

# User Fees and Alternative Funding Options



Beth Dieveney  
FKNMS Deputy Superintendent for Science and Policy

# User Fees: Defined

Any fee, tax, or payment, direct or indirect, that must be paid to a facility owner/operator by a facility user, as a condition of use of the facility.

Some Examples:

- National Park entrance fee
- State Park camp-site fee
- Highway tolls



# Suggestions on Potential Sources for Funding



- Entrance fees charged to visitors for access
- User fees charged to visitors for specified activities, or for use of specified facilities
- Concession contracts with businesses operating within the area
- Investment and sponsoring of specific facilities by the tourism industry
- Voluntary donations
- In-kind donations

# Response to Comments in Original Environmental Impact Statement



## **Public Comment Received:**

- Concern about funding Sanctuary management plan
- Suggest implementing user fees
- Do not implement user fees
- Propose using the Tourist Development Fund “bed tax”

## **Response to Comments:**

- Hosted a user fee workshop
- Recognize shared management and funding
- Allow in-kind donations through extensive volunteer network
- Not seeking statutory authority to receive donations
- Not including user fees in the EIS due to public input

# Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Recommendations

Develop innovative partnerships to provide funding that supports restoration activities. Funding could be provided through a range of mechanisms:

- donations
- user fees
- in-kind support for restoration practitioners
- mooring ball sponsorship programs



# Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Recommendations

- Create a fund to support shallow water habitat restoration activities



# Challenges to Implementation

## Administration

- Who collects funds?
- How are funds and fees collected?
- Would we have permit system?
- What is the necessary funding to administer and enforce program and generate revenue stream?



## Enforcement

- Is this a priority activity for officers?
- How do you control access to ocean?



# Open Discussion

Recommendations  
for Staff to analyze  
and bring back for  
deliberation and  
decision?

