

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Marathon Government Center, Marathon, FL
Tuesday, April 17, 2012**

MINUTES

Members Present

Clinton Barras	Steven Leopold
Chris Bergh	Jerry Lorenz
Jeff Cramer	David Makepeace
Jack Curlett	Corey Malcom
Ben Daughtry	Rob Mitchell
Dolly Garlo	Martin Moe
Richard Grathwohl	Ken Nedimyer
David Hawtof	George Neugent
Debra Illes	Bruce Popham
Don Kincaid	David Vaughan

Alternates Present

Joe Boyer	Suzy Roebing
Bruce Frerer	Bob Smith
George Garrett	Joe Weatherby
Art Itkin	Leah Wilde-Gould
Jessica Pulfer	

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/Approve Minutes from February 21, 2012 Meeting/Adopt Agenda for this Meeting/Chairperson's Comments, Introductions

Chair Bruce Popham called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

Jack Curlett led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Popham thanked the staff, especially Lilli Ferguson, for the meeting preparation and for helping him. He also thanked the Sanctuary Friends Foundation of the Florida Keys (SFFFK) for the refreshments.

Ms. Ferguson called the roll.

Approval of the draft minutes of the February 21 Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting was moved by County Commissioner George Neugent, and seconded by Mr. Curlett. Hearing no objections, Chair Popham deemed the minutes approved.

Regarding adoption of the agenda, Chair Popham noted there was one change; there would be no one to make the agency report for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Approval of the draft agenda was moved by Ken Nedimyer and seconded by County Commissioner Neugent. With the change, hearing no objections, Chair Popham deemed the agenda approved.

Chair Popham mentioned the SAC Summit webinar that took place the week before the SAC meeting; the council chairs, coordinators and superintendents from across the country participated, which was

interesting with all the people on the line. It was an effort to save money, rather than having an in-person SAC Summit (which will take place later in the year). Dan Basta was actively involved, of course. The point was a national “Campaign of Engagement” to build momentum and a larger coalition to deal with oceans. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has funded at a level basis over last few years and they are talking about cutting it further. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) makes economic contributions to this community. He felt the sanctuary program got no respect within NOAA. He talked about the importance of the water to our livelihoods. Mr. Nedimyer will be involved as it moves forward, Chair Popham noted.

Sanctuary Superintendent Sean Morton introduced Clinton Barras as the new primary member for Tourism – Lower Keys; he was the alternate before. He announced Joe Weatherby as the new alternate for that seat. Lauren Lugo is representing the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS); she is the Chief of Staff of their Southeast Region. Joanna Walczak is representing the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and is the lead for their Coral Reef Conservation Program.

- Chair Popham said Ms. Lugo had intended to be at the last meeting, but had an issue with childcare coverage.

Chair Popham announced the two public comment periods and encouraged anyone who wished to speak to fill out a public comment sheet and provide it to Ms. Ferguson, those people would then be called during the comment period.

Report from SAC on Community Outreach Efforts on FKNMS Marine Zoning/U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Backcountry Management Plan/Regulations Review

Mr. Morton said the scoping notice for starting the review of FKNMS zones and regulations was about two days away from publication, and would likely be in the *Federal Register* on the Thursday or Friday following the SAC meeting. Then, the information will go up on the website, the press release would go out, etc., and the public comment period will be open. At the February SAC meeting, [he, Chair Popham and Mary Tagliareni] talked about SAC efforts to communicate with their constituencies on the zoning and regulatory review, and this agenda item is to hear about that. Instructions said to make sure the primary member coordinated with his/her alternate when getting out there to talk. He asked to hear about the efforts from each seat as well as any questions or concerns people might have heard. When the comment period closes at the end of June, he did not want people to say after that, “How come I never heard about this and didn’t get a chance to comment?” He said some people will still say that. The outreach reports about what people have been doing to speak to constituent groups over the last couple of months followed.

Boating Industry: Chair Popham. He reviewed that he and Mr. Morton spoke at the Marathon Chamber of Commerce, the Marathon Rotary, and that they were joined by Anne Morkill at the Big Pine Rotary. He said they still had the upper and lower and Key West Chambers of Commerce to nail down, and those should probably be done in conjunction with the Rotaries there. He said there was a Marine Industry Association in Marathon, he and would get to a board meeting soon and hoped to have an opportunity to reach out at a general meeting. ***ACTION ITEM:*** Chair Popham to follow up to try to arrange meetings at Chambers of Commerce and Rotaries. He had the opportunity to attend the board meeting for the Wildlife Foundation of Florida with Mr. Curlett and they were able to brief them. That group supports the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Recently, he, Dave Vaughan and Bruce Frerer briefed the Mote Marine Laboratory license plate [grant] committee and the Mote folks. He noted it was important to move forward with this and get out in the community. He mentioned some SAC members he knew who had been making good efforts. At the last meeting, everyone got a packet of information so everyone should be armed and ready to go.

- Any concerns or questions that came up in the discussions, Mr. Morton asked?

- They were extremely positive and supportive, Chair Popham said. There were questions. People asked, "Why aren't you doing more?" such as on enforcement and lionfish.
- Mr. Morton said "Why can't you do anything about Cuban oil drilling?" was also coming up.

Conservation and Environment: Mr. Nedimyer [one of two positions for this constituency]. He said he was still trying to find his constituency, and he still had a remnant foot on the commercial side [of marine life fishing]. He helped set up a meeting with the Florida Marine Life Association, and Ben Daughtry did it. He said he was trying to set up a meeting with commercial fisherman at Key Largo Fisheries, and may meet with them the week following the SAC meeting. He thought they were on board but were concerned where any large marine protected areas might fall, and where any boundaries might be. He assured them everything was negotiable. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Nedimyer to follow up on setting up a meeting with commercial fishermen at Key Largo Fisheries. He has talked to people at the Reef Environmental Education Foundation [REEF], and he will be on the next "Fish and Friends" meeting for a few minutes. He also did a few radio interviews first two weeks of March.

The alternate for this seat, Jessica Pulfer, said she had not been in touch with Mr. Nedimyer or anyone else about speaking to groups, but she did go over the PowerPoint with her staff [at the Marine Resources Development Foundation], so they could reach out to kids. She also took information from the Facebook page. She offered to join in on radio shows if Mr. Nedimyer could not do it, or would be happy to join anyone else on a radio show.

Conservation and Environment: Chris Bergh [the other of two positions for this constituency]. Mr. Bergh said he emailed everyone from Marathon to the lower Keys area and a few folks on the mainland; he assumed Mr. Nedimyer would handle the upper region more than he would. He met with the Last Stand board of directors with Mr. Morton a few weeks ago. James Byrne of The Nature Conservancy presented to Reef Relief's board 4/16/12. Coming up, Mr. Bergh said he would do joint public meetings with other conservation groups. Mr. Byrne will present at a public Surfrider meeting in Miami Beach on 4/26/12. Mr. Bergh and Save-A-Turtle will do a presentation on May 7 at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon. May 1 he will present at a Friends and Volunteers of Refuges (FAVOR) public meeting on Big Pine Key. He was still working out when to do Reef Relief public meeting in Key West. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Bergh to set the date with Reef Relief for a meeting in Key West.

