

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review
Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group Meeting
January 31, 2013**

Working Group Meeting Summary

Meeting Agenda

1. Working Group Admin Support, Resources, and Public Information (Ken Nedimyer and Beth Dieveney)
2. FKNMS Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review: Historical review / Current Marine Zoning & Regulatory Scheme (Sean Morton)
3. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Work Plan & Objectives
4. Mapping & Science Support (Chris Anderson)
5. Public Comment

Major Points of Discussion

1. The working group reviewed available resources, websites, and identified specific ground rules for how they will operate.
2. FKNMS Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review: Historical review / Current Marine Zoning and Regulatory Scheme.
Sean Morton, FKNMS Sanctuary Superintendent, made a presentation highlighting the relevant history of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, provided context for the current marine zoning and regulatory review process and outlined the charge to the three Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups. The presentation can be found <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/coralrestoration.html>.

Working Group Discussion:

- Question was raised regarding what activities the Sanctuary does not regulate:
 - fisheries management, which is regulated by the National Marine, Fisheries Service and Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission,
 - scientific research; unless it is being conducted in a prohibited area
 - over flights
 - Emphasized that the focus of this working group is coral reef ecosystem restoration, not single species restoration.
 - Noted that the work of this working group should consider a management scheme for the next 20-years and should therefore forecast potential needs and activities to that time-frame when making recommendations.
3. Mapping and Science Support
Kathleen O'Keefe and Chris Anderson of FWC/Florida Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) demonstrated how to access and utilize the on-line data, mapping, and information tools. These can be found here: ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review
 6. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Work Plan & Objectives
Beth Dieveney, FKNMS Staff, gave a presentation and led a discussion about the Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group Objectives. The presentation, which can be found here

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/coralrestoration.html>, includes a map of the “study areas”. Locations within the study areas but outside present FKNMS boundaries can be considered in the zoning and review process by the Sanctuary Advisory Council working groups.

Working Group Discussion:

- Discussed the meaning of active restoration as proactive rather than reactive and considered expanding the term to include “ecological”: active *ecological* restoration.
- Agreed that recommendations need to address the restoration of the entire ecosystem of the areas selected for active restoration, not simply single species restoration.
- Discussed the working group goal:
 - Define those areas that need restoration,
 - Define what the impact of closing an area might be and determine if those areas should be closed, partially closed, permanently closed, etc, and for how long,
 - Identify who can access/use these defined areas and for what defined uses, and
 - Identify the criteria / metrics for success of restoration activities.
- Identified a few potential options:
 - Limit or propose smaller active restoration zones to lessen any potential socio-economic impacts to other uses.
 - Eliminate anchoring on the reef and use mooring balls only.
 - Consider economic value of various uses when determining areas to open, close, restrict, and not restrict should be discussed.
- Identified the importance of user groups’ socio-economic interests, education and outreach, and engagement of the dive community in the working group process.
- Consider developing guidelines for reef user etiquette to reduce user impact.
- Identified the value of partnerships and the opportunity to explore innovative partnerships to educate users (i.e. the diving community visiting restoration sites as an educational opportunity).
- Inform the working group discussions through:
 - Guest speakers from other agencies and organizations
 - Lessons learned from other areas

4. Public Comment

Public comment was made by one individual:

- Chris Bergh, The Nature Conservancy Director and Sanctuary Advisory Council co-chair.
 - a. Thanked everyone for participating and noted that he will be leading the Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group. He also noted the current proposal to list additional coral species under the Endangered Species Act.

Follow-Up Actions for Working Group Members

1. Review relevant materials including the data and mapping information.

Decision Items of Note

- David Vaughan was selected to serve as vice-chair of the working group.
- A quorum of at least eight working group members is needed to conduct business.