

# ***FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL***

## **MEETING NOTES** **Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

***Marathon City Council Chambers***  
***Marathon, FL 33050***

### **Attendees:**

#### **Council Members:**

Citizen at Large – Upper Keys: Suzy Roebing (absent)  
Citizen at Large – Middle Keys: George Garrett (absent)  
Citizen at Large – Lower Keys: Mimi Stafford  
Boating Industry: Ken Reda  
Diving – Upper Keys: Elena Rodriguez  
Diving – Lower Keys: Joe Weatherby (absent)  
Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide: Will Benson - acting chair  
Fishing – Charter Sports Fishing: Michael Nealis (absent)  
Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical: Ken Nedimyer (absent)  
Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale: Daniel Padron  
Fishing – Recreational: Karen Angle  
Tourism – Upper Keys: Lisa Mongelia (absent)  
Tourism – Lower Keys: Andy Newman (absent)  
Conservation and Environment (seat 1): Ben Daughtry (absent)  
Conservation and Environment (seat 2): Jerry Lorenz  
Research and Monitoring: Erinn Muller  
South Florida Ecosystem Restoration: Kelly Cox (absent)  
Education and Outreach: Shelly Krueger  
Submerged Cultural Resources: Diane Silvia  
Elected County Official: Jim Scholl (absent)

#### **Council Alternates (present):**

Citizen at Large – Lower Keys: Stephen Patten  
Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical: Jeff Turner  
Tourism – Lower Keys: Eddie Kertis  
Education and Outreach: Dora DeMaria  
Submerged Cultural Resources: Sara Ayers-Rigsby

#### **Agency Representatives (present):**

Florida DEP: Nick Parr  
FWC DLE: Capt. David Dipre  
NOAA Fisheries Service: Lauren Waters  
NOAA OLE: Joe Scarpa

U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Alex Hughes  
U.S. Navy: Wendy Wheatley-Techmer

**Municipalities (present):**

City of Key Colony Beach: Vice Mayor Beth Ramsay-Vickrey

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, CHAIRPERSONS COMMENTS**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and called to order with roll call at 9:05 am. Council member and acting chair Will Benson welcomed the council and members of the public.

The chair introduced the agenda for this meeting as well as the notes from the December meeting for council approval, both were motioned, seconded, and subsequently approved with no edits. Mimi Stafford made the motion to adopt the agenda for this meeting with a second from Shelly Krueger, Jeff Turner made the motion to approve the December notes, with a second from Ken Reda.

Superintendent Sarah Fangman noted that several members are at the FWC Commission meeting and there are special guests today as well as an interpretive plan workshop for the SAC to participate in.

**II. COUNCIL BUSINESS AND UPDATES**

The council welcomed five new members at this meeting to include:

- Daniel Padron (new Commercial Fishing: Shell/Scale member): Born and raised in Key West, and a commercial fisherman for 25 years.
- Eddie Kertis (new Tourism Lower Keys alternate): Sailing charter captain, currently enrolled at College of the Florida Keys, and a retired commander in the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- Dora DeMaria (new Education & Outreach alternate): Born and raised in the Florida Keys; education director for Reef Relief in Key West.
- Lauren Waters (new NOAA Fisheries Service non-voting member): Replacing Heather Blough to represent the Southeast Regional Office of the NOAA Fisheries Service.
- Commissioner Jim Scholl of Monroe County (new County Government member)

The full council was then invited to go around the table and introduce themselves, their seat, and their constituency.

Following these introductions, council coordinator Liz Trueblood took the floor to explain the process of renewing the advisory council charter which must be done every five years. She gave some insight into the process, explained a recent template change, and asked members to review the charter and provide any input by March 24. She will send the draft charter and further instructions following the meeting via email. At the April meeting, the council will discuss any proposed edits or updates as needed.

### **III. ADVISORY COUNCIL BUOY WORKING GROUP UPDATE**

Will Benson, working group co-chair, and Liz Trueblood presented the draft objectives, timeline, and membership for the buoy working group which is expected to convene for the first time in late March. The goal of the working group will be to develop recommendations to guide the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary buoy program in support of the Restoration Blueprint. Anyone who would like to be involved in this group is welcome to express interest to either Will, Liz, or Lisa Mongelia following the meeting.

