

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

VIRTUAL MEETING

**Tuesday December 14, 2021
NOTES**

Attendees:

Council Members:

Boating Industry: Ken Reda
Citizen at Large – Lower Keys: Mimi Stafford
Citizen at Large – Middle Keys: George Garrett
Citizen at Large – Upper Keys: Suzy Roebling
Conservation and Environment: Chris Bergh
Conservation and Environment: Ben Daughtry
Diving – Lower Keys: Joe Weatherby
Diving – Upper Keys: Elena Rodriguez
Education and Outreach: Shelly Krueger (absent)
Elected County Official: Holly Raschein (absent)
Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide: Will Benson
Fishing – Charter Sports Fishing: Michael Nealis
Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical: Ken Nedimyer
Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale: Justin Bruland (absent)
Fishing – Recreational: Karen Angle
Research and Monitoring: Erinn Muller
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration: Jerry Lorenz
Submerged Cultural Resources: Corey Malcom
Tourism – Lower Keys: Karen Thurman (absent)
Tourism – Upper Keys: Andy Newman

Council Alternates (present):

Citizen at Large - Lower Keys: Stephen Patten
Conservation and Environment: Kelly Cox
Diving - Lower: Lucja Rice
Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical: Jeff Turner
Research and Monitoring: Patrick Rice
Submerged Cultural Resources: Diane Silvia
Tourism – Upper Keys: Lisa Mongelia

Agency Representatives (present):

Florida Department of Environmental Protection: Jamie Monty, Nicolas Parr
FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute: CJ Sweetman
FWC law enforcement: David Dipre
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement: Manny Antonaras, Matthew Walia
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Heather Blough
NOAA Office of General Counsel: Loren Remsberg
U.S. Navy: Ed Barham

Municipalities (present):

City of Layton: Cynthia Lewis

City of Key West: Alison Higgins

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, CHAIRPERSONS COMMENTS

Chairperson Garrett welcomed advisory council members and viewers to the meeting and requested a roll call from support staff. The meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

MEETING ADMINISTRATION:

- Motion to approve the agenda made by Ken Neidermeyer, seconded and approved.
- Motion to approve the October 2021 notes made by Andy Newman, seconded and approved.

SAC RECRUITMENT:

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is now recruiting for 14 upcoming openings on the advisory council. The council ensures public participation in the management of the sanctuary by acting as a liaison between the Florida Keys community and sanctuary superintendent and staff. Council members provide advice about sanctuary operations and projects, while striving to represent the diverse user groups that make up our sanctuary community. Members provide expertise on both the local community and sanctuary resources, strengthen connections with the community, and help build increased stewardship for sanctuary resources.

The council is accepting applications for the following seats:

- Citizen at Large: Middle Keys (alternate)
- Conservation and Environment, Seat 2 of 2 (member and alternate)
- Education and Outreach (alternate)
- Fishing: Charter Flats (alternate)
- Fishing: Commercial Shell/Scale (member and alternate)
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration (member and alternate)
- Submerged Cultural Resources (member and alternate)
- Tourism: Lower Keys (alternate)
- Tourism: Upper Keys (member and alternate).

Applications are due no later than February 18, 2022. Applications not received or postmarked by February 18 will not be considered. For more information or to download an application, please visit: <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/recruitment.html>. Contact Elizabeth Trueblood (elizabeth.trueblood@noaa.gov) with questions.

Discussion: Chair echoed the importance of bringing in our community to participate on the advisory council.

II. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**America the Beautiful**

Public comment through Dec 28th, 2021

Chumash Heritage NMS Proposed Designation

Public comment through Jan 10th, 2022

Papahānaumokuākea NMS Proposed Designation

Public comment through Jan 31st 2022

Discussion

- Chair noted that the Chumash designation would, in his opinion, protect an area of great importance. He suggested that council members may email him to discuss.

III. STRENGTHENED SUPPORT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

Andy Newman, Council Member: Upper Keys Tourism

The governor announced more monetary support for FWC officers. Local municipalities have passed or will be considering similar resolutions. Andy proposed the SAC consider passing this resolution.

Motion made by Ben Daughtry to bring the item to the floor to be considered. Seconded. Resolution was brought to the floor.

Council Member Discussion:

Q: Regarding proposed item number 3, was there an FWC dispatch center in the keys previously?

A: Yes, there was. The significance was that locals were assisting locals. Currently the South Florida dispatch center is located in West Palm, so dispatchers do not have local area knowledge, which helps when discussing locally known places. The Keys dispatch center was closed due to lack of finances and cost of living.

