would have to say that my absolute favorite thing I experienced was watching sunsets at the club with dolphins swimming in the distance. The staff at KLAC were so much fun to be around and very willing to help if you need anything. The living accommodations were very nice and offered a personal apartment. There is also a gym, pool, and nice hang out area located in the employee housing. I will always remember my time at the Anglers club and will always be grateful I made the decision to go.

* Mya Esposito (intern from July-August 2021)