

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**The Westin Key West Resort and Marina
Key West, FL 33040
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

MEETING SUMMARY

The following serves as a summary of the April 21, 2015 FKNMS Advisory Council Meeting. This summary does not constitute official minutes of the meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be distributed in advance of the June 16 Advisory Council Meeting for approval by the council.

Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: Update on Draft Environmental Impact Statement Development

Beth Dieveney provided an update on the regulatory review process and development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. NOAA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently developing a range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on the comments provided through the public scoping, community working group, and advisory council review process. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is estimated for release for public review and comment in late 2015.

Status & Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs

Dr. Jeremy Jackson addressed the advisory council providing a comprehensive review of the status of Caribbean coral reefs. He presented the scientific results from the report Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012. Dr. Jackson also shared the implications and his insights for management action needed to support recovery of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, which includes the need to protect large areas that encompass the range of habitat types. He noted that over emphasis on climate change distracts attention from the action necessary to address local stressors.

The report is available here: <http://www.icriforum.org/caribbeanreport>

City of Key West Request for Voting Seat

The Honorable Craig Cates, Mayor City of Key West was not able to attend, however a letter was read on his behalf and Commissioner Tony Yaniz addressed the advisory council. The City of Key West requested a voting seat on the advisory council. The advisory council discussed but the motion to add the seat failed due to lack of a second to move forward with a vote. The advisory council discussed other mechanisms through which City of Key West interests could be represented, including attending Advisory Council meetings.

Water Quality Protection Program Update

Sean Morton provided an update on topics discussed and outcomes from the March Water Quality Protection Program meeting. The WQPP meets two times a year with the mission to recommend priority corrective actions addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the sanctuary. At their February meeting, they hear updates on wastewater projects in Monroe County, canal restoration

activities, sea level rise adaption in Monroe County, sponge restoration project, FDEP water quality sampling and potential collaboration efforts, and effects of mosquito control pesticides on non-targeted organisms. Annual coral reef ecosystem, water quality, and seagrass monitoring results were also presented.

Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: Artificial Habitat Working Group Update

Beth Dieveney provided an update on next steps for convening an advisory council artificial habitat working group. The advisory council plans to host a two-day workshop in July at the Eco-Discovery Center in Key West, dates to be determined. The workshop goal is to convene user groups, researchers, and Sanctuary managers to discuss and clarify interests, research needs, and policies surrounding the use of artificial habitats in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. No further action was taken at this meeting, however advisory council members are asked to provide contact names for potential workshop invitees.

Public Comment

Four individuals provided public comment:

- Julie Dick, Everglades Law Center
- Brice Barr, Key West Charter Boat Association
- Richard Gomez, Key West Charter Boat Association
- David Horan, representing Key West Charter Boat Association