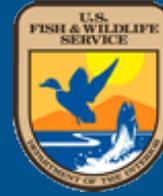


National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Commercial Towing and Salvage in the FKNMS

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Goals of this Presentation



Review current status of towing and salvage operations:

- Objectives for this Working Group
- Current FKNMS regulations and permitting procedures
- Law Enforcement Experiences
- Current towing/salvage equipment and techniques

Objectives



- Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness
- Develop recommendations considering existing regulations and zoning to further protect seagrass and critical shallow water habitats in FKNMS.
- Address concentrated uses that diminish or destroy habitats
- Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed
- Identify seagrass and shallow water habitat areas for exclusion to allow for research control areas
- Evaluate mangrove habitat protection for bird nesting.
- **Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods.**



Derelict/Abandoned Vessels, Groundings, Fires, Marine Casualties, and Debris



Photo: Coffin Marine Services Inc.



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Photo: FWC



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Derelict/Abandoned Vessels, Groundings, Fires, Marine Casualties, and Debris



FKNMS Management Plans 1997 and 2007



- Regulatory Action Plan identified the need to reduce impacts from improper vessel salvage
 - ✓ Permits
 - ✓ Notifications
 - ✓ Observers and/or Authorization to Proceed
 - ✓ Operator Training
 - ✓ Use of environmentally sound towing/salvage techniques



FKNMS Regulations



- No regulations implemented specifically addressing towing/salvage
- Permits to be issued for operations that may involve prohibited activities:
 - ✓ Alteration of, or construction on, the seabed
 - ✓ Operations of vessels
 - ✓ Discharge or deposit of materials or other matter
 - ✓ Movement of, removal of, injury to, or possession of Sanctuary historical resources
 - ✓ Interference with law enforcement
 - ✓ Areas to be avoided
 - ✓ Existing Management Areas, Research Only Areas, Sanctuary Preservation Areas



Current FKNMS Requirements



- No requirements for “typical” salvage/recovery
- Letter of Authorization or General Permit will be issued for “non-typical salvage/recovery involving prohibited activities
 - ✓ Installation of temporary spuds
 - ✓ Deployment of boom, turbidity curtains, air bags and other materials on the sea floor
 - ✓ Use of dredge pumps to restore sea bottom after vessel removal
 - ✓ Contact with sea floor by equipment
- May require staff oversight



Law Enforcement Issues



- Notifications
 - ✓ Florida Statute 327.02 defines boating accidents
 - ✓ Florida Statute 327.30(2) sets forth requirements for notification of law enforcement
- Removal of vessels prematurely
- Abandoned/Derelict Vessel Program
 - ✓ FWC's Office of Waterways Management manages the state's Derelict Vessel Removal Program
- Coercion (pay or I'll report you)

“Typical” Salvage/Recovery



Photo: FWC



Photo: FWC

“Non-Typical” Salvage/Recovery



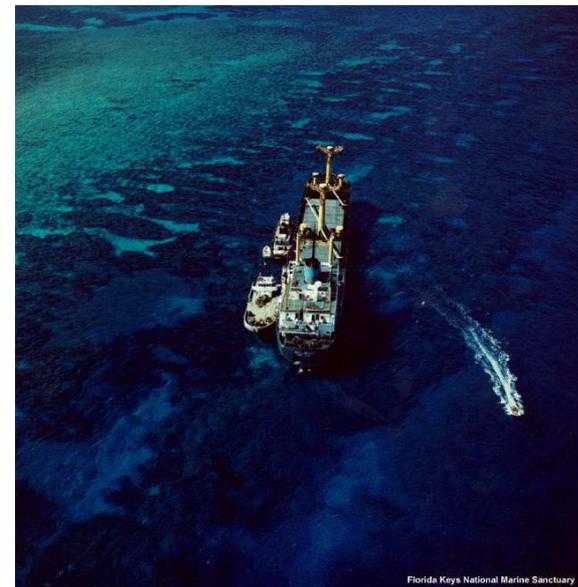
Photo: FWC.



Photo: Coffin Marine Services Inc.



Photo: FWC.



Salvage/Recovery Plans



- FKNMS may request a salvage plan for more difficult operations
 - ✓ Sunken aircraft or vessels
 - ✓ Recovery of vessels from reef crests
 - ✓ Recovery of large vessels
 - ✓ Recovery requires use of large/special equipment
- Recovery plans should include:
 - ✓ Description of the plan for salvage/recovery
 - ✓ Inbound/Outbound routes
 - ✓ Plans for reducing resource impacts
 - ✓ Equipment specifications
 - ✓ Safety/contingency plans
 - ✓ Hazards/pollution risks



Resource injuries from salvage/recovery



Photo: Coffin Marine Services Inc.



Photo: FWC.



Techniques to reduce resource injury



- Use floating lines or cables instead of chains
- Use spuds instead of traditional anchors drag
- Use stationary barges rather than vessel power in shallow areas
- Dismantle vessel in place
- Remove potential pollutants prior to salvage/recovery
- Ensure necessary equipment is on scene for pollution response
- Do not attempt operations above your capabilities and/or experience level
- Appropriately trained personnel and maintained equipment
- Be aware of sanctuary resources



Types of equipment to reduce resource injuries



Photo: Adventure Environmental Inc.



Photo: Adventure Environmental Inc.



Types of equipment to reduce resource injuries



Photo: Coffin Marine Services Inc.



Photo: Adventure Environmental Inc.

Resource Management Responses



- Areas to be Avoided
- Channel Marking
- Establishment of permitting and enforcement programs
- Establish and improve relationships with local salvage companies
- Establish and improve partnerships with other agencies
- Develop guidance for salvage plans
- Shoreline and debris clean ups



Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: floridakeys.noaa.gov

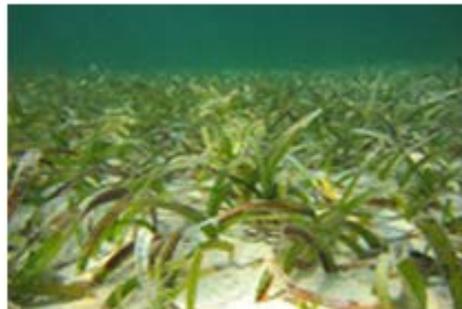


Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources:
http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review



Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
Coral health in the sanctuary has declined over the past several



Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group
Hardbottom communities and



Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group

Photo: Titan Salvage.

