



# Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group: Progress & Next Steps



Chris Bergh  
Sanctuary Advisory Council – Conservation & Environment  
Working Group Chair

# Working Group Membership



## Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

- Chris Bergh, SAC Conservation and Environment
- Ben Daughtry, SAC Commercial Fishing – Marine/Tropical
- Ted Lund, SAC Fishing Charter Flats Guide
- Suzy Roebling, SAC Citizen at Large – Upper Keys
- Joe Weatherby, SAC Tourism

# Working Group Membership



## Community / Public Members

- Maria Brandvold, Recreational Fisherman
- Tad Burke, Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association
- Mark Chiappone, NOVA Southeastern University
- Don DeMaria, Sea Sampler
- Tim Grollimund, SCUBA Diving Columnist/Underwater Photographer
- Manny Herrera, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Member
- Ernie Piton, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association Member
- Dave Vandenbosch, Captain Hooks Dive Center and Marina – Middle Keys
- Scott Saunders, Fury Water Adventures
- Mimi Stafford, Reef Relief

# Ecosystem Protection – Objectives



- Review and evaluate existing reserves designated for protection of coral reef ecosystems.
- Review current exceptions to regulations in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves.
- Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.
- Recommend new or modified ecological reserves to ensure protection of a diversity of resources:
  - Spawning aggregations
  - Full suite of marine flora and fauna

Cont.

# Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection – Objectives

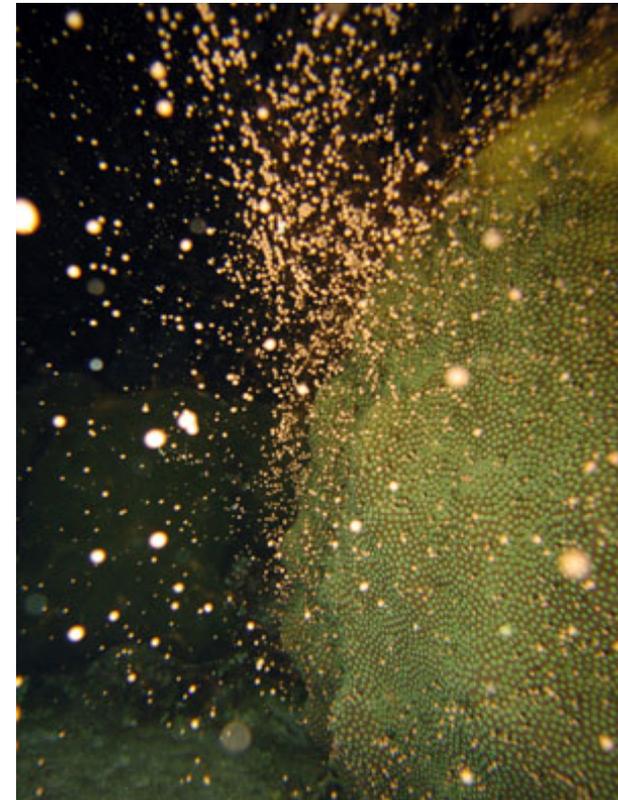


- Consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts associated with intense uses or seasonal ecological activities (i.e., nesting, breeding, spawning).
- Ensure the FKNMS zoning scheme promotes sustainable use of the sanctuary resources and protects areas that represent diverse habitats as well as areas important for maintaining natural resources and ecosystem functions.

# March 14, 2013 Meeting 1



- Clarified role and authority of working group
- Identified the need to:
  - ✓ Review available resources
- Identified
  - ✓ Specific ground rules for operation
  - ✓ Current FKNMS marine zoning and regulatory scheme
  - ✓ Work plan and objectives
  - ✓ Mapping and science support



# April 4, 2013 Meeting 2



- Discussed:
  - ✓ Existing FKNMS zones and regulations
  - ✓ Current FKNMS conditions and status of resources
  - ✓ Resilience of coral reef systems in the Florida Keys (see SAC Principle 4)
- Identified
  - ✓ Primary habitats, resources, and data layers
  - ✓ Study areas and geographic regions to be considered
- Voted in favor of the Sanctuary Advisory Council principle 2 to classify all areas of the Sanctuary as a specific zone type

# Decisions of Note



- Administrative decisions
  - ✓ Identified working group members and rules of operation
  - ✓ Identified voting procedure
  - ✓ Identified available scientific/data resources and mapping tools
  - ✓ Voted in favor of SAC principle 2
- No formal recommendations for Advisory Council at this time





# Upcoming Meeting Agenda



## Thursday, May 2

- Presentations:
  - ✓ Sanctuary zones and zone performance
    - Tortugas Ecological Reserve
    - Western Sambo Ecological Reserve and lobster
    - Benthic habitat and species, Fish assemblages
- Identify:
  - ✓ Vision for Ecosystem Protection & Sustainable Management of Sanctuary resources
  - ✓ Activities and Uses of Sanctuary resources
  - ✓ Data and science needs to inform recommendations

# Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: [floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)

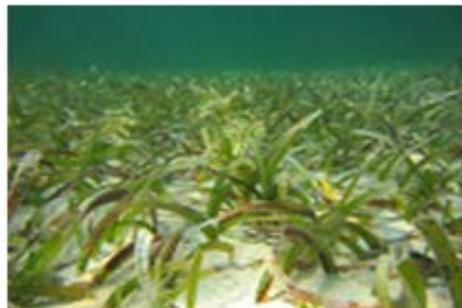


Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources: [http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms\\_zone\\_review](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review)



**Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group**  
Coral health in the sanctuary has declined over the past several

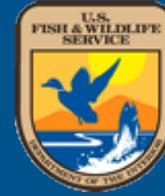


**Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group**  
Hardbottom communities and



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National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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