

# Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan



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This document is the revised management plan for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It replaces the management plan that was implemented in 1996 and will serve as the primary management document for the Sanctuary during the next five years.

Comments or questions on this management plan should be directed to:

CDR David A. Score  
Superintendent  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
33 East Quay Road  
Key West, Florida 33040  
(305) 809-4700  
David.A.Score@noaa.gov

### **Note to Reader**

In an effort to make this document more user-friendly, we have included references to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Web site rather than including the entire text of many bulky attachments or appendices that are traditionally included in management plans. Readers who do not have access to the Internet may call the Sanctuary office at (305) 809-4700 to request copies of any documents that are on the Sanctuary's Web site. For readers with Internet access, the Sanctuary's Web site can be found at [floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov).

# ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document is a report on the results of NOAA's five-year review of the strategies and activities detailed in the 1996 *Final Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It serves two primary purposes: 1) to update readers on the outcomes of successfully implemented strategies - in short, accomplishments that were merely plans on paper in 1996; and, 2) to disseminate useful information about the Sanctuary and its management strategies, activities and products. The hope is that this information, which charts the next 5 years of Sanctuary management, will enhance the communication and cooperation so vital to protecting important national resources.

## *Sanctuary Characteristics*

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary extends approximately 220 nautical miles southwest from the southern tip of the Florida peninsula. The Sanctuary's marine ecosystem supports over 6,000 species of plants, fishes, and invertebrates, including the nation's only living coral reef that lies adjacent to the continent. The area includes one of the largest seagrass communities in this hemisphere. Attracted by this tropical diversity, tourists spend more than thirteen million visitor days in the Florida Keys each year. In addition, the region's natural and man-made resources provide recreation and livelihoods for approximately 80,000 residents.

The Sanctuary is 2,900 square nautical miles of coastal waters, including the 2001 addition of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. The Sanctuary overlaps four national wildlife refuges, six state parks, three state aquatic preserves and has incorporated two of the earliest national marine sanctuaries to be designated, Key Largo and Looe Key National Marine Sanctuaries. Three national parks have separate jurisdictions, and share a boundary with the Sanctuary. The region also has some of the most significant maritime heritage and historical resources of any coastal community in the nation.

The Sanctuary faces specific threats, including direct human impacts such as vessel groundings, pollution, and overfishing. Threats to the Sanctuary also include indirect human impacts, which are harder to identify but are reflected in coral declines and increases in macroalgae and turbidity. More information about the Sanctuary can be found in this document and at the Sanctuary's Web site.

## *Management Plan Organization*

Within this document, the tools that the Sanctuary uses to achieve its goals are presented in five management divisions: 1) Science; 2) Education, Outreach & Stewardship; 3) Enforcement & Resource Protection; 4) Resource Threat Reduction; and 5) Administration, Community Relations, & Policy Coordination. Each management division contains two or more *action plans*, which are implemented through supporting *strategies* and *activities*. The strategies described in the 1996 *Management Plan* generally retain their designations in this document. As in the 1996 plan, two or more action plans may share a strategy where their goals and aims converge. The 1996 plan can be accessed on the Sanctuary's Web site [floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)

### *Accomplishments and Highlights*

The Sanctuary's programs and projects have made significant progress since the original management plan was implemented 1996. An overview of these accomplishments is provided in the Introduction. In addition, each action plan contains bulleted lists of accomplishments since the 1996 management plan was adopted.

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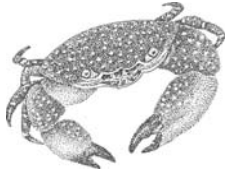


# Acronyms

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
AGRRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Program
ASA	Abandoned Shipwreck Act
ATBA	Areas to Be Avoided
AWT	Advanced Wastewater Treatment
CAD	Computer Automated Dispatch
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CERP	Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CRCP	Coral Reef Conservation Program
DARP	Damage Assessment and Restoration Program
DEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
DTNP	Dry Tortugas National Park
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
F.S.	Florida Statutes
FAC	Florida Administrative Code
FDACS	Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
FDCA	Florida Department of Community Affairs
FDHR	Florida Division of Historical Resources
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
FKNMS	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
FKNMSPA	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act
FPS	Florida Park Service
FR	Federal Register
FWC	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
FWRI	Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
FY	Federal Fiscal Year
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMD	Growth Management Division (Monroe County)
GMFMC	Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
GPS	Global Positioning System
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
ICS	Incident Command Structure
ICW	Intra-coastal Waterway
IMO	International Maritime Organization
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MEERA	Marine Ecosystem Event Response and Assessment
MHR	Maritime Heritage Resources
MMPA	Marine Mammal Protection Act
MMS	Minerals Management Service
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding

