

Multi-Partner Derelict Vessel Removal Effort in the Marquesas Keys

**FKNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council
April 18, 2017**

**Presented by:
Celia Hitchins
Monroe County
Office of Marine Resources**

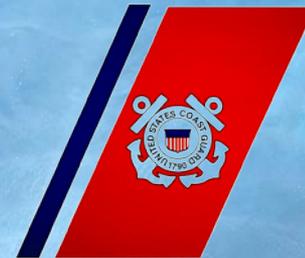


The Problem



The Planning

- Remoteness/Scale
 - Location/Sensitivity/Access
 - Legal/Permitting requirements
 - Funding
 - Authority
- = Very Complex!



Salvage Assessment

Marquesas assessment, 27 migrant craft and derelict vessels, location, status and pollution potential

#1: 25-foot wooden ex-commercial Cuban fishing vessel, "Mariel".

Position: N 24.57593 W 082.09924



Status: Intact but sunk. Submerged 75%. Traditional wooden-hulled construction.

Pollution potential: Recent arrival to Marquesas, engine oil, fuel tank in bow of vessel, engine battery, loose debris, possible fuel jugs in forward cabin. Significant impacts to sea bed and mangroves.

Salvage plan: Derelict is accessible to 2-foot draft salvage vessel at high tide. Pump vessel afloat and remove to staging area for decontamination.

#2: 25-foot white fiberglass sailboat, derelict vessel, FL 3411HT

Position: N 24.57512 W 082.09840



Status: Floating, just arrived and drifting toward mangroves next to #1 above.

Pollution potential: Inboard engine, fuel tank, engine oil. Vessel is floating but will have impacts to sea bed and mangroves when it grounds and eventually fills with water.

Salvage plan: Dewater and tow away at high tide.

Photo: FWC

Vessel Tagging



**NOTICE**
FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMM
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

TO THE OWNER AND ALL INTERESTED IN THE ATTACHED PROPERTY
THIS PROPERTY **SUNKEN MIGRANT VESSEL #34**

IS UNLAWFULLY UPON PUBLIC PROPERTY KNOWN AS **ST OF FL WATER**

AND MUST BE REMOVED WITHIN 5 DAYS; OTHERWISE, IT WILL BE REMOVED AND DISPOSED OF PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 705, FLORIDA STATUTES. THE OWNER WILL BE LIABLE FOR THE COSTS OF REMOVAL, STORAGE, AND PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

INCIDENT/SUMMARY #: **FWSE-16-11679**

DATE OF POSTING: **9/23/16**

24°33.558
82°06.756

DION
DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Marathon
NEAREST FWC OFFICE

