

# Priorities and Outcomes from the Fall 2020 WQPP and SAC Joint Meeting

Karen Bohnsack  
Associate Director, Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

October 20, 2020

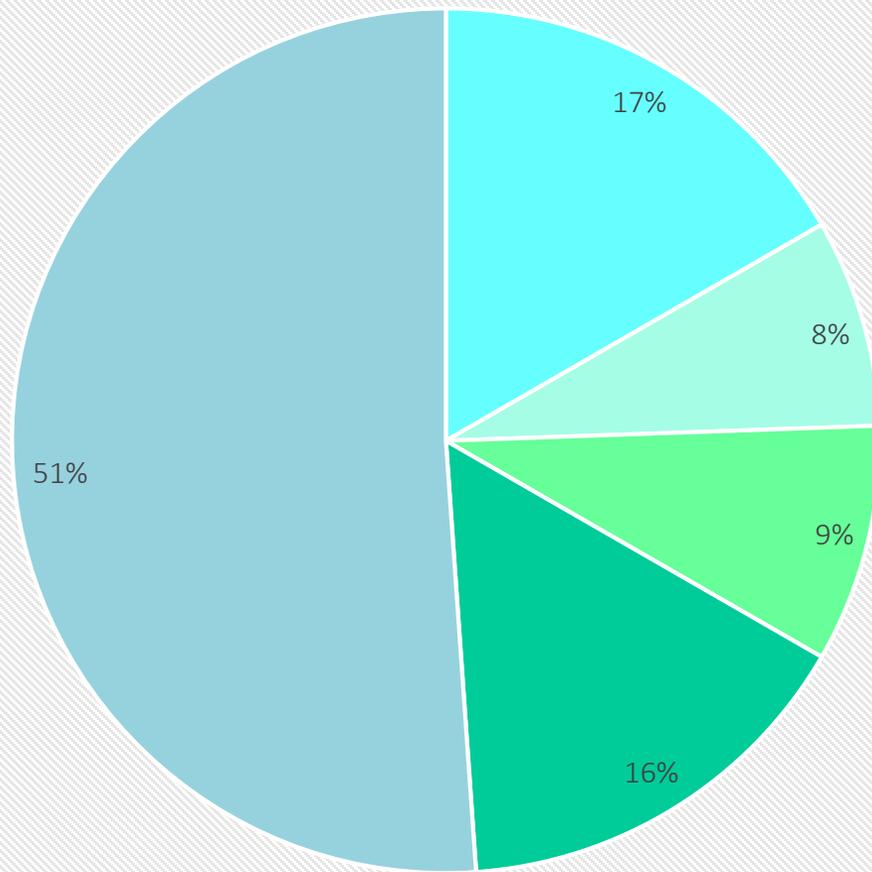
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Photo: Shawn Verne

## WQPP/SAC Meeting Purpose

- Review and identify priorities for the Water Quality Protection Program
- Enhance collaboration and information-sharing between the WQPP and SAC on water quality issues within FKNMS.

# WQPP/SAC Meeting Attendance



~90 Total Attendees

- SAC
- SAC/WQPP SC
- WQPP SC
- Other WQPP
- Public

# The November 2019 Steering Committee Motion Directed:

- A subgroup of the Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committee to develop a preliminary prioritized list of WQPP strategies, and bring a proposed shortened list of WQPP priorities back to the Steering Committee for their consideration.
- The Steering Committee will then develop a facilitated strategic planning process for the updated priorities.

# Working Group Process



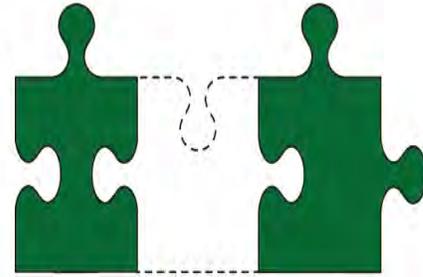
## Key Considerations in Selecting Priorities:



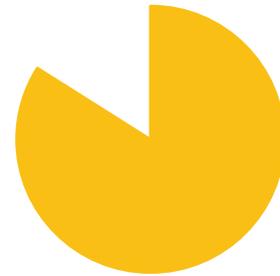
Top Issues



Water Quality Benefit



WQPP Influence



Level of Completion



Expert Opinion

# Recommended Priorities

## External Water Quality Influences

- South Florida Regional Influences
- Tidal Flooding and Climate

## Local Water Quality Issues

- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Canal Restoration
- Sargassum and Organic Debris
- Marinas and Liveaboards
- Emerging Pollutants of Concern