Liz recognized Nina Garfield, an FKNMS detailee, who will be leading the buoy working group, as well as SAC members who have already volunteered to sit on the working group. The group will also include 7-8 non-SAC members that represent a diverse group of users and agency advisors.

The April SAC meeting will offer an opportunity for in-person public input. A draft recommendation will likely be presented to the SAC in June, with a final product by the August SAC meeting. The working group is likely to convene 6-7 times, sometimes virtually or in the evening in order to be accessible to the most people. Just as SAC members do, working group members will help bring outside input from their constituents into this process.

Sarah Fangman noted the importance of the buoy system for the community and resource protection efforts, and the forthcoming buoy working group is an important part of gathering information to support implementation of the Restoration Blueprint.

#### **Council Discussion:**

- Dave Dipre, FWC representative to the council, noted the importance of buoys to support law enforcement. For example, buoys around the SPAs help boaters understand the boundaries and helps law enforcement make cases against violations.
- Erinn Muller inquired if buoys to support restoration access will be part of this discussion. Erinn also noted she'd be happy to join the working group to support the research area of expertise. Sarah Fangman answered, yes; there is also a contract out right now to install more buoys, some of which will be for recreation and some for restoration

sites where that need is already known. This conversation can determine if that is enough or if more will be needed to support restoration.

- Ken Reda noted that it's often difficult to see a visible result with much of the sanctuary's management, but, buoys are very tangible, visible representations of sanctuary management and resource protection at work.
- Daniel Padron voiced that we need to make sure that buoy discussions include education about what the various buoys mean in terms of allowed vs. prohibited activity. Need education for tourists coming and renting boats before they go out on the water. Daniel also volunteered to sit on the buoy working group.
- Karen Angle suggested the creation of QR code labels on buoys so information can be found more easily by users.
- Will Benson noted that he is a flats fishing guide without as much expertise on the reef where buoys are, but he feels strongly that this is an important piece of the puzzle and an opportunity to do great work so he is happy to chair this group. Will rely on the expertise of other individuals who know these reefs and buoy needs better than he does.
- Dave Dipre asked if Team OCEAN still exists? They were very effective for a long time, although they could not be everywhere.
  - Marlies Tumolo noted that we have limited Team OCEAN due to lack of volunteers and updated NOAA policies about use of volunteers on vessels. The MOVE team is working to revamp this program, specifically at boat ramps and boat rental companies, even if we have limited capacity on the water.

#### **IV. SPECIAL GUEST: DIVEN2LIFE STUDENTS**

The council welcomed Kama Cannon, of DiveN2Life along with students from May Sands School, Somerset Island Prep, and American Heritage School. Kama founded and directs DiveN2Life, a program that began in 2016 as an academic enrichment opportunity for students. Their mission is to engage participants in applied science and place based learning through scientific diving. They are AAUS members, and all participants complete the Blue Star Dive Operator training annually.

Kama introduced a series of students to speak, ranging from experienced members now on their youth leadership council, to students who just started with the program this year. Each student spent a few minutes introducing themselves, their interests and goals, and the impacts that DiveN2Life and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary have had on them.

Daniel, a Youth Leadership Council Member, started last year as a junior in high school with only 10 dives under his belt. He now has over 100 dives in FKNMS and elsewhere around the world. Has built and maintained coral nurseries, tested new technology, advocated for environmental change at local, state and national level. Will be going to college next year for

political science with a goal of becoming a lawyer. He noted that his experience shows how DiveN2Life can make a difference across many disciplines. This program is interdisciplinary and encourages diversity in their membership. He is now an environmentally conscious citizen thanks to participation in this program, knows how to work under pressure, how to lead, how to educate, and the value of serving our community.

Rhyanna joined DiveN2Life five months ago, and has had an opportunity to explore more about FKNMS, engage in and attend events, and in March will participate in her first coral restoration dive.

Zach, spoke as owner of Scuba Steve's Dive Service in Summerland Key and contributor to DiveN2Life. This program is about diving but also life; it's beyond diving and marine science. Dive training has changed him as a person; these experiences make stronger people, leaders and caretakers of the ecosystem. These students are the next generation of reef defenders and leaders who will save our oceans, and he is glad to be involved in this program.

