

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Ocean Reef Club Cultural Center, Key Largo  
Tuesday, October 20, 2009**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

Jason Bennis	Corey Malcom
Chris Bergh	Martin Moe
Jack Curlett	Ken Nedimyer
Jon Fajans	Krueger Nicholson
Dolly Garlo	Bruce Popham
Richard Grathwohl	Brad Simonds
Bob Holston	Jim Trice
Don Kincaid	

**Alternates Present**

Clinton Barras	Peter Frezza
Alex Brylske	David Makepeace
Joe Boyer	Hal Osburn
Walt Drabinski	Bob Smith
Bruce Frerer	David Vaughan
Susan Hammaker	

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call/ Approve Minutes from August 18, 2009 Meeting/  
Adopt Agenda for this Meeting/Chairperson's Comments/Introductions**

- Chairman Bruce Popham called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. and welcomed everyone. He thanked Jack Curlett for hosting the meeting and providing the refreshments and lunch for the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) members, agency representatives to the SAC and invited speakers. Mr. Curlett led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

- After review of the draft minutes from the August 18 meeting, Ken Nedimyer moved that they be approved, and Dolly Garlo seconded the motion; as there were no suggested changes, Chair Popham then deemed the minutes approved.

- Chair Popham asked if there were any additions or changes to the agenda. He noted that Susan Hammaker would be making a brief announcement, and that Mark Lewis, Superintendent of Biscayne National Park, would make a few comments in the afternoon on the Park's Management Plan.

Sean Morton announced the reappointed and newly appointed members and alternates [who began serving their terms after this announcement].

- David Hawtof was reappointed as the member for the Citizen at Large -Lower Keys seat.
- Walt Drabinski was reappointed as the alternate for the Citizen at Large - Lower Keys seat.
- Dolly Garlo was reappointed as the member for the Citizen at Large -Middle Keys seat.
- Jason Bennis was appointed as the member for the Conservation and Environment [1 of 2] seat.
- Chris Bergh was reappointed as the member for the Conservation and Environment [2 of 2] seat.
- Pete Frezza was appointed as the alternate for the Conservation and Environment [2 of 2] seat.
- Don Kincaid was reappointed as the member for the Diving - Lower Keys seat.

- Bob Smith was reappointed as the alternate for the Diving - Lower Keys seat.
- Martin Moe was reappointed as the member for the Education and Outreach seat.
- Alex Brylske was appointed as the alternate for the Education and Outreach seat.
- George Neugent was reappointed as the member for the Elected County Official seat.
- Heather Carruthers was reappointed as the alternate for the Elected County Official seat.
- Richard Grathwohl was reappointed as the member for the Fishing – Charter Fishing Flats Guide seat.
- Stephen Friedman was reappointed as the alternate for the Fishing - Charter Fishing Flats Guide seat.
- Jeff Cramer was reappointed as the member for the Fishing - Commercial - Shell/Scale seat.
- Hal Osburn was appointed as the alternate for the Fishing - Commercial - Shell/Scale seat.
- Joe Boyer was appointed as the alternate for the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration seat.
- Corey Malcom was appointed as the member for the Submerged Cultural Resources seat.
- Krueger Nicholson was appointed as the member for the Tourism – Upper Keys seat.
- Susan Ford Hammaker was appointed as the alternate for the Tourism - Upper Keys seat.

-Mr. Morton welcomed the people who were new to the SAC, and thanked the people who had concluded their terms, Gary Randolph, Doug Gregory and Jana Fly.

- He also said that the vacant alternate seats for the Conservation and Environment [1 of 2] and Submerged Cultural Resources seats will be noticed for filling early in 2010, with the intention to have the new terms start at the April 2010 meeting. *ACTION ITEM:* Sanctuary staff to publicly advertise for applicants for the vacant SAC seats in early 2010.

- Chair Popham also extended his congratulations and welcomed the new faces to the table; he noted that alternates are encouraged to sit at the table and participate. Mr. Nedimyer noted that he knew Dr. Brylske and that he was honored to have him join the SAC; Dr. Brylske offered some brief comments about his history in the Keys.

