

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center, Key West, Florida  
December 9, 2008**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Chris Bergh	Bob Holston
Jack Curlett	Don Kincaid
Jon Fajans	Martin Moe
Dolly Garlo	Ken Nedimyer
Richard Grathwohl	George Neugent
Debra Harrison	Bruce Popham
David Hawtof	Brad Simonds

**Alternates Present**

Jason Bennis	David Makepeace
Jana Fly	David Vaughan
	Scott Zimmerman

**Call to Order/Roll Call/Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2008/Adoption of Agenda for this Meeting/Chairperson's Comments/Introductions**

Chairman Bruce Popham called the meeting to order at 9:10 A.M.

The minutes from the October 21, 2008 SAC meeting were reviewed. Chris Bergh moved that they be approved, seconded by Dolly Garlo. No objections were noted, and they were approved. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. George Neugent moved that it be approved, seconded by Ken Nedimyer; no objections were noted, they were approved. Chair Popham noted that the lunch would be a potluck, and thanked the staff for the meeting room and setup.

Chair Popham remarked that the new President-elect may bring some changes that affect this region, and that it is a tough time for the marine industry. There is a new website of the President-elect, [change.gov](http://change.gov), and citizens can provide input to the new administration. Chair Popham personally would like to see the government kick start its commitment to the South Florida restoration process and help with infrastructure needs like sewers. He provided input to the [change.gov](http://change.gov) website and encouraged others may want to also. He also mentioned a Thomas Friedman book that people might be interested in reading, *Hot, Flat and Crowded*, about demand for natural resources and key problems we are facing.

**Superintendent's Report -- CDR David Score, Superintendent (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary [FKNMS], National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] Corps)**

- CDR Dave Score noted Billy Causey sent his regrets for not being present at the meeting; he is currently in Washington, D.C. at a biodiversity conference.

- CDR Score complimented the SAC Ecosystem Restoration Working Group for the workshop it organized in November. It was a tremendous opportunity to get up to speed on the issues, and there was good information on Everglades planning. Unfortunately, a lot of people in the room already knew what was going on, but he learned a lot, and it was good information for the SAC. It is a big commitment for the Working Group and the sanctuary staff to put those workshops on. He noted that, if we are going to make such investments, we are missing that next step of getting to the people who need to hear it. The SAC needs to remember to bring information to the right people that they represent, as part of the SAC

seat duties. He thanked the SAC for its work and for being a sounding board for the agency and the public.

- Regarding the budget, things are still tough and the sanctuary is still under a continuing resolution. So far, the sanctuary has been able to keep the doors open and the lights on. Funding agreements with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) are being done quarterly, but there is a commitment from the national level to at least level fund it. The problem with level funding is that more dollars are needed. He said he relies on the recommendations of the SAC about what activities to fund. The sanctuary is focused on resource protection strategies and impacts to the resources, and continues to provide education on the impacts to this special place, as well as to keep law enforcement officers "in gas and bullets."

- The draft no discharge regulations, previously reported on, are nearing completion in terms of a short environmental assessment. The sanctuary staff and headquarters staff put it together, and it is in clearance. The minor clarifications on regulations have been cleared and will be coming out soon.

- CDR Score stated that the sanctuary staff has continued to work on marine debris removal, and that some money from the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration came in. He recognized Scott Zimmerman and the Monroe County commercial fishermen for their marine debris removal efforts, noting that it is all about partnering. If there is anything the sanctuary can do to help, such as provide a letter of support, he noted sanctuary staff are happy to do it.

- CDR Score also talked about a good project that Lauri MacLaughlin, Kent Edwards and others are working on, looking at removing old coral colonies from the Bahia Honda bridge and replanting them in suitable locations. There are ways of doing things that have less of an impact and restore some services. He mentioned they have relocated about 100 corals with just one small project, some of which were 50 cm in diameter and 50 years old. He recognized the Florida Department of Transportation and its contractors for doing the right thing.

- CDR Score mentioned that there are two vacant positions in the NOAA side of the sanctuary staff, formerly held by Leigh Espy and Patti Hartsing. These positions have not been filled yet, but the positive side is that the sanctuary is able to save money this way.

- CDR Score gave kudos to John Hunt for the FWC marine life working group and said their staff has done a phenomenal job of reaching out to the Keys.

- CDR Score ended by saying that the sanctuary program has been negotiating with the NOAA Corps about retaining his services at FKNMS. It is looking like he will need to take over as the skipper of the GORDON GUNTER. It is not certain when this will be; it could be imminent. The program gave him carte blanche to say what FKNMS needs in this transition, and Dan Basta has approved an interim Superintendent, Sean Morton. Mr. Morton will probably be at the next SAC meeting. Mr. Morton is at the Council on Environmental Quality now, working with Michael Weiss, briefing the incoming administration about NOAA and the sanctuary program. Mr. Causey is threatening to get CDR Score back at FKNMS after 18 months, but that is not certain. CDR Score has been asked to keep his hand in FKNMS matters, and he will. He will also continue to make his home in the Keys. Chair Popham and others expressed their surprise at this news. Chair Popham added that he is continually amazed by what the staff does, and that it has a lot to do with the leadership. CDR Score said that it is the best team in government.

### **Agency Report Highlights:**

#### **FWC Report -- Pat Langley, FWC**

- Pat Langley spoke, filling in for Major Edwards. Mr. Langley noted that David Dupree has been promoted to Lieutenant and is now in charge of derelict vessels for the state; he will continue to live in the Keys. Two officers are designated to work mainly on derelict vessels in the Keys. He reviewed further changes in personnel and assignments, including that a helicopter pilot had recently been lost due to a heart attack; he will be greatly missed. Also, Brian Christy is back on the *Gladding*, but will be called up

by the National Guard again next year. He also reported that four new officers had been hired recently, to be stationed in the Keys if they finish the academy; they will fill four of ten vacancies.

- The officers are working on a reduced budget but are still making good cases working with other jurisdictions; a lot has been done by Lt. Scarpa and officer Lopez on casita enforcement, and Lt. Maldonado stopped a vessel and found 150-300 lbs. of live rock that two people from Miami had removed; most of the rock was returned to the water. There was also a goliath group and three substantial lobster cases recently as well.

- Chair Popham expressed appreciation for the officers' work. Mr. Hawtof asked if an inquiry had been made of the Navy about housing, since he understood cost of living in the area was one of the problems in retaining officers. Mr. Langley replied that they had mentioned that to the officers, but they don't seem to be too interested, and there are also trailer two spots on Everglades National Park property, not currently being used (one officer did take advantage of that opportunity in the past).

