

**Resolution of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council
August 21, 2007**

Whereas, terrestrial output from the Everglades via the mangrove estuaries of the southwest coast of Florida has a significant impact on the salinity and nutrient condition of The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS).

Whereas, this impact has been well documented over the twelve years of quarterly sampling performed by Florida International University (FIU) and without this sampling monitoring the effects of Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) will be greatly diminished and practically eliminate the use of adaptive management in this region. Information crucial to CERP performance assessment will only increase in significance as implementation of everglades restoration proceeds.

Whereas, alterations of freshwater inflows will effect circulation, water quality and salinity patterns within the FKNMS and these changes will alter the structure and function of associated ecosystem.

Whereas, termination of this sampling would totally eliminate our ability to examine or predict the impact of harmful discharges from the Everglades through the Caloosahatchee and Charlotte Harbor that profoundly impact the FKNMS.

Whereas, the ubiquitous use of these data in scientific forums demonstrates the importance of this data set, not only for South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) use, but is also critical to numerous government and non-governmental agencies.

Whereas, reducing effort will diminish the value of the previous 12 year investment and will limit future use of this valuable data set.

Now therefore, the FKNM Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) recommends that the sanctuary management strongly urge the SFWMD to retain all monitoring activities performed by FIU on the Southwest Florida Shelf. While the SAC feels that the alternative proposed by FIU for reduced sampling in nearshore areas of the mangrove estuary is inadequate, we would support this action as a temporary and minimal approach and request that restoring funding of full scale sampling be a priority of the SFWMD at the earliest opportunity.

Passed unanimously on this date: August 21, 2007.

The Council is an advisory body to the Sanctuary Manager. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.