- Chair Popham announced that the upcoming December meeting would be in Key West at the Eco-Discovery Center on December 8.

- He also announced the meeting schedule for 2010: February 16, April 20, June 15, August 17, October 19, and December 14. Sanctuary Advisory County Coordinator, Lilli Ferguson, said she would send the 2010 meeting dates to the SAC. *ACTION ITEM:* Ms. Ferguson to send the 2010 meeting dates to the SAC.

- Chair Popham said that he had gotten an announcement from Dan Basta that the SAC [Summit – a meeting of SAC Chairs, SAC coordinators and key Office of National Marine Sanctuary (ONMS) staff members] would be held in May. He noted this will be on the December agenda for discussion, as the [ONMS staff] likes to receive comments on the proposed agenda.

- Chair Popham mentioned Debbie Harrison was longest serving Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) SAC member, and he thought that she was also the longest serving SAC member in the country. He said that he knew that FKNMS had already honored her with a plaque, which was sent to her. He said he had talked to her recently, she had wanted to attend this meeting but was spending most of her time in Tallahassee. Chair Popham said he wanted to try to have the SAC do something to honor her at the December meeting, and encouraged that, if anyone would like to make a donation, he would get something for her, perhaps with input from Ms. Ferguson, Billy Causey (Ph.D., Hon.), and Mr. Morton. There was also a suggestion for Chair Popham to get a card for people to sign, which Chair Popham agreed was a great idea. *ACTION ITEM:* Anyone interested in contributing towards a SAC gift for former member, Debbie Harrison, should contact Chair Popham.

- Chair Popham said he might be calling on the group for help; he became aware of a grant that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) gave to the State of Maine. It was for \$1.2 million (a 50% match for a clean diesel for commercial fishing vessels, for a “repower”, or replacing the engines with cleaner diesel engines. Chair Popham said he would like to have something like that targeted toward the FKNMS. There are about 700 vessels operating commercially within the waters of the sanctuary and about 250 charter boats, he said, adding that this area also had one of the largest Coast Guard-inspected

passenger vessel fleets in the country. The new engines are 25-40% more efficient, he said, and would cut down on marine pollution. Grant proposals are due December 8, he said, and he reviewed that he had approached the DEP staff about submitting a proposal; it needs to be worked out what organization would be submitting the application. Dr. Boyer also noted that marine engines have a big effect on air pollution. Mr. Makepeace asked if a motion or resolution would help; Chair Popham replied that the application was very specific about what was requested. He said he would keep people apprised of the process and may ask for letters of support. ***ACTION ITEM:*** Chair Popham to provide updates to the SAC regarding a potential USEPA grant application for replacing engines on commercial vessels operating within the FKNMS.

Chair Popham also mentioned an article in the Sunday paper and that its headlines connected the dots well on water issues, which he was pleased to see.

### **Acting Superintendent's Report – Mr. Morton (FKNMS)**

- Mr. Morton said that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship *NANCY FOSTER* was in the Keys for different research cruises, including going out to the Tortugas. He reported that FKNMS did its coral disease cruise and that a technical diving crew searched for lionfish. He said he would provide an update on data gathered, such as coral bleaching, when they are available. ***ACTION ITEM:*** Acting Superintendent Morton to provide an update to the SAC once the data are available from recent research cruises within the FKNMS.

- Regarding lionfish, Mr. Morton said that over forty had been spotted, and over twenty captured. He said that FKNMS outreach team had done a good job working [with the Reef Environmental Education Foundation] to train over 100 people, such as dive shop personnel, to capture them, and that FKNMS was working on getting permits out to those folks.

- Mr. Morton reported the good news that the Dr. Nancy Foster Environmental Complex recently received a rating of Silver for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) from the U.S. Green Building Council.

