Florida Keys
National Marine Sanctuary
Revised Management Plan

December 2007
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Marine Sanctuary Program
This document is the revised management plan for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It replaces the management plan that was implemented in 1996 and will serve as the primary management document for the Sanctuary during the next five years.

Comments or questions on this management plan should be directed to:

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Superintendent  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
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Key West, Florida 33040  
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Note to Reader
In an effort to make this document more user-friendly, we have included references to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Web site rather than including the entire text of many bulky attachments or appendices that are traditionally included in management plans. Readers who do not have access to the Internet may call the Sanctuary office at (305) 809-4700 to request copies of any documents that are on the Sanctuary’s Web site. For readers with Internet access, the Sanctuary’s Web site can be found at floridakeys.noaa.gov.
ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a report on the results of NOAA’s five-year review of the strategies and activities detailed in the 1996 Final Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It serves two primary purposes: 1) to update readers on the outcomes of successfully implemented strategies - in short, accomplishments that were merely plans on paper in 1996; and, 2) to disseminate useful information about the Sanctuary and its management strategies, activities and products. The hope is that this information, which charts the next 5 years of Sanctuary management, will enhance the communication and cooperation so vital to protecting important national resources.

Sanctuary Characteristics
The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary extends approximately 220 nautical miles southwest from the southern tip of the Florida peninsula. The Sanctuary’s marine ecosystem supports over 6,000 species of plants, fishes, and invertebrates, including the nation’s only living coral reef that lies adjacent to the continent. The area includes one of the largest seagrass communities in this hemisphere. Attracted by this tropical diversity, tourists spend more than thirteen million visitor days in the Florida Keys each year. In addition, the region’s natural and man-made resources provide recreation and livelihoods for approximately 80,000 residents.

The Sanctuary is 2,900 square nautical miles of coastal waters, including the 2001 addition of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. The Sanctuary overlaps four national wildlife refuges, six state parks, three state aquatic preserves and has incorporated two of the earliest national marine sanctuaries to be designated, Key Largo and Looe Key National Marine Sanctuaries. Three national parks have separate jurisdictions, and share a boundary with the Sanctuary. The region also has some of the most significant maritime heritage and historical resources of any coastal community in the nation.

The Sanctuary faces specific threats, including direct human impacts such as vessel groundings, pollution, and overfishing. Threats to the Sanctuary also include indirect human impacts, which are harder to identify but are reflected in coral declines and increases in macroalgae and turbidity. More information about the Sanctuary can be found in this document and at the Sanctuary’s Web site.

Management Plan Organization
Within this document, the tools that the Sanctuary uses to achieve its goals are presented in five management divisions: 1) Science; 2) Education, Outreach & Stewardship; 3) Enforcement & Resource Protection; 4) Resource Threat Reduction; and 5) Administration, Community Relations, & Policy Coordination. Each management division contains two or more action plans, which are implemented through supporting strategies and activities. The strategies described in the 1996 Management Plan generally retain their designations in this document. As in the 1996 plan, two or more action plans may share a strategy where their goals and aims converge. The 1996 plan can be accessed on the Sanctuary’s Web site floridakeys.noaa.gov
Accomplishments and Highlights
The Sanctuary’s programs and projects have made significant progress since the original management plan was implemented 1996. An overview of these accomplishments is provided in the Introduction. In addition, each action plan contains bulleted lists of accomplishments since the 1996 management plan was adopted.
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<td>Areas to Be Avoided</td>
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<td>Member: Wayne Blevins</td>
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<td>Member: Fran Decker</td>
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<td>Member: Deborah Shaw</td>
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<td>Member: Ken Nedimyer</td>
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Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups 2001

**Channel/Reef Marking**
Chair: Warren Johnson
Co-Chairs: Fritz Wettstein and Rich Jones
Bob McGuire
Pat Wells
Richard Grathwohl
George Neugent
Don Kincaid
Jim Bellizzi