- Mr. Curlett asked about a Bonefish Tarpon Trust meeting this Thursday. He and Mr. Nedimyer agreed to "tag team" a presentation there.
- Mr. Bergh said when he went to an individual group to ask, they were responsive. He commented people should go out of their way to "spoon feed" this information to people.
- Mr. Morton asked if there were concerns.
- Not really, Mr. Bergh replied. He said he had been going in as a SAC member saying all comments were good, and that he did not say at a presentation what The Nature Conservancy thought.
- Mr. Nedimyer said if anyone on the SAC could go to the Miami Beach Surfrider meeting, it would be great.
- Leah Wilde Gould said she could go.

Tourism – Lower Keys: Mr. Barras. He reported Mr. Morton gave a presentation to the Key West lunch Rotary just over a month prior to the SAC meeting. He said he would be meeting with the Key West Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Committee on 5/12/12. The Chamber's lunch schedule was full for several more months. His contact asked him to put together an email blast and she would send out to their members. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Barras to follow up with content for an email his Key West Chamber of Commerce contact will send out. He was also trying to get a presentation to the Key West Lodging Association. He works for Florida keys.com and he would like to get something on their agenda for their next meeting. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Barras to try to set up a meeting with the Key West Lodging Association. He said he would also try to get on for a Tourist Development Council (TDC) meeting as

well as on for its District Advisory Committee meetings. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Barras to try to set up meetings with the Tourist Development Council and its District Advisory Committees.

- Mr. Bergh said the Reef Relief meeting would be open, and Chamber members and everyone else could be invited.

- On concerns, widening of the Key West channel came up, Mr. Barras stated.

Tourism - Upper Keys: Debra Illes. Ms. Illes said she had not done anything to date, but potentially had some radio interviews coming up, including one the night following the SAC meeting, and asked if anyone else wanted to go too to that one. She said she was willing to speak to the Islamorada Chamber of Commerce and the upper Keys Rotary. Mr. Nedimyer said he would check about doing the radio show and would go with her if he was available. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Nedimyer to let Ms. Illes know if he could do a radio interview with her on April 18.

Recreational Fishing: Mr. Curlett said he wrote a letter to the North Key Largo Free Press in response to Mark Lewis' letter to the Miami Herald regarding Research Natural Areas in Biscayne National Park (BNP). He reported he was meeting with Tad Burke the Tuesday following the SAC meeting and they would make arrangements for Mr. Curlett to speak to the Florida Keys Guides Association. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Curlett to work with Mr. Burke to set up a meeting with the Florida Keys Guides Association.

- Mr. Bergh said the BNP draft General Management Plan was out, and it contained a big no take zone, 7% of the Park. In the SAC guidance to the process, it says in each subregion of the Keys, there should be a no take ecological reserve. If it stuck in Biscayne, he asked if that would cover the upper Keys or not, and said it was something to keep in mind.

Citizen at Large – Lower Keys: David Hawtof. He said he had spoken to some fishermen and other individuals in his area, but no groups. The commercial fishermen he had spoken to did not seem to object, but they were interested to see if there would be reserved coral or fishing areas. He said they did not keep their traps there anyway.

- Mr. Bergh mentioned the proposed corals for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and he thought there were eight Caribbean corals proposed. Whether that happened or not, he felt it would be good if our process identified how the proposed alternatives would affect those species. He thought that would be useful for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which was running that process.

- Mr. Nedimyer said it looked like *Montastreas* were on the top of the list, in terms of being endangered.

Submerged Cultural Resources: Corey Malcom said he had not done any presentations, and reported there was not really a focal point for the historical resources community. He said he could maybe do something at their museum [Mel Fisher Maritime Museum] and ask people to come. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Malcom to try to set up a meeting at the Mel Fisher Maritime Museum and invite people to come.

- Did he talk to Tim Taylor? Mr. Morton asked.

- Yes, Mr. Malcom replied.

Fishing – Charter Sports Fishing: Steve Leopold. Without lines on a map, he felt it was hard for him [to get people together]. He had a backcountry guide in Key West call him, but had not spoken to him yet. He said usually sanctuary had done the right thing in the past, and would do the right thing in the future, and would provide opportunity to comment. He wanted to see something definite in terms of lines.

- Mr. Morton noted it was the start of the process and that there was nothing on the table. The sanctuary was trying to get public comment, and some reaction to findings in the Condition Report, such as if things were going well, or if they were not going well. He said he knew Mr. Leopold had zones to suggest.

- Mr. Leopold said there was talk about changing the zones, but thought people supported what had been done so far. He felt a proposal of what was going to be given or taken away was needed before getting comment.

- Mr. Daughtry said if Mr. Leopold could put something together in the middle Keys, he would be happy to do help facilitate and do the presentation with him; he said he grew up in that area and knew a lot of the charter guides. Then maybe someone in the lower and upper Keys could help Mr. Leopold.
- Mr. Bergh offered to do it with him in the lower Keys, and he said he knew Richard Grathwohl had connections and had already made some meetings. He said fishermen could be interested in the guidance to the SAC which said to create an ecological reserve in all the subregions of the Keys, and in where those could be. Also the Snake Bight Pole and Troll just got its review, which was mostly positive. One idea would be to have such zones in the Keys. Mr. Leopold could go to the group and ask them where those might be.
- Chair Popham asked Mr. Leopold if they could do something like they did a few years ago with him and Mr. Morton at the Islamorada Fishing Club. He said he knew his alternate, Bill Gilbert, could help too, and had offered to do something at his facility. The important thing was to let people know so they were not blindsided down the road.
- Mr. Leopold commented he had people call him, but he did not know what to say. He thought Chair Popham's idea was great, and he would invite everyone. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Leopold to try to set up a meeting, working with Chair Popham, Mr. Morton, and Bill Gilbert, at the Islamorada Fishing Club.
- Mr. Morton said it was good to point people to the website, including what the SAC adopted in December, and that Mr. Leopold could hand out those things.
- Mr. Leopold said an awareness had been created [by the sanctuary]; there was one area in particular he and people he fished with did not allow people to fish in, and they created a "law enforcement" group.
- Mr. Morton said even that was a good comment.

Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide: Mr. Grathwohl. Mr. Grathwohl said he met at the end of March with the Lower Keys Guides Association board of directors. They were quite concerned about a water grab, and not being able to conduct their business. He explained everything was on the table. He put forward having catch and release areas in the backcountry, and they were very receptive to that idea. He mentioned a situation with a bird biologist and his approaching fishing skiffs, but he thought the person may have backed off a bit and the situation may have resolved itself. He also put a call in to Mr. Burke, but had not heard back. He said he would be contacting the Key Largo Guides Association also. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Grathwohl to follow up with Mr. Burke and the Key Largo Guides association to try to set up meetings. He heard coral concerns from an individual in Marathon, who was concerned about his fishing area being taken away. Mr. Grathwohl mentioned the area off Marathon proposed long ago, and explained it had taken this long to come up due to the way government worked. He asked someone at the March meeting he spoke at to give the City Councilmen a heads up about the scoping meetings. He also mentioned someone from a magazine had contacted him and he referred the person on to Mr. Morton and Mr. Nedimyer.

- Mr. Bergh asked if proliferation of sandbar party spots around Keys was something they had thought about and the effect on fishing places. He was thinking back to the creation of Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and the separation of uses between fishing and diving, and asked if Mr. Grathwohl had heard anything.
- Mr. Grathwohl said they were betwixt and between, as this was a popular thing and there was the issue of stepping on toes, though it could disturb their fishing.
- Mr. Bergh said the partying was happening, and suggested restricting it to where it was already happening.
- Mr. Grathwohl mentioned it was also happening on an abandoned barge off of Key West, which was a known tarpon aggregate area, but was not now.
- Mr. Leopold said he was on the Islamorada Nearshore Water Committee, and that this had come up over the years, but nothing worked. They went to every government agency but no one wanted to step up. He talked about taking some water samples over the Labor Day weekend and getting some neat results, and said the sand area off Whale Harbor had increased tenfold, with the killing of seagrass. He wanted someone to step up and do something.

