

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

**Marathon Garden Club, 5270 Overseas Highway, Marathon  
Tuesday, February 19, 2008**

**MOTION**

Moved by Mr. Jeff Cramer and seconded by Ms. Debra Harrison. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote.

**Whereas**, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was established as a multiple use management program; and

**Whereas**, the Florida Keys fishing industry and public access are recognized as a historic activity within the waters of the Sanctuary; and

**Whereas**, the Florida Keys fishing industry and public access are major contributors to the economy, both locally and to the State of Florida; and

**Whereas**, the fishing industry and public access are highly dependent upon the availability of deep water marinas and adequate lands for operations; and

**Whereas**, the State of Florida, recognizing the rapid conversion of working waterfronts to upscale development passed legislation to increase protection of working waterfronts throughout the state; and

**Whereas**, Monroe County Planning Department began a process to assure protection of local working waterfronts over three years ago; and

**Whereas**, at the end of the extensive public process, a lengthy amendment proposal was submitted during public comment to the Board of County Commissioners with a request for replacement of the publicly-vetted proposed working waterfront ordinance; and

**Whereas**, without review by the public, the Monroe County Planning Department, the Planning Commission or the Board of County Commissioners, the amendment was adopted on a 3-2 vote and was transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs; and

**Whereas**, upon review of the adopted ordinance it is realized that critical elements of the original ordinance that were intended to protect existing working waterfronts including, but not limited to allowances for large-scale hotel developments and the elimination of the no-net-loss provision, were changed, leaving the future of the Keys fishing industries and public access in greater peril.

**Therefore**, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voices its objection to the process by which the final working waterfront ordinance was adopted, and recommends that the Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs reject the

ordinance as transmitted and return it to Monroe County for further consideration and public input.

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The Council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.