MRD	Marine Resources Division (Monroe County)
NCCOS	National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NMS	National Marine Sanctuary
NMSA	National Marine Sanctuary Act
NMSF	National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
NMSP	National Marine Sanctuary Program
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOAA/OLE	NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
NOS	National Ocean Service
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRDA	Natural Resource Damage Assessment Claims
NURC	National Undersea Research Center
OFW	Outstanding Florida Waters
OSDS	On-Site Disposal System
OSTDS	On-Site Sewage Treatment and Disposal System
PREP	National Prepared for Response Exercise Program
PSSA	Particularly Sensitive Sea Area
RECON	Reef Ecosystem Condition Program
REEF	Reef Environmental Education Foundation
RNA	Research Natural Area
RSMAS	University of Miami/Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
SAFMC	South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
SAP	Science Advisory Panel
SAV	Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
SCR	Submerged Cultural Resources
SEFSC	Southeast Fisheries Science Center
SFWMD	South Florida Water Management District
SHIELDS	Sanctuary Hazardous Incident Emergency Logistics Database System
SPA	Sanctuary Preservation Area
SWIM	Surface Water Improvement and Management Act
SWM	Stormwater Management
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USCG	U.S. Coast Guard
USDOC	U.S. Department of Commerce
USDOI	U.S. Department of Interior
USDOS	U.S. Department of State
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WAMS	Waterway Assessment and Marking System

WMA Wildlife Management Area  
WQPP Water Quality Protection Program  
WQSC Water Quality Steering Committee



## 3.3 ENFORCEMENT & RESOURCE PROTECTION

This management division bundles all of the essential legal tools that are available to Sanctuary Managers to protect the natural and historical resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. These action plans include: the Regulatory Action Plan; the Enforcement Action Plan; Damage Assessment and Restoration Action Plan; and the Maritime Heritage Resources Action Plan. Each of these action plans serves a direct role in protecting and conserving Sanctuary resources, whether they are natural or historic resources.

Effective management requires a comprehensive set of regulations and an enforcement program to implement those regulations. The most successful marine protected areas are committed to enforcement of their regulations. The Sanctuary regulations and the interpretive approach to enforcing those regulations are described in this section.

Vessel groundings and damage to submerged Sanctuary resources are a major management issue in the Sanctuary. An average of over 500 vessel groundings occur every year in the Sanctuary and this destructive activity has resulted in the need for a separate action plan to describe the Sanctuary's approach to damage assessments and restoration.

Historical resources are also protected within the Sanctuary and the action plan that describes the Sanctuary's approach to protecting these resources is described in this management division. A rich and colorful history of exploration and discovery of submerged historical resources in the Florida Keys has necessitated the development of an action plan that integrates the State of Florida and NOAA's trustee responsibilities for these resources.

## 3.3.2 Enforcement Action Plan

### *Introduction*

#### *Overview*

When the Key Largo and Looe Key National Marine Sanctuaries were designated in 1975 and 1981 (respectively), it became clear to Sanctuary managers that a major enforcement presence would have to be maintained in order to protect and conserve resources. This same level of commitment has been necessary for the entire Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary since it was established in 1990.

Sanctuary enforcement has traditionally been accomplished through a Cooperative Enforcement Agreement between NOAA and the State of Florida. Beginning in 1981, NOAA and the state entered into an agreement in which the Florida Park Service (FPS), previously responsible for managing the John Pennekamp State Park, continued to provide management services to NOAA, including enforcement of Sanctuary regulations. The state, now in the form of FWC, continues as the primary enforcement arm in the FKNMS.