### **DEP Report -- Kent Edwards, DEP**

- Mr. Edwards reported on a workshop held November 6 in Key West with commercial operators. The staff met with about 15-10 people, and had a good discussion, including about the Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) around Key West (specifically Looe Key), and which buoys were being used. When the FKNMS staff does future maintenance, they will focus on those buoys. Next spring, they will start replacing equipment; it will probably take the staff up to three years to replace those mooring buoys in regular use, and they may look at taking out some balls that get very little use. In backcountry areas, there are people going into places without mooring buoys, and anchors can drag and damage resources. The staff also talked about sites where they will look at putting in more mooring balls, but this is a bit of a problem due to personnel and financial resources. The staff will take a look at the sites, and it is an opportunity to work with the community and be more efficient. Tomorrow, staff members will be going to Mule Key to look to see if commercial vessels are going there, if there are drag marks, and if there is seagrass damage, and will consider equipment needed there if the decision is made to install it.

- In another project, there have been discussions with the Navy about its billboard on Big Coppitt, which was blown down in 2004-2005, to possibly have a sanctuary education or other message there. The Navy was receptive and said would entertain the idea, and there is some potential for money for a message. Debra Harrison commented that she has been involved in eradicating billboards for 25 years, and as it is such a pretty area, wondered about conservation vs. education to advertise about the Eco-Discovery Center in this case. It is her understanding that a damaged billboard could not be put back up. She wondered if the sanctuary could look to the school district to utilize their signs instead. CDR Score responded that the Key West Ambassadors are taking on signage as they come in, and letting people know about special areas, and noted it is important to consider how all the factors fit together. Mr. Bergh noted that since the billboard is on Navy property, it may not be covered by the County. He added that perhaps the flashing highway signs might be used for messages. Later in the meeting, David Makepeace revisited the billboard issue. He noted he felt conflicted, as the more people visit the Eco-Discovery Center, the more potential there is for impacting their sense of stewardship, but he felt putting a billboard back that is current down is a conflict, and said, as an educator, he does not want to send a mixed message. He thinks the SAC should perhaps consider this more, and consider other means to accomplish the same thing, such as a plane or glider with a banner. Mr. Bergh felt it would be important to see exactly where it is and what the Navy's plans are for it; the billboard used to have a Navy message. Ms. Garlo noted that what is missing is the sign, but the billboard structure is still there. Mr. Edwards noted that sanctuary has not made hard plans at this point and he is not aware of any plans that the Navy has for the billboard.

- Regarding the FWC Commission meeting, Mr. Edwards said anchoring and mooring fields were important issues. There is discussion of changing language in the legislation on markers and mooring fields, and putting in a definition for the number of days a vessel could anchor in one area. The public is entitled to open navigation of the seas, but may not anchor anywhere at any time and damage resources. There are a lot of different issues tied into this, and the plan around the state is to try pilot projects in

different municipalities. If the changes went through, waste water would be managed better and access for the public would be maintained.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Report -- Pat Bradley, EPA**

Pat Bradley reported that the EPA is preparing for the transition of the new Administration. The EPA received a letter from a non profit organization on ocean acidification, wanting the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide under the Clean Water Act; the EPA is working on a response. She noted that if the solution being proposed happens, it would be good thing for the coral reefs. At the last meeting, she noted Mr. Causey had talked about the Coral Reef Conservation Program meeting and its focus points, and she mentioned that this is under the EPA's purview as well, and the agency is actively writing up some goals and objectives for the first point. The EPA research group she is a part of is working with other concerned agencies on a plan regarding ecological services and coral reefs. One aspect of that is decision science, and they are starting to look at who makes decisions that impact coral reefs.

### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Report -- Anne Morkill, USFWS**

- Anne Morkill said many organizations participated in the celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the Key West National Wildlife Refuge, at the Eco-Discovery Center. She thanked Craig Wanous and Robert Keeley for helping set up and noted other FKNMS staff members helped too. The USFWS recognized Todd Hitchins and Mr. Keeley for their work in the back country on education. She mentioned Tom Wilmers recently received an honorary award from the USFWS. Also, there is now a rock plaque outside The Eco-Discovery Center recognizing the Key West National Wildlife Refuge.
- The agency received a lot of comments on the conservation plan recently; the preferred alternative will remain the same. The priorities tend to be more terrestrial, but they are also dealing with exotic species issues, such as large snakes.
- At the end of the fiscal year, the agency got a flush of money, and passed on \$150,000 to the EPA for the Water Quality Protection Program; many sites are within the refuge boundaries; the agency also gave money for another two years of turtle research. It does not look like the USFWS will get the same money in 2009; if they do, it will be a smaller amount.
- Ms. Morkill then introduced Karen Hillier, the Deputy Refuge Manager, who will be working on a number of things, especially education and outreach goals.

### **Public Comment**

Ty Symroski spoke about infrastructure. He noted the President-elect is thinking about stimulating the economy and he hears talk about infrastructure, and Mr. Symroski said the group may want to think about infrastructure needs, including mooring buoys, that are ready to go if infrastructure money becomes available. Regarding billboards, when he was with the County many years ago, there were 110 billboards, and was happy see billboards removed. The Navy had about 10 billboards that it removed. He urged not having the billboard with a sanctuary message, discussed earlier in the meeting, as there are plans for the Florida Keys Scenic Highway [U.S. 1] to become a national scenic highway and byway. U.S. 1 is also the Overseas Heritage Trail and it is a state park. He also mentioned potentially gaining some venues in the future, such as from those in the Department of Transportation (DOT) five year capital improvement plan, including trailheads. Those venues would be a good place to advertise, and DOT is going to have a monopoly on those places. He recommended exploring this.