Dominika began last fall. She is a dancer and was nervous to dive at first; but saw this as an opportunity to try. With DiveN2Life, has attended Guy Harvey Foundation Gala, spent an afternoon at Jules Undersea Lodge and is almost done with her open water scuba certification. She is thankful to FKNMS for protecting marine life.

Aarrna is an 8th grade student and member of DiveN2Life which she joined last month. This has allowed her to develop a new interest. She will complete her open water certification soon; and hopes to get involved in protecting the marine environment and Florida Keys.

Riley lives in Key West and recently received her open water scuba certification. She is passionate about protecting and restoring coral in FKNMS, both above and below the surface. Will partner with ICARE, FAU and DiveN2Life next month on an outplanting, monitoring, and maintenance project.

Kara has been part of DiveN2Life for over six years. Was here in 2019 and is happy to be back at a SAC meeting.

Q&A: Kara and Kama worked together to answer questions from the council

- Will Benson: What is the age to join and get scuba certified?
  - Can get an open water certification at 10. Can apply for DiveN2Life and get certified at that age.
  - Twice a year the DiveN2Life does a parents and siblings day. They focus on children, teachers and scientific diving. They do not teach scuba or do refresher

classes. DiveN2Life is an academic enrichment program that lasts years; it is beyond learning to dive. It is a semester-based program like academics; expectations are high for the students involved in the program. Students are also eligible for captain's licenses if they'd like; also complete leadership training, mentoring and service.

- Sarah Fangman: How many students have you had?
  - Hundreds of students in the 8 years since the program began. Many come from the Keys but have had students from around the world - Belgium, California, Delaware, Canada, etc.
- Sarah Ayers Rigsby: Any plans to speak at the AAUS conference in Pensacola?
  - Yes; some are going to the conference.
- Jerry Lorenz: What classes are taught as part of the curriculum?
  - Kama has a teaching background. Before DiveN2Life, her focus had been on gifted and talented identification and diverse learners, especially students who may be overlooked for traditional gifted education. This evolved into STEM enrichment programming. The curriculum is developed based on the students' needs that she works with. They focus on SCUBA and snorkeling for those who are unable to dive. Students conduct ecology and marine biology courses; various SCUBA speciality courses (navigation, wreck diving, master diver, the science of diving, etc.), marine technology (boat maintenance), welding, navigation, on-water training for captains licenses, leadership, writing, etiquette classes, coral restoration, underwater archaeology, etc. The program also travels a lot; being in the Keys these students haven't had access to the same programs available to students on the mainland. They leave the Keys as often as possible, and travel includes field school in USVI, Bahamas, Belize, Bonaire, etc. Have worked a lot with Mote, and now partnered with ICARE and Reef Renewal as well.
- Erinn Muller: Noted that there are many opportunities opening up in the coral restoration industry. The Mote Protect Our Reefs grants are due in a week; would be happy to help review any applications from DiveN2Life.
- Ken Reda: Added that scholarship money is available from Ocean Reef Conservation Association for students going into marine studies.
- Jeff Turner: What is the budget and where does funding come from?
  - Operating budget is \$160k. For the past 5 years they've had a donor match what the group was able to raise. In 2023, the donor has provided \$75k; it's hard to raise that much money during the pandemic. The program provides scholarships for trips, equipment, etc. They've started charging a small course fee for materials (\$16-\$30 per course). They predominantly teach NAUI now, but also PADI, SSI, etc. All volunteers and partnership with Scuba Steve dive center provides discounted trips, Southpoint in Key West also provides support through discounted or free trips when available. Overhead includes insurance, liability,

DAN etc. They have a Panga that seats 6 people; this is important because it allows students an opportunity to learn to dive a small boat; maintenance of this is an expense each year, along with recurring agency fees, etc.

## **V. INTERPRETATION AND OUTREACH IN FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**

Marlies Tumolo and Lindsey Crews began with MOVE team introductions, describing responsibilities, roles, and areas of focus. It was noted that there are also MOVE adjacent team members focused on Mission: Iconic Reefs.

Last year, the MOVE team underwent a strategic planning process to align with FKNMS goals. The big picture goals include:

- Inspire Awareness of FKNMS (via initiatives like Ocean Guardian Schools, Eco-Discovery Center, communications, outreach, climate change interpretation etc.);
- Protect Sanctuary Resources (Blue Star, Restoration Blueprint, Goal: Clean Seas, Mission: Iconic Reefs, boater education, responsible recreation);
- Leverage Partnerships (SAC, WQPP support, community partnerships, citizen science programs);
- Maximize Impact (volunteer program, professional development, cross team communication, interpretive planning).

