

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review
Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group**

Draft Recommendation

Objective 7: Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods.

The working group recognizes that the overarching consideration when conducting salvage operations is to remove the vessel, ensure safety of operations, and minimize natural resource injury.

Recommendations:

Use the successful and established programs at Biscayne Bay National Park as guidance to implement a towing and salvage permit program in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Specific recommendations include:

- Establish a Sanctuary Advisory Council Towing and Salvage working group to focus on this issue and ensure continued dialog and coordination among the towing and salvage community and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
- Clearly define terms (use existing/standard definitions)
 - Towing
 - Salvage
 - Derelict vessel and wreck removal
 - Include clarification of what constitutes “illegal” towing and salvage operations
- Define dynamic versus static situations to clarify requirements and response approach for salvage operations and derelict vessel removal
- Include standard operating procedures (use C-Port guidance and Biscayne National Park, USCG, etc.)
 - Qualifications / licensing
 - Notification
 - Recovery plan
 - Standard range of equipment
- Enhance and promote partnerships among towing and salvage community as well as other managing partners (C-Port, Biscayne Bay National Park, U.S. Coast Guard)
 - Enhance towing and salvage culture
 - Develop best management practices/solutions
 - Create incentives for compliance, self-enforcement and education
 - Promote training
- Promote innovation of techniques
- Allow for adaptive management
 - Create mechanisms for feed-back loops that allow improvements/changes based on lessons learned from towing/salvage operations