



Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Protection Work Group: Resources & Expectations

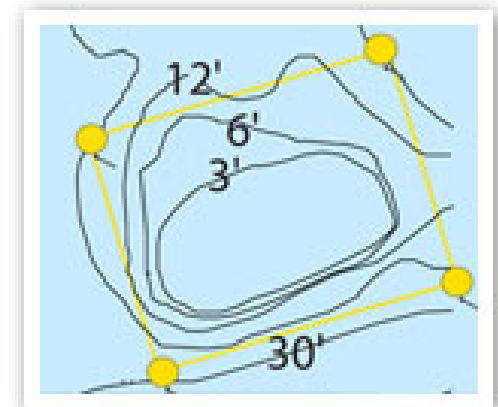
Jack Curlett
Sanctuary Advisory
Council Lead

Beth Dieveney
Sanctuary Policy Analyst

Session Objectives

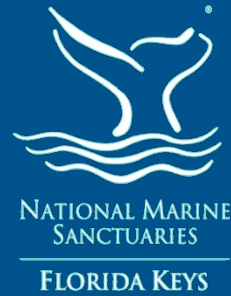


- Working Group Staff Support
- Resources
- Meeting Schedule & Locations
- Consensus Decision Making
- Expectations and Ground-Rules



MARINE ZONING &
REGULATORY REVIEW

Working Group Staff Support



- Jack Curlett – Working Group Chair
- Steve Werndli – FKNMS Science Lead
- Beth Dieveney – FKNMS Project Coordination
- Alicia Farrer – FKNMS Staff Support
- Todd Hitchins – FKNMS Staff Support
- Nancy Diersing – FKNMS Staff Support
- Lonny Anderson – FKNMS GIS Lead
- Chris Anderson – FWRI GIS Lead

Resources

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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



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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 Refuge 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 submitted 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.



About the Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process

The review of the marine zone boundaries and regulations of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary will be a very involved, open, and public process. [More...](#)



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Goals and Objectives

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council developed two primary goals and several objectives for the marine zoning and regulatory review. [More...](#)



Advisory Council Working Groups

The Sanctuary Advisory Council, working with public and community experts, is in the process of developing recommendations for changes to sanctuary marine zones and regulations. [More...](#)



Providing Input to the Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

Learn how to provide input to the review process at public meetings or via the Sanctuary Advisory Council. [More...](#)



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are the marine zoning and regulatory review goals, objectives, and principles adopted by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council?

At its December 2011 meeting, the Sanctuary Advisory Council voted unanimously to adopt goals and objectives, as well as principles to guide the marine zoning and regulatory review process which starts in 2012.

For more information, read the specific [Goals and Objectives of Marine Zoning Review](#) and the [Principles for Marine Zoning Review](#).

[MORE...](#)



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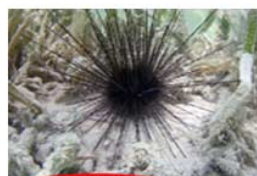


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Advisory Council Development of Recommended Alternatives

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.



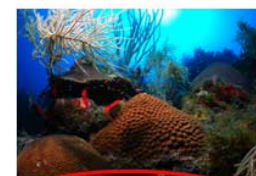
Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration

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

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Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group

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. Vessel strikes also harm animals such as sea turtles and marine mammals. Current zoning of [Wildlife Management Areas](#) seek to minimize disturbance to sensitive or endangered wildlife and their habitats while allowing for public use. Rules include no-access buffers, no-motor zones, idle-speed only/no-wake zones, and closed zones. Some restrictions may apply to certain times of the year, while others apply year-round. The Sanctuary's [Condition Report](#) and numerous public scoping [comments](#) identified ongoing degradation of these habitats and wildlife need to be addressed through the marine zoning and regulatory review.



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Objectives

Members

Meeting Schedule

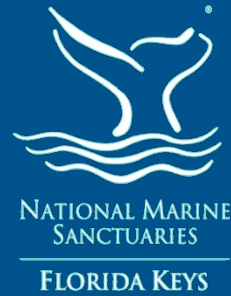
Meeting Notes

Resources

Objectives

- Develop recommendations considering existing regulations and zoning – mainly use of vessel restrictions on access, anchoring, speed, and channel marking – to further protect seagrass and critical shallow water habitats in FKNMS.
- Address concentrated uses that diminish and destroy seagrass and shallow water habitats
- Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed and encouraged for public and private uses.
- Identify seagrass and shallow water habitat areas for exclusion to allow for research control areas

Websites of Note



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

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

Meeting Schedule & Locations



- Wednesday, January 30 – Marathon Garden Club
- Wednesday, February 20 – Marathon Garden Club
- Tuesday, March 12
- Tuesday, April 2
- Tuesday, April 30
- Tuesday, May 21
- Tuesday, June 11



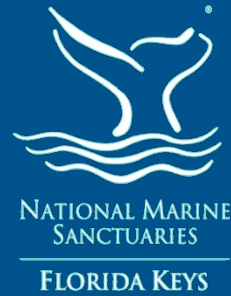
Consensus Decision Making



- 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: for consideration



- 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
- Verify scientific information
- Keep conversations and opinions within group
- No acronyms
- 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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