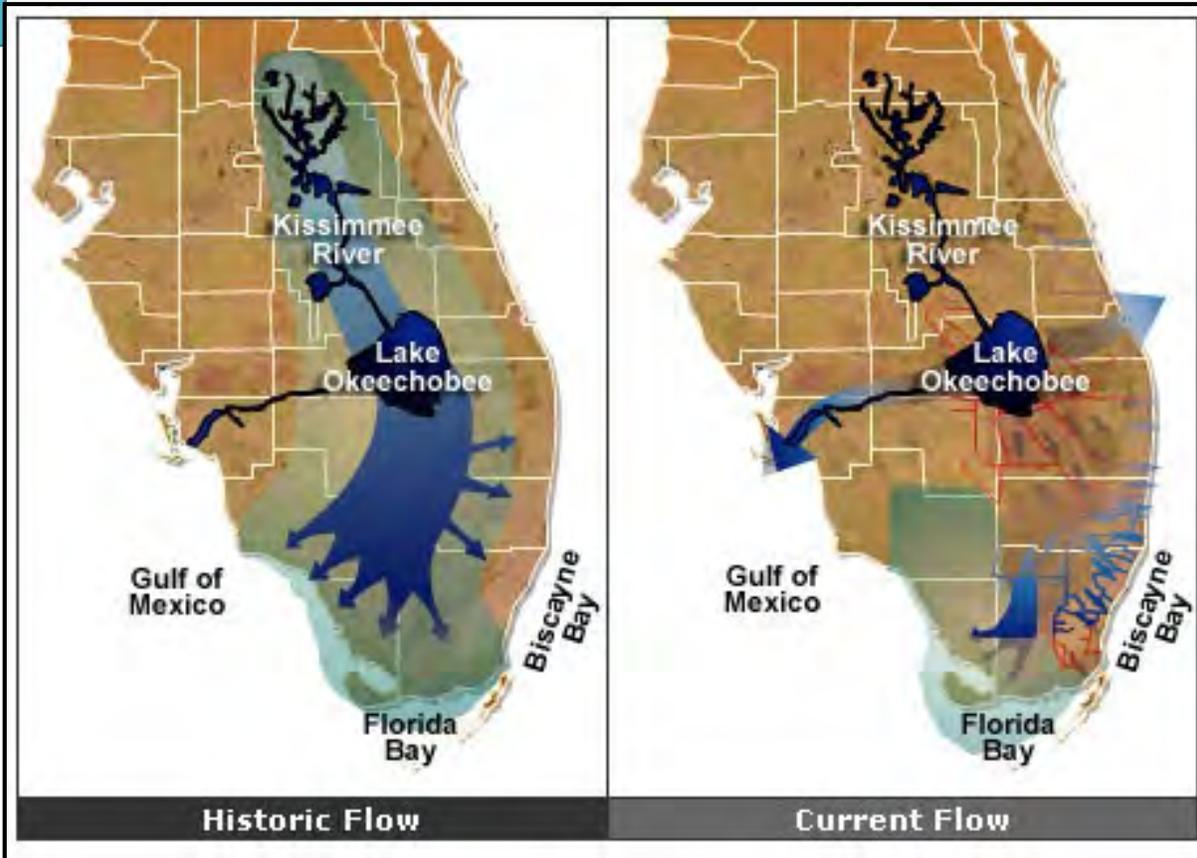
## WQPP Core Responsibilities

- WQPP Administration
- Data Collection, Analysis and Reporting
- Education and Outreach

**View the full document at:**

[https://ocean.floridamarine.org/FK NMS\\_WQPP/steering.htm](https://ocean.floridamarine.org/FK NMS_WQPP/steering.htm)

# South Florida Regional Influences



Engage with  
Everglades Restoration

Improve Mainland  
Wastewater Infrastructure

# Tidal Flooding and Climate



## 1 Priority Action:

**Adapt Infrastructure for  
Climate Change**

# Wastewater



## 6 Priority Actions:

Implement Wastewater Master Plan, including remote area connections

Ensure infrastructure functionality:

- Collection systems
- Compatibility with non-municipal sources
- Shallow injection wells 9

# Stormwater



Photo: Monroe County

## 2 Priority Actions:

Update Stormwater  
Master Plan

Implement Effective  
Stormwater Projects

# Canal Restoration Sargassum & Organic Debris



**Implement Canal Management  
Master Plan**



**Develop Sargassum Best  
Management Practices**

# Marinas & Liveaboards



## 1 Priority Action:

Ensure Vessel Pumpout Facilities and Services

# Emerging Pollutants of Concern



Photo: USGS

## 2 Priority Actions:

Research Emerging  
Pollutants of Concern

Incorporate Emerging  
Pollutants into  
Monitoring Programs

# WQPP Core Responsibilities



WQPP  
Administration



Data Collection, Analysis  
and Reporting



Education and  
Outreach

# Meeting Outcomes

- Approval of recommended priorities.
- Resolution to develop a joint South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee.
- Recognized importance of coordinated education and outreach on water quality.
- Enthusiasm for continued collaboration between the WQPP and SAC via annual joint meetings.

# Next Steps

- Planning for the next WQPP Steering Committee Meeting (winter 2021).
- Continue progress to further develop and implement priority actions.
  - *Identify key decision makers and specific roles for WQPP members*
  - *Advance science and develop consistent messaging*
- Establish the South Florida Ecosystem Subcommittee:
  - *Determine objectives, membership, operating structure*
  - *Determine strategies for communicating up and down*
- Plan strategies to continue and improve upon engagement across the WQPP, SAC and the community on water quality issues.

# Questions?

Karen Bohnsack, [Karen.Bohnsack@noaa.gov](mailto:Karen.Bohnsack@noaa.gov), 305-304-2196  
Associate Director, Water Quality and Ecosystem Restoration  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary