

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Hyatt Place
1996 Overseas Highway
Marathon, FL 33050
Tuesday, April 19, 2016

MEETING SUMMARY

The following serves as a summary of the April 19, 2016 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 21, 2016 Advisory Council Meeting for approval by the council. In the event that the June meeting does not take place, draft meeting minutes will be distributed in advance of the August 16, 2016 meeting.

Vessel Impacts to Shallow Water Habitats

The Advisory Council heard two presentations on vessel impacts to shallow water habitats.

FKNMS staff, Steve Werndli, presented historical data and trends of vessel grounding impacts to Sanctuary resources and the process to assess and restore those impacts. He also highlighted management options and noted that impacts to shallow water habitats is being reviewed and considered as a part of the current regulatory review process.

Curtis Kruer, Conservation Consultant, presented historical data including photo-imagery showing specific locations and seagrass impacts before and after implementation of both John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park and FKNMS marine zones. He highlighted a project underway to assess current trends in boating impacts to inform management action.

Marquesas Keys Vessel Pollution Hazard Assessment and Pollution Removal

LCDR Michelle Comeaux, U.S. Coast Guard, provided a status update on an effort to remove derelict vessels from the Marquesas Keys. This effort is a multi-agency partnership taking advantage of each agencies authority and expertise. Agencies involved include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA, Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Monroe County.

South Florida Water Management District

Matt Morrison, South Florida Water Management District, presented an overview of South Water Management District mission, priorities and status of current and planned projects to address the quality, quantity, timing and distribution of water through the south Florida watershed and ecosystem.

Public Comment

Public comment was provided by eight individuals

- Jennifer Patino, citizen U.S. Virgin Islands
- Bill Wickers, Key West Charter Boat Association
- Julie Dick, on behalf of Last Stand and Florida Keys Environment Fund
- Joyce Newman, Last Stand
- Dottie Moses, Key Largo Home Owner's Association
- Charlie Causey, Florida Keys Environmental Fund
- Richie Gomez, Key West Charter Boat Association
- Steve Leopold, Citizen