

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Eco-Discovery Center, Key West
Tuesday, December 13, 2011**

MINUTES

Members Present

Chris Bergh
Jack Curlett
Ben Daughtry
Richard Grathwohl
David Hawtof
Don Kincaid

David Makepeace
Corey Malcom
Martin Moe
George Neugent
Bruce Popham
David Vaughan

Alternates Present

Clinton Barras
Alex Brylske
Bill Chalfant
Pete Frezza
George Garrett

Bill Kelly
Kristie Killam
Ted Lund
Suzy Roebling
Leah Wilde-Gould

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Approve Minutes from October 25, 2011 Meeting/Adopt Agenda for This Meeting/Chairperson's Comments, Introductions

Chair Bruce Popham called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM. He thanked the Sanctuary Friends Foundation of the Florida Keys (SFFFK) for the breakfast items.

Commissioner George Neugent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the draft minutes of the October 25 Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting was moved by Commissioner Neugent and seconded by Chris Bergh. Chair Popham asked to amend the minutes to include Susan Hammaker as an alternate in attendance and to change the acronym on p. 10 from "FCWIP" to "Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program." With those changes, hearing no objection, Chair Popham deemed the minutes approved. **ACTION ITEM:** SAC coordinator Lilli Ferguson to make the changes and disseminate the minutes.

Approval of the meeting agenda was moved by Alex Brylske and seconded by Ben Daughtry. Chair Popham noted there were some minor changes from the draft version sent a few weeks prior to the meeting, which were reflected on the agenda in the SAC meeting packets. John Hunt said there would be only one speaker for the "Mapping of Spawning Aggregations in Florida Keys" agenda item, Danielle Morley. With this change, Chair Popham deemed the agenda approved.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Marine Zoning and Regulations Review Process – Sean Morton, FKNMS

Chair Popham reported a core group met about zoning and regulations, and it took two days to get together the information posted on the wall at this meeting. It was always a challenge to bring consensus to a group this large, he said, and he noted the core group would meet again. They want to keep it small to

get things done. The attendees were Mr. Morton, Mary Tagliareni, Mica Alex, Mr. Hunt, John Armor, Ed Lindelof, and Anne Morkill – the National Wildlife Refuges are going through the same process at the same time frame so the review will incorporate those two things together - Jack Curlett, Mr. Daughtry, Mr. Bergh, Don Kincaid, Mr. Nedimyer, and himself. He said there was a lot of historical knowledge in the SAC - 127 years of combined experience and institutional knowledge. He said he and Mr. Morton would lead the SAC through the handouts on this topic, which he pointed out were also posted in the front of the room.

Mr. Morton went through the draft Goals and Objectives for Marine Zoning Review. He reemphasized that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) backcountry management plan would be included, and he asked Ms. Morkill to assist as needed. The goals and objectives would be the overarching guidance that we/the SAC would provide as we move forward and work with the public, he said, and would be on a poster on the wall if out in a public process. Whether a SAC Working Group, workshops or meetings, these would be the overall goals and objectives to keep coming back to in this process. He said they were a combination of several different things; some came from law: the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) and the FKNMS regulations. He said a little language was also included from the *Management Plan*, from the workshop in 2008, the August meeting in 2008, and the *Condition Report*. He read goal A and the sub-objectives.

Chair Popham read goal B and the sub-objectives, and asked for discussion.

- Martin Moe said it looked good to him, and another person commented it looked sensible.
- Chair Popham said one other thing was talked about, water quality.
- Mr. Morton noted water quality was integral to the protection of the resources, but FKNMS already had a separate Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP), and it was being implemented. In terms of zoning and regulations and scoping notices, he said in the last year FKNMS had completed a regulatory item, the first one on the priority list, to essentially make the whole Florida Keys a no discharge zone. There really was not a lot else to do regulation-wise, besides prohibit discharge, he felt.
- Chair Popham said that would be included in the overarching statement that went out as part of the scoping.
- Richard Grathwohl commented water quality would fit into B.4.
- Mr. Moe said the bully pulpit could be used to talk to the rest of state and nation about problems the Florida Keys had from receiving from their poor water quality--polluted rivers, outfalls, etc. He felt if we cleaned up our own act by sewerage the Keys, there would be nothing we could do specifically to correct their practices except to use our organization and whatever clout we had to make it known these other areas were affecting us and them.
- Chair Popham thanked him, and pointed out a huge item on the timeline was outreach.
- Mr. Kincaid said the Keys were downstream of the Gulf and the rest of Florida, and felt it should be made clear we expect the Florida guys to go along with that program.
- Billy Causey said this was what the regional team focused on, and they needed help. He and Dan Basta were just in Boulder, Colorado, and the Colorado Ocean Coalition invited them to give a talk to focus on things coming from Colorado down to the ocean. He also mentioned other efforts related to water quality, including the Gulf Ecosystem Task Force, and that it was a vehicle that would be around for a while. He was at a meeting in Houston and top speakers included Lisa Jackson, the Administrator of EPA; Dr. Jane Lubchenco, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and Nancy Sutley, Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality; they talked about the impacts on the Gulf of Mexico coming from 40 % of North America and how just repairing the Gulf would not make all the difference.
- Mr. Bergh asked him to speak to the State of Florida's role on the Task Force.
- Dr. Causey said Florida had been on the Task Force, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) primary manager was working with the task force and parts of the effort. He said the chair, John

Hankinson, Jr., used to be the head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, during the Clinton administration, so a lot of input for Florida was getting into the Task Force. He said other Gulf states were mentioned more often as they got more of the oil impact.

- Kent Edwards talked about DEP attending the Task Force meetings [Mimi Drew is the formal DEP representative and Lee Edmiston also has a role]; the Task Force asked for the project lists, which DEP provided, and those were mostly focused in the Panhandle. - Mr. Bergh said TNC submitted some Keys-specific project, but those in the Panhandle were funded since they had more direct impacts.

- Commissioner Neugent talked about a national cycle of the legislation that mandated wastewater treatment. He felt the counties and municipalities had come a long way, and that both wastewater and stormwater facilities had to be put in place. He said it had been 21 years since FKNMS was established, and he felt B.4. should be what the SAC focused on, since there was more ability to deal with that than wastewater. He solicited the SAC and sanctuary management to work with the county and the municipalities in dealing with those issues as best possible.

- Chair Popham said the WQPP had a lengthy list of goals and objectives and had checked off the majority of those.

