

## **FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

*Hyatt Place*  
**1996 Overseas Highway**  
**Marathon, FL 33050**  
**Tuesday, June 20, 2017**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

The following serves as a summary of the June 20, 2017 FKNMS Advisory Council Meeting. This summary does not constitute official minutes of the meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be distributed in advance of the August 15, 2017 Advisory Council Meeting for approval by the council.

#### **Sanctuary Advisory Council Community Leadership, Engagement, Meeting Strategy**

Bruce Popham, FKNMS Advisory Council Chair facilitated a discussion related to the dual role of Sanctuary Advisory Councils:

- Provide advice and recommendations to the Sanctuary Superintendent, and
- Serve as liaisons between their constituents in the community and the Sanctuary.

Ideas for how the Advisory Council can more fully serve as liaison to the community and constituents and how this information can be more effectively shared with the Superintendent and Advisory Council included:

- Commit to engage with Alternate members more effectively,
- Use meeting summaries to engage with community including Chambers of Commerce, media (radio and print), and other boards/organizations that Advisory Council members sit on,
- Noted the value of using working groups to engage community members on targeted issues,
- Attend meetings of various constituencies to provide information and make presentations and include Sanctuary updates in newsletters and email updates that these groups distribute (opportunity to reach local and national audiences),
- Acknowledge and communicate diversity of issues, expertise and interests that Advisory Council members represent, and
- Targeted use of Social Media reach a wider audience and demographic.

The Advisory Council also briefly discussed how their meetings can be used to facilitate enhanced engagement and information sharing.

- Rotate meetings throughout the Keys to engage more individuals,
- Meeting agenda topics provided by Advisory Council, and
- Consider topics reflected by Advisory Council member seats that have been less well reflected in recent meeting agendas (e.g. Maritime Heritage).

And finally, the Advisory Council discussed upcoming action items including renewing the FKNMS Advisory Council Charter and the process to develop an annual work-plan.

### **Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process Overview and Status Update**

Beth Dieveney provided the history and current status of the on-going Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review process. She provided the Advisory Council goals, principles, objectives and nine priority issues that informed this process and highlighted the outcomes of three community working groups and final recommendations from the Council to the Sanctuary. The process continues with agency development of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) which includes a range of alternative boundary, marine zone and sanctuary-wide and zone specific regulations that are analyzed for environmental and economic benefit and impact. When the DEIS publishes there will be an open public comment period that will include public informational meetings and Advisory Council meetings.

### **Status of the Ecosystems of the Everglade's and Florida Bay**

Stephen Davis, wetland ecologist with the Everglade's Foundation gave a presentation on Everglade's restoration and the health of the areas coastal waters. He provided information on the ecological and economic value and the history of impact to the Everglade's and surrounding environments. He also provided an update on next steps to address the impacts including details about the recent decision to implement water storage options south of Lake Okeechobee. His presentation emphasized the community interest and engagement in restoring this valuable ecosystem.

### **Public Comment**

Public comment was heard from 1 individual:

- Ross Boucek, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust