Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review
Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group Meeting
March 14, 2013

Working Group Meeting Summary

Meeting Agenda

1. Working Group Admin Support, Resources, and Public Information (Chris Bergh and Beth Dieveney)
2. FKNMS Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review: Historical Review / Current Marine Zoning & Regulatory Scheme (Sean Morton)
3. Ecosystem Protection Work Plan & Objectives
4. Mapping & Science Support (Chris Anderson)
5. Public Comment

Major Points of Discussion

1. The working group reviewed available resources, websites, and identified specific ground rules for how they will operate.

Working Group Discussion:

- Determine that, with prior approval of Chair, alternates can be designated to attend on behalf of working group members. Alternates would not have voting rights but could read a statement on behalf of the working group member.
- Noted that if the working group members miss more than two meetings, the member will lose their ability to vote. The member will retain their ability to sit at the table and participate in discussions.
- Avoid the use of acronyms; emphasis on clear explanations to occur during discussions.

Sean Morton, FKNMS Sanctuary Superintendent made a presentation highlighting the relevant history of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, provided context for the current marine zoning and regulatory review process and outlined the charge to the three Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups. The presentation can be found at: http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/ecosystemprotection.

3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Work Plan and Objectives
Beth Dieveney, FKNMS Staff, gave a presentation and led a discussion about the Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group Objectives.
Working Group Discussion:
- Discussed the potential that locations within the study areas but outside present FKNMS boundaries can be considered in the zoning and review process by the Sanctuary Advisory Council working groups.
- Noted that this process will affect the next generation, younger people, and their children more so than the generation of the working group.
- Cautioned the working group working group to be careful and aware of creating shifting baselines of the ecosystem. Members may view good, fair, and poor conditions of the marine resources differently. Historical perspective is important to keep in mind.
- Noted that the work of this working group should consider a management scheme for the next 20 years and should therefore forecast potential needs and activities to that time-frame when making recommendations.
- Identified potential scientific experts to include in future working group meetings to help inform the process.

4. Mapping and Science Support
Chris Anderson of FWC/Florida Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) demonstrated how to access and utilize the on-line data, mapping, and information tools. These can be found here: ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review

Working Group Discussion:
- Emphasized that the working group process is question and brainstorm-driven, while the science and GIS are tools and resources to utilize in order to answer the questions and provide insight and clarity to the issues at hand.
- Discussed the importance of using the data as intended and cautioned against misinterpreting the science when creating proposals.

5. Public Comment
Public comment was made by two individuals:
- Brooke Denkert, University student.
  - Thanked everyone for their efforts. Encouraged working group to be aware of shifting baselines and the issue of sustainability while working through the process. She spoke for the next generation and how her generation should be able to enjoy and use the same marine resources in the future.
- Carlton Adams, recreational diver and fisherman.
  - Raised concern that two mooring buoys were outside the boundary of Molasses Reef SPA. Also, concerned that people were tying up to mooring buoy 28 in order to bottom fish. Suggested moving SPA boundary to include the two mooring buoys and then add new mooring buoys for fishing seaward of the boundary. Questioned if the working group meetings can be broadcast in some way. Answer: the meeting notes will be posted to the FKNMS website.

Follow-Up Actions for Working Group Members
1. Review relevant materials including the data and mapping information.
2. Read the public scoping comment.
Decision Items of Note
1. The August 1, 2013 meeting has been changed to July 29, 2013.
2. Stand-ins for working group members who must miss a meeting will be allowed but the working group member must prearrange this with the working group chair.
3. If you miss two meetings or more throughout the process, you give up your right to vote.
4. Voting must occur in person at a meeting and stand-ins cannot vote.