Blaze Vic spoke about the Eco-Discovery Center, saying he has lived here many years, and it is the most important education thing, but many people don't know about it. He also said it should be open on Sunday; many people come down on the weekend. He suggested the sanctuary be mentioned in the *Key West Citizen*, and mentioned use of the column on the second page. CDR Score replied that the staff also wishes it could be open then too, but that it is a fiscal issue. The hours could be changed, but looking at the booking rotation of rooms in Key West, and cruise ship schedules, Sunday visitation was not as high as some of the other days. Don Kincaid surveys show the bulk of visitors stay for three and five day

packages. Sundays, Mondays and Fridays are the transition/travel days for almost all of the packages, and most visitors drive down in their cars. David Vaughan noted that, Mote is one of the lucky partners at the center, but acknowledges it is the best kept secret in the Keys. There are efforts to get more information about the Center on the cruise ships and the trolleys. He and Craig Ross are trying to work on advertng it through the venue of the Protect Our Reefs license plates as well. He noted he is concerned about how to do green advertising; he would like to have signs and pamphlets, but of course those use resources. He noted he welcomed suggestions. CDR Score said the Sanctuary Friends Foundation of the Florida Keys (SFFFK) has hired an event/marketing coordinator, Peggy Russell, to work on bookings at the Center. She has some good ideas. Chair Popham invited Mr. Vic to come in and volunteer at the Center. Mr. Vic also commented about highways and enforcement; he said no one follows the laws on the highway. Even with all the education, how can enforcement be done on the water? Chair Popham thanked him for his comments.

Mary Barley commented that once a person gets to the end of Truman, there could be a sign; it is very unattractive to get here. CDR Score commented that there is one small sign, but agreed with her sentiments. Ms. Barley said she came to the meeting to comment on the purchase of U.S. Sugar lands. The company has 89 consumptive use permits and discharges 40 billion gallons of water a year. It is important to think about this in terms of the amount of water they need to keep up there and move around, and it is important for Florida Bay. She talked about the role of visionaries, Florida Bay, George Barley, the establishment of FKNMS, and the sanctuary's bold vision. The visionaries changes many types of laws and educated a number of government officials and citizens, and she reviewed some of the highlights. This year, Governor Crist agreed to the purchase the U.S. Sugar lands, which is visionary. She reminded the SAC members that they were sworn to protect the waters of the sanctuary. There was brief discussion agreeing that the SAC supported protection of the sanctuary waters and its watershed.

#### **South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Report -- Thomas Genovese, SFWMD**

Thomas Genovese noted that the senior management has spent countless hours on the U.S. Sugar Lands issue, and governing board of the District had a workshop about it on December 2. Each board member was to get a briefing in the coming week on the sugar lands and Everglades restoration. There are also some District meetings coming up. He noted that the meetings are webcast, and people can see them streaming live.

#### **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Report -- LCDR John Herring, USCG**

LCDR John Herring said he had arrived in July, replacing Daniel Silvestro. He and his family came from Washington, D.C., and they are happy to be here. He mentioned his group has four pollution investigators right now; normally there are three. There was a Vessel of Opportunity Skimming System (VOSS) here last week from Miami, and a tug was outfitted with equipment. More trailers and boom just came in too. All of the Keys Coast Guard stations will have a small trailer with 1000 feet of boom, and the Coast Guard will be doing training to practice with the equipment. If there were a spill event, contractors and vessels would come down from Miami. CDR Score commented that he appreciated seeing the VOSS demonstration last week; LCDR Herring said it can turn any vessel into an oil skimming vessel.

#### **SAC Ecosystem Restoration Working Group Report -- Alex Score, Working Group Member and Jon Fajans, SAC**

- Alex Score noted that this Working Group first started meeting in the spring of 2006, and since then has successfully organized three workshops; it is a pleasure working with the group. She reviewed the vision and agenda of the most recent ecosystem restoration workshop, held in November 2008. In the afternoon, there was a question about how many of the people in the room (97) were working for a group involved in restoration, and only seven were not. But, everyone there heard the newest, best restoration information, and everyone was re-engaged. Mrs. Score noted Hank Brown was there; while Mr. Brown seemed

frustrated, he had not been to a meeting in years, that she knew of. She said it is the job of the SAC to engage people and get them to meetings. She then noted there were several draft resolutions to be discussed at this meeting, one of which came directly from the workshop.

- Jon Fajans said that that first potential motion, which had been provided to the SAC in advance of the meeting, was being withdrawn. It dealt with support from the SAC, through the Superintendent, to the SFWMD regarding the dedicated funding for the first phase of C-111 spreader canal. The \$70 million already set aside can only be used for that project. The Working Group had been working under the assumption that it might be able to be used for something else; the motion is now being withdrawn, as they do not want the wrong message to be sent.

- Mr. Fajans then read and moved a second motion, also provided to the SAC in advance of the meeting, regarding including a mandatory boater education program in Everglades National Park's General Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Jason Bennis. Scott Zimmerman noted that the statistics in the text did not seem right to him, and Chair Popham agreed they were not correct. Mrs. Score said the statistics came from seagrass awareness materials from 2006. There was discussion about how to handle the discrepancy, and Mr. Zimmerman consulted a website, and stated that, as of 2006, the figures for Monroe County were \$13,026,000 for stone crab and \$21,264,000 for spiny lobster. It was agreed to change the relevant figures in the draft motion to these figures. Mr. Bennis said the National Parks Conservation Association is a strong supporter of boater education, and said there will be an "Eco-Mariner" discussion as part of education and outreach presentation at the next SAC meeting. He also suggested adding to the first part of the motion after "Plan", "...when implemented, and share the results and best practices with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other agencies". Mr. Langley said there is already a boater education requirement for those 21 and under, so he was not sure what was being asked; perhaps the questions could be added into the questions those people need to take. Mr. Fajans replied that the goal is more to reach those boaters exempt from taking the state boater education program, rather than reaching just the new boaters. Chair Popham noted that there are issues about how this would be done and enforcement. Mr. Makepeace suggested having the state make it mandatory for everyone. Some SAC members wondered about making this recommendation, since the SAC was not recommending it for FKNMS waters and does not have the authority to do it for sanctuary waters, and others felt it was fine. Roll call was taken on the motion, with the friendly amendments included, and the motion passed unanimously. Below is the text of the motion.