- Mr. Bergh said he somewhat disagreed; storm water was still a need community-wide for improvements, and the sewers still needed to be completed. He gave kudos to FKNMS for getting no discharge done. He also said canals were a concern (they were engineered with dead ends), and that was his sense of where the WQPP steering comm. was and should be focused now.

- Mr. Grathwohl said the State of Florida needed to step up and get stormwater control done, as there is an adverse impact to things like rainwater pushing diesel off the bridges into the water. This had been discussed a long time ago.

- Chair Popham stated it was incumbent upon SAC to include mooring fields, as money was being spent on taking derelict vessels out of the water, and more kept becoming derelict.

- George Garrett said he had been involved in this for some time, and related some history about vessels not in the mooring fields that need to be, and the years it took to get approvals for a mooring field.

- David Hawtof asked if boats would be able to anchor outside of a mooring field.

- There was also some discussion about pumping out.

- Mr. Garret said there was an obligation in a mooring field to pump out, and he said there were two pumpout boats at the Marathon mooring field.

- Chair Popham said it was against the law to discharge.

- Commissioner Neugent said unless there was a management element in the sanctuary, there would be people who did not play by the rules, unless someone was watching. There was some further discussion amongst the SAC on mooring fields, charges and subsidies, cruising, liveboards, benthic resources, and sustainable economies.

- Mr. Bergh said this was the first time he heard issues of managed mooring fields come up in a general zoning discussion and he thought it was appropriate to include it in some format.

- Ms. Moorkill said there were many existing areas in the sanctuary which surrounds us, and we and the public have a responsibility to protect the resources; benthic resources are an important consideration as part of managed mooring fields, and support service are part of the sustainable economy, but so is resource protection. She said she supported more protection of resources than we already have.

- Chair Popham asked to move forward and talk about the timeline.

- Mr. Bergh said in A.4., groupers were singled out, but he understood predators and reef fish were all under pressure, so he wondered about singling out this one fish.

- Chair Popham asked if the Condition Report mentioned grouper and the reply was it did, and also mentioned large predators.

- People commented that specific birds and invertebrates were not picked out.

- Mr. Moe said if you said protect large fish, it is a vague concept; if you say groupers, you can hang a hat on it and know what you are talking about; he felt whatever was done to protect those would be effective for all other type of reef fish.

- Mr. Hunt did not disagree with the philosophy, but said if groupers were singled out, those protective measures would be unique to groupers and would not always apply to other fish, since, for example their spawning aggregations may be in a different location than for mutton snapper. He felt it should say groupers, snappers, large sharks, etc. if groupers were included, and would be cautious about including just groupers.
- Leah Wilde-Gould suggesting include breeding stock for all fish.
- Mr. Hunt if talking about ecosystem-level protection, and the focus is only on breeding fish, then you do not necessarily focus on all other parts of the life cycle.
- Mr. Bergh commented what was key about these species was their role as top predators. He felt groupers were top value predators.
- Mr. Morton said the language came straight from the Condition Report, and he talked about some of what it said in that section.
- Pete Frezza said those more into shallow water fish species might be offended a deeper water species was singled out.
- David Makepeace said this could be why [these processes] take more than three years. He felt everyone knew it meant more than grouper, and wanted to move on.
- Suzy Roebing agreed, and felt they were umbrella or flagship species, and others in the ecosystem would be taken care of if grouper were taken care of.
- Chair Popham commented the SAC would never get this done if the group “backslided” as it moved forward, especially if the SAC discussed every word, goal and objective.
- Mr. Hunt said felt Mr. Bergh hit the nail on the head, and that something explicit represented something larger. He liked the language of large predatory fish or apex predator.
- Ted Lund suggested using the term snapper-grouper complex, if that was what the SAC wanted to protect.
- Various other people provided suggestions and opinions.

A motion to change the wording regarding grouper [in the 12/13/11 Draft for Sanctuary Advisory Council Review “Goals and Objectives for Marine Zoning Review” - p. 1, item 4] was moved by Mr. Bergh and seconded by Mr. Makepeace.

Mr. Bergh moved to substitute “groupers” with “apex predatory fish” [in adoption of the 12/13/11 Draft for Sanctuary Advisory Council Review “Goals and Objectives for Marine Zoning Review” - p. 1, item 4.], which was seconded by Mr. Makepeace.

- There was further discussion about this, and Chair Popham asked Mr. Morton about the language on this in the Condition Report. He said it talked about the status of select species of finfish, and it referred back to snappers, groupers, fish in the snapper-grouper complex, shrimp and others. He summarized the language.

The motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote. Below is the text of the motion.

Substitute “groupers” with “apex predatory fish”.

- To change the subject, cultural resources were not mentioned anywhere, per Corey Malcom.
- Chair Popham and Mr. Bergh said that had been discussed at the meeting they attended.
- Mr. Morton said it could be included if bookends were wanted on some of them, but he said they were fully protected, and there was not much more we can do to protect the resource. He said if the sanctuary made a zone for something special, it would flag that resource.
- Mr. Malcom said he was thinking of the 1733 wrecks, and maybe something to protect those.

- Mr. Morton said we would need to see what people come back with, once put the broader scoping notice was out to the public. He asked what more zoning measures might be recommended beyond what there was not.
- Probably none, Mr. Malcom said, but he was just thinking more broadly protecting those resources.

Public Comment

There was none.

As an aside, Dave Vaughan said he and Mr. Moe had early and later *Diadema* larvae from the Mote Living Reef exhibit for people to see. Mr. Moe spawning and surviving in nature was important. He mentioned an unexpected spawn of hatchery-bred urchins in 2009, and now there was an f-2 generation of these. He has worked on getting them through the juvenile stage, and commented the *Diadema* culture process was going well.

FKNMS Marine Zoning and Regulations Review Process Cont. – Mr. Morton, FKNMS
Chair Popham asked Ms. Morkill to talk about the USFWS process.

She said in 1992, USFWS and the State of Florida Trustees signed an agreement to manage certain sovereign submerged lands and waters around some of the Refuge islands. At the same time, FKNMS made those same areas as Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), so there are different agencies' regulations for those areas to protect resources. She said they wanted to update the agreement and have it be a three-way agreement, to include FKNMS. She said the USFWS process was simpler than FKNMS's but it makes sense to couple them, so the USFWS is not going out separately talking about the Backcountry Management Plan. The USFWS and FKNMS are partnering in this zoning effort.

Mr. Morton said it was good government not to have multiple scoping meetings, and there are existing sanctuary regulations. He felt a lot of the discussion would be about access issues, "party zones", sandbars, no-speed areas, and some temporal zoning for dealing with nesting and issues in Crocodile Lake. He said there would be a dual role as the process moved forward, with one scoping notice and one set of scoping meetings.

