Cultural and Historical Resources of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

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Cultural and Historical Resources

• Florida Keys has a varied and rich maritime heritage
• Provide unique information about our past
• Provide exciting opportunities for recreational and educational experiences
• Attract visitors and increase opportunities for non-consumptive use
• Non-renewable sites/artifacts
• Common heritage, who we are
Current Historical Resources Permitting Regulations

- State and Federal Waters
- Survey/Inventory of Historical Resources
- Research/Recovery of Historical Resources
- Special-Use Deaccession/Transfer of Historical Resources

San Felipe Shipwreck
Current Historical Resources Permitting Regulations

• State waters

• Florida Administrative Code (FAC) 1A-32 – Archaeological Research

• FAC 1A-46 – Archaeological and Historical Report Standards and Guideline

• FAC 1A-31 – Procedures for Conducting Exploration and Salvage of Historic Shipwreck Sites – Explicitly Prohibited in FKNMS
Identified Need to Revise Historical Resources Permitting Regulations

- 60% of FKNMS is Florida submerged lands, state holds title to historical resources
- Historical resource permit activities often occur in both Federal and State Waters
- Previous Programmatic Agreement expired, need to codify joint permitting of historical resources research activities
- FKNMS historical resources deaccession/transfer permits have never been used and are not consistent with Federal Archaeology Program
Proposed Historical Resources Permitting Regulations

• Eliminate Survey/Inventory, Research/Recovery, and Deaccession/Transfer permit categories

• Replace with a single archaeological research permit category aligned with FAC 1A-32

• New Programmatic Agreement for FKNMS Operations, Management, and Permitting (Appendix C)
Draft Programmatic Agreement for FKNMS Operations, Management, and Permitting (Appendix C)

- New Draft PA is focused on NOAA’s obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Identifies streamlined policies for NOAA to follow for certain undertakings
- Details process for certain historical resource permits to facilitate co-management
Environmental Consequences

**Boundary Expansion**
- Additional cultural and historical resources will be protected by sanctuary regulations

**Sanctuary-Wide Regulations**
- Regulatory changes will increase the efficiency of the permitting process and improve resource protection and reporting
  
- Some permittees may be affected and need to modify their research plans

**Marine Zones**
- Regulatory changes that expand marine zones or limit allowable activities in marine zones will also protect cultural and historical resources
THANK YOU