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council requests the Sanctuary Superintendent to ask Everglades National Park to consider creating a mandatory boater education program, that would require licensing and certification, in their General Management Plan, when implemented, and share the results and best practices with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and other agencies, to help protect and reduce further prop scarring and damage to the seagrass bottom of Florida Bay since:

- (1) Many commercial fishery species rely on seagrass habitat during some part of their life cycles including pink shrimp, lobster, red fish, and stone crab.
  - (2) Seagrass habitat helps to support a thriving, multi-million dollar recreational fishery including flats fishing for bonefish and tarpon.
  - (3) The estimated total value for Monroe County in 2006 for six seagrass dependent species added up to about \$25.8 million.
  - (4) More than 70% of Florida's recreational and commercial fish, crustaceans, and shellfish spend part of their lives in shallow water estuaries.
  - (5) The value in 2006 of the stone crab fishery in Monroe County was estimated at \$13,026,000.
  - (6) The value of the 2006 spiny lobster fishery in Monroe County was estimated at \$21,264,000.
  - (7) Yellowtail and gray snapper, brought in \$2.66 million in 2006 to Monroe County.
  - (8) Over \$200 million is spent yearly in Monroe County in the viewing of nature and wildlife that are directly connected to the health of the seagrass in Florida Bay.
- (facts from Seagrass awareness materials).

Passed unanimously on this date: December 9, 2008.

---

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.

*ACTION ITEM:* Superintendent CDR Dave Score to consider the recommendation of the SAC to ask Everglades National Park to consider creating a mandatory boater education program in its General Management Plan.

Ms. Harrison then read and moved a resolution, included in the meeting packets, on the acquisition of lands within the Everglades agricultural area sufficient to restore the Everglades and Florida Bay. Richard Grathwohl seconded it. Ms. Bradley suggested that "SAC" be spelled out at first reference, and that "District" be added in the last paragraph; these friendly amendments were accepted. Mr. Moe commented that he is in favor of this, but he has heard there are some problems with it, and he is not sure what they are. Ms. Harrison responded that the Governor, cabinet, District members, etc. are working through some of the details and the laypeople are not privy to them. She said the SAC's charge is to focus on what the restoration benefits will be. The agreement will allow a lease back to U.S. Sugar for seven years, which has been done before in restoration, and managing the lands will help keep exotic invasives from coming in. The company would have to use best management practices too. Questions about cost continue to be negotiated. She commented that this is a legacy project. Mr. Kincaid noted if the land is not secured, condos will probably fill it in. The resolution passed unanimously upon roll call vote.

Below is the text of the resolution:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS  
WITHIN THE EVERGLADES AGRICULTURAL AREA SUFFICIENT TO RESTORE  
THE EVERGLADES AND FLORIDA BAY**

December 9, 2008

Whereas, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1990 to provide for the protection of the spectacular marine resources surrounding the Florida Keys, and

Whereas, the Congress and President of the United States determined that these resources were the underwater equivalent of the tropical rainforests, and

Whereas, the statute establishing the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary conveyed to the Sanctuary the responsibility of managing all impacts affecting these resources whether generated from within or from outside the boundaries of said Sanctuary, and

Whereas, it has been determined that restricted freshwater flows through the Everglades ecosystem has caused significant and sustained damage to the resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, including to patch reefs and to the nursery grounds of spiny lobster, shrimp and reef fish, and

Whereas, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC), its members and staff of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary have fully participated in efforts to provide for the restoration of the Everglades ecosystem for the tenure of its history beginning with the first SAC Chair, the late George M. Barley, and

Whereas, for over two decades the Florida Keys and Florida Bay have periodically experienced massive algae blooms and related marine resource mortality associated with improperly managed freshwater flow that occurs to our north, and

Whereas, the work of the Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force have all determined that restoring the proper quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows through the Everglades is critical to restoration of the ecosystem, and

Whereas, it has been determined that up to 130,000 acres of land is needed for water storage, treatment and conveyance to move water from Lake Okeechobee into the Everglades, and

Whereas, Florida Bay and the coastal estuaries continue their path of ecological decline due to lack of freshwater flow, and

Whereas, a monumental opportunity exists to provide lands necessary to provide for sufficient storage, treatment and conveyance of freshwater flows to the Everglades, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in the form of an offer of sale by United States Sugar Corporation to the State of Florida of lands it owns within the Everglades Agricultural Area, and

Whereas, the Governor of Florida, the Department of Environmental Protection and the South Florida Water Management District are currently in negotiations with U.S. Sugar regarding a contractual agreement to secure the lands for purposes of restoring the Everglades Ecosystem, and

Whereas, successful acquisition of these lands will provide an unprecedented opportunity, previously unthinkable due to the scope of the acreage required to provide sufficient benefits, to move restoration goals for the Everglades ecosystem, including Florida Bay and the Sanctuary, forward in an expeditious manner.

Therefore, the Advisory Council of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary requests the Sanctuary Superintendent convey to the Executive Director, Chairman and Governing Board members of the South Florida Water Management District; the Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Florida Governor our support for the acquisition of sufficient lands within the Everglades Agricultural Area to provide for the restoration of adequate quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows through the Everglades ecosystem including Florida Bay and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Passed unanimously on this date: December 9, 2008.

---

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.



**ACTION ITEM:** Superintendent CDR Dave Score to consider the recommendation of the SAC to convey the SAC's support for acquisition of sufficient lands within the Everglades Agricultural Area for restoration of freshwater flows through the Everglades ecosystem to officials of the South Florida Water Management District, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Governor.

**SAC Education and Outreach Working Group Report -- Martin Moe, SAC**

-Mr. Moe, Chair of the SAC Education and Outreach Working Group, provided a review of the last meeting of the group. Glenn Patton presented an account of SFFK funds moving to FKNMS; Karrie Carnes talked about Blue Star; there was discussion of the idea to use the old Navy billboard to promote FKNMS and the Eco-Discovery Center; and the status of an electronic inventory of Keys environmental education organizations was reviewed, along with possibilities for funding. The Working Group's Action Plan was discussed, edited, and accepted by working group; copies were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Moe noted the Action Plan needed to be discussed and agreed upon by the SAC at this meeting. Once that is done, it will guide the Working Group. At that Working Group meeting, Mary Tagliareni had provided an overview of the status of the FKNMS staff's work on education and outreach projects. The staff is working on one page, easy to read reviews of research in the sanctuary, and the first one will be on phytoplankton. She also said there is no longer funding to produce *Sounding Line*. She also noted the staff will be involved in an "Oceans for Life" project to promote cross cultural understanding and peaceful interaction between students from the Middle East and Western countries. The education and outreach presentation at the February meeting will be by the National Parks Conservation Association. The next meeting of the SAC Education and Outreach Working Group will be 1/27/09, at 10:00 AM; location to be determined.