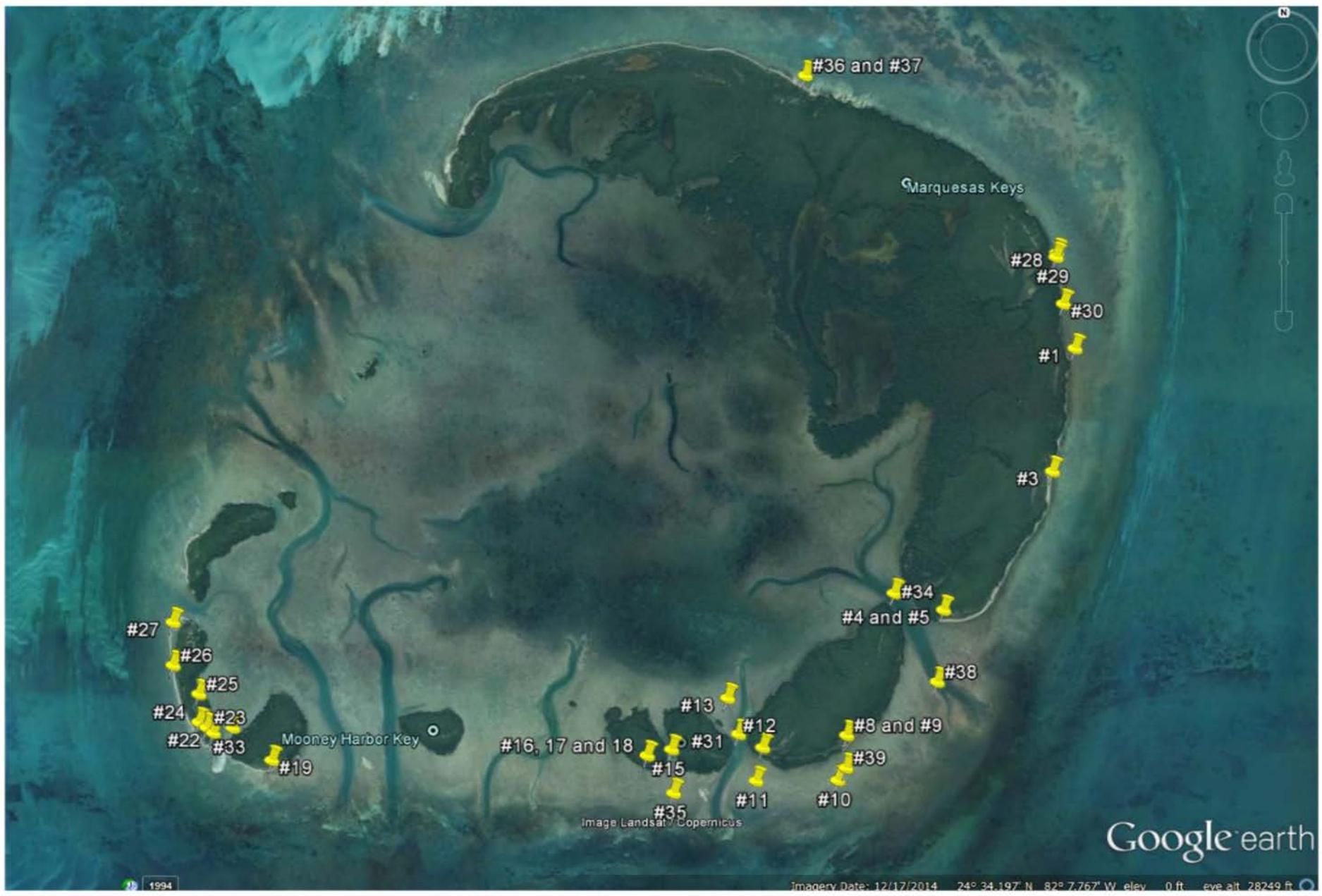
2796 95 Hwy
ADDRESS

Marathon FL 33050
CITY STATE ZIP CODE

305619 6267
TELEPHONE

FWCDLE 073 (08/05)

09/23/2016



1994

Imagery Date: 12/17/2014 24° 34.197' N 82° 7.767' W elev 0 ft eye alt 28249 ft

Permitting

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF ABANDONED MIGRANT VESSELS AND DEBRIS REMOVAL AT MARQUESAS KEYS



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

February 14, 2017

Memorandum

To: Daniel Clark, Refuge Manager, Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex
Big Pine Key, Florida

From: Roxanna Hinzman, Field Supervisor, South Florida Ecological Services Office
Vero Beach, Florida *Roxanna Hinzman*

Subject: Abandoned Migrant Vessels and Debris Removal at Marquesas Keys

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) South Florida Ecological Services Office received the Service's Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex's (FKNWR) request for consultation dated January 25, 2017, for the proposed removal of abandoned migrant chugs and associated debris in the vicinity of the Marquesas Keys. FKNWR determines proposed action may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect any listed species and/or designated critical habitat present. This includes: the green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kemp*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), plover (*Charadrius melodus*), red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), and roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*), as well as critical habitat for the loggerhead turtle and piping plover. For the purposes of this document, the five identified sea turtles will be referred to collectively as sea turtles. The SFESO has reviewed the information provided by the FKNWR, this memorandum is provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (87 Stat. 884; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The request has been assigned consultation code 04EF2000-2016-1-0543.

The FKNWR as Lead Agency, along with Cooperating Agencies, U. S. Coast Guard (USCG), NOAA Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and Monroe County Marine Resources Office, propose to restore shoreline and nearshore habitats in the vicinity of the Marquesas Keys by permanently removing pollution threats including a number of abandoned migrant chugs and associated debris. This would occur in two stages in order to remove pollution and environmental threats from 25 chugs and 1 abandoned vessel. The first stage of the proposed response strategy would be to recover pollution from 12 chugs by safely towing them and/or lifting them directly out of the water onto a shallow draft barge, one at a time, moving them away from sensitive beach habitats, and relocating them to a barge that would be anchored (using spuds) closely offshore. For chugs where only the engine or other source of pollution would be recovered, equipment would be brought alongside the chug and the pollution threat would be removed. In some instances it may be required to remove the chugs



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505
<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

F/SER31: JAM

FEB 17 2017

Daniel Clark
Refuge Manager
Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuge Complex
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

Mr. Clark:

This letter responds to your request for consultation with us, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) for the following action.

SER Number	Project Type(s)
SER-2017-18434	Abandoned vessel removal in the vicinity of the Marquesas Key, Florida

Consultation History

We received your letter requesting consultation on January 27, 2017, and initiated consultation that day.