- That was exactly what scoping was for, to bring those issues forward, Mr. Morton stated.
- Mr. Leopold said another concern he forgot to mention was a more regionalized fisheries issues, in which he thought the sanctuary could get more involved and assist.
- Mr. Morton encouraged everyone on the SAC to submit their own opinions and the opinions of the groups they represented, even though they were on the SAC.

Citizen at Large – Upper Keys: David Makepeace. Mr. Makepeace said an “at large” seat was a rather odd constituency, but he had fielded concerns on both sides of the sandbar issue. They picked up since the zoning concept has been floated out. Some want to keep going out there. Others want to conserve the habitat and have mentioned newly formed sandbars and people going into what were supposed to be no-motor zones. He said this was a compatible uses issue. He spoke mostly to individuals, but he said he had an interest in the Upper Keys and Key Largo Rotaries, and would talk to Ms. Illes about it.

- Rob Mitchell said he was trying to set something up with the Key Largo Rotary.
- Mr. Makepeace said he would work with him on it, and would work with Ms. Illes on the Upper Keys Rotary. He contacted some Rotary members in each group, who had not gotten back to him. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Makepeace to work with Ms. Illes, Mr. Mitchell, and others who had mentioned meeting with the Upper Keys and Key Largo Rotaries, to set up meetings. He recommended to get at large interest, throw out there that one of the topics that would be dealt with would be sandbar recreation areas.
- The alternate for this seat, Suzy Roebing, said besides sandbars, people had been talking to her about crocodiles, a recovering species. Concerns included interactions with humans, and about critical habitat once they do recover (since it was a listed species), and what peoples’ rights were. She said marine birds were also an issue.
- Mr. Morton repeated the primary and alternate should be coordinating. He asked if she had done any outreach to groups.
- Nothing to groups, she replied, just individuals. She would like to coordinate with Mr. Makepeace or others and go to groups.

Research and Monitoring: Dave Vaughan. Dr. Vaughan reported he had not done any formal presentations, but did the “This Week in Fishing” radio show, and had talked to scientists and researchers that came to the lab.

- Mr. Hunt said one way to reach out to researchers would be to send an email to attendees of the Florida Keys science conference with information about scoping.
- Mr. Bergh asked who would do that, and Mr. Hunt said he could coordinate it on it. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Hunt to send an email about the scoping meetings to attendees of the Florida Keys science conference.
- Mr. Morton said this would be talked about a bit more during Karrie Carnes’ presentation.
- Joe Boyer remarked the permitting process might change, so scientists had a vested interest.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG): Phil Goodman. Mr. Goodman said Ms. Carnes would present this week to the Key West flotilla of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. He mentioned getting a course to teach HAZWOPER to the general public, and there would be meetings all over the Keys starting in late May and early June, to certify people in case an oil spill happened.

- Mr. Grathwohl suggested he get with Bill Kelly about who had been certified.
- Mr. Goodman said he has been told that and felt it was a good idea, but had not gotten the list of people yet.
- Mr. Bergh commented commercial fishing needed to be represented at the table [as the member and alternate for Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale were not present at the time at the SAC meeting]. He suggested if the SAC member and alternate could not come, they send a representative.
- Mr. Morton agreed, and said he would be talking to them. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Morton to follow up with the Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale member and alternate about coming to SAC meetings.

Fishing – Commercial – Marine/Tropical: Mr. Daughtry. Mr. Daughtry said he and Ms. Wilde-Gould did a presentation at the Marathon library for the Florida Marine Life Association. They made calls to every license holder in the Keys and the rest of the state and let them know what was going on, when the meeting was, and urged them to participate. About 35-40 people attended. As far as getting people to come without lines on a map, he suggested just telling people there would be change, and to be a part of positive change they could live with. He mentioned this was a SAC directive and not a sanctuary directive. There were lots of questions and concerns about livelihoods, but no outrage. He also did a presentation at his work, Dynasty [Marine Associates, Inc.], for a dozen people. Unfortunately, the homeowners association he belongs to had its annual meeting the same night as the Florida Marine Life Association meeting, but he did give them some information. He said he had also given information to charterboat and flats boat people he knew, and offered to go to marinas and pass out information.

- Mr. Leopold asked if he had any fliers.

- Mr. Daughtry said they called everyone but it would be easy to put together a flier with a meeting time. He felt it had been good for him and Ms. Wilde-Gould to be representatives at the meeting, as they were insiders. He encouraged people to come and have their say and be a part of the process. They talked about no take zones, catch and release, connectivity, etc.

- Ms. Wilde-Gould said she and Mr. Daughtry hoped to be at all the scoping meetings and to get their constituents there too.

- Mr. Morton pointed out fliers were on the website.

- Mr. Leopold asked if those could be tweaked, and Mr. Morton said yes.

- Mrs. Tagliareni said that was on the CDs the SAC got, and Mr. Morton said all SAC members got one, including after the fact [if not present at the February 2012 SAC meeting].

- As Mr. Leopold did not seem to have gotten one, Ms. Ferguson said she would send him another one.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Ferguson to send Mr. Leopold a SAC scoping communications packet.

- Mr. Grathwohl said something about tropical fish collectors being an unlimited body for entry in the State of Florida.

- It was limited and had been for about ten years, and had been reduced about 75%, Mr. Daughtry said.

Diving – Upper Keys: Mr. Mitchell. As mentioned earlier, he said he had already been in touch with the Key Largo Rotary, and was trying to set up a speaking date. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Mitchell to coordinate with Mr. Makepeace, Ms. Illes and others who were interested in setting a date to meet with the Key Largo Rotary. He also had contacted the Chamber [of Commerce], and was trying to get something set up for May. He knew Mr. Nedimyer offered to work with him on that, and if Mr. Nedimyer did Key Largo Fisheries, he would love to be a part of it. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Mitchell to coordinate with Mr. Nedimyer/others on setting up meetings with the Chamber of Commerce and Key Largo Fisheries. Mr. Mitchell was not sure he would be able to organize the dive community, though he tried to send quick emails to them after SAC meetings, and to redirect them to the website.

Diving – Lower Keys: Don Kincaid. He said divers were a diverse bunch. There used to be a number of dive clubs, and now the only one they were able to find was the group at the Florida Keys Community College; he said Bill Chalfant or Alex Brylske could tell a little bit more about that, but he could not. [Other than that] he did not think there was an organized group to which he could speak. He went on to say, though his statistics were not up to date, back in 1982, John and Judy Halas and he wrote a book, and at that time there were 1.6 visiting divers in the Keys. Since the Vandenberg sank, things had grown at least 30% he thought. When they did the book, they got statistics back on where the sales were, and about 50% were in the Midwest, with roughly 25% from the northeastern U.S. and 25% from Florida. Many of the Floridians were new residents, who visited the Keys on weekends, holidays, and mini season. He said very few visitors from other states were aware of Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and those that were aware wanted larger ones. He said the locals were split. Regarding groundings and other accidents, he said 82% were by out of county residents. Locals were concerned about open fishing season during spawning for lobsters or any fish and were concerned with the hogfish size limit. He said Mr. Weatherby

would get a good cross section of the diving community at one of his barbeques. He felt it was difficult to get at non-locals, and mentioned when he had his charterboat business, they did public service announcements. Bob Smith, the alternate for this seat, said it was hard to get a hold of these organizations.