- Mr. Moe then reviewed the Action Plan and described its purposes. Mr. Grathwohl commented that the group brought a lot of information to the SAC Ecosystem Working Group to help with the recent workshop; Mr. Moe said much of that information came from the FKNMS staff but the group helped focus some of it. There was a suggestion to add, in 3.A.1., after "social", the word "economic" and Mr. Moe agree that would be fine. There was another suggestion, to take out, in 3.C.1., the word "print" as that could be limiting. Mr. Moe said that would be O.K. Chair Popham said he would like to see an Upper Keys visitor center, asking if it could be added as an objective. Mr. Moe said that is not the sort of thing the group can actually do itself; upon further discussion, he said the group could help promote or facilitate creation of the establishment of a new visitor center. Ms. Bradley said wording about this might be added into 3.C.1, and Mr. Moe agreed. Mr. Moe moved that the plan be approved with these changes; seconded by Mr. Nedimyer. Mr. Bergh said he thought the plan was excellent guidance but the group needs to get down to the action. Mr. Moe said the group could work on that. Chair Popham added that the group does need actions, along with timeframes to accomplish them. As there were no objections, Chair Popham deemed the motion unanimously adopted.

**Education/Outreach Presentation: Seacamp Association, Inc./Newfound Harbor Marine Institute (NHMI) -- Judy Gregoire, NHMI**

- Judy Gregorie of Seacamp Association, Inc./NHMI thanked the SAC for the opportunity to present. She described the program, which is broken down into Seacamp, the summer camp program, and NHMI, and described the location of the facilities. They are accredited by the American Camp Association and follow the criteria set up by that group. She described the extensive training of the staff.

- In the summer, there are three 18-day residential camp sessions, for ages 12-17. They suggest all campers take at least one marine science course, and many take more than that. All instructors have degrees in marine science or related fields. They also offer a NAUI SCUBA program and encourage students to get DAN insurance. Other classes include windsurfing, sailing and creative expression, etc. and there are movies and talent nights. There are also evening speakers; Dr. Causey comes and talks to the campers, as did Mr. Hitchins last summer.

- For the day camp, there are eight one week sessions for 10 to 13 year olds. They do some snorkeling-based marine science each day, and can kayak and sail. They also have an evening campfire with the parents.
- There is a school program from September through May at NHMI, for grades 4 through college; the typical program is three days and two nights. They do a swim evaluation and snorkel workshop, a coral reef ecology class, and other science classes. They also do night wades and campfires.
- They also work with Monroe County schools, offering free half day programs and a 50% discount on residential programs; offer an international weekend, including teacher workshops and community workshops; and have a seasonal internship for college students. Many scientists have attended Seacamp.
- Ms. Gregoire thanked FKNMS for preservation of the marine environment, so the staff has something to teach about. They utilize the SPAs in their programs, and love the Eco-Discovery Center and other sanctuary educational resources. Seacamp helps the sanctuary by educating visitors and children throughout the year; they also have a touch tank to bring to the community. Seacamp was supporting of the establishment of Looe Key National Marine sanctuary and then the FKNMS, and some of their people have worked with the SAC or its education working group, along with other interactions with the sanctuary staff. She hoped the sanctuary would keep them in mind for any future education matching grants.
- CDR Score asked if the staff ever goes back with the kids to revisit sites, and if there is a photo archive from the early days. Ms. Gregoire replied that they do have photo archives, but have not put together a proper program to use this with the students. She said they also participate in Reef Check, but have not yet worked with Mote on BleachWatch.
- Mr. Moe wrapped up the discussion by noting he was impressed with the scope and depth of the programs, and encouraged her to let the SAC know if there was anything with which they could assist Seacamp/NHMI. Chair Popham suggested Mr. Moe give them some *Diadema* and he said he would. Mr. Moe also offered to be a speaker, and Ms. Gregoire thanked him for this offer. Ms. Harrison also spoke about the great programs and alumni of Seacamp, and all they have done, and noted the organization is known internationally.

### **Review of Dan Basta Letter Regarding SAC Ideas for Input to ONMS at the National Level**

Chair Popham referred the letter from Mr. Basta asking for advice about a potential national advisory group. The group could play a strategic planning role, both short and long term; provide input on potential restructuring of the ONMS and relationships to the sites, and cooperation and communication with National Marine Fisheries and better alignment between the respective processes (Magnusson/Stevens and National Marine Sanctuaries authorization). Chair Popham reviewed that there was an idea to have SAC Chairs serve as representatives on this body, and there was no opposition from the FKNMS SAC to this idea. He went on to say that Mr. Bergh had mentioned possibly adding nongovernmental organizations to the national advisory group, and asked if there was any additional input. Mr. Bergh asked if the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) would be a part of it, and Chair Popham replied they are already a part of it by default. NMSF staff members are already attending the national meeting of SAC chairs and coordinators. Mr. Bergh speculated that perhaps there could be nonvoting members, perhaps to include the nongovernmental representatives, but said he was not sure what the best structure would be; big is not necessarily better. Mr. Makepeace asked if it would be in that group's sphere of influence to ask the NMSF to ask it to give block grants to local groups like the SFFFK instead of all nationally. Chair Popham responded that would be more of a NMSF issue, but it could be worded "...to provide input to the NMSF." Mr. Grathwohl: wondered if marine protected areas, with WMA areas as a tool, could be brought into it. Mr. Moe read to the SAC the pledge for responsibility to support the FKNMS, which he had brought up at a previous meeting. The idea is that it is a personal commitment, rather than a program that gets people to sign up. The idea might be useful in application to a national advisory body. Mr. Kincaid said that if people would be getting together on the national level to provide advice, they should also consider international implications. He brought up Venezuela as an

example, and also mentioned the fact that only 10% of garbage is generated locally. A national advisory body would be in a better position to address such things than this body would be.

*ACTION ITEM:* Lilli Ferguson work with CDR Score and Chair Popham to provide SAC feedback to Karen Brubeck at ONMS, to provide to Mr. Basta, on a proposed national sanctuary advisory body to Mr. Basta.

**Biscayne National Park Fisheries Management Plan -- Dr. Vanessa McDonough, Biscayne National Park**

-Mr. Curlett said there was a meeting four years ago at the Harvey Government Center, where there was a proposal to have the SAC work with Biscayne National Park (BNP), and Dr. Causey called him to ask him to work on it. He agreed, and he is still working on it now (in fact, he chaired the working group). Outside interests, not those in the room, were fighting the plan. The Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) will go through first, and then BNP will proceed with its General Management Plan (GMP). He introduced Dr. Vanessa McDonough.

