



Artificial Habitat Working Group: Recommendations for Sanctuary Advisory Council

Joe Weatherby, Sanctuary Advisory Council – Tourism Lower
Keys, Working Group Chair
Beth Dieveney, FKNMS Deputy Superintendent for Science
and Policy

August 18, 2015

Working Group Membership



Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

- Joe Weatherby, Working Group Chair, Tourism – Lower Keys
- Tad Burke, Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide
- George Garrett, Citizen at Large – Middle Keys
- Don Kinkaid, Diving – Lower Keys
- Shelly Kreuger, Research & Monitoring
- Elena Rodriguez, Diving – Upper Keys
- Bob Smith, Diving – Lower Keys
- Mimi Stafford, Citizen at Large – Lower Keys
- David Vandenbosch, Citizen at Large – Middle Keys
- Dave Vaughan, Research & Monitoring

Working Group Membership



Community / Public Members

- Ken Banks, Broward County
- Jim Bohnsack, NOAA-National Marine Fishery Service
- Kathy Fitzpatrick, Martin County
- George Frankel, Eternal Reefs LLC and Genesis Project
- Jon Hazelbaker, Florida Keys Community College
- Phil Kramer, The Nature Conservancy
- Bill Lindberg, University of Florida
- Anne McCarthy, Continental Shelf Associates
- Keith Mille, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Jeff Neidlinger, Deep Blue Diving
- Davis Poole, Eternal Seas
- Laurie Poole, Eternal Seas

Advisory Council Action – October 2014



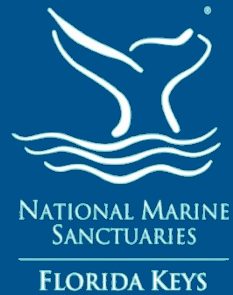
We request that the following actions and recommendations outlined for Artificial Habitats be forwarded to the Sanctuary Superintendent for consideration and analysis as part of the range of alternatives in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement:

AH-1 Clarify the definition of artificial habitat/reef.

AH-2 Create a working group to serve as a liaison between the Sanctuary Advisory Council and the research community to identify targeted research needs and funding mechanisms to appropriately assess the benefits and impacts of artificial reefs.

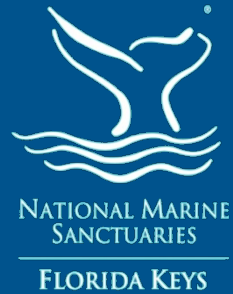
AH-3 Evaluate alternatives including establishing control site(s) on existing artificial reefs to facilitate research on the four investigations identified in the 2007 Management Plan.

Workshop Objectives



1. Review history of artificial habitat use in FKNMS.
2. Define the purpose of artificial habitat use in FKNMS.
3. Identify potential interests, benefits and impacts of artificial habitat use in FKNMS.
4. Review science and identify remaining research and management needs.
5. Discuss and identify next steps to:
 - Clarify the permit process and improve permit compliance
 - Leverage partnerships, outside expertise and external sources of funding
 - Explore considerations for future use of artificial habitat in FKNMS

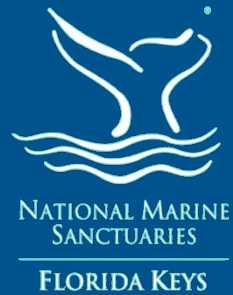
Working Group Recommendation



The artificial habitat working group of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) advisory council states that there is the potential for value to the placement of artificial habitat within FKNMS. Notably there are costs and benefits to the approval and appropriate placement of such structures. The working group recommends the conservative development of an action plan to be placed in the FKNMS management plan. Said action plan should be further developed in concept based on a consideration of all points made during the working group effort July 7-8, 2015, as well as existing body of knowledge, by the members of the working group to be presented to the advisory council and to be fully developed by FKNMS staff.

19 in favor, 2 abstentions

How to keep engaged and where to find more information:

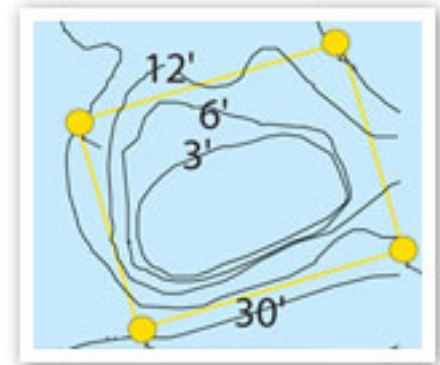


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Contact your Sanctuary Advisory Council Member:
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MARINE ZONING &
REGULATORY REVIEW