- Mr. Morton asked if the Keys Association of Dive Operators (KADO) was still active.

- Yes, Mr. Smith answered. They were charter people, a small group, and he said he could contact them, but he said it was harder to reach divers. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Smith to contact KADO regarding having a meeting. He had not heard a lot of concern about the impact of regulations on diving livelihoods, but they were concerned that the sanctuary would let them know what it was, so they could be aware.

- Mr. Kincaid said locals were aware of Sanctuary Preservation Areas, but most visitors were not aware there was a sanctuary.

- Mr. Malcom asked about posting notices to bulletin boards, to reach people like visiting researchers.

- He could do that, Mr. Morton affirmed.

- Mr. Makepeace commented most dive operators had electronic lists, and the diving representatives could ask them to send information out.

- SAC members need to get a hold of local stakeholders in this community, Chair Popham said, reminding people their role was to reach the constituents they represent.

- There was further discussion about reaching the Keys dive community, and suggestions were made to work through the Tourist Development Council and the Keys Association of Dive Operators. It was noted the dive industry also had impacts.

Elected County Official: Commissioner Neugent said he constantly talked about diverse issues. He felt the zoning discussion was civil. His push, as well as that of others, was managed mooring fields throughout the county, and reducing costs from derelict vessels. He said he would be discussing it at the Board of County Commissioners meeting and encouraged people to come and provide comments.

- Mr. Morton asked if the elected officials knew about [the marine zoning and regulatory review process].

- Absolutely, Commissioner Neugent replied.

Citizen at Large – Middle Keys: Dolly Garlo said she talked to people all over and they were very supportive. She had not had much of a chance to talk about local zoning, but said she would be available to do presentations in the middle or lower Keys. She said people uniformly were more aware of things like global warming and emissions.

South Florida Ecosystem Restoration: Jerry Lorenz. Dr. Lorenz said he had not done anything.

- His alternate, Dr. Boyer, said he had been meeting ad hoc with individuals. He said there was a lecture series at the Murray E. Nelson Government Center on some Friday evenings, and he had mentioned it there. He has mentioned it at the Marine and Estuarine Goal Setting for South Florida (MARES) meetings.

Education and Outreach: Martin Moe. Mr. Moe said he had not done much since he had been busy with the *Diadema* project. He would give a History of Diving Museum presentation next fall. He planned to present to the Lower Matecumbe Homeowners Association. ACTION ITEM: Mr. Moe to make presentations to the History of Diving Museum and the Lower Matecumbe Homeowners Association. He also planned to do more writing to put the story out there on the desks of many people. Mr. Barras asked about the scoping meeting dates.

- Mr. Morton said they had been given at the last SAC meeting, and would be covered again in Ms. Carnes' presentation. He said they could not be formally announced until they appeared in the *Federal Register*.

Fishing – Commercial – Shell/Scale: Mr. Cramer said he knew Mr. Kelly had attended more meetings than he had lately. He said most fishermen were aware of the issues coming up, and they wanted to be

involved in the process from the beginning. He said Mr. Kelly always reported on what was going on to the Organized Fishermen of Florida, which had board meetings. Then, he felt it was up to individual fishermen.

FWC, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI): John Hunt. Mr. Hunt said their Commission was aware [since Mr. Morton spoke to them]. He also informed the Division of Marine Fisheries Management staff about the timing of the meetings and encouraged them to have a person there, to hear what was being said. He then introduced Rene Baumstark, with the FWC GIS team, and encouraged people to contact Mr. Baumstark with questions.

FWC, Division of Law Enforcement: Capt. Pat Langley (alternate for this seat). Capt. Langley said he mentioned it to the officers and they were aware it was coming.

U.S. Navy (USN): Ed Barham. Mr. Barham said he briefed his chain of command, and the Department of Defense would be commenting.

- Mr. Bergh asked about the mission of the base, which included flying over the Gulf, and asked if the USN was concerned about continuing those with the oil drilling getting closer.

- Yes, encroachment was the concern, Mr. Barham said, and said there were folks that just addressed encroachment issues.

DEP: Mr. Morton said he had briefed Ms. Walczak's boss. She noted DEP was in transition. She mentioned the 4000 person stakeholder South Florida Coral Reef Initiative list which they had updated on the scoping meetings, which reached Miami to Martin County.

NMFS: Ms. Lugo said NMSF was definitely aware of this process. She said they probably needed to talk more about the Fisheries Councils and the knitting together of this process with those and the state regulatory processes.

USFWS: Ms. Morkill said her stuff would be covered under Ms. Carnes' presentation. She said she could help with any of the Key West or Lower Keys presentations. She also appreciated hearing about the crocodiles, and would invite some endangered species folks to attend, probably to the upper Keys meeting. *ACTION ITEM*: Ms. Morkill to invite endangered species folks to the scoping meetings.

Public Comment

Ed Davidson said he was the original nominator of Looe Key National Marine Sanctuary, the first biological National Marine Sanctuary, and had been on the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils and put the provision in there for habitat of particular concern which opened the window for the National Marine Sanctuary Program. He said resource protection had to trump popularity and survey results in the end. He said geographic zonation was great, but was not enough. He had suggested to the SAC previously that dive operators who go out to the reef in poor weather and water conditions ought to be regulated as consumptive users of public resources which belong to the grandchildren of America. For ten years, he was the federal concessionaire at Biscayne National Park; like with the sandbar issue, the Park had a monster Columbus Day regatta in the fall. Those water quality samples would not have passed the test, and there was also cumulative anchor damage. He suggested checking with the park staff about cumulative damage and recovery data which might tell about use and be useful in this discussion. He said the vast majority of boaters were not aware it was a park, just like here.

Lauren Underwood introduced herself and Chris Ellis, saying they worked here as support contractors for NASA, in the remote sensing division. They were looking at integration of NASA remote sensing data into water quality monitoring efforts. The project would produce data (including chlorophyll and

turbidity), and they wanted to work with the *in situ* data being collected to look at correlations that could continue to or begin to be integrated into decision-making processes. She wanted to see if the water quality products would make a difference in the zoning process. She mentioned their team wanted to meet people on the science team so they could get invited to their next meeting and discuss the data project in more detail.

FKNMS Media and Community Outreach Efforts – Ms. Carnes, FKNMS

Ms. Carnes introduced herself as the communications and media relations person at the sanctuary. She presented on “How does FKNMS reach out?” She noted people usually thought about press releases, which FKNMS does issue, but that was not the only way of getting the word out. She hoped what she was going to cover would inspire the SAC in its efforts.

She went over the pre-scoping media outreach, noting there had been four articles in the Citizen/Keynoter since August 2011, and more than 45 radio shows since January 2012. The scoping press release would be going to about 200 people in Florida and national media outlets, and this would include newspapers, TV, radio and magazines. She reminded the SAC that sending out a press release did not guarantee placement. More press releases would be going out with the locations, with another push likely taking place in June. She mentioned there were about 50 radio slots available for SAC members to sign up for, to occur through the end of June.

Ms. Carnes thanked members of the FKNMS education staff for their work on outreach products, and she described what those were and the efforts of the staff to get them to dive shops, tackle shops and multiple other locations, as well as handing them out at festivals. In addition, staff members had been busy making presentations to clubs and other groups, including Rotaries, Power Squadrons, Coast Guard Auxiliary flotillas, and Florida Keys Community College students.