Q: Can we clarify, what are we asking for and who are we asking?

A: This has been a long-standing, often cyclical issue and we currently seem to be at a low point in the cycle. This is a chance for Tallahassee to hear from the local community that we need more officers on the water. We are asking legislators to provide more support for Monroe county without taking resources from other places. A member also voiced that it's one thing for Tallahassee to hear this from their agencies, but another entirely for Tallahassee to hear it from a board of local citizens.

Q: How do we track this? Do we have a lobbyist?

A: The SAC does not lobby. Some members have lobbyist contacts that represent their outside organizations.

Comment: Flats guides associations support this resolution.

Q: Passing SAC resolution would support the resolutions passed by the municipalities. Can the Sanctuary ask the citizens to participate and contact their legislators?

A: Sanctuary cannot ask citizens to contact legislators, but SAC members represent a diverse group of stakeholders and interested parties who they can communicate with about their concerns.

Motion made to vote by Mimi Stafford, seconded by Ben Daughtry and passed to bring resolution to vote.

The resolution was unanimously approved by all voting members present and one alternate voting on behalf of their member.

IV. ONMS 50th ANNIVERSARY

Update from ONMS HQ

Brady Phillips

- ONMS is excited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuaries act on October 23, 2022 and will be recognizing this milestone all year.
- Goals are to increase visibility, be recognized as a global leader in conservation, and increase effectiveness.
- Website launched in October: www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/50
- New logo, plus several fun products: poster series, commemorative shirt, USPS stamps
- A year long campaign, with a new theme every few months including: Celebrate, Discover, Explore, Enjoy, and Save Spectacular.
- Variety of events nationally and locally. Stay tuned for details.

Discussion:

A small team put a lot of items together for this program. A huge thank you to HQ for everything you do to support Florida Keys Sanctuary.

50th Anniversary Remarks from Superintendent and invitation to members:

Sarah Fangman

What does Saving Specular mean to you? What are you looking forward to? What went well last year?

(Comments are a synopsis and are not verbatim.)

Ken Reda (Boating Industry Member): 50 years is a big milestone. It's reassuring to see we are making progress. Seeing improvement on flats and canal restoration that has been going on. We are making improvements. We'll never get back to what it was, but we can improve and it is improving. Also pleased with the reef restoration initiatives as well as support for more enforcement. Boating industry supports regulations and education that supports the protection of marine resources

Ben Daughtry (Conservation and Environment Member): Excited to wrap up Restoration Blueprint in 2022 after a decade of work. This is a good direction and I think it will be much better received. Think this will make a difference. Active reef restoration is the only option we have now; hope we can be successful in it.

Kelly Cox (Conservation and Environment Alternate): It was a privilege to be involved in the Connectivity Team especially (she joined SAC as an alternate earlier this year). Team has made recommendations to SAC to pass resolutions on LOSOM and the UDB. The LOSOM schedule will

give 3x more water sent south; hope to see those returns to FL Bay. Is encouraged by this outcome. Monroe County and City of Key West also passed UDB resolutions; think this body is influential and can have an impact on outside factors that impact FKNMS waters. Thank you to the staff for your help!

Mimi Stafford (Citizen at Large - Lower Keys Member): Witnessed changes in the water quality during COVID time, maybe due to changes in levels of use. Encourage more collaboration, data sharing and compilation of water quality data for citizen scientists and researchers, along with education opportunities. There are a lot of folks doing WQ data collections. A data team working toward putting together something that could be shared would be a great resource. Many long-time residents are selling and leaving the keys and new residents coming here don't know much about FKNMS efforts and the importance of protection and the importance and fragility of the Florida Keys ecosystems. Outreach by marinas, realtors, etc. is important.

Stephen Patten (Citizen at Large - Lower Keys Alternate): Appreciate being on council for this period of time. Looking forward to making more progress on water quality. Would like to see progress on controlling the volume of people enjoying our spectacular area. This problem will grow if we cannot limit the volume of people using the reef. Really think the EDC is the face of FKNMS and is excited about the remodel/know there are issues with COVID; but would like to see this open up sooner than later so we can have our face out there, esp. with the 50th anniversary. Be there to let people know we are here, even if it's just a pop up tent out front. He'd volunteer 20 hours per week to this effort.