On the timeline, Chair Popham said it started in November 2011 and finished in summer 2015. He mentioned he would not be the SAC chair after April. He said the core group did the timeline with paper all around the room to get everything included: regulations processes, issues that might come up, meeting times, etc.

Mr. Morton walked through the entire process; he wanted to make sure people were clear on all the steps. He stated there was a lot of work for the SAC throughout, and there was also staff work to do. The first milestone would be scoping, then the scoping meetings, which were required by law. He said he wanted to have the goals and objectives laid out to give structure for the public. The meetings were targeted for May and June of next year. There will be notices in the *Federal Register* and other places inviting the public to comment.

- Mr. Grathwohl hoped the meetings would be in the evening as that was the height of the flats guide season.

Mr. Morton said they had talked about having a transitional set up, with a meeting going from the afternoon into evening, but the setup needed to be discussed later. He said there would be a 60 day comment period, then the comments would be gathered up and synthesized, on all those things in the staff report, and what had been discussed with the SAC. The comments would be considered in a core group meeting, then there may be a series of workshops, very specific SAC working groups, or a regional

workshop based on the groupings of issues that have come out, like a cruise ship, jet ski, overfishing or restoration issue; that will be figured out later. He said the SAC would want to take a hard look at what the public had commented on as it considered the issues. He said seven months was estimated for the workshop or group meetings, and there would be staff support, GIS support from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and NOAA. At the SAC meetings, there would be report-outs of the progress of the progress of the workshops/groups, with recommendations for new/expanded zones or whatever the alternatives might be to meet the goals and objectives. The public would be commenting along the way and seeing how the alternatives were developing. He said October 2013 was targeted for when the SAC would make its recommendations, which would be submitted to NOAA and the USFWS as what SAC wants to see. After that, Mr. Morton said the process became more formal and was more on the agency side. NOAA would draft a Management Plan, there would be a formal submittal to the *Federal Register*, the plan and an Environmental Impact Statement would be published, and there would formal public comment. By law this process would be coordinated with the different Fishery Management Councils (FMCs) if it affected fishing, and the State of Florida, the Trustees and the Governor would be consulted. The SAC would have a role, and Mr. Morton said he would be asking members to talk to the FMCs, other advisory councils, the State, and NOAA about how this was a community-based process and how the SAC wanted to move forward. If briefings occurred along the way and things went smoothly, the final rule could be published in 2015, then would be implemented. He noted it was a pretty aggressive schedule, and that Ms. Morkill's plan needed to be in place by 2015, and people like Mr. Hunt would be retiring. What happened early on in the process would dictate what went forward.

- Chair Popham remarked this was what had to happen, and the SAC kept asking to look at zoning and regulations.
- David Vaughan thanked him for the ease of understanding this handout provided about the process. He said the SAC needed to consider what the sanctuary would need in the long term, so as not to start over again in 2016. He asked if there was a time when the process would be redone.
- Mr. Morton replied it was a good question; the lawyers would say the Management Plan would be updated every five years, but he noted that obviously did not happen. He said this would be the first time since the regulations were developed twenty years ago that a comprehensive review would have been done, and he agreed there was a need to think about this being in place for the next twenty years.
- Chair Popham agreed, and said everyone on the SAC would need to participate to get this done, and that the SAC needed to move through and not backslide. He acknowledged the regulatory process could not be done overnight; there were underlying laws that had to be followed.
- Mr. Curlett said it would be five years old once it was done, and asked if the superintendent or SAC could revisit something, the way a National Park Service (NPS) superintendent has the ability to do.
- Dr. Causey said that ability was not in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the NPS superintendents could only do that for certain decisions. He pointed out in the last Management Plan review, a placeholder was included to come back and do the Tortugas, and that was done in two and a half years, the shortest it could be done.
- Chair Popham said a placeholder could be included if an issue was found to which to the SAC wanted to come back.

Mr. Morton said the staff would be doing work and getting an outreach plan together, and that everyone needed to know how the process was going. He mentioned a website, the SAC needing to know things for their constituents, frequently asked questions, a PowerPoint presentation, FKNMS 101, the existing FKNMS regulations and zones, and letting people know there was a very large public process to look at all these issues and that there were specific goals and objectives for the SAC. In February, he and Mrs. Tagliareni would walk people through this, and would model the PowerPoint presentation, making sure the SAC had the tools it needed to go out to the public. He also said the scoping notice would tell the public what was going on and what was being asked of them, and that the SAC would need to review it step by step. He said there would also be an FWC presentation, as FWC was the keeper of mapping data,

habitat data, and management data, and the discussion would include the availability of future tools. The SAC could discuss what they wanted to have in terms of mapping needs. That would take time to get together, and six months later on the timeline, the SAC would be considering alternatives.

- On January 17, the two of them would be presenting to the Marathon Chamber of Commerce, Chair Popham said. He said they would also be presenting to all the Chambers of Commerce, the Rotaries and other groups. He said SAC members would need to be getting out there too, and groups would be coming to SAC members and asking them to speak as well. The outreach would be critical in the first half of 2012, he said.

- Mr. Morton announced the SAC would be asked to report out on the presentations done, people reached out to, letters sent, etc. at the April meeting, and we would want to keep track of that, to demonstrate the outreach. All the SAC meetings would be public, and he said in the formal part of the process, there were five or six steps where there is more opportunity for public comment on everything.

- Chair Popham commented not everyone had to go out and speak to big groups of people as not everyone was comfortable with that, but when someone came up to a SAC member to ask about this, the member needed to be able to respond.

- Suzy Roebing asked about science on the timeline, and if SAC members would be presenting general information and goals and objectives about the sanctuary as it is now. She asked if they would have identified habitats or specific important areas that might see changes before the input from the public.

- Mr. Morton said that was why getting out the Condition Report was so important; it drove a lot of the goals and objectives. He recommended pointing back to that if people ask why this was being done, and also that the SAC wanted to go forward with this. He commented a lot had been learned in science and monitoring in the last fifteen years, and it was important to communicate that.

- Chair Popham said there would be more science, but the Condition Report was the foundation. He said it was OK for people to have their own opinions, but not their own facts, and he stated the Condition Report was fact-based and peer-reviewed.

- Leah Wilde Gould asked how to tell people to get a hold of it.