She talked about how the FKNMS website, floridakeys.noaa.gov, had a front page story on scoping, and about its marine zoning and regulatory review pages. She highlighted some of the key information on those pages. One of the things she pointed out was the listserv people could sign up for, to get email blasts on the process.

In addition, Ms. Carnes noted there would be mass mailings of emails and postcards, describing groups that would be reached. Facebook was also a good means of reaching people, and she encouraged people to become fans of FKNMS. Twitter would be utilized as well, she stated.

- Mr. Weatherby stated he had passed along some of the information Ms. Ferguson and Mr. Morton had provided him about the scoping process to other people. He asked if there would be opportunities for the use of Skype, including making public comment, at the scoping meetings.

- The primary ways of offering comment would be through the Regulations.gov website, mail, and at scoping meetings. Comment via Smartphones on the Regulations.gov website might be possible, she replied. Regarding Skype at the scoping meetings, Ms. Carnes did not know if this had been discussed.

- Mrs. Tagliareni related that the way the scoping meetings would be conducted, it would be difficult to take comment via Skype or phone.

- Ms. Carnes hoped with such advance notice of the scoping meetings, people would make time to attend, and stated the meetings would be from 4-8 PM, which would allow people to come in the evening if they needed to do so.

- Chair Popham said after the scoping meetings, the SAC would be discussing them, and it might be possible, due to the video capability in the Marathon room, to broadcast them.

- Ms. Garlo mentioned the possibility of turning a PowerPoint into a video.

- Mr. Kincaid suggested Waterways would be good to have on the website.

- Ms. Carnes said Waterways was on YouTube, on the producer's channel, and that they were working to move them to ONMS or another YouTube channel. She said new episodes of Waterways would be coming out over next two or three years.
- Mr. Kincaid suggested including a link on the website to the Waterways episodes.
- Ms. Carnes said she would work with the producer to prioritize which to link to ONMS.
- Mr. Grathwohl said there was some footage taken in Marathon when they were ground truthing Sombrero and Coffin's Patch, which could show people how the bait fishermen gave input.
- She responded she would have to dig that out from the archives.
- Mr. Bergh said he could come up with a hundred listservs, and wondered if there would be a process to send to those or if it would happen virally.
- Ms. Carnes said people could send her their ideas, and also encouraged people to take ownership and run with [doing outreach].
- Mr. Morton said that was the point of showing what FKNMS was doing, to encourage the SAC members to think about the personal outlets they had to get the word out, to their employers or to groups, as a force multiplier. *ACTION ITEM*: SAC members to think about and follow up on getting the word out on the scoping meetings by email (or other means) to their constituencies.
- Mr. Hunt said he could send her some via email. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Hunt to send Ms. Carnes something related to contacting constituencies. He also commented the Florida commercial licenses might overlap with NOAA commercial licenses, but he felt it would be good to send a postcard to that list with a link to sign up for the listserv. He mentioned he found specific links in emails helpful.
- Mr. Grathwohl suggested contacting a specific person at the Miami Herald.
- She said she had, plus several others.
- Debra Illes asked if she could get handouts.
- Mrs. Tagliareni said she could get them to people quickly if they contacted her, and people could either pick them up or a staff member could deliver them to the SAC member.

Chair Popham reflected about his time on the SAC [since his term as Chair was ending]. He said Commissioner Neugent got him into the SAC, and he thanked him for that. Many of the primary members over the last seven years were still here, but some were gone, including Jason Bennis, Todd Firm, Richard Fortmann, Debra Harrison, Bob Holston, Mark Klingbeil, Krueger Nicholson, Kathleen Patton, Gary Randolph, Deborah Shaw, and Jim Trice. On the staff side, he mentioned Billy Causey, who was now a regional director, Dave Score, and Fiona Wilmot. There was an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments over that time. He mentioned being nervous the first time he filled in as SAC Chair and that now it was no big deal. He said he spent a lot of time preparing for meetings to be sure he could conduct them and to make sure they worked, and that was time well spent. He talked about when the SAC came up with a mission statement, and focused on improved water quality, education and outreach, and ecological restoration. He stated the Research Natural Area was a huge accomplishment, and mentioned the efforts put toward Everglades and Biscayne National Parks and their management plans, and the start of what the SAC was doing today. He congratulated the SAC for the phenomenal job it did, and thanked everyone for their support, noting he would still be on the SAC as a member. Everyone applauded his efforts.

- Mr. Curlett mentioned a public hearing on Biscayne National Park, including the Research Natural Area that was proposed, and said a group was putting pressure on local members of Congress about it.
- Mr. Bergh thanked Chair Popham, noting he had been Chair since Mr. Bergh started on the SAC. He said he always talked about outcomes, and stated he thought Chair Popham had also been good about ensuring the process went well.
- Commissioner Neugent said Mr. Davidson mentioned the controversies when the sanctuary was established, and also bringing the rest of the wastewater system to the Keys. He mentioned what the sanctuary had brought to the Keys, and what people invested to make this a better place. He said the SAC could take ownership of things like bringing the message before the Governor. He mentioned other things the SAC could stand up and take credit for and expressed his thanks.

- Mr. Morton Chair Popham had been a national leader as well as a leader at this SAC, and mentioned Chair Popham's roles at the SAC summits and Capitol Hill Ocean Week.

SAC Chair and Vice-Chair Election

Ms. Ferguson reviewed the election process, then collected written ballots. She reported no member had sent in an absentee ballot. By majority vote, she announced Mr. Nedimyer was elected the next Chair and Chris Bergh was elected the next Vice Chair, with their two-year officer terms to begin April 18.

Agency Report Highlights

Chair Popham changed the order of topics on the agenda to have the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) report made early, as Special Agent Kenny Blackburn and Special Agent John O'Malley had a conference call they needed to attend.

NOAA OLE Report, Special Agent Blackburn, OLE

Special Agent Blackburn said they had been dealing with casitas over the last two months. He reviewed the sentencing in a three-year old case: Rush Maltz was sentenced to 18 months of prison and forfeited two of his vessels. He already completed his casita removal operations, removing them from 215 sites from the sanctuary, with help from sanctuary manpower and vessels. Titus Werner got a year in prison.

Special Agent O'Malley said there were two more in the pipeline; Michael Kimbler and Michael Bland pled guilty to artificial habitat and taking over the limit. He said they would be sentenced in June, and they were in the process of removing their casitas (about 400).

- Special Agent Blackburn added there was false reporting, and over the bag limit in this case. He said the last guy used big, thick metal plates for casitas.

Staffing Plans for June 2012 Public Scoping Meetings – Mr. Morton, FKNMS

Mr. Morton began this topic before lunch and then continued it after lunch. The public scoping meetings would start the day of the June SAC meeting, and would be from 4-8 PM, starting with staff members as greeters. Staff members would stand by as facilitators and note takers. He and Ms. Morkill would give a short presentation, then people would break into roundtable groups of about seven to nine, and each group would have a staff facilitator and a staff note taker. He hoped SAC members would also sign up to be present, to provide comments and hear what people said. After the roundtables, he said there would be a quick summary, and all of that would generally take about two hours. He said they would do the same format for folks who came in around 6:00 PM. He then listed the dates and locations of the public scoping meetings.

Mr. Morton said he had received an update during lunch that there might be a delay in the publication of the notice in the Federal Register until the Friday or Monday following the SAC meeting. He handed out a summary of the scoping notice, which would be in handout racks, in a poster display and on the website. He talked some more about what would take place at the public scoping meetings, saying various people would float around the room. The staff facilitators would have prompting questions and would ask clarifying questions as needed. For each roundtable, he would like a SAC member to be there, and it would be fantastic if people wore their SAC shirts. After the comment period closes, the comments would be lumped, split and given to NOAA, FWS and DEP to review.