-Dr. McDonough said that BNP hopes to go public with the FMP in six months. She showed where BMP is and noted it shares a boundary with FKNMS. The plan is intended to guide the park in the next 5-10 years, balancing activities with resource protection. Plan development began in 2000, and the process has involved many parties, including federal and state agencies, universities and the public. Research and monitoring findings have been included and considered all along the way. The alternatives identified were: maintain status quo; maintain at or above current levels of abundance and sizes of fishery targeted species; improve by 10% over current levels; and rebuild and conserve park fisheries resources improve by 20%. The latest science indicates that a large majority of species are now less common/abundant than previously; there is a drastic reduction in reef fish diversity; many harvested fish are below the minimum legal size; Catch per Unit Effort is very low for many species; very few targeted individuals observed in the park are above the legal minimum size; recovery of some species, even under very extreme regulatory changes, will take at least two decades; and species previously discarded are now being kept. The original preferred alternative of improve by 10% over current levels is now thought to be insufficient, and the 20% alternative is the preferred one. There is also a new alternative, to restore fishery-targeted species within 20% of historic, pre-exploitation levels. She reviewed the actions that would be taken under each alternative. The next steps are to publish an announcement about the plan in the *Federal Register*, and to have a public comment period, including three public meetings. An alternative will be selected, then a record of decision will be filed, and then the management actions will be implemented.

- Mr. Grathwohl asked if there would be any special activities permits. She said those types of things are being considered, but will be part of the GMP.

- Ms. Bradley asked if pre-exploited levels of the relevant species had been documented. Dr. McDonough replied, no, that has been a challenge, and the staff has to rely on the best estimates. The information is scattered in the published literature.

- Mr. Moe said almost all the fishable resources have a planktonic larval life, and also said the populations of species do not replenish themselves as such as species in a lake can do. Everything comes into the park in a post-larval stage, and, as such, are dependent on areas outside the park, so that should be a part of the park's thinking in terms of the plan. Dr. McDonough agreed. She noted they are working with the State, including on enforcement matters.

- Mr. Moe said he also like the idea of having short term, rotating closed areas; Mr. Curlett said they had discussed it, but there was a Memorandum of Understanding in place that the park and State would not consider that. Dr. McDonough said that FWC's position is that closures are the last extreme and that other things should be considered first. Mr. Bennis asked what it meant in her presentation about "seasonal and spatial closures"; she replied that those were broad ideas developed in the beginning. She added that for the GMP, the staff is looking at having larger scale marine protected areas for different purposes.

- Mr. Bennis asked about the 10% or 20% improvement level of the species; she replied that the numbers were developed before she started, but she understood that those numbers were determined to be statistically significant.
- Mr. Hawtof asked if lionfish had been found in the park, and she replied they had not.
- Mr. Bergh inquired what "CRPAs" were, and she said those would be trap free areas. He then asked how the decision was made on closures for mini [lobster] season, and the answer was from years of working through the working group and from statistics gathered on boat groundings and other things.
- Ms. Morkill asked how the park would use permitting to affect fisheries activities. Dr. McDonough said the money generally would go towards law enforcement and education activities. Ms. Morkill then inquired about implementing the permitting system; Dr. McDonough said it would be an online system, with law enforcement checks.
- Chair Popham said that this group had talked about consistent signage and regulations for when boaters are crossing jurisdictional lines and urged this be worked on. He asked about transient vessels, and she said they would not have to have a permit. Mr. Nedimyer inquired if the staff was working with FWC, and she replied they were.

### **Ocean Acidification and Global Climate Change -- Dr. Chris Langdon, University of Miami**

- Mr. Fajans introduced Dr. Chris Langdon, he said his talk would be about the ocean and the effects of global climate change on coral reefs. The concern is that the ocean could exceed the upper thermal tolerance for corals, and this is actually already happening, with 3-7 years between these events. There is also concern that these events might become more frequent due to global climate change. In addition, oceans are becoming more acidic. They have become 30% more acidic over the last 150 years, and by the end of the century, could be 250% more acidic. Acid does not kill coral, but causes a chronic reduction in the rates of skeleton building. Dr. Langdon showed results of research indicating coral cover has declined from 50-10 % in the last thirty years; about half of this can be explained by disease and half as the cumulative effects of three bleaching events. He said the amount of recovery that occurs between events is as important as the damage that occurs during the events, and the acidification is affecting recovery. Ocean acidification is the increase in ocean acidity that results from the diffusion of fossil fuel carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into the ocean. The more carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere, the more acidic the ocean becomes and the lower the pH. He said the rising atmospheric carbon dioxide is changing the chemistry of the ocean, and that it is not the change in the pH, but the decrease in carbonate ions, that is important to the corals and affects their skeleton building.
- Dr. Langdon's group is conducting a two year study of the photosynthetic and calcification rates of two types of corals. They are experimenting in the field under natural conditions, and hypothesized that the corals might exhibit a low sensitivity to changes in pH because the swings in pH in the Bay are large, yet these two species are abundant. When the experimental results are compared to lab species, they show the same sensitivities. In Florida Bay, the corals are responding to the change in chemistry. They are still fairly healthy at 8.1 pH. The two species are growing very slowly. This is probably due to the fact that temperature, salinity, light and sediment are all unfavorable for coral growth at various times of the year. There are also studies of the effects of elevated carbon dioxide on coral reproduction, and Dr. Langdon reviewed some of those results. Finding show that carbon dioxide levels within the range that reefs could experience in the next 50-11 years reduce larval settlement by 54%, and post settlement growth of juvenile polyps by 20-30%. These changes will hinder the replacement of corals lost to bleaching, disease, etc. Dr. Langdon concluded by saying next steps for scientists are that they need longer experiments under natural conditions to see if species are able to acclimate if given sufficient time. They need to carefully monitor ocean chemistry and coral calcification and reproduction, and see if the laboratory results can be confirmed or not. He thanked all the partners who provided financial support for the study he is working on.
- Ms. Bradley asked if restoration research could be done on corals, as is done for mountaintop removal restoration. Dr. Langdon agreed that would be good.