- It was on the website, Mr. Morton replied. He also said FKNMS had CDs, and a limited number of hard copies; those who wanted a hard copy could ask Scott Donahue. He said there would be a page off the FKNMS web page dedicated to this process, which would include the goals, objectives, timelines, and links to the Condition Report, the August staff report, and the SAC contact information. He said people could start outreach now, with brochures and what is already on the web site. After April he said there would be a staffing plan, and he expected the SAC to help the staff with scoping meetings. He said a typical scoping meeting would be done round table style, with small groups, and a note taker and a facilitator to write out comments people wanted to make, so people could be sure the comments were right. He said at scoping meetings people could also come in and gather materials and submit a written comment in a drop box. He said there would be a twenty minute presentation with an introduction and explanation of the meeting logistics, then the breakout groups, then a session at the end with people back together.

- The locations were important, and feedback should be gotten from the Keys, south Florida and southwest Florida, Chair Popham noted.

Mr. Morton, said there would be five main scoping meetings, with the first one in Marathon in June, after a morning SAC meeting. The scoping meeting would be that afternoon and evening. He said there would be a scoping plan with assignments people could sign up or be volunteered for – it was the SAC's process, he emphasized. He said SAC members would get a lot out of hearing from the public at those meetings, which would help the SAC in making smarter decisions later. He said they would take a break in July, then the staff would work to get a summary report back out to the SAC in August.

- Mr. Hunt talked about how the GIS capabilities would support the SAC process, in a way not dissimilar to how GIS was utilized in the Tortugas development process. He described the components of the GIS

presentation in February. The Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI) folks would be involved throughout the process, he said.

- Bill Chalfant said the Florida Keys Community College (FKCC) was collecting topographic imagery of bottoms, biomasses, etc, which could be put into a format that could be layered. He noted people were asking for information from Mote and elsewhere, and there was a lot that could go into the GIS system.
- If the FKCC data could be depicted spatially and was new information which was based upon the process rather than a research effort, Mr. Hunt said it could potentially be included in the GIS system. The February presentation would include some discussion on levels of specificity.
- Mr. Chalfant said there was the ability to put coral biomass into GIS, and commented it would be useful to have a common GIS into which people could input fish stock or other data.
- Mr. Hunt said this was a good topic for February. He did not think the biological data would be new
- It would be new social data, Mr. Bergh said, adding that was not well understood.
- Mr. Hunt felt if there were existing biological data, they could be included.
- Mr. Morton mentioned not wanting to receive new data way out in the timeframe.
- Chair Popham mentioned the lobster process, where a number of folks contributed new data. He said this was gotten together within about six months.
- There was further discussion, and Mr. Hunt explained the GIS person would need to be able to understand when, where and how the data were collected and have the ability to not include some if this were not clear.
- Mr. Grathwohl suggested having a representative from law enforcement at the scoping meetings. He said at a snook workshop held a few years ago, a law enforcement person said a particular suggestion could not be taken because it was unenforceable.
- Mr. Frezza asked if the goal was to have a goal specified and brought before the public during the scoping period, or if it would be a complete brainstorming stage.
- It would not be a complete brainstorming, Mr. Morton said, though they would get suggestions on all topics. He said that was why it was important to go out to the public with what we are addressing in relation to the Florida Keys ecosystem, what is in the Condition Report, build on management successes, and work on things that needed more management. People would need to know the existing scheme.
- Ms. Morkill asked about the availability of information such as the staff report.
- Mr. Morton said it was available on the SAC page and the Condition Report was up, but there would also be a separate page pointing to sources of information.

Chair Popham thanked the core group again for all the work to get to this point. He said the last thing was the six principles of marine zoning, which he read from the handout provided to the SAC. He said there were four habitat types under the goals and objectives, while five were listed under #2 in the principles.

- Ms. Morkill suggested not worrying about the number of habitat types. There was a little discussion on what the Condition Report said. Ms. Morkill suggested just taking out the “(5).”
- Good point, Chair Popham commented.
- Mr. Morton noted the principles were already adopted and would be going into the public scoping notice about what we wanted.
- Mrs. Tagliareni mentioned hearing “reef margin” and “fore reef” were the same, and asked if some language should be taken out.
- Mr. Donahue said it came from the files on benthic habitats in the GIS system. He said that layer could be kept or merged in the future.
- Mr. Bergh suggested combining reef margin/fore reef.
- Chair Popham asked if anyone had any heartburn about that and no one did, so that suggestion was taken, and changed by Mrs. Tagliareni on the goals and objectives poster on the wall.
- Mr. Frezza asked if non-extractive was defined, as a person could go a lot of ways with it.

- Mr. Morton agreed and said most people would consider it take vs. no take, but it would be an interesting discussion what take is. He said increasing access to an area could lead to take of corals or seagrass, and he considered destruction of seagrass extractive.
- Various people commented on this issue. Ms. Morkill said suggested the possibility of having a glossary of terms in the scoping notice.

Chair Popham said he would entertain a motion for adoption. A motion to adopt the goals, objectives, process, timeline and map [12/13/11 Draft for Sanctuary Advisory Council Review “Goals and Objectives for Marine Zoning Review” and the “Florida Keys NMS Regulations and Marine Zone Review/Refuge Backcountry Management Plan Sanctuary Advisory Council Process and Timeline”] was moved by Commissioner Neugent and seconded by Mr. Curlett.

Chair Popham asked if there were further discussion.

- Mr. Curlett mentioned the issue of apex predatory fish again, and Mr. Moe’s reservation on this discussion gave him pause. He read the definition of apex predatory fish from Wikipedia.
- Mr. Moe said he had been considering the issue as a fisheries biologist, and said they were a signature, long lived fish which didn’t reproduce until they were quite old. He said they were a critical part of the marine ecology, so he felt they were important to mention, which is why he had a reservation. He said he was happy with the apex predatory fish language.
- Ms. Ferguson asked if the “(5)” should be taken out in principle number 3, and Chair Popham confirmed it should, so Mrs. Tagliareni changed that on the poster on the wall.

The motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote. Below is the text of the motion.

To adopt the goals and objectives, and our timing and process map.

Chair Popham again thanked core group, and thanked the staff and Mr. Hunt. He talked about the upcoming pot luck lunch, and asked people not to throw away the blue plastic cold cups, which would be used again at future meetings.

- Mr. Morton said staff members would be introduced at the end of the lunch to the SAC. He also mentioned the Eco-Discovery Center store was open for holiday shopping.
- Chair Popham said the SAC wanted to meet the staff and thank people for their hard work under reduced resources and money.