- Bruce Frerer asked if SAC members should correct an incorrect statement.

- Mr. Morton said if something was blatantly wrong, they could be pointed to where they could get more information. In general, the facilitators would take all comments and would not get into one on one discussions, and a staff floater might step in if a problem arose. All comments from individuals would be taken and the facilitator would make sure the group felt all comments were captured.

- Alex Brylske asked if groups would take all comments on all topics or if the groups would be broken up by subject.
- All comments, Mr. Morton replied. Then, they would be captured in a summary at the end. He added people would also be pointed to where they could comment after the meeting was over.
- Ms. Morkill said during the alternatives process, they might then break up people by topic.
- Mr. Morton said a staff member would take all the comments received during the scoping period, including from Regulations.gov, and would lump and split them, Mr. Morton said.
- Ms. Morkill commented people might gloss over if they saw the meeting was from 4-8 PM, and suggested mentioning the two sessions within a meeting.
- Mr. Morton noted the suggestion.
- Mr. Bergh said there was an argument for dividing up into different groups, so input could be heard as much as possible. He then asked how DEP was involved, since this was a federal process, but the sanctuary was co-managed with DEP.
- Ms. Walczak replied that she would be at the Miami public scoping meeting, and hoped to be at others. She added she and Mr. Morton discussed possibly presenting to the Board of Trustees [Governor and Cabinet], and that the time to bring it to them would be once changes were on the table.
- Chair Popham asked if there would be an opportunity to give the Governor and Cabinet a heads up when they met May 8 in the Keys for a Cabinet meeting.
- As long as it did not take away from their objective at hand, she said she would do whatever she could to facilitate that.
- Chair Popham and Commissioner Neugent met informally with the Governor about this. He asked Mr. Hunt when he would be meeting with the Governor and Cabinet about the Research Natural Area.
- Mr. Hunt said he thought he had a meeting in November on the management agreement on sovereign and submerged lands between the state of Florida and [Dry Tortugas National] Park. They would be going to the Commission at the June meeting on the MOU on the Research Natural Area. That was the fishing regulations, he added. Lines on the map relating to fishing would be under FWC authority if in state waters. As people knew, Mr. Morton had already been to the Commission.
- Mr. Bergh commented the issue would not end up on the Governor and Cabinet agenda without some priming.
- Chair Popham said it could be done in public comment.
- There was concern about going to them when there would need to be briefings to DEP, due to the complete turnover (given there was no new Office of Coastal and Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) director, and there was a new DEP division).
- Commissioner Neugent said he understood, but DEP was a partner, and Ms. Walczak could maybe give a heads up.
- Ms. Walczak replied she would like to do it internally to DEP leaders first, then would facilitate that however she could.
- There was some discussion about making sewage treatment a part of any briefing to the Governor and Cabinet.
- Ms. Walczak invited SAC members to talk to her [more about this after the meeting].

Back to the scoping meetings, Mr. Morton said it would be good to have SAC members do meet and greet, and to be at roundtables, as well as having conversations with people. He said he was ready to take names.

For June 19 in Marathon, there would be a SAC preparation walkthrough in the afternoon prior to the scoping meeting later that day. SAC people who indicated an interest in attending on this day were: Mr. Brylske, Mr. Daughtry, Mr. Bergh, Mr. Nedimyer, Ms. Pulfer, Chair Popham, Mr. Grathwohl, Dr. Hawtof, Mr. Moe, Ms. Garlo, George Garrett, and Mr. Smith.

- Mr. Moe asked how many were needed at each meeting.

- Mr. Morton said he wanted to see who we could get there, and added he wanted everyone to participate in at least one, so they could get a sense of the hearings.
- Mrs. Tagliareni said once they looked at the lists and at staffing, they might get back to someone to let them know thanks [for offering], but it would be great to come to the next one [instead].

June 20, Key Largo: SAC people who indicated an interest in attending on this day were: Mr. Nedimyer, Mr. Curlett, Dr. Boyer, Mr. Leopold, Dr. Lorenz, Ms. Roebing, Ms. Pulfer, Mr. Bergh, Mr. Daughtry, Mr. Mitchell, Ms. Walczak, and Mr. Grathwohl.

June 21, Key West: SAC people who indicated an interest in attending on this day were: Mr. Barras, Ms. Garlo, Mr. Bergh, Mr. Grathwohl, Mr. Smith, Mr. Malcom, Dr. Hawtof, Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Frerer, Mr. Goodman, Commissioner Neugent, Ms. Wilde-Gould, Dr. Brylske, Mr. Daughtry, Mr. Garrett and Chair Popham.

June 26, Miami: SAC people who indicated an interest in attending on this day were: Dr. Boyer, Ms. Walczak, Ms. Wilde-Gould, Ms. Pulfer (maybe), Mr. Nedimyer (maybe), Mr. Curlett, Mr. Moe, Chair Popham, Mr. Garrett, Mr. Bergh (maybe), Ms. Roebing (maybe), and Mr. Smith.

- Mr. Bergh asked if a vanpool could be set up to take people to Miami, then to Fort Myers and stay the night, and if people would be interested in doing that.
- Mr. Morton said we could not do travel. Mr. Bergh or others were welcome to carpool.

June 27, Fort Myers: SAC people who indicated an interest in attending on this day were: Mr. Bergh (maybe), Ms. Wilde-Gould, Mr. Weatherby, Ms. Roebing, Chair Popham, Mr. Daughtry, and Ms. Lugo.

- Mr. Morton said they hoped to get a lot of people at Fort Myers, but it was not the typical audience.
- Mr. Curlett suggested talking to Dan Kimball before going there.
- Mr. Hunt asked what role Mr. Morton wanted government representatives on the SAC to play.
- Attend, listen, report back, and sit in groups, Mr. Morton replied. He added it was also scoping, and FWC might have a formal letter at that point.
- Should they facilitate? Mr. Hunt asked.
- No, the FKNMS staff would be facilitating and note-taking, Mr. Morton stated again. If someone had a specific question, they would point that government representative out. He went on to let the SAC know he wanted a good cross section at the meetings, and when the SAC discussed scoping comments in the fall, everyone would have experienced what it was like. He said the comments would also be broken down geographically.
- Ms. Walczak provided a heads up that there might be confusion about this being the Biscayne National Park process, and that an announcement might be made when people came in.

Presentation: Tracking Life on the Reef – Monitoring Benthic Communities – Steven Miller, NOVA Southeastern University Oceanographic Center

Dr. Miller said there was multi-agency support for this program. He has worked with two colleagues on it for twelve years, which has been great. They work with Jerry Ault and Steve Smith and have adopted the same methodologies as Dr. Ault uses for fish.

Dr. Miller mentioned his roots in the Florida Keys, and the research in which he had been involved, which led to the current engineering process to clean up nearshore waters. In about 1996-97, when the management plan was coming on line, he was involved in the Technical Advisory Committee, and he realized there was no program in place to look carefully at the no take zones, the Sanctuary Preservation Areas, etc. He worked initially with Ben Haskell, then Brian Keller. There has been funding for over 10 years, and many agencies and groups have been involved. He thanked FKNMS for its support.

Dr. Miller said the program was done against the landscape of everything else that was going on in FKNMS, and the areas were relatively small. There is a need to know what is going on in them, and also in the larger FKNMS system. They collect baseline data at hundreds of locations. He mentioned the Sanctuary Preservation Areas were put in place to manage multiple user groups, and that the management plan does not say the areas were to see the reef improve, protect biodiversity, or make the system better using these small restricted areas to make fishing better.