Milestones from the past year include the Eco-Discovery Center refresh; which included a new accessibility plan for the center in addition to new exhibit space. The EDC is currently open Fridays and Saturdays. A new Sanctuary Explorer App was launched in June 2022, and is an in-your-pocket guide to the protected waters of the Florida Keys. It includes an interactive map that explains the rules and regulations in various zones and why they are important, including information on the buoy program, how to tie up, and what the different buoys mean. A Blue Star Program needs assessment was also completed this year. These programs have run for a long time and the purpose of this assessment was to determine how well we're meeting goals, and what the current needs are overall. Outcomes included suggestions to improve the program moving forward, based on feedback from operators involved in the program. This year the MOVE team has also updated boat ramp signs in the Keys. These are in English and Spanish and are currently being installed in the upper Keys. Additional signs will be added to the middle and lower Keys in the future.

Next, the SAC heard an introduction to the discipline of interpretation. Interpretation is a purposeful approach to communication that facilitates meaningful, relevant, and inclusive experiences that deepen understanding, broaden perspectives, and inspire engagement with the world around us. Unlike education which is about facts and knowledge, interpretation is about feelings and building an emotional connection to inspire change. Both areas are important; there

is a large body of research informing both disciplines. Interpretation connects us emotionally to the nature around us. For people to care for FKNMS, they have to connect to it and discover it. People protect what they love, not just what they know about. A National Park Service video “[Night Requiem](#)” was shown as a demonstration of interpretation used to discuss light pollution around the Grand Canyon. While many people may not have walked away knowing more about the Grand Canyon, they likely walked away wanting to protect that place and the night sky.

Will Benson noted that this story telling and connection is important as a businessman as well.

Marlies Tumolo and Lindsey Crews led the council through a series of exercises to support the development of an interpretive plan. This is intended to help amplify our message and make programs more effective. We need to be strategic with our education and outreach because we have a lot of ground to cover. The SAC will help define audiences we should target and the emotions people feel when using FKNMS resources.

#### Audiences/User Groups:

- Who are the primary audiences of FKNMS? Who is it important for us to reach?

Fishers	Birdwatchers/Nature lovers
Divers	Star gazers
Homeowners	Policy makers
Boaters	Liveaboards
- While some are specific, other categories (e.g. “tourists”) are much more broad. Specificity is important when we think about picking the right message for that audience.
- Interpretation is intended to speak to people in a way that allows them to connect; however messaging is often generic and aimed at everyone.

Personas Activity: By knowing what people do in FKNMS, we know how they’re connecting with the resources and what types of threats those uses may have for the resources, so we can directly message to that. The SAC were challenged to come up with a persona (an identity for a user group), and begin to develop messages that may resonate with them, and tactics to communicate these messages. Personas will be included in the final interpretive plan. Below are some of the personas and the discussion surrounding them.

#### Example persona 1: Sandbar User

- Bumper sticker idea, etc. Hire a captain and: have more fun; save your lower unit and the environment, save money, etc.
- Our house is your house. Welcome; here are our house rules. Respect the environment and others; operate responsibly, support our community, etc.
- Have a QR code for the App so users can scan it. Require people to scan the app before they leave the dock.



- Print QR code and put it on the dash of the rental boats. (FKNMS has stickers that have been given to Blue Star boats). “App”-preciate the Keys.
- Dick and Jane book: Don’t be Dick; be Jane (Dick is upside down on the sandbar, Jane is driving away, etc.).
- Large signage with charts and areas to avoid. Include brochures with the chart. Save your prop, share the chart.
- Different QR codes that go directly to the information you’re trying to get across (e.g., buoys, etc.).
- Banner on the weather apps (consider other mediums that people will access); tide charts, etc.

