

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**Hyatt Place 1996 Overseas Highway Marathon, FL 33050**  
**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

The following serves as a summary of the April 17, 2018, FKNMS Advisory Council Meeting. This summary does not constitute official minutes of the meeting. Draft meeting minutes will be distributed in advance of the June 19, 2018, Advisory Council Meeting for approval by the council.

**Member Recognition**

Bruce Popham recognized the contributions of long-standing Advisory Council member Bob Smith who has served as the lower keys diving representative. Bob not only brought his diving knowledge to this council, but also his passion for education, training and ensuring the highest of standards for the diving profession. Bob is stepping down to return to his native Ohio.

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year**

Sanctuary Superintendent, Sarah Fangman, presented Will Benson, Sanctuary Advisory Council Fishing – Flats Fishing Guide member, the Sanctuary Volunteer of the Year Award. Will is a knowledgeable and devoted ambassador for the Florida Keys national marine Sanctuary. He serves this advisory council with his time and passion and is committed to ensuring communication between his constituency of flats fisherman and the Advisory Council to restore and nurture the relationship between anglers and resource managers. He brought this same passion and commitment when chairing the Recreational-Charter Fishing Working Group that drafted the framework for the Blue Star Fishing Guides program due to launch in May.

**Lieutenant Quentin Long, USCG Recognized**

Sanctuary Superintendent, Sarah Fangman, recognized LT Quentin Long for his leadership and contributions during assignment as the Branch Florida Keys Branch Director during Hurricane Irma Emergency Support Function 10 (ESF-10) Florida response operations. LT Long led a dynamic team of a variety of government agencies and contractors to remove vessels and hazardous materials from the marine environment and minimize impacts to sanctuary resources to the greatest extent possible. His outstanding judgment, expertise, and collaborative approach were truly an asset to this response and he continue to be crucial partner in the daily management and protection of FKNMS.

**Newly appointed Advisory Council Members were welcomed.**

- Citizen at Large - Middle Keys – George Garrett member; Rachel Bowman alternate
- Citizen at Large – Lower Keys – Mimi Stafford member; Stephen Patten alternate
- Conservation and Environment – Ken Nedimyer member; Tracy Allen alternate
- Diving - Lower Keys – Joe Weatherby member; Don Kinkaid alternate
- Diving – Upper Keys – Daniel Dawson alternate
- Education & Outreach – Jessica Dockery member
- Fishing - Charter Flats Fishing Guide – Will Benson member
- Fishing - Commercial Marine/Tropical – Ben Daughtry member; Kara Rauch alternate
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration – Pete Frezza member; Jerry Lorenz and alternate

### **Boater Education Online Course Development**

Gena Parsons, Sanctuary Communications and Outreach Manager, provided an update on progress to develop an online boater education course specific to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Goals of this project include increasing boaters' understanding of the challenges of navigating sanctuary waters and the importance of its marine resources and providing knowledge of laws, regulations and policies that affect marine resources and visitor use. Three stakeholder workshops were held in March to solicit input from the community. The final course is expected to be available in 2019 in English and Spanish. Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, funded through a Water Quality Protection Program grant, is working closely with the Sanctuary to develop this course.

### **Hurricane Irma Response: Advisory Council Marine Debris Working Group**

Working Group Chairs Elena Rodriguez, Advisory Council Diving Upper Keys and Lisa Mongelia, Advisory Council Tourism Upper Keys alternate and Sanctuary staffer Marlies Tumolo provided an update on progress and next steps of the working group. The working group has launched Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys, an effort that includes guidance for permitting requirements, environmental considerations, training and reporting requirements. The working group requests that sightings of marine debris be made to C-OCEAN so that debris cleanup efforts could be coordinated across all partners.

### **Hurricane Irma Response: Canal Debris Removal**

Rhonda Haag, Sustainability Coordinator for Monroe County, provided an update on the process and progress to date to address marine debris in Florida Keys canals. Monroe County, with Florida Department of Environmental Protection, has assessed all canals and prioritized them based on level of debris and potential for hazards to navigation. High priority canals are targeted first for debris removal of which a total of just over 3,000 cubic yards has been removed. She also gave a brief update on continued canal demonstration project efforts.

### **U.S. Coast Guard Waterways Division**

LT Scott Ledee, U.S. Coast Guard, presented on the USCG Waterways Division including its mission and role. He noted the coordination with other federal agencies and ports, outlined the process and considerations for permitting marine events, provided background on USCG-maintained Aids to Navigation and other Private Aids to Navigation, and highlighted opportunities for public outreach engagement. He noted the potential for establishing a Harbor Safety Committee if there is interest among the commercial and industry partners that access and use the Key West Harbor.

### **Advisory Council Business**

Beth Dieveney provided an update on recent advisory council business including renewing the charter, completing a council recruitment, and submitting public comment on Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Call for Comments on the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024. In the afternoon, she facilitated a discussion about opportunities for advisory council outreach and engagement with the community and their constituents including specific to the regulatory review process and public release of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this meeting.