- Mr. Moe talked about coral spat reproduction rates at different carbon dioxide emission rates, and quoted a figure for maximum reduction of emissions over the next century. Dr. Langdon replied that amount is projected only under the most extreme measures to cut emissions, and that they are continuing to increase.
  - Mr. Kincaid asked which coral species was the least sensitive; Dr. Langdon replied that it is a hard coral from the Mediterranean.
  - Mr. Fajans thanked Dr. Langdon again, and said he had also spoken at the SAC climate change and energy workshop. They have also worked together on getting the Sustained Ecological Research Related to the Management of the Florida Keys Seascape (SEAKEYS) buoys to transmit data for posting on the internet.
  - They have just teamed up with a U.S. Geological Service scientist to duplicate some of these studies in Florida Bay with reef-building species and hope to have some good information in two to three years.
  - Mr. Grathwohl commented that in Tampa Bay, acidification from a coal fired power plant affects the buoys in the water, and the Coast Guard cannot keep them in the water more than a month. Someone else commented that mussels also involved.
  - CDR Score asked if anyone was doing research into zooplankton; Dr. Langdon replied that it was not being done so much in tropical areas, but there is some relevant fisheries research being done on the west coast.
  - Mr. Moe commented on the increase in corals after he and Mr. Nedimyer placed *Diadema* on them. He asked if the presentation could be sent to SAC members by Ms. Ferguson, and she agreed she could.
- ACTION ITEM: Ms. Ferguson to send Dr. Langdon's presentation to the SAC.

#### **Follow Up Discussion on Proposal for Sanctuary Preservation Area Status for Snapper Ledge -- Bruce Popham, SAC**

Chair Popham noted that the SAC had considered the topic of Snapper Ledge at the last SAC meeting. He noted that Stephen Frink was unable to be at this meeting due to another commitment, but that he had shared the minutes of the last meeting with him. Mr. Frink told Chair Popham he did not want to continue his efforts if nothing was going to be done about it. Chair Popham said his feel from the SAC at last meeting, when this was discussed, was not to move it outside confines of the limited resources available as FKNMS moves forward with zoning, including Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs); also, there is a public process to get input into such matters. This is a good example, though of how the community can bring a spotlight to something. CDR Score reviewed again, as he did previously, the planned timeframe of the regulatory review processes, that the minor regulatory changes are being proposed first, then the no discharge rule, and that he had talked about the staff doing more focused education on the results on zoning. FKNMS is rolling out those things throughout 2009 in its work plan and has 2010 to do the marine zoning work and analysis, which will be a two-year process. He also said he heard at the last meeting that the SAC did not want to derail the process with Snapper Ledge. He said the other piece is that the FKNMS staff cannot do it alone, and needs to work with the lawyers, analysts, etc. in ONMS headquarters. To move it up, the SAC's voice would help. He also said he has not received the Snapper Ledge petition in any formal way. As FKNMS goes to the scoping process, Snapper Ledge would be in there, as well as the area off Carysfort, and would be included in the alternatives analyzed. Another thing that came out of the last meeting was that Snapper Ledge and what happened there is now on people's minds; law enforcement is paying more attention; and people will be less likely to misbehave there. Mr. Kincaid noted that to his knowledge, the petition was only on two websites and only a few people were aware of them; one of the sites had 2500 signatures. Also, a bunch of the people were not locals.

Mr. Bergh read and moved a proposed motion to the SAC, which was seconded by Mr. Kincaid; discussion followed. Mr. Nedimyer voiced that it made sense; a plan is needed and the SAC does not want to derail the larger process. Ms. Garlo suggested naming other specific areas as well; Chair Popham said those will come out in the process. He thanks the folks for the petition, which is now leading to an

action; many who signed it were not present. Mr. Grathwohl said the guides had brought up to him that with limited funds, they wondered if there would be money for buoys for the new area. CDR Score responded, agreeing there would always be implementation costs. CDR Score noted now is when the work plans are being built, and by June they will be locked in. Chair Popham said that Mr. Basta is aware of this issue, and CDR Score said that Mr. Basta does want to be responsive to the groundswell. Mr. Edwards pointed out that in the proposed motion, it refers to revision of the Management Plan, but he believed the reference is to the regulatory review, and that it should perhaps say "Regulatory Action Plan" which the marine zoning falls under. This friendly amendment was accepted.

Below is the text of the motion:

The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) SAC requests that, in Federal Fiscal Years 2009, 2010, and 2011 the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries focus its central policy, regulatory and legal staff on revision of the Regulatory Action Plan of the FKNMS; that the rezoning of the FKNMS be a priority of that revision; that the rezoning be guided by the recommendations from the SAC to the Superintendent of the Sanctuary; and that the establishment of a Sanctuary Preservation Area at "Snapper Ledge" and other specific zoning recommendations including establishment of new Wildlife Management Areas be fully considered in that process.

Passed unanimously on this date: December 9, 2008.

---

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.

*ACTION ITEM:* Superintendent CDR Dave Score to consider the recommendation of the SAC pass to the ONMS that revision of the FKNMS Regulatory action plan be a priority in FYs 2009-2011, to include consideration of rezoning and establishment of a Sanctuary Preservation Area at "Snapper Ledge" and other specific recommendations including establishment of specific new Wildlife Management Areas.

#### **Ocean Tracking Network, Key West to Cuba -- Jon Fajans, SAC**

- Mr. Fajans talked about the Ocean Tracking network (OTN), which will be permanent structure from the Arctic to the Antarctic, leading to a new world standard for ocean research. The network is a \$168 million project, and will put an end to the knowledge void, tracking 5000 marine animals, and gathering data on climate change. The headquarters for the project is at Dalhousie University, but they are working to unite ocean scientists around the world. He showed a brief video about the project, and referred the SAC to the brochures on the network in the meeting packets. Mr. Fajans noted that Dalhousie purchased the sensors, and they are on permanent loan throughout the world. The goal is to have the network include seven continents and sixty listening lines. A line starts on the shoreline and runs out to the shelf, or for here, across the straits of Florida. The organizers had not previously been aware of gaps in Keys and were not aware of the difficulties of establishing a line to Cuba. There will be a line from Florida to Cay Sal Bank and then another line from the Cay Sal Bank to Cuba. The goal is to monitor what goes into and comes out of the Gulf of Mexico. The designated regional coordinating body is Mote Marine Laboratory, which already has partners in Cuba. Dalhousie will be giving Mote 120 receivers with acoustic releases, three to six benthic pods and the data will be logged. Funds are needed for benthic moorings, deployment, and data collection (which will probably occur once a quarter). Individual scientists would need to come up with their own funding for tags on animals they wish to study. Next

steps including building partnerships, securing funding, identifying the exact line for deployment, coordinating Cuban partners, and deploying the line (planned for late 2009 or early 2010).