- In early September, Mr. Morton reviewed that NOAA did not take any action on the proposed fishery management plan for aquaculture in the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (FMC) had been working on a plan for years, without NOAA making any comments, then the plan goes into effect. He said that some folks thought this would lead to a lot of farms there. But, he emphasized that no regulations have been issued by NOAA and no permits released for aquaculture there. He explained that the reason NOAA and the Secretary of Commerce did not take any action was that they did not have any cause; the only reason would have been if the FMC did not have authority over the plan (but they do). Next steps include drafting and finalizing a policy on this issue, which NOAA is working on now. There will also be issues related to siting, genetic escapes, discharges, etc. which NOAA will work on with other agencies. Certain members of Congress have put an amendment on the NOAA appropriations bill which would stop aquaculture until a policy in place. This is still playing out, he said, and is one reason (along with other amendments) why the budget has not been passed by Congress. Morton, it would not let that fish man plan go forward. He added that if the policy ended up not being consistent with the plan, he anticipated that the plan would need to be changed. There was some discussion, including an opinion that the rules will favor the industry. Dr. Causey mentioned NOAA was working on the science side for the plan. Mr. Osburn commented that this was just for federal waters, and that there have been operations in state waters for almost a decade, off of Mississippi and Texas. He commented that the FMC did not have jurisdiction in state waters. Mr. Bergh added that the State of Florida did develop state guidelines, and when he last looked into this, those were more protective than what the FMC had proposed. Chair Popham asked that this be topic be on the December SAC meeting agenda. ***ACTION ITEM:*** FKNMS staff ensure that an update on aquaculture is provided during the December SAC meeting.

- Mr. Bergh said he had recently seen a letter going around that discussed stripping money from NOAA and putting it in another part of the Department of Commerce. He asked if there was anything new on

this, and Mr. Morton replied there was not. He said Senator Bailey Hutchison had wanted \$117 million for local border patrol operations, and to take it out of NOAA without saying from what part of NOAA. Typically, Mr. Morton said a budget cut would not be to weather or satellites. Mr. Bergh asked Ms. Garlo if he could provide information to people [via the Sanctuary Friends Foundation of the Florida Keys (SFFFK)], and she agreed.

#### **NOAA ONMS Southeast Region Report – Dr. Causey, (ONMS)**

- Dr. Causey reported on a quarterly call held between himself and the SAC chairs, coordinators, superintendents for the sites in the southeast region on SAC matters. They concentrated on three issues – climate change, ocean acidification and lionfish (which are already in parts of the gulf), he said. On that call, he asked the chairs to go back to their SACs to achieve some national goals: help in reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, increased funding, climate change, and marine spatial planning. He noted the reauthorization was really important and said without it there are a number of things the sanctuaries cannot do. The Act was last reauthorized in 2000; that ran out in 2005, it has not been reauthorized since then, he said. Any way that anyone has to assist would be helpful, he noted.
- Regarding funding, Dr. Causey said FKNMS and Flower Gardens Bank National Marine Sanctuary are hurting, but that Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary was O.K. at this time. Around the country, some sites are barely able to pay for salaries and lights. He added that Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument had its own line item.
- He announced that there was a science symposium planned for November in Washington [DC]. Dr. Causey had proposed the idea to focus on FKNMS, and in the end, it was decided to have it focus on marine spatial planning. Some of the good work being done on the ecological reserves in the Tortugas will be discussed there, he said.
- Dr. Causey mentioned that Dr. Jane Lubchenco would like to renew/rethink how we work with recreational fisher people; she wants everyone to work together, and she is a big believer in the public process. Dr. Causey said we would like to be a part of this reinvention, and that the best place to have an announcement would be in the sportfishing capital of the world. He felt that as the Florida Keys moves forward with marine zoning and other sites in the region do related work, all stakeholders would need to be involved, and that the process would be transparent.
- He said that the south Florida ecosystem restoration effort was still very important (even more than before), but that he still had concerns about water delivery in south Florida and about hotspots of ocean acidification where freshwater hits the ocean. Anything anyone can do to help in getting the water input back into the system right would be appreciated, he said.

