Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

PUBLIC COMMENT

*PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION CLEARLY

Name: [redacted] **Organization:** _____

Email: [redacted]

If you would like to be added to the marine zoning and regulatory review email updates, please indicate your choice below:

☐ Yes, add me to the email list ☐ No, do not add me to the email list

TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Against any closure. Seasonal spawning migrations.

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

[redacted]

Water quality
15-18 years ago problem still exists.

maps freaked him out. - worried about closures not protecting anything
64 areas - where coral grows
Why aren't they marked??

- want to see things done by constructive

LACK OF Communication

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

[redacted] Commercial fisherman lobster

natural weather - most declined because of freeze a few years ago

- Education

[redacted] Flats Guide

Δ's in fisheries - declines in fish

water quality

uneducated people

[redacted] - [redacted] [redacted]

- Traditional uses have to be protected
- state of FL - keep fisheries management
- east Biscayne Harbor to Marg Refuge
- define what protection means

Why ~~are~~ is Boring Better the only way to go?
Suite of options

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

No closures of Flats and Shorelines
Access to areas from a ~~[illegible]~~ running corridor
and then Idle ~~of~~ or Poling or Trolling motor
Catch and release fishing should be allowed.
Migratory fish such as Tarpon, bonefish
and Permit, move through these areas.
User groups Should not be singled out.

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

Zoning for Middle/upper Keys

PUBLIC COMMENT

* Disagree with any large zones.
Our group identified new coral areas for Coral preservation.
We would suggest closing the fragile reef areas to other uses besides trapping
1) Put marker buoys / No Anchoring as is to protect these coral habitats.
2) Some S.P.A. areas could be enlarged slightly if they contain a predominence of habitat that is fragile.

* We went down this road on large area zones and the middle/upper Keys has large Everglades closures already and are heavily populated and would have very tough enforceability issues.

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

Proposed closed areas

PUBLIC COMMENT

If the proposed closed areas are to promote the habitat and its fauna + flora, how will this closure improve these?

This doesn't seem to attack the cause of this degregation. Identify why each parameter is declining and propose a specific solution to each parameter.

A massive closure doesn't solve the problem and doesn't address each problem (invasive species are now protected in these areas (

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

USER FEES

PUBLIC COMMENT

[redacted] Concerned this being fisheries management
mutton, black & yellowtail
water quality, education & enforcement
18-mile stretch signage, marinas signage
apps - boater education
not enough enforcement
- reports addressing diving - & now it is science
address

wanted to have had maps & science
to review, take home & come back

go into a SPA and close it completely & go back and see what happens
adaptive management

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TOPIC TO BE ADDRESSED

PUBLIC COMMENT

[redacted] selling maps concern

Water quality!

marker 20 - literally nothing out there

Worried about closures being imminent

Denise VandenBusch

Sent to:

[redacted]

KEY COLONY BEACH
Fishing & Boating Club
PO Box 510877
Key Colony Beach, FL 33051

* From the Commodore of the Key Colony Fishing & Boating Club

Questions for the Ecosystem Protection Working Group

1. Why was there very little advertizing or notices given to alert the public to the meetings? How did you expect the public and citizens of Key Colony Beach to be aware of these meetings?
2. Why did the Advisory Council and the Ecosytem Protection Working Group not reach out to the recreational fishing clubs in the Florida Keys during the last 7 months?
3. What exactly was the "stepwise process to identify and map the board set of preliminary ideas about modifying or adding zones"? Is there any scientific or socioeconomic data to support that these particular areas should be targeted as possible "no fish" zones" Given that you have been meeting for only 7 months, it is hard to believe that any detailed research could have be completed in such a short time. So, how were the areas selected?
4. What specific species of fish are being targeted?
5. Have size limits, season restrictions, and/or bag limits been considered in lieu of closures.
6. Why were these meetings scheduled during the slowest time of the year when 80-85% of the recreational fishermen are not here to voice their opinions and give input? Is this smart or fair? Will you consider delaying any recommendations until additional meetings can be scheduled in February and March? If not, why not.
7. Justify the diversity of the EPWG that appears to be poorly represented by recreational fisherman and Key Colony and Marathon residents.
8. Advise the various groups within the National Marine Sanctuary and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary who have any involvement with this issue. Please provide their contact information including email addresses.
9. How were the members of the Advisory Board selected? Who made the selections and what qualifications were required?
10. If any additional "no fish zones" or expansions of existing zones are recommended by the Advisory Council, how will the new laws be enforced. Will the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary be adding to the taxpayer's burden, by hiring new employees, creating legal fees, and buying new equipment (boats, weapons, buoys etc) to police and manage the new areas?