Status of Plans for International Offshore Oil Exploration – Capt. Pat DeQuattro, U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

Mr. Morton introduced Capt. De Quattro, the commander of Sector Key West, who was here to talk about planning for some of the international oil exploration.

Capt. DeQuattro said he wanted to put the plans for international oil exploration offshore of Florida in the context of planning and local efforts to update plans. He said there was a preexisting Area Committee made up of a number of constituents, which had been very robust post-Deepwater Horizon. The USCG is the lead by law for maritime pollution spills, but state, county and municipal partner representatives are equally important. The Area Contingency Plan fell into a series of plans, under a regulatory contingency plan as well as the National Contingency Plan. The Area Committee had been active in updating the local plan due to regional threats and lessons learned.

He showed a graphic of what being planned in terms of drilling, the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), Cuban plans, and what the Bahamians have put out to bid for oil exploration. He noted there was a good

chance that the U.S. coastline could be potentially threatened by this exploration. He said the Cuba offshore leases had been discussed a lot in the press, and Repsol had the lead on the first drilling rig, which was on its way to Cuba. He said Repsol did a lot of work in the Gulf of Mexico, and had been forthcoming about its exploratory drilling plans. He said the USCG was aware of a rig constructed for the work in and around Cuba, contracted by Repsol for first few holes. Then there would be a change of contracts and they would work for other countries in their block leases off the coast of Cuba. He said there was a concern for the Repsol and Cuban government contingency plans and coordination with the Florida regional and local plans. Depending on where the drilling took place and the Gulf Stream current, a hole could be in the current. He said the USCG had been working closely with NOAA on the contingency plans and on trajectories. He stated 97% of the oil movement would be dictated by the current and 3% by the winds. A current that would entrain pollution could be good for the Keys but bad for the rest of Florida.

- Commissioner Neugent asked if tarballs in the Gulf Stream would sweep through the Gulf Stream or drop out.
- Capt. DeQuattro replied that would be difficult to characterize because of the weather. He said the type of oil he was talking about here was a bit heavier than that of Deepwater Horizon, but the models do not capture oil breakdown, which would be key to getting an accurate trajectory.
- Mr. Bergh mentioned the depiction of the Gulf Stream on the graphic, and said he understood it was more dynamic than in the picture.
- Capt. DeQuattro agreed, and in answer to a followup question from Mr. Bergh, acknowledged the Gulf Stream could sometimes encompass an entire block depicted on the graphic. Capt. DeQuattro said they were trying to ensure local and national leaders had up to date information, and so national plans could be accurately developed.
- Someone asked if the Cubans would use standards developed after Deepwater Horizon.
- Capt. DeQuattro replied any U.S. company in a contingency plan to respond to this would need a license to be able to abide by the law when responding to a major spill, and said the USCG had asked their national leaders to try to address this. He added the offshore oil industry, centered in Houston, would like the technology developed there to be used in any Caribbean exploration.

Capt. DeQuattro mentioned plans were being developed to be able to respond to a spill from another country's EEZ, and mentioned the big cleanup firms, control of commercial and recreational vessel traffic, and the desire to not to impact commerce unless necessary, as well as getting a full appreciation of the challenges now and those that will be ongoing. He illustrated an ongoing, complex oil spill planning scenario with a graphic. Protection strategies, some of which were twenty years old, were being updated; for example, there were 27 Tidal Inlet Protection Strategies. He said the Geographic Response Plans were being updated, and the Florida Keys was covered by a grid that identified the areas most at risk and strategies for them. He said the USCG had voluntary employment in the form of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, whose members were working on incorporating local knowledge about staging areas, boat ramps, etc. in the Area Contingency Plan. He acknowledged the partners working together and the challenges ahead to coordinate offshore contingency plans with foreign countries' plans.

Capt. DeQuattro asked if there were questions.

- Mr. Curlett asked if the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund was limited or unlimited.
- Capt. DeQuattro replied it was federally funded, to provide immediate response and was limited by the type of vessel or rig involved in a spill. A mobile offshore drilling unit is considered a vessel and limited by vessel standards. The scope of Deepwater Horizon did not come close to the limit he said, so the USCG was working at the national level to make sure it was addressed. Another issue was what could be federalized. He said they could federalize marine contractors to bring to bear on a spill but could not direct actions in another country's waters; the legal authorities had to be looked at.

- Dr. Vaughan said he was thankful the USCG was out there ahead of the game. He mentioned people could view a snapshot of the current at the Eco-Discovery Center. The current has eddies, and he did not feel all of the oil would go to Miami and Ft. Lauderdale; he felt some would come from the back eddies. He also mentioned his concern with the dispersants BP used, which he said was 100% lethal to coral larvae.
- Dr. Causey said no dispersants were used in FKNMS, and Dr. Vaughan expressed about his concern where it was used.
- Capt. DeQuattro shared the concerns, and said there were lots of unanswered questions. He noted Cuba was equally concerned about effects on their environment.
- Dr. Causey said the Cubans in the protection business were concerned about the north coast of Cuba and elsewhere; one beach alone got 700,000 visitors a year and so they also had a socioeconomic concern. He mentioned a protected area Cuba had set aside, and thought there would be some dialogue.
- Mr. Chalfant asked about monitoring for hydrocarbons prior to drilling so a baseline could be obtained, and asked if there was a protocol to start monitoring.
- Capt. DeQuattro said the USCG was the federal on-scene coordinator, and what Mr. Chalfant was talking about was the natural resource damage assessment process. He said he could not speak to that as the USCG federal authorities only picked up for a spill itself and not for baseline monitoring for the sanctuary.
- Mr. Morton commented one of the best baselines was data from Deepwater Horizon.
- Mr. Chalfant said there was a need to gather data regularly, once drilling started. He acknowledged it cost money, but said it would give an indication if there were problems.
- Dr. Causey said there was no other coral reef environment on the planet as heavily monitored as in this area, but even so that did not meet all the natural resource damage assessment thresholds. A whole set of criteria had to go in place to meet those standards, he said. He said there was a lot of baseline data, and a lot of people wondered why not get more people to monitor, but that was not how it worked.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report – Mr. Morton, FKNMS

Mr. Morton reported that the South Atlantic FMC adopted Amendment 11 of the Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan the previous week, creating zones to protect the corals, as discussed at previous SAC meetings. He was briefed the FMC staff on the marine zoning review and also brought up Snapper Ledge. He forwarded the SAC vote to move ahead on Snapper Ledge to them; he thought they would kick it back for FKNMS to take care of in its process. However, it was taken up by their ecosystem-based management committee, and would go into the scoping process for them in January or February. He said they were taking it forward as a marine protected area within their process, and when he got the dates of the meetings, he would forward them to the SAC. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Morton to forward dates of SAFMC dates for scoping meetings on Snapper Ledge to the SAC, once known. He said the FMC did not think they could designate a Sanctuary Preservation Area with FKNMS regulations, but could make changes in fishery management regulations. Mr. Morton will continue to work with the FMC in the coming months.