#### **Agency Report Highlights:**

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

- Ms. Morkill mentioned the Overseas Highway had been designated by the Department of Transportation as an All-American Road. She thought it would be a good opportunity for the sanctuary and its partner agencies to work with the Scenic Corridor Alliance on outreach. She said an upcoming whistle-stop tour would start in Key West at the Eco-Discovery Center and that it would end up in Key Largo. Ms. Hammaker mentioned it would also stop at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Center in Key Largo.
- She said there would be attending a climate change leadership summit in Ft. Lauderdale, and that it would be a good place to network with county leadership on climate change and its impacts in the Florida Keys.
- Ms. Morkill said some large-bodied snakes had been found recently, including one in the Crocodile Lake Refuge, and two on Big Pine Key, and she provided the toll free number to report a sighting to the Python Patrol. With The Nature Conservancy as the lead, there will be training workshops for postal workers, public resource managers, fire fighters, police, etc. regarding large bodied snakes, she said.

### **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Report -- Kent Edwards (DEP)**

- Mr. Edwards said a successful mooring buoy workshop had been held recently, and that he wanted to have more. This was the third in a series the sanctuary has held in the last few years, he noted. The message had to change a bit, he said – FKNMS was not looking to expand [the system of buoys], and was looking to be more efficient. Staff members are looking at what is out there and what is being used, he noted.

- Mr. Edwards said that the buoy program had also gotten a coastal zone management grant of \$88,000, to be used for maintenance and components to run the mooring buoy program.

- On the clean diesel grant Chair Popham mentioned, there was a need for a partner on the application, but a single entity needed to take responsibility for it, he said, in terms of tracking funds, reporting, etc. Letters of support would be appreciated, he added.

- He noted that Joy Tatgenhorst had done a lot of setup work for the international coastal cleanup, and that Todd Hitchins and Robert Keeley had volunteers doing a cleanup.

- Regarding the state budget process, Mr. Edwards reviewed that he had put a request for money in to the legislative process for the sanctuary, but that the governor had asked that it be taken out; these are tough times, he commented. He said he had sent a draft report to Tallahassee. In previous years, the sanctuary staff provided a review of the report in person, but last year, it was provided to them with a cover memo. He was told it would be the same process this year.

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

Mr. Genovese reported that the modified waters delivery and C-111 projects would be starting construction soon, as reported in the paper. He said the SFWMD Executive Director, Carol Wehle, was looking district-wide at how stormwater planning and management and funding was done, with the idea collaborating better with all of the governments within the district. The findings may also be used as a basis for funding future projects, he added. Mr. Genovese said Mike Collins' term was up in March, and he did not know if Mr. Collins would be appointed again or not. Mr. Collins has been very key in getting projects here funded, he said. Mr. Genovese also announced that there would be the District's governing board would be meeting November 12 and 13 in the Keys, at the new government center in Key Largo. They are open to the public, and he said they will be webcast and broadcast, with agendas posted on the district's web site about a week ahead of time.

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Report – Capt. Pat Langley, FWC**

Capt. Langley announced there was a new colonel in the department of law enforcement, Col. Jim Brown, as the previous colonel had taken a position in a different department. Col. Brown started his career in the Keys, which should be good for the Keys, Capt. Langley felt. He said that Major Edwards was going to be retiring at the first of the coming year, but there was no word yet on who would replace him. He mentioned the other staff changes that would be occurring as well. In addition, he provided an update for the Keys region, announcing that four officers in the academy would be coming to the Keys in November. Regarding cases, he said that, even with the reduced numbers of officers, they have been making good cases with the help of the commercial fishermen, including a recent good lobster case on trap robbing. He provided a brief review of spearfishing, lobster and grounding cases. There were 23 groundings in August, nine in September and nine so far in October, he said. On Columbus Day, FWC helped around Elliot Key with the *Gladding* and some other crews, he noted. Finally, he said that FWC was going to be trying to slow down, save money, and go from there. Jim Trice asked if the cost of fuel impacted officers on the water, and Capt. Langley affirmed it did.

### **USEPA Report, Pat Bradley (USEPA)**

Mrs. Bradley said that the USEPA vessel *BOLD* would be in the Keys in mid November. She also said she would be going to the next Coral Reef Task Force meeting.