Caribbean-wide, there previously was an average of 60% coral cover. There was a *Diadema* die off, but coral cover did not start to decline so much until a bleaching event, then another bleaching event. He said there was a lot of room to move in an upward direction.

Dr. Miller reviewed factors affecting coral reefs in Florida: geography (winter cold fronts), hurricanes, coral disease, coral bleaching, ocean acidification, pollution (especially nutrients), loss of herbivores, and marine zoning. He then provided coral disease statistics as related to rates of different human diseases and recovery.

He discussed what was measured (15 meter transects for benthic cover and 15 meter belt transects for a variety of factors), and briefly touched on the methodology and stratification Keys-wide. Regional and habitat variation was built in, he explained.

The next part of his presentation focused on species richness with urchin, sponge, hard corals and gorgonians, algae, etc., and what data they take. He summarized population results, and made no take zone comparisons with reference sites. Reference and no take zones had similar trajectories, he said. More urchins were found outside the no take zones, though sizes were similar. A large numbers of corals in the Keys were rare.

- Dr. Boyer asked how representative he thought the no take zones were of the rest of the areas where they were sampling.
- The reference sites they compare to no take zones include habitats as close to what is happening in the Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and were selected for specific reasons. They saw urchins across all habitats outside the zones.

With marine debris, Dr. Miller said a lot was found inside the protected areas. Across the habitats, there was more in the reference areas, but there was still a lot in the protected areas (for trap gear and angling gear). Theoretically, it could be cleaned, or perhaps it was an enforcement issue, he said.

Dr. Miller reviewed the Keys-wide top ranked sites, and the potential future corals found in the Keys if the trends continued. He also talked about top ranked sites that were not protected, and how this information could potentially affect management planning and this review.

Regarding next steps, they were doing field work this summer for *Acropora*, corals and urchins, expanding into Miami-Dade and Broward and were working in a similar way in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. While they did not have funding yet, they were working to integrate their data with NOAA/FWC GIS, and would be contributing to spatial analyses and the FKNMS management plan review. Lots of people use their data, including the NOAA NMSP, NOAA Office of Protected Species, State of Florida, FWC, FWRI, and a whole bunch more. Also, there would be publications related to distribution and abundance of corals, gorgonians, and sponges throughout FKNMS.

His conclusions were:

- System-wide, related to some of the iconic species found in the sanctuary, such as *Diadema* and the *Acroporids*, populations were increasing or stable over the ten years.
 - Substantial decline occurred over several decades related to coral cover. Some species that were resistant previously were now in decline too.
 - Related to no take zones, it was a mixed bag. They saw some interesting results, but community-level effects were likely to take a long time, if they occurred at all.
 - The results should help inform discussions about no take zone design factors in FKNMS, especially related to their location and enforcement. Size and connectivity were also important.
- He then invited questions.

- Dr. Brylske asked about Dr. Miller's criteria for the top ten list.
- High coral cover, high gorgonian abundance, abundant coral recruits, low algae cover and high topographic complexity, and every site gets ranked and added, then he looked at the highest total, he replied. It could be done various ways, such as looking at fish abundance.
- Mr. Grathwohl thanked him for the information, saying the SAC Ecosystem Restoration Working Group had asked for studies of the special use areas.
- Someone said a member of the public might ask, "Why bother with no take areas?"
- Science was just one piece of the puzzle, Dr. Miller replied, and reiterated that areas were not established specifically to improve the conditions of the resources, but to protect what was there. They were doing that, compared to what was happening in the rest of the system. Questions about what it would take to improve no take quality were tough. He did not think the "why bother" issue would be big, since these areas were not established for that reason.
- Dr. Hawtof asked about corals and fish.
- It was something they were working on, and was complicated, Dr. Miller said.
- Mr. Hunt asked if Western Sambo was lumped in to the no take zones or if the presentation just covered Sanctuary Preservation Areas.
- Dr. Miller believed it was lumped and was viewed as a no take zone.
- Mr. Hunt said all the Sanctuary Preservation Areas were so small, there would be no expectation that there would be much change in the kinds of parameters Dr. Miller was measuring.; a possible exception could be the Tortugas region.
- It would be interesting if any results would be seen if Western Sambo was pulled at.
- Dr. Miller agreed, but mentioned the small number of people working on this. He said they had the data.
- Mr. Hunt agreed it was valuable to have this project's data; he just wanted the SAC to understand what would be reasonable expectations from the zoning so far.
- Mr. Bergh said FKNMS had a no take zone for all stony corals and almost a no take zone for gorgonians, so it was not surprising the areas inside and outside the zones were not changing.
- Mr. Moe mentioned only six juveniles of one species of coral were found. In the past, there must have been enough juveniles settle to build a significant population of them, but that was no longer happening. Could Dr. Miller estimate approximately when that cutoff time was?
- No. Using size classification to determine their age did not work so well, and the corals fragment and break up, with other factors to consider as well. This was Caribbean wide. He said this type of coral released millions of gametes during spawning every year.
- Chair Popham said the base was too small to be redundant now. From a management perspective, he said we knew the Sanctuary Preservation Areas were not set up for biological reasons. Now there was a base of science that was not available before, and we know some areas where a better job is needed and areas that should be put aside. This provided a base of information for which areas to protect.
- Dr. Miller talked about spatial analysis, and having high quality data sets, noting various answers could be pulled from the data. They were trying to get the GIS up in the next six months or so to be helpful to this process.

- Mr. Kincaid talked about the loop current, and how the area chosen there was where everything was spawning, and noted the Tortugas gyre distributed everything downstream. He said when diving, he had generally seen a lot more stuff west of the Marquesas and in the Tortugas than in Key West or up the Keys.
- Dr. Miller said they had a couple of hundred sites in the Tortugas, adding that they had not worked down there as much as they would like. He also mentioned the changes in latitude and climate being a factor.
- Dr. Vaughan observed he heard Dr. Miller and Mr. Hunt mention upcoming research they targeted, and about the different sizes of areas. He felt people in public would look to scientists and ask “What is the right size?” and the SAC would need to consider that question in the coming months. He then asked for numbers of years of results in the Tortugas.
- Mr. Hunt replied there were some projects for which there was data for over a decade and others were shorter; he said there was not much benthic monitoring.
- Dr. Miller said the discussion would need to cover why the resources needed to be protected, and that it was not just the science that needed consideration.
- Dr. Vaughan and Mr. Kincaid talked about sizes and percentages of reserves as compared to other countries such as Australia.
- Dr. Miller mentioned using the good news stories we had in the arguments.
- Mr. Grathwohl talked about setting aside areas equitably, and also not having unlimited access of divers to an area, which has a carrying capacity. Fish get intruded upon by divers jumping into the water, which makes them leave the area.
- Dr. Miller said no take zones were not the only tool for fisheries management.
- Mr. Bergh asked how Dr. Miller’s data could be integrated into the GIS system presented to the SAC at the previous meeting.
- Mr. Morton said regarding all the data presented to the SAC over the last year, including in the Condition Report, all of the scientists had been contacted and were working in a combined effort, including the NOAA biogeography team. There would be one GIS with various layers, and the initial biogeography collection was being done now and would be presented to the SAC in August. All the analysis would not be done by that time, but the GIS could be used a tool in decisionmaking. The GIS work would continue throughout the process. He mentioned the online tool, where folks could go in and ask specific questions, bringing up a layer at a time. He asked Mr. Baumstark if he wanted to add anything.
- Mr. Baumstark confirmed they were working with the Biogeography group to integrate all this.

