



# Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Work Group: Resources & Expectations

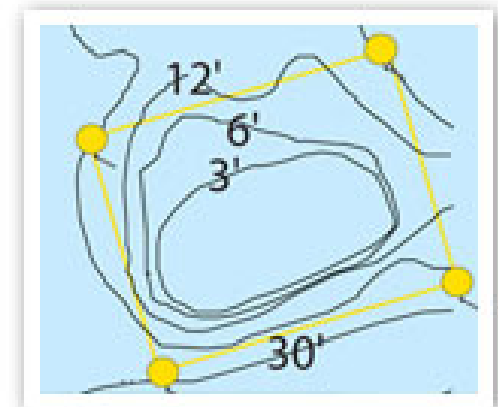
Chris Bergh  
Sanctuary Advisory – Conservation & Environment  
Working Group Chair

Beth Dieveney  
Sanctuary Policy Analyst

# Session Objectives



- Working Group Staff Support
- Resources
- Meeting Schedule & Locations
- Consensus Decision Making
- Expectations and Ground-Rules



MARINE ZONING &  
REGULATORY REVIEW

# Working Group Staff Support



- Chris Bergh– Working Group Chair
- Scott Donahue – FKNMS Science Lead
- Beth Dieveney – FKNMS Project Coordination
- Linh Nguyen – FKNMS Staff Support
- Brenda Altmeier – FKNMS Staff Support
- Lonny Anderson – FKNMS GIS Lead
- Chris Anderson – FWRI GIS Lead

# Resources

floridakeys.noaa.gov



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Protecting Florida Keys corals and the coral reef ecosystem



Sanctuary welcomes new operator into Blue Star stewardship program



Protecting Florida Keys corals and the coral reef ecosystem



Maritime heritage divers confirm identity of Key Largo shipwreck



"Eye in the sky" to help study and protect sanctuary marine resources

### SANCTUARY SPOTLIGHT



BLUE STAR  
DIVING & SNORKELING



ECO-DISCOVERY  
CENTER



SANCTUARY  
CONDITION REPORT



MARINE ZONING &  
REGULATORY REVIEW

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- "Waterways" Television Show
- Calendar of Events
- Regulations
- Reef Etiquette
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan, 2007
- Encyclopedia of the Sanctuary
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Sanctuary Photos and Videos

# Resources

[floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/welcome.html](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/welcome.html)



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### Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

In response to requests by the public, shifting environmental conditions and threats in the Keys, better scientific information, and legal requirements, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is conducting a review of sanctuary regulations, including the rules and boundaries for marine zones in the sanctuary and surrounding national wildlife refuges.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges Complex, which co-manages 20 of the sanctuary's 27 Wildlife Management Areas, will also play a key role in the review while simultaneously updating its own Backcountry Management Plan.

The review is an ongoing process, continuing into 2015. Public input is an important component. If you are interested in becoming involved, you are encouraged to attend upcoming meetings and/or contact a representative on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.

During the initial public comment period in April - June 2012, the sanctuary solicited the public's views on the direction the sanctuary should take to best protect and conserve the living marine resources and submerged cultural resources of the Florida Keys. The information gathered will help define the range of issues to be addressed during the marine zoning and regulatory review. Read the [Federal Register Notice](#) for more information on the scoping process.

FKIMS staff compiled and summarized the comments received during the scoping period into one document - [Scoping Comments Summary \(pdf 5 MB\)](#). Some comments have been listed in multiple categories. Additional materials such as maps or supporting reports and research submitted during the scoping period are available online in the [regulations.gov](#) docket. Due to formatting constraints for this summary, many of the maps, charts, and submitted material were not included but will be available during discussions and deliberations by the Advisory Council (and any subsequent working groups or workshops) on the related topics.

For additional information on the marine zoning and regulatory review, visit the [links below](#).



# Resources



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### Advisory Council Development of Recommended Alternatives

The Sanctuary Advisory Council, working with public and community experts, is developing recommendations for changes to sanctuary marine zones and regulations. Using direction from the sanctuary management plan, the advisory council's marine zoning and regulatory review goals and objectives, and public comments, the council has identified priority issues to be addressed through working groups and workshops. Working groups allow the advisory council to gather information from community experts, user groups, and scientists. Information or advice resulting from working group discussions will be presented to the council at its bi-monthly meetings, and may be incorporated or modified as the council makes recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent.