George Garrett (Citizen at Large - Middle Keys Member): Looking back on all the achievements over the years, plus the expansions across the sanctuary system it's been amazing. Back in the day with MPA discussion we were looking to protect 30% of waters and we're getting there. Also think about what we've done in upland – sewer and stormwater system installs, currently working on canal restoration. These are great efforts. Blueprint rollout and completion will be a huge achievement. Thanks to the State of Florida for moving forward with commitments to Everglades issues, including Lake Okeechobee discharges to the shore and how that impacts us. Amazed at the ability for coral restoration – this would be unimaginable 20 years ago.

Suzy Roebing (Citizen at Large - Upper Keys Member): It's been a decade for me on the SAC. Getting educated on issues and science and beginning the management review process. Looking forward to the outcome of the efforts. Looking forward to meeting face to face again. Proud of the achievements of the connectivity working group. Feel again inspired by the education and science that they are learning. Proud of the outcomes thus far with that team. Also agrees outreach and education is important to new residents – esp. conservation history and FKNMS.

Lucja Rice (Diving - Lower Keys Alternate): Happy to be here and to enjoy marine resources. Moved from Poland and as such enjoys diving and the warm clear waters; happy to support preservation efforts and to make them better for the next generation.

Elena Rodriguez (Diving - Upper Keys Member): Have enjoyed time with SAC; last couple years have been challenging with COVID. Feels we've lost the sense of community. Looks forward to in person meetings again (even with her constituency where she feels more distant). She seconds the sentiment about new residents who don't know the history of FKNMS and about our conservation. More people are coming to the Keys with other international travel suspended. There

has been a huge added use of our resources and that may continue as people now know they don't have to go overseas to have a beautiful time. This will continue to be a challenge.

Will Benson (Fishing - Charter Flats Member): Echo challenges with COVID – miss in-person interactions. This is important to get more substantive work done. We have made some progress but we're not doing enough; we get more done in person. Feels in the last year we've seen things, and we need to do more for this resource. Has engaged on many issues outside of the SAC; we've gotten work done there but there is more to do. Brought a resolution before the council earlier this year on this issue. That process was informative – looking forward to 2022 there are issues the SAC members hear from constituents and there is an opportunity for council members to bring forward resolutions as well. Look forward to the draft rule coming out and doing more to get more accomplished.

Michael Nealis (Fishing - Charter Sport Member): Learned a lot of cool things being on the SAC. Grounding of vessels on the flats is a big deal, and a lot of it comes from vacation rentals or non-local folks. People don't know where they are. Education is critical to address this. I watch it all the time, will FWC be there in time. Education is the most important part. I don't know how to solve it. Looking forward to meeting in person.

Ken Nedimyer (Fishing - Commercial: Marine/Tropical Member): Keys was spectacular in the 70s and it is not this anymore (although for some people it still is with shifting baselines). Focus on good things happening – he's spent the last 21 years trying to grow coral. At that time there was no technology or hope that this was possible. We've proved them wrong; FL Keys has been a hotbed of innovation and we've shown this can be done. With M:IR, we'll focus more energy and resources on restoring 7 iconic reefs. It's exciting to be part of this. The goals of this project are ambitious and mind-blowing. We are moving forward and making progress on this.

Jeff Turner (Fishing - Commercial: Marine/Tropical Alternate): Addressing freshwater flow out of the Everglades has been a good thing to fight the hypersalinity issues in Florida Bay. Addressing coral restoration has been a benefit to all of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Karen Angle (Fishing - Recreational Member): Just feel like the sanctuary is an amazing project with still a lot to do. Agree with what Will Benson said, there's still a lot to do. Coral restoration is amazing and we're moving in the right direction, but we've got to act now and act fast to save the reef we have left. Shifting baselines is a different level of spectacular than in her early experience too. Joined Dec. last year and looks forward to meeting everyone.

Erinn Muller (Research and Monitoring Member): Holistically the greatest aspects of the past year are related to M:IR progress. Mote has been involved in restoration for a while, but it's great to work together for a common goal. Some of the opportunities provided by the Sanctuary Advisory Council have really helped with my personal growth and it's been amazing to be part of the science and policy conversations and how this group can move things forward. Impressed with the different projects being shared with the SAC. Looking forward to continuing to be part of SAC and having an in-person meeting.

Patrick Rice (Research and Monitoring Alternate): Honored to be part of this group. Being part of the mission dovetails with work at College of the Florida Keys. Happy to participate with connectivity, coral restoration, and water quality management. Get to participate in this and make

the world a better place while also training students. Is optimistic for the future. Thank you all for what you do.