FKNMS relies heavily on “interpretive enforcement,” which seeks voluntary compliance primarily through education. The goal of interpretive enforcement is to gain the greatest level of compliance through understanding and public support of sanctuary goals. Interpretive enforcement emphasizes informing the public through educational messages and literature about responsible behavior before resources can be adversely impacted. Officers talk directly with users and distribute brochures in the field and throughout the community; such encounters allow officers to make direct, informative contact with visitors and local residents while conducting routine enforcement activity.

Preventive enforcement is achieved by maintaining sufficient presence within the Sanctuary to deter violations. Successful enforcement relies on frequent water patrols and routine vessel boardings and inspections. Water patrols ensure that Sanctuary users are familiar with regulations in order to deter willful or inadvertent violations and provide quick response to violations and emergencies.

#### *Legislative Authorities*

Besides the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, NOAA has sole or shared primary jurisdiction for the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), the ESA, and the Lacey Act.

Among federal conservation laws enforced primarily by other agencies but of concern to NOAA, are the Oil Pollution Act, the Clean Water Act, the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act, the Abandoned Shipwreck Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, the ESA, the MMPA, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Also relevant are state laws including: the Beach and Shore Preservation Act, the Florida Environmental Land and Water Management Act, the Florida Air and Water Pollution Control Act, the Florida Aquatic Preserves Act of 1975, and the Florida Clean Vessel Act.

#### *Sanctuary Enforcement Funding*

Since 1980, the Enforcement Program and all other management programs in the Sanctuary have been fully funded through a cooperative agreement with the State of Florida. Seventeen Sanctuary officers

currently working in the Sanctuary are state employees. Sanctuary officers are assigned to FWC's Division of Law Enforcement, with operations coordinated among NOAA, FWC, and DEP. In addition to state laws and local ordinances, Sanctuary officers have statutory or delegated authority to enforce the NMSA and other statutes administered by NOAA.

#### *Integrating Enforcement Efforts*

Across the nation, federal, state, and local agencies are increasingly joining forces and targeting whole coastal ecosystems, including rivers, bays, estuaries, and coastlines, to develop and implement comprehensive management and enforcement. Federal, state, and local laws provide a variety of tools to protect coastal resources. In so doing, these laws strengthen enforcement capabilities by allowing agencies to utilize each other's expertise, share resources and problem solve collectively. Federal, state, and local agencies in the Florida Keys are continually working to integrate efforts. Additionally, residents, volunteers and visitors help by detecting and reporting violations and groundings, monitoring water quality, and submitting witness statements.

Successful and efficient Sanctuary enforcement depends largely on how well the region's federal, state, and local enforcement assets are directed and coordinated. A clear vision of the interagency mission and an understanding of the assets and resources available for an interagency effort are essential. An assessment of existing federal, state, and local enforcement assets in the Keys has demonstrated that most of the assets on the water belong to FWC and USCG. Although other agencies have assets, they are either limited or the agencies operate in areas specific to their mission. Consequently, the goal of interagency agreements with USFWS, NPS and FPS to cross-deputize officers has not occurred, to the detriment of enforcement capabilities. Interagency agreements with these agencies and local enforcement may be sought in the future.

#### *Goals and Objectives*

The goal of this Action plan is to:

- Protect resources by achieving compliance with the applicable laws.

To achieve this goal, the objectives are:

- To increase public understanding of the importance to comply with regulations;
- To achieve voluntary compliance; and
- To promote public stewardship of the historical, cultural, marine resources through interpretive enforcement.

#### *Implementation*

There are several mechanisms that the FKNMS uses to achieve the enforcement goals and objectives identified above including:

##### *A) Agreements and Cooperative Efforts in order to:*

- Strengthen existing enforcement partnerships with the State of Florida.
- Develop partnerships with federal and local enforcement agencies in order to provide a strong enforcement presence throughout the Sanctuary.
- Maintain an active relationship with international, federal, state, and local enforcement agencies to identify mutual concerns and develop cooperative and unified responses.

- Explore cooperative relationships with foreign governments.
- Enter into memoranda of understanding, cooperative enforcement agreements, and joint operations plans with other agencies as appropriate.
- Facilitate communication to avoid duplication of effort.
- Promote cooperation, standardization of gear, and coordination of limited resources such as vessels, radios, radio frequencies, and training.
- Promote training, cooperation and cross-deputization among enforcement agencies.