- Mr. Kincaid asked if they were doing this because Mr. Morton brought it up, or if it had been in their plans.
- Because he brought it up, Mr. Morton replied. He briefed the FMC staffs, the FWC Committee, and let them know the Condition Report was out; in the process of talking to people, they took this up.
- Mr. Bergh said there was no representative from that part of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and asked, now that we were going into this process, if it would be good to offer someone from there a seat.
- Mr. Morton summarized what he had done on that; he talked to Roy Crabtree, who wanted to have someone attending the SAC meetings and reporting back to the FMCs. He said he would continue to look into this. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Morton to work on the possibility of getting a representative from NMFS on the SAC.

Mr. Morton said he would get information out from Karen Raine to the SAC, who was unable to make the meeting. ***ACTION ITEM:*** Mr. Morton to forward recent information from Ms. Raine of the NOAA Office of General Counsel to the SAC. NOAA issued seven violation notices with penalties of about \$44,000 for boat groundings that damaged seagrass in the sanctuary, he said. He said this was new movement forward in getting some of these actions processed.

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Southeast Region Report – Dr. Causey, ONMS Southeast Region

Dr. Causey said Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary advisory council helped identify and implement a research area; about a third of the sanctuary was dedicated to research only and vessels could not stop when going through that area. Consistently in FKNMS and this region the South Atlantic FMC let ONMS use its regulations on things that affected fisheries, while the Gulf of Mexico FMC and state had been a little mixed, he said.

He reported the Flower Garden Banks draft management plan was out for review. Around the first of the year, they would start looking at expansion. The potential for adding eight or nine banks to the sanctuary came out of their process.

Last week he was at the State of the Gulf summit, which was hosted by Texas A & M and had a lot of oil and gas sponsors. He mentioned again the top speakers of the first three days. Former First Lady Laura Bush also spoke, and mentioned FKNMS and Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary as well as "Islands in the Stream".

Dr. Causey introduced Debbie Harrison, a former SAC member, who was invited by Mr. Bergh. She spoke briefly, applauding the SAC for what it had accomplished over the last twenty years, and wished everyone the best as they went through the regulations.

Agency Report Highlights

FWC Report - Capt. Pat Langley, FWC

Capt. Langley reported things had slowed down a little due to wind and weather. FWC was still making some cases, but not large ones. A new officer reported to the upper Keys and five more would report in June. The officers were doing a lot of training and refresher courses at this time of year, he said.

USCG Report – LCDR Michael Capelli, USCG

LCDR Capelli said no damage occurred during the boat races from the accidents. There were 28 reports of possible pollution since the last meeting. Two were federalized; they recovered 400 gallons of oily waste and issued enforcements for discharges in the sanctuary.

- Mr. Kincaid asked when they went to a boat with a holding tank, how they checked if the holding tank was hooked up.
- LCDR Capelli responded there was no way for them to go on the boat and know if it had been pumped into FKNMS or not. He also said boaters could go out beyond [the FKNMS boundary] and pump out there.
- Mr. Kincaid asked if a City Marina log of pumpouts was still in operation or if there was a modified version of it.
- Capt. Langley said that would be a mooring field rule, and FWC did not have a rule about showing a holding tank had been pumped out. He said people could keep any kind of tank on the boat so long as the valve was closed and locked and its contents were not going overboard.
- Mr. Lund asked if there was any analysis or summary of pollution from the boat races.

- LCDR Capelli said none was noticed, and commented those boats used a high octane racing fuel.
- Mr. Grathwohl asked about the new load limit/stability requirements.
- The deadline for those for people with a commercial vessel to tell the USCG what they wanted to do was December 1, LCDR Capelli said. He said in the next USCG inspection, they would automatically reduce the passenger count based on a calculation. People who wanted to maintain the same number of people on board needed to do a stability test.
- Chair Popham asked Mr. Garret about required inspections in the City of Marathon's harbor.
- He was not sure he knew the answer, but he thought they were still being done.
- Commissioner Neugent again mentioned the importance of managed mooring fields.

NPS Report – Tracy Ziegler, NPS

Dr. Ziegler said the Everglades General Management Plan had gotten approval to proceed. Flamingo previously had a price tag of \$78 million, which raised flags in Washington, as all NPS units together had a \$280 million budget for construction. They had asked Everglades National Park to scale down its construction in Flamingo. Now the plan was to build more temporary, mobile units that may be relocated, which may go up during peak season, then be taken down during hurricane season.

- Someone asked about the NPS's direction, and she said the NPS was not in favor of building, [considering] hurricanes, sea level rise, and the economic situation for agencies.

Dr. Ziegler said she and Mr. Hunt were working on a five-year report on the Research Natural Area (RNA), and were editing submittals for it. There would be a workshop in January on what had been seen in the last five years.

- Mr. Frezza asked if there was a different projected date for release of the General Management Plan.
- Not at this time, Dr. Ziegler replied.

FWC Report cont. – Mr. Hunt

Mr. Hunt reported the projected date for release of the RNA report was June 1, and he would send it out to everyone. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Hunt to send the RNA report to the SAC, once available. He went on to report there was a Commission meeting, and at the end of the day there was an exchange among commissioners. It was said they were "giving back" with increasing bag limits, which turned out to be a controversial topic, as is taking away. The user groups had different and interesting viewpoints on that.

- Mr. Grathwohl commented fishing guides got distrustful when they were happy with the rules and they changed, and worried they would turn the other way. They don't want to change the system if it is not broken.

Mr. Hunt said presented results of casitas research in the lower Keys was presented to the Commissioners, and people could get information on that on the website. The Commissioners gave the fishery management staff direction to go to the various agencies to go to the various agencies to talk about the jurisdictional issues of placing casitas out, or not, so the staff was moving forward on it.

