

National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES

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FLORIDA KEYS

# Marine Debris Working Group

## *Progress and Next Steps*



Lisa Mongelia  
Sanctuary Advisory Council –  
Marine Debris Working Group  
Co-Chair

Elena Rodriguez  
Sanctuary Advisory Council –  
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Co-Chair

# Marine Debris in the Sanctuary



- Marine debris identified as a priority issue to address at the SAC meeting on October 17, 2017
- Reports indicate extensive amounts of debris and derelict fishing gear in FKNMS post Irma.



# Working Group Membership

## SAC Members

- Lisa Mongelia, SAC Tourism (Co-Chair)
- Elena Rodriguez, SAC Diving (Co-Chair)
- Will Benson, SAC Fishing (*invited*)
- Shelly Krueger, SAC Research and Monitoring
- Bob Smith, SAC Diving (*invited*)
- Mimi Stafford, SAC Citizen at Large
- Joe Weatherby, SAC Tourism



Photo Credit: Robert Keeley/NOAA

# Working Group Membership

## Community / Public Members

- Dive Umbrella
- Florida Keys Community College (FKCC) (*invited*)
- Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association (*invited*)
- Mote Marine Lab
- National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI)
- Rainbow Reef Dive Center
- REEF (*invited*)
- Scuba Schools International (SSI) (*invited*)



Photo Credit: Coastal Cleanup Corporation

# Working Group Support

## Agency Representatives

- FL DEP
- FWC
- NOAA Marine Debris

## Other

- Mote Marine Lab  
(C-OCEAN)
- Project Aware  
(Dive Against Debris)
- National Marine  
Sanctuary Foundation



Photo Credit: NOAA



# Proposed Working Group Objectives

- Engage local tour operators in an effort to identify and remove marine debris in SPAs and other target areas of FKNMS.
- Provide training materials for local tour operators to train staff and customers in proper marine debris removal techniques and reporting.
- Support effort to identify, remove, return, and dispose of marine debris.



Photo Credit: NOAA



Photo Credit: NOAA

# Resources Available

- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) funding support
- Potential NOAA Marine Debris Grant
- Project Aware Dive Against Debris Toolkit and Map:  
<https://www.projectaware.org/diveagainstdebris>
- C-OCEAN reporting network:  
<https://mote.org/research/program/coral-reef-science-monitoring/community-based-observations-coastal-ecosystems-assessment-network>





# Questions for SAC

- Are there any other organizations or constituent groups that should be included in the working group?
- What barriers to conducting removals will need to be addressed?





- ✓ Schedule Working Group meetings
- ✓ Engage Blue Star Operators
- ✓ Create Removal Guidelines for Dive Operators



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