

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council Working Group

Florida Keys and South Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team

Meeting #1

March 18, 2021

Working Group Website:
<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/workgroups.html>

Public Comment

Verbal public comment will be accepted from 10:40 a.m. to 10:55 a.m. today.

To sign-up for public comment:

- Use the 'raise hand' feature at that time in the agenda
- (If audio only) Unmute to say your name and "public comment"

Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes

Stay informed! Visit the Working Group Webpage:

<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/workgroups.html>



Connectivity Team Introductions



Member Name	Organization
*Dr. Jerry Lorez (Chair)	Audubon Florida
*Joe Weatherby	Artificial Reefs International
*Dr. Erinn Muller	Mote Marine Lab
*Suzy Roebing	Citizen at Large, Upper Keys
*/**Chris Bergh	The Nature Conservancy
**Shelly Krueger	Florida Sea Grant
Emma Haydocy	Florida Bay Forever
Dr. Steve Davis	Everglades Foundation
Cara Capp	National Parks Conservation Association
Dr. Matt Semcheski	College of the Florida Keys
Jolly Benson	Lower Keys Fishing Guides Association
Amelia Moura	Coral Restoration Foundation
Kelly Cox	Miami Waterkeeper
Steve Friedman	Fishing Guide
Mike Goldberg	Key Dives/I.CARE

Agency Advisors

- Christopher Kavanagh, NPS
- Nick Parr, DEP
- Gus Rios, DEP
- Luke McEachron, FWC
- Adam Gelber, DOI OERI
- Steve Blackburn, EPA
- TBD, SFWMD
- TBD, USACE

FKNMS Staff

- Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS

*SAC Member

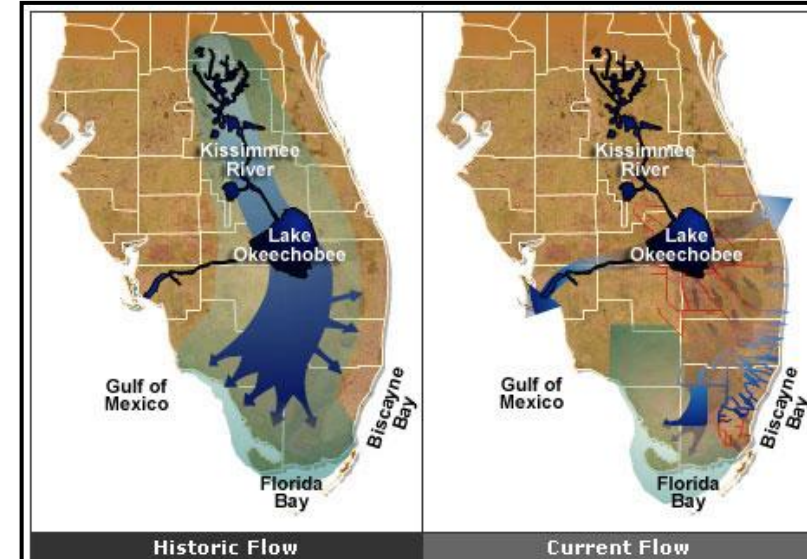
** WQPP Steering Committee Member



Connectivity Team: Administrative Business

Connectivity Team Origins

- South Florida Regional issues were identified as a top concern for water quality, specifically:
 - Everglades restoration
 - Mainland wastewater infrastructure
- The Sanctuary Advisory Council and Water Quality Protection Program called for a working group to improve engagement on these regional issues.



Connectivity Team Origins

On December 8, 2020 the Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a resolution to develop a working group entitled: **The Florida Keys and South Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team**



Ecosystem Connectivity Team Objectives

- a) Inform and engage members of the SAC, WQPP and the Florida Keys community in South Florida Ecosystem Restoration...
- b) Ensure the interests of the FKNMS are represented in South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force and other relevant decision-making processes...
- c) Facilitate regular participation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and South Florida Water Management District at working group, SAC and WQPP meetings...
- d) Provide a platform for collaboration... on South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and other South Florida regional issues of mutual interest and most urgent importance to the Florida Keys.

Team Structure and Guidelines



Roles and
Responsibilities



Recommendations and
External Communications



Meeting
Logistics

Roles and Responsibilities



Working Group Members

- Representatives from the Advisory Council and local community.
- Serve as active participants in framing problems, developing suggestions and sharing information.
- Help promote awareness of the team among the community.
- Provide reports and/or recommendations to the Advisory Council (and WQPP).

Agency Advisors

- Serve as subject matter experts.
- Assist with providing technical information and answering questions.

Roles and Responsibilities



FKNMS Staff Lead

- Help promote awareness of the working group among the community.
- Assist in disseminating the agenda and supporting meeting materials.
- Attend working group meetings when possible.
- Meeting participation limited to: supporting logistics and facilitation, and provide technical information.

Staff should not be active participants in working group discussions or offer opinions to working group statements or recommendations.



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FKNMS Staff

- Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS

*SAC Member

** WQPP Steering Committee Member

Roles and Responsibilities



Working Group Members

- **Team Chair: Jerry Lorenz**
 - Member of the SAC.
 - Develop and lead working group meeting agendas, tasks, and action items.
- **Team Co-Chair: TBD**
 - Assists with developing and leading working group meeting agendas, tasks and action items.
- **Team Secretary: TBD**
 - Records meeting minutes or notes.

Recommendations and External Communications



**Working groups do NOT directly advise FKNMS staff or the Superintendent.
Working groups advise the SAC; the SAC advises the Superintendent.**

Preliminary recommendations or work completed by the Team will first be provided to the SAC for deliberation at an public meeting.

The SAC will determine what recommendations to accept and pass along to the Superintendent. With the Superintendent's approval, the SAC can also opt to share information with other local, state and federal agencies.

Meeting Logistics



- **Schedule**

- As necessary to achieve working group goals.
- Initial Concept: Every other month (Mar, May, Jul, Sept, Nov, Jan).

- **Public Participation**

- Not subject to the public notification provisions of the full SAC, but members of the public will be invited to attend all meetings.

- **Outputs**

- All meetings will have an agenda and notes, which will be posted on the webpage: <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/workgroups.html>.
- Working groups are required to produce written reports or recommendations to the full SAC.

Discussion Items for Connectivity Team:

- Questions?
- Volunteers for Team Co-Chair and Secretary?
- Feedback on the meeting schedule? Should we try to identify a standing meeting time?
- Understanding the purpose and objectives of this working group, what do you hope to accomplish? What does success look like?



Introductory Discussion: Everglades Restoration and Regional Issues

- Definition of South Florida Regional Activities
- Key Topics for Connectivity Team Engagement

[Link to Jamboard](#)

Discussion Items for Connectivity Team:

- Of the South Florida regional issues identified, what should be tackled first?
- **For any given issue:**
 - What information does the team need to better understand the issue and begin to prepare pertinent report-outs or recommendations for the SAC?
 - What is the goal of engaging on this issue?
 - Do any team members volunteer to help lead preparation and discussion on this issue?

VIII. Public Comment

- Verbal public comment is limited to 3 minutes per person
- To sign-up to comment:
 - Join the webinar online
 - Raise your hand during the public comment agenda item



0:00

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Thank You!