**Damage Assessment and Restoration**
Staff: Bill Goodwin and Lauri MacLaughlin
Bob Currul
Erich Mueller
Pat Wells

**Education and Outreach**
Chair: Martin Moe
Co-Chair: Mary Tagliareni
Andy Griffiths
Virginia Cronk
Lynda Berrigan
Laddie Akins
Dave Makepeace

**Enforcement**
Chair: Jim Hurley
Co-Chair: Bob Currul
Don DeMaria
John Brownlee
Jerry Lorenz
Jim Bellizini
Karen Lee
Nancy Klingener
Chester Marr
Todd Firm

**Mooring Buoys**
Chair: Rob Bleser
Co-Chair: Steve Baumgartner
Sheri Lohr
Fran Decker
Pat Wells
Todd Firm

**Regulatory**
Chair: Jim Hurley
Co-Chair: Billy Causey and June Cradick
Don DeMaria
John Brownlee
Jerry Lorenz
Peggy Mathews
Nancy Klingener
Sheri Sullenger
Bob Currul
Karen Lee
George Neugent
Chester Marr
Jim Bellizzi
George Garret
Greg DiDomenico
Ken Haddad
Research and Monitoring
Chair: Deborah Shaw  Co-Chair: Jerry Lorenz and Brian Keller
Fran Decker  Diana Silvia
Jim Hurley  Ken Nedimyer
Pat Wells  Bill Crispin
Don Kincaid  Debbie Harrison
Nancy Klingener  Martin Moe
Virginia Cronk  Erich Mueller
John Hunt  Robert Brock

Submerged Cultural Resources
Chair: Duncan Mathewson  Co-Chair: Dave Score
Diane Silvia  Pat Wells
David Paul Horan  Don Kincaid
Lynda Berrigan

Volunteer
Chair: Fran Decker  Co-Chair: Mary Enstrom
Tom Davidson  Steve Davidson
Ivy Kelley

Water Quality
Chair: Debra Harrison  Co-Chair: Bill Kruczynski
Warren Johnson  David Hawtof
Don DeMaria  Tom Davidson
George Neugent  Richard Grathwohl
Erich Mueller  Greg DiDomenico
Don Kincaid  Martin Moe
Fran Decker  Ken Nedimyer
Deborah Shaw  Anita Schwessinger
Jerry Lorenz  Wayne Blevins
Nancy Klingener  George Garrett
Lynda Berrigan

Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee
Water Quality Protection Program Technical Advisory Committee
There two groups are closed to new membership, but all meetings are open to the public.

Zoning
Chair: Karen Lee  Co-Chairs: Joanne Delaney and John Halas
Fran Decker  Ken Nedimyer
Richard Grathwohl  Tony Iarocci
Debbie Harrison  Nancy Klingener
Greg DiDomenico

Artificial Reefs
Chair:  Co-Chair: John Halas
Sheri Lohr            Greg DiDomenico
Rob Blesser          Ken Nedimyer
Tom Davidson         Erich Mueller
Grady Sullivan       Jim Hurley
Don Kincaid          Debra Harrison
Tony Iarocci         Richard Grathwohl

Key West Harbor Water Quality
Chair:               Co-Chair: Fritz Wettstein
George Halloran      DeeVon Quirolo
Grady Sullivan       Warren Johnson
Erich Mueller        David Paul Horan
Greg DiDomenico      Don Kincaid

Personal Watercraft
Chair: Karen Lee     Co-Chair: Dave Score
Richard Grathwohl    Tom Davidson
Jim Hurley           Warren Johnson
Bruce Popham         Erica Weis
Pat Wells            Andy Griffiths
Wayne Blevins        Jerry Lorenz
Deborah Shaw         Nora Williams
Debra Harrison       Peggy Mathews
John Brownlee        Jim Bellizzi

Visitor Centers
Chair:               Co-Chairs: Cheva Heck
Anita Schwessinger   Nancy Klingener
Laddie Akins