Jerry Lorenz (South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Member): Looking back, most proud of the SAC for re-establishing the connectivity team. Really think what happens on the mainland and with Everglades restoration is important to the health of the sanctuary. Glad to see that we are getting more involved. Looking forward to the Restoration Blueprint reaching completion, and Mission: Iconic Reefs is a really neat project. On a personal note, I am looking to hire seasonal staff if anybody knows anybody that would be interested in working with Florida Bay.

Corey Malcom (Submerged Cultural Resources Member): COVID has thrown everyone off their game, but good progress has been made. Sanctuary staff and all the people that participated in research to create the Pennekamp State Park visitor center heritage exhibit. When the EcoDiscovery Center opens, we will see more heritage exhibits there and we look forward to that. 200th anniversary of founding of Key West and 400th anniversary of the sinking of the 1622 fleet. A highly engaged community here in Key West to protect the reef, not sure if they know all of the things that are going on with the reef. We need to create direct messaging to get this information out there.

Lisa Mongelia (Tourism Upper Keys Alternate): Very excited for the 50th anniversary, have been enjoying the sanctuaries for over 40 years as a diver. It's been a pleasure to represent upper keys tourism. We really do our best to support the narratives of submerged cultural resources, along with the natural resources. Even with COVID the diving museum has been able to engage the community and visitors and it's been a pleasure to communicate those issues to the visitors. Have been really proud of our work with various groups like schools and Diving With A Purpose and the sanctuary to get the word out about natural and cultural resources. With the History of Diving museum, also working to engage with visitors. What can we do to help local waters? They share exhibits that help share NOAA messaging. Goal for 2022 is to expand the coral restoration narrative and also sponge restoration through a new exhibit.

Matt Walia (NOAA OLE Representative): New to SAC this year. It's been neat as part of OLE to see the increase in resources in the Keys. Look forward to continuing relationships with SAC, FKNMS, and the public in 2022. Happy to see all the work being done in the sanctuary, hope it will continue.

Jamie Monty (Florida DEP Representative): Renewed focus on the big issues with the connectivity team, Mission: Iconic Reefs, and the Restoration Blueprint. Congratulations to the staff, SAC, and citizens in Monroe County. Looking forward to meeting in person and wrapping up the Restoration Blueprint.

Nicolas Parr (Florida DEP Representative): Been very proud of being involved with the Restoration Blueprint process, water quality, enforcement, and better marking in the backcountry. Proud of the steps the council has taken to work towards those including the connectivity team, this new request for more enforcement/funding (and FWC and NOAA LE doing great work with limited resources). Iconic Reefs has been a huge project and feels like the future of management in the sanctuary. FWC's sponge research is great and I'm looking forward to the Restoration Blueprint coming to a finish and those efforts to continue moving forward.

CJ Sweetman (FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute Representative): Success for the year for FWC was the seasonal closure of Western Dry Rocks from April-July; an important spawning site for permit, yellowtail snapper, gray snapper and mutton snapper. This is a conservation strategy to sustain and enhance iconic fisheries. Will evaluate the success of this over the next few years. Coral rescue and restoration was initiated from an unfortunate situation, but this has been quite an effort and remarkable work. Over 1700 colonies were rescued and in aquariums around the country. Restoration is just beginning. FWRI has completed 15000 sponge outplants in Florida Bay. Monitoring growth, survival and changes in community structure. Looking at best practices.

Loren Remsberg (NOAA Office of General Counsel Representative): Looking forward to the Restoration Blueprint coming out.

Heather Blough (NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service Representative): Enjoy the opportunity the council provides to stay close to the issues important to folks in the Keys. Impressed by the initiative and support for the Blueprint process. Looking forward to the work with Mission: Iconic Reefs. Hoping for in-person meetings again, and the importance and value of those.

Cindy Lewis (City of Layton Representative): Representing the city of Layton and there are plenty of people that stop and ask for the opportunity to talk about what is going on in the sanctuary. Appreciate having a pulse of what's going on in the community and greater scientific community that runs through Keys Marine Lab. Looking forward to coral restoration projects.

Allison Higgins (City of Key West Representative): We are standing strong behind the Sanctuary and keeping the city of Key West up-to-date and passing information on to them. Water quality protection is something that we are looking at, with the new priorities outlined by the Water Quality protection team. If anybody wants to join in, please let me know.

Sarah Fangman (FKNMS Superintendent): Just want to thank everyone first for taking the time to speak your truths and share your values and share your concerns. Finds working with this particular body extraordinarily inspiring. Happy to have this chance to open the floor and listen to what everyone considers an important aspect of the sanctuary advisory council. Glad to hear hopes, and also disappointed about certain realities. Also in agreement that it will be good to see everyone in person, to get the Eco-Discovery Center open again, and for the Restoration Blueprint to be finalized and released.

