



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

Advisory Council Recommendations: Derelict and Abandoned Vessels & Towing and Salvage Operations

Beth Dieveney
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
April 18, 2017

Sanctuary Advisory Council Goals



- To improve the diversity of natural biological communitiesandrestore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes overall;
- Reduce stresses from human activities by establishing areas that restrict access to sensitive wildlife populations and habitats;
- Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas;
- Minimize conflicts among uses;
- Prevent heavy concentrations of use;
- Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research; and
- Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Issues and Management Priorities for Review



- 1. Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection**
2. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
- 4. Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management**
5. Artificial Habitats
6. Study Area & Boundary Modification
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Coordination with Fishery Management Agencies



Resolution Addressing Permit Procedures

Motion passed October 21, 2014



- ...the FKNMS Condition Report (2011) noted declining trends in the condition of living marine resources in the Sanctuary including.....fair to poor status of the levels of human activities that might impact the quality of such resources
- ...changing activities that were not anticipated when the original rules were written
- ...certain resource management issues including.....specific impacts from human activity may require more regulatory flexibility
-regulatory review will guide the future of FKNMS to adapt to and withstand environmental impacts associated with increased usage that are inevitable and currently underway....

Therefore, the Sanctuary Advisory Council resolves as follows:

1. Evaluate the following for economic and environmental benefit/impact:
 - Implement a prohibition on deserting or abandoning vessels and/or leaving harmful matter in vessels.

For the full Motion go to: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/othermaterials/20141021ppamsacmotion.pdf>

Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Protection Working Group Objectives



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

Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group Recommendations



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

Implement a towing and salvage permit program in the FKNMS:

- Use established and successful programs from Biscayne National Park as a guide.
- Establish a SAC Towing and Salvage Work Group to ensure dialog and coordination with the towing community.
- Include Standard Operating Procedures (use C-Port, USCG, BNP for guidance).
- Promote innovation of techniques.
- Allow for adaptive management.

Resolution Addressing Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Motion passed June 17, 2014



Therefore, the Sanctuary Advisory Council resolves as follows:

1. We request that the Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group recommendations are forwarded to the Sanctuary Superintendent for consideration and analysis as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

2. We request the following also be considered:

- Consider mechanisms, including working with appropriate other management entities, to address emerging areas of concentrated use that could damage shallow water habitat.

For the full Motion go to: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/othermaterials/140617resolutionfinalshallowwater.pdf>

Looking Ahead – Next Steps



✓ Advisory Council Feedback & Recommendation for Agencies

- Agency staff develops range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on scoping comments, Advisory Council recommendations and input, and agency input.
- Potential Alternatives and Analysis released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Agency Review and Response to Public Comments
- Proposed Actions and Alternatives released in a Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Revised Rules and Marine Zones

How to keep engaged and where to find more information:

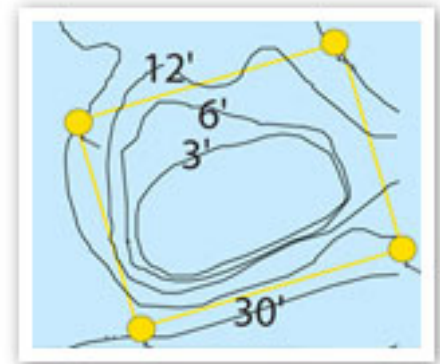


Visit our website at floridakeys.noaa.gov

Contact your Sanctuary Advisory Council Member:
<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/members.html?s=sac>

Follow us on Facebook:
[facebook.com/floridakeysnoaagov](https://www.facebook.com/floridakeysnoaagov)
[facebook.com/floridakeysrefuges](https://www.facebook.com/floridakeysrefuges)

Contact us at:
Beth.dieveney@noaa.gov
Stephen.werndli@noaa.gov



MARINE ZONING &
REGULATORY REVIEW