Project Location

The project is located in the vicinity of the Marquesas Keys, which are a group of islands approximately 17 nm west of Key West, Florida (see figure below) and are located within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Key West National Wildlife Refuge. The Marquesas Keys lie in the area where the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico meet. All of the abandoned vessels and debris will be removed from the south side of the Marquesas Keys, in the Atlantic Ocean.

Prepared for:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex
28950 Watson Blvd.
Big Pine Key, FL 33043

Prepared by:

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
33 East Quay Rd
Key West, FL 33040



Let the work begin...almost

- Salvage/Operational Plans
- Pollution Response Plan
- Weather reports (via NWS)
- Daily oversight



PO. Box 430538 BIG PINE KEY, FL. 33043 (305) 872-8863 FAX (305) 872-5613

MARQUESAS CHUGS; SPILL RESPONSE PLAN

Coffin Marine Services is the US Coast Guard BOA Contractor for fuel spill response and hazardous material handling in the area from Miami, South, to Dry Tortugas. All of our employees are trained to OSHA 40 hour HAZWOP standards.

Central to our mobilization to the Marquesas Keys will be our 60-foot, self-propelled, jet drive barge. Aboard this vessel we will be carrying 100-feet of 6-inch float by 12-inch skirt Harbor Boom. This is sufficient to encircle any of our target vessels. We also carry more than sufficient quantity of oil sorbent blanket and 5-inch oil sorbent boom to deal with a worst case spill scenario. On deck we will have two 55-gallon locking lid salvage drums for storage and safe transport of spent sorbent material.

3-foot Boston Whaler, which travels on deck when we are in vessel is put into the water when we do salvage work and maned to small pieces of debris or hazardous materials that may float free of the event of a small spill, which does on occasion happen, then, lately used to wick up the escaping oil or fuel. In the case of a large to be a threat in this project, then, the harbor boom is towed around aler. Captured oil within the hard boom is absorbed by sorbent

arine Services will report any discharge of oil or fuel in quantity ectly to the US Coast Guard. Coffin Marine maintains a stand-alone vessel pollution in the amount of 1million dollars.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**Marine Weather Spot Forecast for
NOAA/FKNMS, Monroe County, FLDEP, FWC, USFWS, USCG to support
"Removal of Derelict Vessels in the Marquesas Keys"**

DATE AND TIME ISSUED: Monday, 13 March at 1500 EDT

CURRENT WATCHES, WARNINGS, OR ADVISORIES:

None.

FORECAST for Key West to Marquesas Keys:

Tonight, 13-14 March 2017, 1800-0600 EDT:

WIND: S near 10 knots, becoming W to NW and increasing to 15 knots after midnight.
SEAS: Building to 1 to 3 feet, nearshore waters a light chop, becoming a moderate chop.
SKY COVER: Partly cloudy this evening, becoming mostly cloudy.
RAIN CHANCE: 50% (scattered rain showers), mainly after midnight.
LIGHTNING RISK (probability within 25 nautical miles): 2%.

The Removal Process



The Removal Process



Media involvement



KEY WEST
THE CITIZEN
The Florida Keys Only Daily Newspaper, Est. 1876

Will Anderson

Conchs hit road for weekend series — Page 1B

Friday March 10, 2017 ♦ Vol. 141 ♦ No. 69 ♦ 18 pages

WEATHER

FLORIDA KEYS

FDOT to host meeting for projects

The Florida Department of

Agencies to remove derelict vessels

Boats, chugs litter Marquesas Keys

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA
Key West Citizen

After more than a year of planning, roughly 32 abandoned and derelict vessels will be removed from one of the Florida Keys most environmentally sensitive areas. Weather permitting, the \$61,000 removal project in the Marquesas Keys will begin Sunday and be completed by April 1, the start of bird nesting season on the offshore islands in the Keys.

For more than a year, Monroe County Marine Resources and sea turtles. They are located Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife within the Florida Keys National Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Marine Sanctuaries and the Key West threat to and endangered spe-

and other hazardous materials — have littered many of the beaches in the Marquesas Keys. The Marquesas Keys provide some of the last remaining habitat in the Lower Keys for several



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You, A.J. Hager, Breanne Erickson and 47 others

Chronological

Work has begun on the removal of 32 derelict and abandoned vessels. These deteriorating boats, mainly left by Cuban migrants, are polluting the once pristine Marquesas Keys and causing problems for the land and marine ecosystems at this remote area about 17 miles west of Key West. This multi-agency project is led by Monroe County's Marine Resources Department.