V. AGENCY REPORTS

Superintendent's Report - Sarah Fangman:

1) Staffing:

- a) FKNMS has welcomed several new staff recently: Ben Edmonds, Ananda Ellis, Eva Ramey and Andrew Ibarra have joined the Mission: Iconic Reefs team, and our new EDC Manager is Emily Kovacs

- b) We also have a new intern, Maria Guardado who is a senior at New College of FL, through the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities internship program to support the Water Quality Protection Program
 - c) Now Hiring: Open position for Lower Keys small boat mechanic:
<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/783158>
- 2) Goal Clean Seas 2021 successes: over 11,000lbs of debris removed this year which included a record-breaking day for Pirates Cove in November who removed over 1600 lbs in one day from Key Largo.
 - 3) Eco-Discovery Center phase 2 exhibit fabrication will begin shortly and will be installed this spring.
 - 4) An FKNMS mobile app is undergoing its final stages of editing and review and will tentatively be released prior to their next meeting. Stay tuned for details, we will email all members when this app is available for download. We are hoping that this app will help with some of the education and outreach efforts many of us are so passionate about.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection:

Jamie Monty

Resilience and Coastal Protection:

- Lignumvitae Key Aquatic Preserve
 - We held our management plan advisory committee meeting on Thursday, November 18 th . We received some great input on the management plan that we are incorporating in our next draft. After that draft is completed, it will be posted at <https://floridadep.gov/rcp/LVKey-AP> along with the meeting date, time, and location.
 - We have installed a continuous water quality data monitoring sonde on the dock at Lignumvitae Key. This sonde will provide us with information on the water quality including dissolved oxygen, pH, salinity, temperature, turbidity, and chlorophyll content. When the data has been processed and quality checked, it will be available at <https://www.floridaapdata.org>.
- Coupon Bight Aquatic Preserve
 - We continue to monitor the tidal influences on the water quality in the bight. We hope that this data can be used to develop targeted water quality improvement projects that can realistically help protect this special area of the sanctuary.
 - This is in addition to our long-term, monthly water quality monitoring programs in both aquatic preserves as well as at targeted locations in Marathon and Pennekamp State Park.
- Clean Boating Programs
 - Caloosa Cove Resort and Marina in Islamorada just received the official Clean & Resilient Marina designation. As a reminder, this is a voluntary designation program with a proactive approach to environmental stewardship. The program encourages marinas, boatyards and marine retailers to incorporate Best Management Practices (BMPs) that exceed regulatory requirements. For more information or to join the

clean marina program, please contact Octavio Franco
(Octavio.Franco@FloridaDEP.gov).

State Parks:

- On Saturday December 4th, John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park hosted a kick-off event for the partnership efforts that has been developed between the Fabien Cousteau Ocean Learning Center, the Friends of John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park, Key Largo Ocean Studies Charter School, and the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science. It was a great event that included a mangrove restoration monitoring techniques' demonstration by the 3rd and 4th grade class at Ocean Studies and a graduate student from the University of Miami. The demonstration was followed by a coastal clean-up event at a nearby mangrove restoration site.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:

CJ Sweetman

FWC has not held a Commission meeting since our last SAC meeting and our next Commission meeting will be an in-person meeting held on December 15-16, 2021, in Destin. There are a couple topics that may be of interest to stakeholders in the Florida Keys. Staff will be providing a final public hearing for blue crab and diamondback terrapin, where we are proposing to prohibit the take of terrapin from the wild and prohibit possession without a permit, as well as require all recreational blue crab traps to have rigid entrances no larger than 2 X 6 inches. The Commission will also consider proposed rules for dolphinfish in Atlantic waters as well as for shrimp. For dolphinfish, we are proposing to modify recreational bag limits from 10 to 5 fish per person and vessel limits from 60 to 30 fish in Atlantic state waters. This proposed rule stems from persistent concerns from recreational fishermen in recent years regarding a decline in size and abundance of dolphinfish in southeast Florida and the Keys. For shrimp, over the last few years FWC has undertaken a long-term project to modernize and streamline shrimp regulations and staff will recommend that the Commission consider a series of proposed rules to address several aspects of this topic. Staff will also provide our usual reports from the recent federal fishery management council meetings. FWC Commission meeting information can be accessed on the website at the following link:
<https://myfwc.com/about/commission/commission-meetings/december-2021/>

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region:

Heather Blough

Fishery Management

- At its October 2021 meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:
 - Approved additional changes to Gulf red grouper catch limits:
 - The new limits are higher than those they approved earlier this year which have not yet been implemented, but lower than status quo catch limits
 - Through February 7, NOAA Fisheries is requesting public comments on the Council's earlier catch limit adjustment and proposed allocation changes
 - The comment period on the more recent catch limit adjustments is pending
- At its December 2021 meeting, the South Atlantic Council:
 - Discussed options for reducing red snapper discards, including area and seasonal

- closures and gear modifications, and the feasibility of establishing a permit or endorsement requirement for private anglers
- Directed staff to conduct scoping on some of the shorter-term red snapper options, along with potential options to end overfishing of snowy grouper and gag, and modify golden tilefish regulations, and to continue working to develop a longer-term management strategy evaluation project that will explore more holistic approaches for managing the snapper grouper complex; more information on those actions and related scoping meetings will be posted to the South Atlantic Council website when available
- Paused further consideration of yellowtail snapper adjustments until the assessment can be updated to incorporate more recent catch and effort data
- Both the Gulf and South Atlantic Councils also approved a number of regulatory changes for Gulf Group cobia which NOAA Fisheries will take public comment on in the coming months
- Early next year, we expect to request public comments on the new dolphin and wahoo measures the South Atlantic Council approved at their June meeting, including their proposal to reduce the recreational vessel trip limit for dolphin from 60 fish to 54 fish

Corals

- NOAA Fisheries recently announced the availability of about \$500,000 in Ruth Gates Coral Restoration Innovation Grant funding available for non-federal partners next year to be used to develop novel intervention methods for restoring resilient corals; the application deadline is February 23, 2022

NOAA OLE:

Matt Walia

1. Since last meeting in October, OLE has generated 18 incidents in the Sanctuary
 - a. 12 Area To Be Avoided (ATBA) violations - including some in Carysfort and Alligator Reefs
 - b. 1 Magnuson (trawling N of Marquesas) USCG referral on trawling in Tortugas Shrimp Closed Area, partial catch seized and currently under investigation
 - c. 5 boardings, a mix of commercial and recreational vessels
2. OLE Quarter 4 (July-Sept) Council Report provided to Sanctuaries and Councils
 - a. Captured mini season effort-lot of patrols and boardings (249 incidents) - 118 open, 30 compliance assistance, 63 no violations, remainder SSO, WW, Fix-Its, etc.
 - b. 20 SSOs issued in the Keys area consisted of fishing activity and improper operation of vessels, including 5 unpermitted charter operations (open access), within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
 - c. 1 case sent to GCES- Harvest lobster from artificial habitat; Improper seafood sales
3. Ops/major patrols since mini season: conducted multiple week long patrols throughout Keys
4. Staffing updates: Florida Keys OLE positions are now fully staffed and patrolling
5. GCES Charging Info released (May-August 2021) -Link provided for more details
<https://www.gc.noaa.gov/enforce-office7.html>
 - a. 4 commercial vessels fishing illegally in Bahamas, total of \$277,500
 - b. 4 ATBAs, total of \$43,750

- c. RESOLVED CASES CHARGED BEFORE MAY 2021: 3 ATBAs for \$18,500, 3 fishing/anchoring in SPAs for \$9500

U.S. Navy:

Edward Barham

The U.S. EPA recognized NAS Key West Partnering Team with the 2021 National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse Award. As part of the Base Realignment and Closure program, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) partnered with the U.S. Navy, and the City of Key West to redevelop the formerly Navy owned Truman waterfront property into the Truman Waterfront Park.

“This achievement highlights the importance of maintaining strong public and private partnerships to protect Florida’s environment, safeguard public health, and improve the quality of life for the residents of Florida,” says DEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton. “Through collaboration, determination and innovation, the NAS Key West Partnering Team was able to deliver a truly beautiful park.”

EPA established the award to recognize teams who have supported the reuse and restoration of Federal Facility sites through outstanding efforts to ensure that sites are remediated to promote continued property use or support a site reuse, as well as provide an educational opportunity about how the awardees’ sites were remediated and reused to serve as an example to other site remediators.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-2021-federal-facility-excellence-site-reuse-award-winners>

VI. CLOSING REMARKS

Chairperson Garrett thanked council members and the public for tuning in to this virtual meeting, and for a robust discussion. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday February 15, 2022.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT RECEIVED VIA EMAIL

None received.