Mr. Hunt said the chair of the commission asked him about what Sean had reported on. He asked about the Condition Report, and if FWC scientists were involved. Mr. Hunt provided a list of those who were, and expressed that because of the inclusive process, there was a reasonably, high chance of success as the processed moved through. He and Mr. Morton were able to help dispel some of the views Commissioners had about federal fisheries management. The chair also asked about the orange in the Condition Report Executive Summary, commenting her stakeholders thought the Florida Keys were beautiful and pristine. Mr. Hunt said that while we understood those trends, those outside don't quite understand all that yet, so

there is still the need to provide some basic education. He noted Mr. Morton and Dr. Causey spoke with her after the meeting, and he also did.

- Chair Popham asked about new members on the Commission.
- Mr. Hunt said the chair was new, but had been on the Commission for a while. Commissioner Dwight Stevenson had his last meeting. There would be a new commissioner from Tallahassee, he commented, and he went on to make some additional remarks about the commissioners' backgrounds and experience, and the need for education in less formal settings.

NOAA OLE Report – Kenneth Blackburn, OLE

Special Agent Blackburn provided an end of year synopsis. He said there was a case against the fishing vessel *Sea Fox* regarding longlining in the 25-fathom longlining restricted area to protect sea turtles. Through vessel monitoring, they noticed the *Sea Fox* was also going into the Pulley Ridge area of particular concern. The *Peter Gladding* went out and terminated the voyage, and the officers seized 10,000 lbs. of grouper at the dock and the log books, which showed fishing two weeks previously all along the borders of the sanctuary. He reported that he and Special Agent John O'Malley had done Turtle Excluder Device details in the Gulf Coast. Four hundred sea turtles washed ashore in Louisiana, but they decided this was not from the oil spill, but from immersion. Turtle excluder devices are being looked at from Brownsville to Key West, and Special Agent O'Malley made a case on this in Louisiana, and they found some dead turtles floating offshore. He said a lot of this activity occurred at night.

Regarding the Paul Moran case, it was going to the criminal side. Mr. Moran pled guilty; Special Agent Blackburn did not know the final sentence.

- Someone commented it was probation and 200 hours of community service.

Special Agent Blackburn said Mr. Moran was working in conjunction with Rusty Anchor, and some of the species were mislabeled and were a restricted species. He reported the Rusty Anchor also pled guilty as a corporation, was on five years' probation, had to do an environmental compliance plan and got fined \$500,000. They also had Scott Greagor using the Conch Republic trip ticket/wholesale dealers license. He pled guilty but had not been sentenced. A different case was coming up January 3 for violations of the Lacey Act. To date, since 2008, with the Department of Justice, they had 13 individuals for Lacey Act violations. In the *National Fisherman*, he saw a writeup on catches out of Florida. The state, NOAA and USCG started really enforcing the laws in 2008, and 4.35 million lbs. of lobster were harvested in 2008. He said in the 2009/2010 season, 5.8 million lbs. of harvested lobster were reported. He said better statistics made better science and he felt everyone was reporting better.

DEP Report – Todd Hitchins, DEP

Mr. Hitchins said he was reporting for Mr. Edwards, who had to go to a meeting in Apalachicola. The Florida legislative session would begin on January 10. On the DEP budget proposed by the Governor [<http://letsgettowork.state.fl.us/>], the proposed budget was approximately \$1.3 billion, a reduction of approximately \$146 million and 86 staff as compared to the previous year. He said the Environmental Regulation Commission met December 8 and unanimously supported the DEP Draft Numerical Nutrient Criteria with specific criteria for total phosphorus, nitrogen and chlorophyll A in the Florida Keys [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/nutrients/docs/meetings/62_302_line_numbered.pdf]. The DEP annual report on FKNMS was submitted to the Governor and Cabinet and there would be a link to it soon on the FKNMS website, Mr. Hitchins stated. Submission of the report every year was one of the conditions for implementation of FKNMS in state waters and documents the activities and status of the sanctuary in relation to the Management Plan. Finally, Mr. Hitchins said Mr. Edwards wanted people to know his last day was January 31, 2012. Mr. Edwards had been an administrator at FKNMS for about

four years and he wanted to express it was pleasure working with the SAC and he thanked everyone for their work with the sanctuary.

- Mr. Morton explained Mr. Hitchins was the FKNMS Team O.C.E.A.N. coordinator and worked on the Education staff.

- Someone asked where Mr. Edwards was going, and Chair Popham said he was not sure yet, with all the changes in DEP.

U.S. Navy Report (USN) – Edward Barham, USN

Mr. Barham said the wall on the Mole pier in Key West needed to be repaired and they had partnered with FKNMS. Over the last two months hundred of corals had been removed by USN, FKNMS, aquarium and university staff members. The University of Miami was there the day of the SAC meeting; the Department of Defense funded a high resolution photo surveying of corals, both in their natural communities and on the walls, and were looking at how accurate it was.

As a related topic, Mr. Bergh asked Chair Popham if he could report on the coral bleaching monitoring done last summer. He said it was done with a lot of agencies, with The Nature Conservancy coordinating it for the Florida Reef Resilience Program. He mentioned all the groups involved. The monitoring looked at coral bleaching during the hottest time of year from 2005. They had the worst, most prevalent coral bleaching since that time, from Martin County all the way down to the lower Keys. He said 21-50% of the colonies in that region bleached, except some bright spots in inshore waters of the middle and upper Keys and Biscayne National Park. They did not get to monitor in the same way in the Tortugas. It gave a heads up to managers that they had a pretty bad year. The bleaching could result in secondary diseases, stressed corals, etc. He said the year was the tied for the 10th hottest on record, during a La Niña, which normally would be cooler.

Mapping of Spawning Aggregations in Florida Keys – Ms. Morley, FWC

Ms. Morley introduced herself, saying she was a research scientist with FWC in Marathon. She said she would present research on reef fish spawning aggregations in the Florida Keys, from Key Largo to the Dry Tortugas, and acknowledged the other organizations with which FWC worked.

She talked about how fish spawning aggregations happen in predictable areas, in brief, discrete events. She then describe the methods used in the study, acoustic tagging to look at movements and migration patterns in the Dry Tortugas, and acoustic mapping in the Keys. They looked at areas that were historically fished or were currently being fished. Most of the focus was on commercially and recreationally important species, such as mutton snappers, yellowtail snappers, and others.

Tortugas North and South Ecological Reserves were implemented in 2001 as no take areas. The south reserve was important because of Riley's Hump, known to be a spawning aggregation area for mutton snapper. Because of this protection, the number of fish observed on diver surveys from 1999-2001 went from a single fish on one survey up to 4000 in 2009. This success took almost a decade, she observed.