### Example persona 2: Jet Ski User

- May need a different message - e.g., the fines that you can accrue for wrecking the jet ski; personal injury if you don’t control the jet ski and end up in the hospital.
- Airline magazine - use this to subtly steer this user to learn about the Keys. Include a spread with a beautiful paddle boarding photo at sunset; text about nature and animals you may see. Stunning diving photo with text for how to get certified; unique character of the coral. This will help with the user’s awareness of other wildlife and habitats.
- Know where NOT to go and know what NOT to do. So much is off limits to jet skis in the Keys, it may be easier to focus on what not to do as a jetski operator. There are often jet ski accidents because there are no brakes on a jet ski/a user loses steering once letting off the throttle.
- 2 images: 1st is 3 guys on jet skis with noise from that activity; 2nd image with quiet and solitude. Wild life respects wildlife.
- “You worked hard to play hard, now relax harder.” How to get them to do something a little slower to engage with wildlife, etc. Three images in airline magazine. Guy in a suit at a desk, on a jet ski, on a kayak with turtles or other wildlife. Shows the progression from start to finish - from the office to what he wanted to do on vacation; then hopefully learning what we really are in the Keys and seeing the real wildlife. Encourage them to take the next step.
- Three side by side images - Keys, Lake Michigan, somewhere mainland - on the surface it looks the same; then show differences underwater. “The real magic is below the surface.”
- You cannot change people’s personalities. Consider carrots and sticks (e.g., BUI aftermath, etc.). Sometimes you need to show consequences.
- Images of jet ski on flat or slammed into the bridge. “Death sucks and so do fines.”
- Have a “boating fatalities this year” sign (similar to traffic accidents)?
- Is there research that negative messaging about natural resources is not usually effective. Marlies will investigate if negative messaging in other contexts (about consequences such

as fines and injury) is effective. Using fines and criminality to influence behavior loses the main message of why the resources are important.

- Challenge is getting the messaging out at the point of signature to anyone engaging in this activity. How do we get this message into their possession? Sanctuary has no authority over drinking/boating under the influence, but this is part of the messaging.
- With the idea of knowing where to go. “Wild life of partying vs. natural wildlife” - slogan of “know where to go.”

### Example persona 3: SCUBA Diver

- Best we can hope for is for this user to go out with a Blue Star Dive Operator; try to make sure he doesn't hurt himself while diving in the Keys/seeking social media posts.
- Focus on imagery based on selfies. Selfie of an influencer with nature; next to it is mugshot or degraded wildlife. Some type of saying. Be less of you and more of them (highlight more connection with nature; try to capitalize on the influencer messaging). Social media platforms or ads.
- Buoyancy as a main issue. “Be in control.”
- Age of 19-29/social media influencing. Focus on social media advertisements. This is a venue for younger people to decide what to do. People do not look at pamphlets. Consider advertising consequences of actions (e.g., see a mugshot; will wonder what that person did).
- To the concept that you cannot change a personality and the “stick”- think of the woman collecting conch going to jail (even after she was warned that it was illegal she kept collecting them).
- Old school message: Smokey bear; only you can prevent forest fires.
- Believe this individual would be more receptive to good environmental ethics; how do you engage with someone who wants to be responsible. Use YouTube ads.
- Conservation messaging behind the bathroom stall in bars and restaurants.
- Document inspirational videos of wildlife, including rare situations (sea turtles from a nest, dolphins behind a boat, etc.), as a way to engage people's respect for nature.

### Interpretation/Intangibles:

- Tangibles have qualities you can see, touch, taste, hear and smell. Interpreters take tangible items and connect them to intangible meanings.
- Intangibles are abstract and include ideas, feelings, relationships, values and beliefs. Try to associate tangibles with intangible feelings. (I.e. serenity, discovery, family).
- Ex. Photo of a fishing reel. What intangibles do you associate with this?
  - Tension, joy, adrenaline, family, history/culture, mystery (you don't know what you might catch), potential

Many groups will be consulted to help develop the interpretive plan. Activities with the public, EDC, staff etc. will also be part of the data collection process. The data will be used to develop a draft plan, including overarching key messages that our sanctuary should be emphasizing. The plan will be reviewed by partners, then approved and rolled out.

The SAC can help by volunteering at outreach events, sharing key messages with friends, being part of the review process, and using the key messages. We hope that the final plan can be used by the members of the SAC to help educate the community.