### **Everglades National Park Report – Tracy Ziegler, National Park Service (NPS)**

- Ms. Ziegler said that the ENP staff was working on drafting the preferred alternative for the General Management Plan over the next month, and would present it to upper NPS leadership in early 2010. The staff will spend the rest of 2010 drafting General Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement, with the plan to have it available for public comment in 2011.
- She said the park had a python capture program which started in August; since then, 200 snakes were captured.
- Finally, she noted Everglades National Park staff would be talking about a pole/troll pilot project later during this meeting.

### **NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Report – Kenneth Blackburn (OLE)**

Special Agent Blackburn reported that there was a shrimp vessel operating and trawling in the North Ecological Reserve, and that it was a significant case. This information was received via a referral from the *Gladding*, he added, and said NOAA would be taking over the investigation.

### **Public Comment**

Students from the Academy at Ocean Reef read prepared statements.

- Lily Post said she was in second grade. She noted last year, they asked about the growing problem of lionfish invading Keys' waters.
- Avery Costello said she was in the third grade. She asked what progress had been made to control the problem, and if there the number of sightings of lionfish had gone down. If not, she added, she asked what the next plan of action was. Mr. Morton replied that the number of sightings had gone up. He added that the number had doubled in the last few months, but so had number of fish captured, and that over one hundred people had been trained to look for and capture lionfish.
- Christina DelRossi said sewing the Florida Keys was going to be a hard job.
- Anna Wilson said they thought it would be good for the environment and the economy.
- Caroline Post noted wastewater would be cleaned up before it went into the ocean.
- Trish Elliott said this would help the ocean and its sea creatures to stay healthy.
- Michelle Santiago thought this would also help tourism and that the Florida Keys would have a better and healthier economy. Chair Popham – said the SAC was on board with getting the Keys sewered as soon as possible. He noted the previous four speakers were from grades four and five, and the next speakers would be from grades six and seven.
- Gianna DelRossi thanked the sanctuary for support of the school's Ocean Guardian program for the second year. She said they wanted to continue protecting the environment and marine animals, and that they would love to participate in the Coral Reef Classroom snorkel trip again at the end of the school year. Chair Popham replied, "We will be continuing that program."
- Kimberly Moore said some of the kids had never been snorkeling before they went with the sanctuary [staff] last year; the reef was beautiful and it make them want to keep the ocean clean, and she hoped the sanctuary had the funds for them to go again.

### **Agency Report Highlights, cont:**

#### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Report -- John Hunt (FWC, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute)**

Mr. Hunt said the Tortugas three year update workshop would be January 12, at the Krome center, at the National Park Service. He said he and Dave Hallac had contacted and invited speakers to talk about Tortugas Research Natural Area Science Plan, which includes connectivity to other places. They will then finish the report and submit it in late March or April, and then disseminate it more widely.

The FWC Executive Director, Ken Haddad is retiring at the end of the year, Mr. Hunt announced. He has known Mr. Haddad for thirty years, and a little thing Mr. Haddad did, which ended up getting south

Florida ecosystem restoration jump started, was he took an aerial photograph and put the first algal bloom on top of it in GIS. When he handed it to George Barley, everything got going, Mr. Hunt said. He noted Mr. Haddad had done a lot of service for Florida.

### **Announcements**

Ms. Hammaker discussed a news item which followed up on some of the things mentioned during the introductory remarks and reports earlier in the meeting. She said the information came from a water resources expert of thirty years on the national scene; the expert said there was a major new push to enforce all federal regulations, including the Clean Water Act (CWA). She said the House Transportation Infrastructure Committee would hold a CWA hearing, to focus on new commitment for legislation on more forceful regulation. A substitution of wording of what is covered under the CWA from “navigable waters” to “waters of the United States” is proposed for inclusion in the Act, which she felt had vast implications. On another topic, she said there is now government by Executive Order and by Cabinet Secretary level order, which bypasses public comment and Congressional legislation. Two famous examples she provided of Executive Orders were the Emancipation Proclamation and the order to intern Japanese Americans during World War II on the west coast. She concluded by saying it pays to keep an eagle eye out.

