Restoration Blueprint
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

1990 - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

1997 - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

2001 - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added

2007 - Management Plan Update
We need a plan that addresses the threats to our marine environment and helps us maintain the natural resources that are key to our economy.

**Healthy Florida Keys**
A healthy Florida Keys marine ecosystem is the foundation for a strong economy.

**Natural Resources**
Numerous stressors are putting the future of the Florida Keys marine environment at risk.

**Planning for the Future**
We need a plan that addresses the threats to our marine environment and helps us maintain the natural resources that are key to our economy.
Blue Economy of Florida Keys NMS

Tourism
5.5 million visitors in 2018

Boating
4.5 million boaters per annum

Diving and Snorkeling
1.62 million divers and snorkelers per annum

Commercial Fishing
79% of the catch from the sanctuary is processed in Monroe County

Recreational Fishing
2.4 million people fish in FKNMS each year
A Healthy Florida Keys Ecosystem Provides:

$4.7 Billion
5.5 million
60%

Monroe County economy
Visitors
of Monroe County economy
Natural Resources in the Florida Keys

The Future of the Florida Keys Marine Environment is at Risk
Resource Report Card
Brought attention to natural resource declines
Declines in Coral Reefs

The Florida Reef Tract is under pressure

Threats to coral reefs include:
• Coral disease and bleaching
• Poor water quality
• Changing ocean conditions
• Marine debris
• Habitat destruction: groundings, weather, human behavior

Coral cover: 6.22%

Source: Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP, 2015)
**Damage to Seagrasses**

Seagrass covers 50+\% of the Sanctuary

What happens when seagrass is damaged?

- Injury to the habitat
- Loss of fisheries
- Damage to the vessel
- Costly fines and repairs
- Damage assessment and restoration

More than 56,000 acres of seagrass have scarring damage

Significant events since 2011 Condition Report

- 2010: Drought & Elevated Salinity
- 2011: Cold water bleaching event
- 2012: Warm water mass bleaching event
- 2013: FL Bay Seagrass Die-off
- 2014: Sponge die-off
- 2015: HABs
- 2016: Hurricane Irma 9/10/17
- 2017: Sargassum strandings
- 2018: Coral disease outbreak

- Coral disease outbreak
Other issues

Population growth
Increased use of resources
Invasive Species (e.g., lionfish)
Fishing pressure
Coastal Development
Marine Debris
Climate change/Ocean acidification
Community-led Effort

Sanctuary Advisory Council

- 50 Council Members + 35 Community Members
- 70 Public Meetings + > 1,500 Public Comments
- 200 Recommendations to Superintendent
Agency Coordination

Florida State Agencies
- DEP
- FWC Commissioners
- SHPO
- Governor and Cabinet

NOAA Fisheries
Fishery Management Councils
- South Atlantic FMC
- Gulf of Mexico FMC

Agency Partners
- DOI (USFWS, BOEM, NPS)
- Navy
- USCG
Plan for Today

- Presentation of Alternatives
- Consequences & Impacts Analysis:
  - Biological and Physical Resources
  - Historical Resources
  - Socioeconomic and Human Uses
- Next Steps: Restoration Blueprint Tools & How to Stay Engaged
- Public Session with Sanctuary Advisory Council Members
- Advisory Council Discussion and Q&A
Restoration Blueprint Information Tools

Dedicated webpage at floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint

Interactive Map will be available to explore alternatives
## Advisory Council and Public Information Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Type</th>
<th>Public engagement opportunity</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 20</td>
<td>Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting</td>
<td>Listening Session</td>
<td>Marathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Public Information Session</td>
<td>Written Q&amp;A; Written Comment</td>
<td>Key West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 30</td>
<td>Public Information Session</td>
<td>Written Q&amp;A; Written Comment</td>
<td>Marathon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 7</td>
<td>Public Information Session</td>
<td>Written Q&amp;A; Written Comment</td>
<td>Tavernier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting</td>
<td>Written and Oral Public Comment</td>
<td>Marathon (likely)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 28</td>
<td>Public Information Session</td>
<td>Written Q&amp;A; Oral Public Comment</td>
<td>Miami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>Public Information Session</td>
<td>Written Q&amp;A; Oral Public Comment</td>
<td>Ft. Myers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting</td>
<td>Written and Oral Public Comment</td>
<td>Marathon (likely)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public Comment Period:** August 20, 2019 through January 31, 2020

**Submit public comments:** [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
THANK YOU