## VI. AGENCY REPORTS

### **Superintendent's Report - Sarah Fangman:**

- **Mission: Iconic Reefs:** FKNMS has hired new staff with Mission: Iconic Reefs: Cricket Desmarais (communications), Grace Hanson (data manager), Maddie Cholnoky (stewardship coordinator), Dr. Katey Lesneski (research & monitoring coordinator), and Kai Lopez (field team member). We anticipate having exciting new news about federal funding for MIR in the near future. Staff have been working with restoration partners on consistent protocols and standards.
- **Eco-Discovery Center:** The EDC is open and we are planning an opening celebration in the next couple of months.
- **Buoys:** NMSF received ~\$500k to hire someone to help with buoys. That will be advertised soon, hope to return missing buoys and install new anchors.
- **Leadership Monroe:** Sarah is participating in Leadership Monroe. This is the 30th class and the first time FKNMS has been involved; hope to continue being involved in the future - both with new applicants and incorporating sanctuary matters into the curriculum. Each class has a class project - their leadership class project is attempting to create a Florida Keys Day in Washington D.C. to carry forward issues of concern to our county. Sarah will speak about concerns with sanctuary and other environmental issues.

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection - Nick Parr:**

- **Seagrass and Water Quality:** DEP is still continuing quarterly seagrass monitoring in Lignumvitae, focus on water adjacent to the fills. That data will be available soon via the FIU website (incorporated into the WQPP data). Also have 20 sites they monitor month, bimonthly or quarterly (Card Sound to the Dry Tortugas). Working with the City of Key West to process water quality data they've collected in marinas and get that into the state database so it is available to regulators and researchers. DEP is ready to install their second water quality data sonde (hourly readings of DO, pH turbidity, chlorophyll A, temperature). Have one installed at dock of LKAP, will also install one at Newfound Harbor Channel (data will be available at FloridaAPdata.org).

- **Proposed zoning:** Held a roundtable discussion on the proposed zone at Ashby Horseshoe Key because that is in the Aquatic Preserve. Consensus has not been reached, but the staff has collated the points of view and will share with NOAA to inform our decisions about that site. Summary of public comments from Restoration Blueprint from pre and post-2022. Before public comments were 48.7% supported expanded conservation; after draft rule = 64.8% in support of expanded conservation. 24.2% thought proposed rules were too strict before the draft rule, dropped to 18.4% after.
- A sunken sailboat that was in Lignumvitae Key Aquatic Preserve since before Irma has now been removed and the state park will soon be filling in that hole and conducting seagrass restoration at that site.

**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission:** no update given

**NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Region - Lauren Waters:** FKNMS has reached out to NOAA Fisheries to review the cooperative fishery management protocol that was developed several years ago.

**NOAA OLE:** Currently have 2 enforcement officers and 1 special agent in the Keys. The majority of NOAA cases come from FWC. They investigate cases and undertake enforcement action. Shout out to Ofc. Chris Mattson in the Upper Keys; who has produced a lot of cases. An 80' Motor yacht grounded at Man Key a week ago; also did an in-water investigation with the FWC dive team; investigation is ongoing. SE Division has priorities for multi-day missions in the Keys where they supplement enforcement with boats and people (ex. lobster mini-season). Have a 29' Sea Hunter, also getting a 20' flats boat in early March for wildlife refuge patrols.

**Navy: NAS KW:** Recently completed a beach cleanup along Truman Annex shoreline. NASKW Environmental is preparing the platforms and placing nesting boxes on designated rooftops for the upcoming shorebird nesting season and further preparing for the sea turtle nesting season

## **VII. CLOSING REMARKS**

Will Benson raised the current planned decommissioning of NOAA weather stations at Molasses Reef and Pulaski Shoal (at the Dry Tortugas). The structures have been damaged by storms and are no longer safe for instrumentation. The question is whether these can be relocated or replaced to continue providing services to boaters. There is a public comment period currently open to the public, but they are moving forward with decommissioning because it's a safety issue. On behalf of council member Andy Newman, he requested we discuss this topic at the next SAC meeting. Molasses information is important for boaters going offshore. Public comment ends today.

Sarah: We can discuss before the next SAC meeting to get more information on the importance of the data that will be lost under the current proposal, and potential ways to engage in this issue. This can be discussed further in April. Even though the discussion and any recommendations would come after the public comment period, those could still be useful to potentially inform an alternative solution for relocating this instrumentation.

There was not enough time and people in attendance to address this today.

Will and Sarah thanked everyone for their participation in today's discussions, and the meeting was adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.