

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Hyatt Place 1996 Overseas Highway Marathon, FL 33050
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
MEETING SUMMARY

The following serves as a summary of the October 16, 2018, FKNMS Advisory Council Meeting. This summary does not constitute official minutes of the meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be distributed in advance of the December 4, 2018, Advisory Council Meeting for approval by the council.

Sanctuary Advisory Core Group Update

Bruce Popham provided a brief update on the efforts of the Advisory Council Core Group. The Advisory Council Core Group has developed a draft constituent outreach plan which includes (1) a list of constituents, (2) Advisory Council leads for engaging with that constituent, and (3) opportunities to engage with these constituencies (e.g. regular meetings, newsletters, etc.). He also provided information about Key Messages and draft talking points that will be developed to support Advisory Council outreach efforts. He reminded the Advisory Council that this effort is intended to inform the community about the Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review process and the upcoming opportunity to engage and provide comment with the release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Advisory Council will have a working session to flesh out the constituent outreach plan.

Sanctuary Resource Status: One Year After Hurricane Irma

Research partners provided status updates on the condition of sanctuary resources one year after Hurricane Irma. Kara Radabaugh of the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute shared information about the impacts to and likely recovery trajectory and timeline of mangroves. John Hunt, also of FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute provided an update on the FWC sponge nurseries, impacts from Hurricane Irma and plans to reestablish nursery sites and research outplanting recovery and success. Jim Fourqurean of Florida International University presented information about water quality and seagrass status, impacts and change over time.

Coral Disease in the Florida Reef Tract: Update on status and response

Andy Bruckner, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Research Coordinator, presented on behalf of management and research partners working to understand the cause and extent of the on-going coral disease event. He highlighted recent efforts to test and research intervention strategies to control the spread of disease. This event is unprecedented in the scope and scale of the number of partners collaborating and the innovative approaches being explored.

Harmful Algal Blooms and Implications for the Florida Keys

Kate Hubbard of FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute provided an update on the on-going red tide harmful algal bloom event and potential impact for the Florida Keys. She shared information about various research activities underway to better understand the extent and impact of this event and provided tools and resources for the public to understand and track the event.

Everglades Restoration

Caroline McLaughlin, FKNMS Advisory Council Conservation & Environment seat, and Jerry Lorenz, FKNMS Advisory Council South Florida Ecosystem Restoration seat, provided information on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District Combined Operational Plan to provide water to south Florida, Everglade's National Park and Florida Bay. The Sanctuary Advisory Council took action to participate in upcoming public meetings and provide comment to maximize ecosystem benefits for Everglades National Park and Florida Bay and prioritize the needs of the Florida Keys community by sending high volumes of clean, freshwater flow to Florida Bay. The motion passed by consensus of all Advisory Council members present.

Public Comment

There were 3 public commenters at this meeting:

- McKenna Anderson, University of Miami and Mote Marine Laboratory
- CC Ward, We the Island
- Gary Jennings, American Sportfishing Association