Public Comment

There was none.

Sanctuary Superintendent’s Report – Mr. Morton, FKNMS

Mr. Morton said he wanted to keep focused on this. He highlighted a science report on the value of shallow banks, and encouraged people to read it. The August SAC meeting would be very busy with a large presentation talking about biogeography.

He mentioned he had forgotten to say Kristie Killam was no longer the Citizen at Large – Lower Keys alternate, as she got a federal job and so could no longer serve in the position. That position would be included in the summer round of recruitment, with terms to start in October.

He said the SAC would continue to see more and more from him in the next two months, and he encouraged people to send on the information about notices and also steer people to the web site. He said he would come talk or join a SAC member if needed.

Agency Report Highlights Cont.

NMFS Report – Ms. Lugo, NMFS

Ms. Lugo said Mr. Morton had sent an email to the group on the Friday before the SAC meeting about the fact that NMFS put out two reports related to the assessment of the 82 species of coral, seven of which were in the Caribbean/Florida area. There was recognition in the process of looking at the status of and threats to those species, in order to make extinction determinations to list species as threatened or endangered, and of the existing efforts and management regimes in place locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. NMFS is taking public comments on both the science report and the management report, and they were interested to know if anyone had information not already included in the reports that should be. She encouraged people to look at them. She said NMFS would have a session in the southeast region with the science community to get scientific input, and then would have one to take public input; she said she would let people know when they were scheduled. *ACTION ITEM*: Ms. Lugo to let the SAC know when the NMFS sessions to get input on the two coral assessment reports.

She mentioned looking forward to talking to people on the SAC. She lives in St. Petersburg, and knows Mr. Morton from when they worked together in headquarters. She worked with sanctuary superintendents, including Mr. Score and Billy Causey, and went to Capitol Hill with them. He said she had also been on three missions to Aquarius.

DEP Report – Ms Walczak, DEP

Ms. Walczak said she was the manager of the Coral Reef Conservation Program, which focused on four counties of the northern Florida coral reef tract, and she was the Florida contact for the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee. She was here to be a balanced voice for everyone, she said. She stated she was acting in the seat on the SAC until things were sorted out at the Tallahassee level for DEP. As the SAC knew, there was a new Secretary looking at agency efficiencies. As one of those steps, in February, CAMA was moved to a new division of DEP. All the aquatic reserves sites, National Estuarine Research Reserves and her program were now in Office of Water Policy and Ecosystem Restoration, which has been focusing on water quality and Everglades restoration issues. DEP Secretary Munson would evaluate each of the CAMA programs to see if more efficiencies might be made. DEP would be hiring a new CAMA director, as the Deputy Secretary was serving in that role as well as Deputy. She hoped that person could come to the next SAC meeting. She asked people to let her know if they had questions. She hoped to be the SAC representative for the long term, but that would be determined by the CAMA director; the seat technically belongs to that person.

USN Report – Mr. Barham, USN

The USN started the mitigation portion of a large airfield restoration, Mr. Barham said, with restoration to occur on Big Coppitt, Geiger Key, Rockland Key, and Boca Chica. It would be a combination of mangrove restoration and improving hydrologic flows, mainly on Rockland Key and Big Coppitt Key. That would probably take place over the next year to year and a half.

He reported turtle nesting had started, and the USN had its volunteers out monitoring for sea turtle nesting.

On a non-environmental note, in September, as many as twelve warships would be here for training for a couple of days.

FWC, Division of Law Enforcement Report -- Capt. Pat Langley, FWC

Capt. Langley said winds had kept them less busy. The *Peter Gladding* had been down for roughly a month and he was not sure how much longer it would take.

They had been logging a lot of derelict vessels and making some arrests, he reported.

The Governor signed the MOU merging the DEP and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services law enforcement with FWC. It did not mean much for the Keys. There were about eight people who would be working the parks still and they would help each other out.

- Chair Popham asked about the number of abandoned vessels.
- Capt. Langley didn't know; there were a lot. One officer was assigned to do just that, and that officer could not keep up with them.
- Mr. Morton asked if he had coordinates on each one; they do, Capt. Langley replied. Mr. Morton said he might want to get those.
- Mr. Curlett said Rich Jones had a list of derelict vessels along Card Sound Road to give Capt. Langley and would like to get them out of there.
- Capt. Langley said he knew they had gotten a lot of them, and wondered if there were a lot again.
- Mr. Jones said most derelict vessels there were on private submerged land. If attached to a dock illegally built which did not meet code, then FWC could process it. He provided the information to the code department, which was supposed to determine which docks were legal or not then get the information to FWC.
- Chair Popham said the number would be interesting to know, as [Monroe] County would take final action on the pilot program the day after the SAC meeting.

USFWS Report – Ms. Morkill, USFWS

At Key Deer Refuge, the USFWS permits Florida Keys Mosquito Control District to do some adulticide spraying for mosquitoes. A law school, on behalf of the North American Butterfly Association, brought up the issues of terrestrial impacts and consulting with NOAA on drift to marine sanctuary waters and impacts. FWS has to consult with NOAA under the Endangered Species Act. She recommended the SAC reach out to District Executive Director Michael Doyle to see if he wanted to get involved at the SAC level or Water Quality Protection Program level.

USCG Report – Phil Goodman, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Mr. Goodman reported the USCG responded to 52 reports of pollution since the last SAC meeting, and opened up the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for some of it, spending about \$25,000. A lot were canals with sheens. In some cases the responsible party was found. They recovered 250 gallons of oil and 50 gallons of hazardous materials. The biggest one was where twelve drums of fuel were spotted and marked, but they were gone the next day. It was suspected the drums were involved in a smuggling activity and the smugglers retrieved them.

He also stated Capt. Pat De Quattro was rotating out and May 4 was the change of command date. Capt. DeQuattro would be replaced by Capt. Alwyn Young.

FWC FWRI Report – Mr. Hunt, FWC

The Joint NPS-FWC five-year report on the Dry Tortugas Research Natural Area sent to the printer, Mr. Hunt announced. He expected it to be available by approximately May 15, and said he would provide a copy to everyone. *ACTION ITEM*: Mr. Hunt to provide everyone on the SAC with a copy of the five year report on the Dry Tortugas Research Natural Area. Although centered on the Research Natural Area, it also discussed research outcomes in the context of the combined Dry Tortugas National Park and FKNMS zones in the Tortugas region. He said he would report to the FWC Commissioners, most likely at its June meeting in West Palm Beach on June 27. He encouraged people who were available to come to that meeting.

Mr. Hunt also reported the FWC Division of Marine Fisheries Management would be holding a workshop about harvested pink tip anemone, *Condylactis* species, the week after the SAC meeting.

- It was going to be on April 23 in Key Colony Beach, and there would be several more throughout South Florida, Ms. Wilde-Gould added.

Finally, Mr. Hunt said the next FWC Commission meeting would be May 2 and 3. He briefly mentioned some items scheduled for that meeting. For more information, he referred people to the myfwc.com website, to the “Commission meetings” section.

Upcoming Meeting and Closing Remarks – Chair Popham, SAC

June 19 was the date for the next SAC meeting, which would shorter than usual, with scoping meetings after, Mr. Popham said.

- Mr. Morton said he and Mr. Nedimyer would work on the agenda and on what needed to be done.

Meeting adjourned, 3:26 PM.