*B) Community Involvement in order to:*

- Encourage public involvement by encouraging site-specific interpretive patrols by volunteers.
- Involve USCG, civil aeronautical patrols, power squadrons, dive operators and fishing organizations in promoting compliance.
- Maintain an active relationship with citizen groups interested in compliance.
- Encourage compliance through community outreach programs.
- Encourage information sharing and networking with local law enforcement.

*C) Education in order to:*

- Emphasize education as a tool to achieve compliance with regulations.
- Promote voluntary compliance and stewardship through outreach programs.
- Train user groups about regulations and procedures for reporting violations.
- Identify major user groups and develop and disseminate specific materials.
- Increase the officer's capabilities and response to critical incidents such as large vessel groundings or oil and chemical spills.

*D) Operations that:*

- Maintain an investigative capability to ensure quick response to willful unlawful acts.
- Develop and maintain the capability to effectively respond to violations and emergencies.
- Establish an enforcement advisory committee of regional law enforcement organizations.
- Develop enforcement operation plans that identify strategies and priorities and outline the best means of achieving them.
- Develop regulations for the sanctuary that are comprehensible to the general public and are easily enforced.

***FKNMS Enforcement Operations***

Coordination of FKNMS enforcement occurs through the coordination of FKNMS managers, FWC, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (NOAA/OLE), and USCG. Enforcement since FKNMS regulations took effect in July of 1997 has been largely the domain of the designated Sanctuary Officers and NOAA/OLE with heavy support of other FWC assets and assistance from USCG when groundings and violations involving large vessels have occurred.

The 1996 management plan called for the funding of a NOAA/OLE special agent designated as the Sanctuary agent. The Sanctuary agent was hired prior to implementation of the management plan, and in addition to authoring the enforcement action plan, the officer initiated coordination among enforcement agencies and was responsible for case processing. When the agent moved to another agency, funds were redirected to hire an enforcement technician to manage summary settlement cases and assure proper routing of other cases to an enforcement attorney within NOAA/OLE. Other

duties originally assigned to the Sanctuary agent have been split among OLE Special Agents, the Sanctuary Captain and Lieutenants and Sanctuary managers.

Sanctuary officers patrol the Upper, Middle, Lower Keys, and Tortugas region with emphasis on Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves. Patrol priorities are based primarily on resource protection and the time of the year (seasons) as opposed to user conflicts.

The Sanctuary Enforcement team now consists of a Captain in overall command while the other positions are as follows.

- Upper Keys: One supervisory Lieutenant and four officers.
- Lower Keys: One supervisory Lieutenant and four officers.
- Tortugas Patrol: An offshore patrol crew consisting of one Lieutenant in command with three additional officers. Patrols are conducted on board a 57 foot high performance catamaran vessel specifically designed for the task.

As part of the continuous management process, an enforcement review program has been established for the Sanctuary. This program ensures management issues are addressed by all agencies involved in enforcement, and that the proper equipment, training and marine resource identification and protection methods reach the enforcement staff.

### *Accomplishments*

There have been several accomplishments in FKNMS enforcement since implementation of the 1996 management plan, including:

- Funding of a Law Enforcement Technician at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Office in St. Petersburg, Fla., has facilitated case management.
- The FWC's pilot has contributed greatly to patrol efforts as well as response and documentation to groundings.
- USCG training has taken place and the USCG continues to enforce Sanctuary regulations when possible.
- The USCG and US Geological Survey (USGS) continue aerial and vessel surveillance in the Sanctuary.
- The USCG has been helpful in boarding and reporting ships anchored in a "no anchor area" in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. Additionally, in the first 7 months of the implementation of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, the USCG cited 3 shrimp boat operators for illegal shrimping in the Reserve.
- A 31-foot Manta has been obtained and refitted for offshore patrol primarily in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. Acquisition of this vessel has dramatically improved enforcement in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, allowing more 2-3 day patrols that have substantially increased the detection and apprehension of violators.
- Four new patrol vessels have been obtained and are operating in the Sanctuary.
- An interagency agreement between NOAA and FWC establishes the authority for all FWC officers to enforce Sanctuary regulations.
- The enactment of Rule 68B-6 by FWC parallels FKNMS rules pertaining to Ecological Reserves and SPAs as well as the designated boundaries of SPAs, Ecological Reserves and Research-only Areas within state waters. Rule 68B-6 is enforceable by all state, county and municipal officers within their jurisdictions.



