

Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group



Sean Morton
Sanctuary Superintendent
Non-Voting Working Group Chair

John Hunt
FWC Program Administrator
Non-Voting Working Group Chair

Working Group Membership: Sanctuary Advisory Council



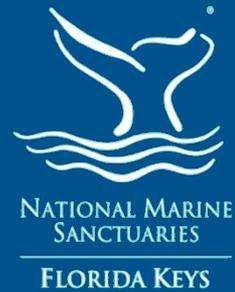
- Chris Bergh, SAC Conservation and Environment
- Ben Daughtry, SAC Commercial Fishing – Marine/Tropical
- Ted Lund, SAC Fishing Charter Flats Guide
- Suzy Roebling, SAC Citizen at Large – Upper Keys
- Joe Weatherby, SAC Tourism

Working Group Membership: Other Community Members



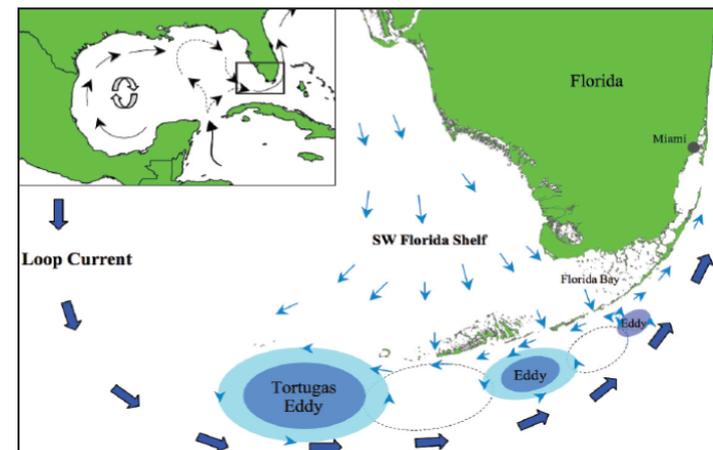
- Maria Brandvold, Recreational Fisherman
- Tad Burke, Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association
- Mark Chiappone, NOVA Southeastern University
- Don DeMaria, Sea Sampler
- Tim Grollimund, SCUBA Diving Columnist/Underwater Photographer
- Manny Herrera, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
-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

Summary of Working Group Recommendations



Recommendations as of July 29:

1. Classify all areas of the Sanctuary as a specific zone type (SAC principle 2).
2. Host a series of regional meetings to solicit community input for changes to existing or potential new zones for ecosystem protection.
3. Recommend water quality, education, and enforcement be addressed by the SAC.



Source: redrawn from Lee et al. 2002

Recommendation 2: Host Regional Meetings

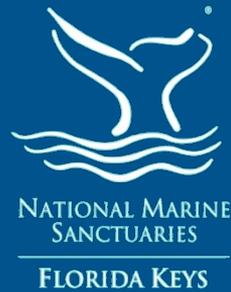


Host series of regional meetings to facilitate information exchange and solicit region and site-specific input from the community

- September 23 – Key Colony Beach
- September 24 – Key Largo
- September 25 – Key West
- September 26 – Key West



Goal for Regional Meetings:



1. Input on Working Group Objectives:

- evaluate existing marine zones,
- recommend zone modifications to ensure protection of diversity of marine resources,
- consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts, and
- ensure that marine zones promote sustainable use of resources while protecting diverse habitats and their ecosystem functions.

2. Region and site-specific input and information.

Outcomes of Regional Meetings:



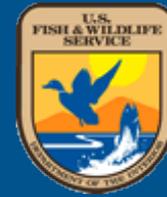
1. Received oral comments from over 500 community members.
2. Received written comments at the meetings and via email from over 100 community members.
3. Public comments included:
 - Need for enforcement
 - “Fairness of closures” - if area is closed for one sector, close to all
 - Assess current closures before considering others
 - Close selectively as needed
 - Need science to inform process
 - Lack of public engagement in process

Working Group Next Steps:



Working Group reconvened on September 30:

1. Review input from regional community meetings.
2. Discuss criteria for modifying existing or making new marine zones.
3. Determine next steps for working group process:
 - Requested agency review of working group zone modification ideas
 - “Screen and Remove” those ideas that are not administratively feasible
 - Requested agency assistance to integrate scientific and socio-economic data to help the working group evaluate existing ideas and potentially generate new options.
4. The working group decided to continue meeting. Meetings will reconvene in 2014 schedule still to be determined.



Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group: Summary and work products



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