- Mr. Hawtof asked if the sensors are retrievable; Mr. Fajans replied they were, and each has an acoustic modem.

- Brad Simonds asked about fisheries data, such as on bluefin tuna, and asked who would get access to the data. Mr. Fajans said those that maintain the monitoring line will retrieve the tagging information, which will be proprietary to the tagger for two to three years. Then, Dalhousie gets the data, and Dalhousie may or may not release it to the public. As the network is developed, the oversight committee will continue to meet and discuss what will need to be protected for fishery managers and what will be released.

- Mr. Simonds then noted the depths can get to 10,000 feet and asked where the ship to do the work would come from. Mr. Fajans replied that a contract can be let, or Florida International University has two vessels. There is a potential agency that may get funding for the initial deployment and/or the maintenance.

- Several people joined in a discussion about "pinch points" and where to put the line, and Mr. Fajans said there are many escape points. There is always the possibility of putting in another line in the future. It was also noted that all the animals in the area will not be tagged.

- CDR Score asked if there were any issues with noise and marine mammals. Mr. Fajans replied that the frequency that will be used cannot be picked up by any marine mammals, so far as science knows.

#### **Public Comment**

There was none.

#### **Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee Report -- CDR David A Score and Bruce Popham, SAC**

- CDR Score said the next Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee is scheduled for January 25, tentatively as a conference call. Fred McManus from EPA told him he thought the program would probably get fully funded by the EPA for water quality monitoring, for everything but the West Florida Shelf items, which the USFWS has picked up. They have also provided two years of funding for SEAKEYS. CDR Score then said Nancy Diersing and the education and science teams are putting together one pagers about the water quality monitoring program data. Other one pagers, including on seagrass and coral, are in draft. He reviewed what some of the findings are for the group. These will be important products for SAC members to read and to share with their constituents. **ACTION ITEM:** CDR Score will ask Scott Donahue to get drafts of the science one pagers out to the SAC. On a separate topic, CDR Score said Little Venice is showing results and there was some lag time with the leaching in the limestone in Key Largo, but the stored nutrients are starting to flush out, which is good.

- CDR Score said, on the bond issue, Commissioner George Neugent should be the one to speak about it, as CDR Score does not have the information. Chair Popham said he had talked to Commissioner Neugent, and the \$200 million supposed to be coming to the region has not been bonded out yet. The county is moving forward with its projects, and there are different jurisdictions working on different projects. The good news is that there appears to be some movement on the Department of Health not going to go out and cite people who have not met the objectives by 2010, if good efforts are made to get there. Mr. Bergh confirmed that so long as there was a plan in place and work to secure funding is occurring, people would not be fined.

- Chair Popham noted improvements are starting to be seen in the Little Venice project.

- CDR Score said currently, the types of pH data to compliment what is available on temperature and salinity are not available, but that these things are being added with the SEAKEYS instrumentation. There are only two years of funding left for that, and funding must be found to keep that going. These data will help answer long term questions about reef resilience, climate change, etc. The EPA is the primary funder and driver of the group.

- In answer to a question by Mr. Bergh, CDR Score confirmed there is one year of funding for the West Florida Shelf.

- Ms. Bradley said believed that there was a proposal to restore funding for sewers, and she said the group may want to consider providing input on that on the web site Chair Popham mentioned earlier. Chair Popham added that \$100 million from Congress to the Army Corps of Engineers was authorized but never appropriated. Mr. Bergh urged getting ready to go for when there was a push to respond to calls for economic stimulus projects, and Chair Popham again urged people to go to the change.gov web site. CDR Score mentioned a lot of progress had been made with the County working with the various municipalities on water quality issues.

### **Review of Dan Basta Letter Regarding SAC Summit in 2009 and Group Discussion about Draft Agenda and Potential Case Study -- Bruce Popham, SAC**

Chair Popham referred to letter from Mr. Basta provided to the SAC with the draft agenda and case studies guideline for the 2009 SAC summit. Mr. Basta wanted SAC feedback on anything to add to agenda and if FKNMS wanted to propose a case study. The format for the case study has changed a bit; last year it was regional, and this year three will be chosen. Chair Popham would like to do marine zoning as a topic, but the timing is not right for that at this time. Mr. Grathwohl proposed Tortugas 2000 as a topic, and Ms. Ferguson reminded the group that the guidelines note it should be something that took place since May 2008. Mr. Makepeace suggested refocusing on Florida Bay and the workshop that was held in November. Ms. Harrison suggested using the establishment of the Working Groups as a model. Ms. Garlo noted that two Working Groups worked together on that workshop. The idea agreed upon was to propose a case study that started with the development of working groups, include the Tortugas 2000 case, and conclude with the work done on the November workshop. Chair Popham noted that a paragraph needed to be developed and sent to Ms. Brubeck by 12/31/09, and asked if Ms. Ferguson could do that; she agreed she would.

*ACTION ITEM:* Ms. Ferguson work with CDR Score and Chair Popham to provide SAC feedback to Ms. Brubeck at ONMS on agenda for the SAC 2009 Summit and on a proposed FKNMS case study.

### **Unfinished/New Business**

Mr. Grathwohl said that at the FWC meeting, Don deMaria brought up an issue about a spearfishing market - spearfishermen are selling fish they have caught to restaurants, and there is no permitting. This needs to be address at a future meeting. Also, longliners are killing a large number of sea turtles, and one of the commissioners was outraged - they are killing more turtles than the streetlights do.

Ms. Harrison asked if the FWC was also providing \$100,000 in funding to study the impact of casitas, which are illegal. Chair Popham replied that they were, starting in the summer of 2009. Mr. Simonds commented that the study may find what is taking place is actually worse than thought.

Jack Curlett suggested that the meetings begin with a Pledge of Allegiance. He made a motion proposing this, seconded by Mr. Grathwohl; after brief discussion, with no objections noted, it was agreed to do this. Chair Popham asked Ms. Ferguson to add this to the next SAC agenda. *ACTION ITEM:* Ms. Ferguson to add the Pledge of Allegiance to future SAC meeting agendas.

CDR Score said a group of students from Kent Denver School in Colorado raised money to install a solar underwater goliath grouper camera at the Bahia Honda bridge and they are installing it on the 14th. A filmmaker may use some of the footage in a documentary.

Adjourned, 3:34 PM.

Submitted respectfully by Lilli Ferguson