- The establishment and posting of regulatory markers delineating no-entry, no-motor and no-wake zones facilitates enforcement of those zones by all state, county and municipal officers within their jurisdictions.
- An interagency agreement, not involving cross-deputization, between NOAA, FWC and NPS, is currently being worked on that will facilitate enforcement in the Tortugas ecological reserves and the 46 square mile Research Natural Area no take zone established in 2006.
- Cooperative relationships have been established between NOAA/OLE Special Agents, USCG, FWC, NPS, USFWS, DEP, Monroe County Sheriff and Key West Police Department, Key Colony Beach Police Department and the Village of Islamorada Policy Department.
- An initiative to further involve USCG was established in July 2001. As a result, the Sanctuary Captain will coordinate with NOAA/OLE and USCG's Fisheries Enforcement Training Section in Charlestown, S.C., to establish a Sanctuary enforcement training curriculum for USCG personnel stationed in the Florida Keys.
- FKNMS staff has undertaken on-going training in the Incident Command Structure (ICS) as a result of the mock assessment for Safe Sanctuaries 2005.
- FKNMS staff has coordinated with federal, state and local governments in an effort to remove marine debris and derelict or abandoned vessels due to the six hurricanes that impacted Monroe County in 2004 and 2005.
- FKNMS staff has worked to develop cooperative relationships with the commercial fishermen (stone crab and lobster) in the attempt to recover trap property after the 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons.
- Additional NOAA funding increased the number of sworn officers from 6 to 17 during the management plan review period.
- FKNMS acquired a state of the art 57 foot high speed catamaran to patrol the Dry Tortugas Ecological Reserve as well as the Lower Keys. This vessel is the first ever designed and purchased by NOAA exclusively for National Marine Sanctuary law enforcement patrols and mission.
- FKNMS staff has increased international participation to assist other countries in the development of enforcement plans for marine protected areas. The countries include Korea, Brazil, Malaysia and the Seychelle Islands.

**Strategies**

There is one strategy associated with this action plan:

- B.6 Acquiring Additional Enforcement Personnel

This strategy is detailed below. Table 3.7 provides estimated costs for implementation this strategy over the next five years.

**Table 3.7 Estimated costs of the Enforcement Action Plan**

Enforcement Action Plan Strategy	Estimated Annual Cost (in thousands)*					Total Estimated 5 Year Cost
	YR 1	YR 2	YR 3	YR 4	YR 5	
B.6: Acquiring Additional Enforcement Personnel	2,900	3,025	3,290	3,560	4,000	16,775
<b>Total Estimated Annual Cost</b>	2,900	3,025	3,290	3,560	4,000	<b>16,775</b>

\* Contributions from outside funding sources also anticipated.

**Strategy Summary**

As identified in the original management plan (1996) FKNMS needs 43 Sanctuary enforcement officers for high-use and sensitive areas. Six support personnel will be required to provide clerical, mechanical, and dispatch duties. FKNMS current employs 17 officers and 2 support personnel. This will require additional funding for 26 officers and 4 support personnel. This strategy seeks to (1) increase the presence of law enforcement officers on the water to protect resources and reduce user conflicts, (2) provide resources to aid officers in long-term investigations and (3) adequately staff enforcement of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve. Remote observation techniques may be used to aid enforcement efforts.

**Activities (5)**

**(1) Develop Remote Observation Techniques to Aid Enforcement Efforts.** Floatplanes, tethered aerostats, etc., may be used to aid enforcement.

*Status:* Initiated and on-going. Surveillance radar has been installed on Smith Shoal Light by NOAA/OLE. The radar is used to monitor federal and state shrimp sanctuaries; an additional radar installation is planned for the Tortugas. A remote-camera system for use within Sanctuary protected areas is being developed by NOAA/OLE. An “Eyes on the Water” program will give users a formal method for notifying the Sanctuary of observed violations. Education to assist the public in reporting violations to FWC’s dispatch center is one year from completion.