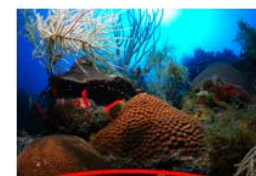
#### Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration

Coral health in the sanctuary has declined over the past several decades due to coastal development, pollution, overfishing, vessel groundings, storms, and coral disease and bleaching. In recent years, great strides have been made to grow corals in underwater nurseries for the purpose of restoring reefs. [More...](#)



#### Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Hardbottom communities and seagrass beds are critical habitats of the sanctuary, providing important feeding and nursery grounds for numerous commercially-important fish and protected species. These shallow areas are particularly vulnerable to impacts from small vessels, and are frequently damaged by boat propellers, anchors and more. [More...](#)



#### Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection

The sanctuary uses a strategy of marine zoning to protect and preserve sensitive parts of the marine ecosystem, while allowing activities compatible with resource protection. The sanctuary's Condition Report and scoping comments identified a significant need to review current marine zones and decide what changes must be undertaken to meet the goals and objectives identified by the advisory council. [More...](#)

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#### For more information:

Contact one of the Advisory Council members

# Resources



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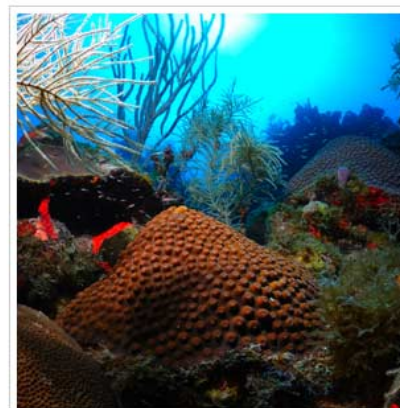
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### Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group

The sanctuary uses a strategy of marine zoning to protect and preserve sensitive parts of the marine ecosystem, while allowing activities compatible with resource protection. The Sanctuary's Condition Report and scoping comments identified a significant need to review current marine zones and decide what changes must be undertaken to meet the goals and objectives identified by the Advisory Council. While certain zones were established to allow areas of high ecological importance to evolve with minimal human influence, and others were set aside to reduce user conflict, additional areas may need to be considered to ensure long term protection of the natural resources.



[Objectives](#)

[Members](#)

[Meeting Schedule](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Resources](#)

#### Objectives

- Review existing reserves designated for protection of coral reef ecosystems
- Review current exceptions to regulations in SPAs/ERs
- Recommend new or modified reserves to ensure protection of resources:
  - Spawning aggregations
  - Wildlife protections: seabird, marine mammal, turtles
- Consider temporal zoning to address season impacts associated with intense uses
- Ensure the FKNMS zoning scheme promotes sustainable use of the sanctuary resources, and protects areas that represent diverse habitats and areas important for maintaining natural resources and ecosystem functions

# Websites of Note



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine  
Zoning and Regulatory Review:  
[floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources:  
[http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms\\_zone\\_review](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review)

# Meeting Schedule & Locations



- Thursday, March 14 – Marathon Garden Club
- Thursday, April 4 – Marathon Garden Club
- Thursday, May 2
- Thursday, May 23
- Thursday, June 13
- Thursday, July 11
- Thursday, August 1



# Consensus Decision Making



- Consensus: at least 75% of the members give a “3” or above.
- No one person can veto and stop the process.
- Members who register a “1” or “2” are encouraged to provide an alternate proposal; If no alternative is offered, they are encouraged to explain their vote for the record.

	Level of Consensus
5	I strongly agree with this decision.
4	I agree with this decision.
3	I do not agree or disagree with this decision.
2	I disagree with the decision.
1	I strongly disagree with this decision.

# Expectations & Ground-Rules



- Can only miss 2 meetings
- Respect meeting start and ending times
- Only one person speaks at a time
- Differences of opinion are expected and will be respected
- Focus on interests not positions
- Stay focused on working group objectives
- Limited to no “story-telling”
- Turn cell phones (and other devices) on vibrate or off
- All are responsible for enforcing the ground-rules



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