She showed a graphic of the movements of yellowtail, mutton snapper and black grouper, tracked via an acoustic area with 64 receivers in and between the two reserves, in Dry Tortugas National Park, and on the way to Key West. Ninety five percent of the time the fish were in particular areas, though sometimes they traveled between the two no take areas. She said they mostly moved from the RNA on the full move, then stayed for seven days at the south reserve. This was documented for seven fish over several years, and brings up the idea of spawning corridors and predictability of these events.

The Florida Keys acoustic mapping started in 2007, and was done with NOAA and the University of Miami. It started in 2007, using information from fishermen about areas in the upper Keys where there

used to be spawning aggregations, but which had been fished out. She explained the methodology, which used split and single beam transducers on boats, which ran transects. They looked for biomass in the water column during predicted spawning moons, and tried to look for similar bottom features. She showed a graphic of some of the preliminary results, saying they were trying to figure out if they were due to bottom features of characteristics of the aggregations.

In addition, they conducted area surveys around spawning moons, with morning and afternoon flights to examine boating pressure on known sites. They noticed an area off of Key West with a lot of boating activity south of Western Dry Rocks which was an actively fished aggregation; FWC had a boat doing a study there at the same time. Each of the boats had multiple fishermen, and with current bag limit of 10 per person, and 40 boats in one day, many fish would be taken. She said there was always a spike in boating activity in the summer around the full moons during the spawning season for these species.

Ms. Morley said FWC wanted to bring information and maps to the SAC, which members could take or leave as they saw fit. She said there would be more focus on black grouper in the Tortugas, and talked about the data FWC would be gathering. There were a tremendous number of individuals involved, including Dr. Hawtof, as well as commercial fishermen. She asked if there were questions.

- Bill Kelly asked about rugosity.
- Ms. Morley noted fish typically liked it (changes in bottom height).
- Dr. Causey said talked about flyovers and areas FKNMS knew were spawning areas. He said fishermen had a concern about what would be done about the data on their activities. He mentioned the potential for revisiting previous data sets.
- Mr. Hunt know of the data referred to and said he had made the scientists aware of it; he also said he would mention it at an upcoming GIS meeting.
- Dr. Causey also said a lot of work on benthic features and snapper had been done in the Caymons. A finding was they tended to move to features upstream in the current. He suggested FWC look at current data.
- Mr. Lund asked if east or west tagging had been done.
- FWC wanted to go in that direction, but had not yet.
- Mr. Lund said not to do it a Western Dry Rocks as FWC would not get them back.
- Ms. Morley agreed they got caught. There was then some discussion about receiver ranges; in the best conditions they reach to 300 meters, Ms. Morley said.
- Dr. Ziegler asked how long the project would keep going, and Ms. Morley said it was for the next couple of years and they were working on additional funding for an expanded project.
- Mr. Hunt said part of this research was funded through the RNA and part through the Coral Reef Conservation Program and the long term project he and Brian Keller started, which kept evolving to new topics. He talked about issues of continuity of funding and that it was winding down in the Tortugas.
- Chair Popham asked how much of the research would be shared with the Governor and Cabinet.
- Mr. Hunt replied there would be two chapters; but the acoustic mapping would not be included.
- Mr. Morton said FKNMS was also contributing funds to this, and that it was disappointing to see this kind of thing get cut when other projects got funded or ramped up. He said this was one of his top three most important projects for management of the sanctuary; it showed a direct link between science and management and was linked to the upcoming process.
- Dr. Causey commented Sanctuary Preservation Areas were not established for anything to do with fisheries management. For example, Carysfort was the largest one he said, a mile and a half square, and it missed the spawning aggregation. He said the areas were established to try to separate uses.

Public Comment

Mike Weinhof addressed the spawning on Western Dry Rocks and the number of fishermen there. Lots of boats came from Miami and all over, he said. He felt limits per boat was the answer, not closing an area.

He said he took Dr. Crabtree there at that time, who was also concerned about the numbers of people fishing there. Mr. Weinhof would be happy with one per person/five per boat, as a charter boat fishermen. He expressed he would love to see the SAC come back with a reduction in limit.

Paul Wachter noted he was speaking on behalf of the charter boat association in Key West; their basic goal was to lower the limit to ensure it was still a viable fishery. He felt five fish per person, ten fish limit, was more than enough fish and was almost excessive at that. He felt the situation needed some control, but removal was not control. He referred to people who take others fishing for entertainment value, not for commercial fishing. He wanted a realistic limit, so as not to lose [the resources], and so everyone could go home with a reasonable number of fresh mutton snapper.

Lee Starling, a commercial fishermen, said he stuck by the rules, and had been diving on the aggregation area with all the boats that was in the FWC photo. He said almost all the boats in the photo were from out of town, and they went out from the photo area to fish other things like dolphin, then came back right before dark. He talked about how some people caught the fish by thing like power chumming, which made the fish come up even if they were not hungry. Spawning amberjacks were being targeted for roe.

- Mr. Lund commented there was a whole sub- industry for amberjack roe in the community.

Mr. Starling made some additional remarks, saying he did not feel the Florida Keys was meant to be the fish market for Miami, where he said they wiped out their fish. He talked about fish being put on ice whole and making it to Miami days later, and about the old ways of fishing. This fishing was destroying and depleting the stocks here. He wanted a FMC here, not part of the two existing FMCs, with management based on ecological principles. He also wanted a vessel monitoring system on the boats.

- Chair Popham thanked the commenters.

Upcoming Meeting and Closing Remarks – Chair Popham

Chair Popham went over the SAC meeting dates for 2012: 2/21, 4/17, 6/19, 8/21, 10/16 and 12/11.

He said at the meeting in February, nominations would be taken for the Chair and Vice Chair election in April. He thought Mr. Nedimyer still wanted to be the Chair; it would provide continuity. He encouraged people to think about getting in nominations at the February meeting. He thanked everyone for their work at the meeting and over the past year.

Mr. Morton agreed, and wanted to raise one thing—in the upcoming meetings, he said there would not be as much time as there used to be for presentations such as these [more general informational ones]. He said there would be targeted presentations, and the SAC would see an increase in the materials coming from him, including more scientific papers.

Mr. Moe thanked Mr. Curlett, Chair Popham and everyone who brought something for the potluck lunch.

Mrs. Tagliareni reminded people not to throw away the blue drink cups, which will be washed and reused.

Dr. Vaughan announced January 15 was the date for applying for Protect Our Reefs grants [for funds proceeding from the special license plates], and he thanked the review committee members.

Adjourned, 3:05 P.M.

Submitted by Lilli Ferguson