*Implementation:* NOAA is the lead agency with assistance from other agencies.

**(2) Develop Interagency Agreements Establishing Cross-agency Enforcement Authority.** These agreements would set forth federal, state, and local enforcement authority among all officers. The agencies include:

- NOAA/OLE, in close consultation with the Sanctuary Superintendent and the Sanctuary Captain, will coordinate enforcement operations.
- FWC and Sanctuary enforcement officers are supervised by FWC under an agreement that allows officers to enforce provisions of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and other NOAA statutes. FWC’s Sanctuary detachment is the primary enforcement in the Sanctuary. A new interagency agreement allows other FWC officers to enforce statutes that apply within the entire Sanctuary, including the NMSA and relevant federal statutes; however, participation is limited by operational parameters.
- USCG is fully empowered by the NMSA to enforce Sanctuary regulations.

Interagency agreements to cross-deputize officers among NOAA and USFWS, and NOAA and the NPS have been explored but not consummated. USFWS currently enforces FKNMS regulations in Wildlife Management Areas that it manages and assists Sanctuary officers by reporting violations of which they become aware. NPS currently patrols only within the area of its national parks. NPS has been the primary source of information concerning Sanctuary violations in the Tortugas. An interagency agreement to cross-deputize Florida Park Service (FPS) officers has been established.

Historically, FPS officers and Sanctuary officers regularly assist each other with enforcement near park borders, especially during vessel groundings.

Status: USCG has full authority to enforce Sanctuary regulations. NOAA has established an interagency agreement that cross-deputizes FWC officers. The two agencies conduct most of the law enforcement within the Sanctuary. NOAA continues to evaluate the possibility of additional agreements.

Implementation: NOAA is the lead agency.

**(3) Develop Standard Operating Procedures.** This will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of enforcement. It will establish coordination and cooperation among agencies and increase communication by scheduling staff and equipment efficiently, developing a process for handling violations, standardizing radio communications, promoting cooperation with the military and determining priority enforcement areas.

Status: Implemented and on-going.

Implementation: NOAA/OLE coordinates joint operations of USCG and FWC. The Sanctuary captain coordinates routine operations of Sanctuary officers and joint operations with other FWC assets. In addition, a process for handling Sanctuary violations has been established for USCG and FWC. Joint USCG and FWC operations use VHF radio communications; otherwise FWC and USCG use systems unique to each agency. FWC has been issued two Nextel units that are a part of the NOAA/OLE communications network. Use of military equipment has been limited to identifying high-use areas. Priority enforcement areas have been identified and priority areas are revisited each month via conference call between the Sanctuary, NOAA/OLE and USCG.

**(4) Develop a Standardized Training Program.** A training program is being developed to enable enforcement agencies to educate each other about statutes and codes. The cost to implement is estimated at up to \$3.6 million in capital expenses and an additional \$1 million for operation and maintenance, primarily salaries and equipment, to be distributed among participating agencies. The funding will come primarily from NOAA and will be used to hire up to 26 additional enforcement officers, two clerks and two radio-duty officers. If 26 additional officers are hired, 24 will require a high-performance vessel. Each officer will have enforcement gear at approximately \$5000 per officer. Each officer must initially attend the FWC Law Enforcement Academy and then participate in FWC annual training.

Status: The standardized training program for USCG will be complete within six months. Revision and updating activities are continuous.

Implementation: A standardized training program is in effect within FWC. The Sanctuary captain will work with USCG's Fisheries Training section to establish standardized training for its personnel.

**(5) Develop System to Evaluate Effectiveness and Efficiency.** A system will be designed for evaluating the effectiveness of enforcement. Evaluating efficiency will be done monthly and annually. Regional managers assess efforts in known hot spots and coordinate enforcement coverage accordingly. On a yearly basis, the heads of the cooperating agencies will meet to discuss issues.

Status: Implemented and on-going

Implemented: Computer Automated Dispatch (CAD) Center within FWC communications can compile and track information on a monthly and annual basis.