

## Voting Members

George Garrett  
Citizen at Large – Middle Keys  
Chair

Ben Daughtry  
Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical  
Vice-Chair

Ken Reda  
Boating Industry

Mimi Stafford  
Citizen at Large – Lower Keys

Suzy Roebing  
Citizen at Large – Upper Keys

Joe Weatherby  
Diving – Lower Keys

Elena Rodriguez  
Diving – Upper Keys

Jessica Dockery  
Education and Outreach

Mike Forster  
Elected County Official

Will Benson  
Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide

Michael Nelis  
Fishing – Charter Sports Fishing

Justin Bruland  
Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale

Karen Angle  
Fishing – Recreational

Erinn Muller  
Research and Monitoring

Jerry Lorenz  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration

Corey Malcom  
Submerged Cultural Resources

Karen Thurman  
Tourism – Lower Keys

Andy Newman  
Tourism – Upper Keys

Ken Nedimyer  
Conservation and Environment

Chris Bergh  
Citizen at Large – Middle Keys

**Non-Voting Members**  
Florida DEP

FWC – Law Enforcement

FWC, FWRI

NOAA, NMFS, SE Region

NOAA, Office of General Counsel  
SE Region

NOAA, Office of Law Enforcement

National Park Service

U.S. Coast Guard

U.S. EPA

U.S.F.W.S.

U.S. Navy

Islamorada, Village of Islands

City of Key Colony Beach

City of Key West

City of Layton

City of Marathon



**Sanctuary Advisory Council**  
**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary**  
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Key West, FL 33040  
(305) 809-4700

The following Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council resolution passed April 27, 2021 with 13 voting members present all in favor with one voting member acknowledging support is specific to the issue of preemption of local authority.

**A RESOLUTION BY THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL TO OPPOSE SB426/HB267 IN ORDER TO PRESERVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY TO PROTECT MARINE RESOURCES FROM LARGE VESSEL TRAFFIC WITHIN STATE AREAS OF CRITICAL CONCERN.**

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary relies on a latticework of complementary state, federal, and local laws to support its collaborative mission to protect the marine resources of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the State of Florida's designation of the Florida Keys and Key West as State Areas of Critical Concern provides important statutory environmental protection authority to local government agencies who have jurisdiction over areas within and adjacent to the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, turbidity is an important determinant of ecosystem health in the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the FKNMS has previously reported that there is evidence of a turbidity problem related to movements of large vessels in the Sanctuary, and that large-vessel-generated turbidity is an added stressor to natural systems above and beyond the background and storm event turbidity impacts; and

WHEREAS, Florida International University's Water Quality Monitoring Lab reported significant improvements in water quality indicators, including turbidity, during 2020, a period marked by the absence of large-vessel traffic in the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Key West adopted amendments to its City Charter which will limit the average and maximum size of large vessels transiting the Sanctuary and reduce the frequency of large-vessel traffic within the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council finds that SB 426/HB 267, as amended, would void the City of Key West Charter Amendments and result in an increase in large-vessel-generated turbidity within the Sanctuary and threaten ecosystem health within the Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, SB 426/HB 267, as amended, preempts local law authority to address large-vessel traffic through the Sanctuary and interferes with local governmental authority to support the mission of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and protect marine resources within the Florida Keys and Key West Areas of Critical Concern;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, that:

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council urges the Florida House of Representatives to reject SB426/HB267 and, if passed, urges Governor DeSantis to Veto this legislation in order to preserve local governmental authority to protect marine resources from large vessel traffic within State Areas of Critical Concern.

**Attachment:** Florida International University Report: Preliminary Assessment of Surface Water Clarity Changes in Key West during the COVID19 Anthropause.

*The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is an interactive liaison between the residents and visitors of the Florida Keys and the staff and management of the FKNMS. The opinions and finding of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.*