Ms. Garlo announced there was an event coming up [on October 24] in Key West for the international day of climate action in Key West. She said it started at 4:00 PM at the Eco-Discovery Center, and would include two films, and that SFFFK would accept donations. She said a solar event was also being planned for the Eco-Discovery Center and that she would keep the SAC posted. *ACTION ITEM:* Ms. Garlo to provide details to the SAC in the future about a solar event being planned for the Eco-Discovery Center.

### **SAC Ballyhoo Working Group Report**

Mr. Nedimyer provided the Working Group report. As background, he said there is an exemption by [sanctuary] permit allowing, in four Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) castnetting for charter fishermen; there is also an exemption that allows commercial ballyhoo net fishermen to drift into the SPAs; and there is another exemption that allows catch and release trolling in the SPAs. The four SPAs are mostly in the upper Keys, he noted. SPAs are technically no-take areas, but then there are these exemptions, he reviewed. The charterboat industry (he thought about ten years ago) was wondering if they could get an exemption for hair-hooking in the SPAs. They did their homework, and came up with a good argument, he felt. Per the SAC’s recommendation for an exemption, which sanctuary management agreed to, the sanctuary staff issued permits for a limited number of participants to hair-hook in [specific] SPAs, and the staff has kept track of the data related to this. Mr. Nedimyer said the charterboat fishermen need live ballyhoo as sailfish bait; there are lots of places the ballyhoo can be caught, but some of them are closed SPA areas. He said that, when this issue arose, people said they did not have enough areas to catch bait when they needed it.

He reported that the number of fishers with these permits, which are issued on a yearly basis, has been steady at about 30, and that they have conditions they need to meet (which has been non-controversial). This year, he said, the numbers of [bait]fish were up [in the region in general], and the numbers of permits [used] were down. At the most recent Working Group meeting, the group recommended that it meet during the coming year only if there was a significant need that required it, Mr. Nedimyer reported. Chair Popham added that there was not really any enforcement issues in the last year; there had been a conflict with the commercial fishermen and the charterboat ballyhooers, he said, but they came to an agreement on the side about it to try to stay out of each others’ way. Chair Popham said the permittees pretty much use the permit either due to lack of bait [in areas outside of those SPAs] or due to weather. Chair Popham added that anyone can apply for a permit to hair-hook in these SPAs, and that there were originally more permittees, about 80 he thought. Mr. Nedimyer said if the recommendation were adopted, an email would

be sent each fall to the group, asking if there was a reason to meet, such as issues of control, law enforcement, or shortage of bait; a meeting would be held only if there were significant reasons for it. He reiterated that people may also fish elsewhere for ballyhoo.

Mr. Nedimyer moved, seconded by Jon Fajans, that the recommendation be adopted.

- Upon discussion, Mr. Bergh asked if Joanne Delaney would provide an update every year. Mr.

Nedimyer replied she could do that, and that Ms. Ferguson could send it around to the group with a note.

- Mr. Hunt said that when the most recent notice for this meeting first went out, there was some concern (mostly among new folks) within FWC about this being marine fishery management; he worked to provide those concerned with copies of the minutes and toned down the concerns. Dr. Causey noted that most of it was in federal waters, and Mr. Hunt replied that he knew that, but that the state still manages the ballyhoo fishery. Dr. Causey agreed that there was sensitivity over fishing, but that this agreement had been put in place through the proper process.

- Ms. Garlo commented that it would be good to not lose the communication that had been built [with the members of this Working Group]; there was general agreement that should not occur.

- Mr. Malcom said this sounded like there had been a long-running probationary status for this program, and wondered if there was any thought of moving it to the next level or how that mechanism worked. Mr. Nedimyer commented that it would be challenging to get it into the *Management Plan* as a bona fide activity, though he knows they [the permittees] would like to have it written in. Dr. Causey commented that this went back to 1992, when the SPAs were being marked in the upper Keys, based on where ballyhoo were fished and where they needed to troll, and SAC members were taken out to look at the areas. He said to keep in mind that the small SPAs were small because of the reasonable concessions that the sanctuary staff made, based on what they heard from the industry about areas they needed the catch and release trolling the most.

- Mr. Grathwohl affirmed that Ms. Delaney has said she would keep on track with the permits and would raise a flag if needed, and that information would be exchanged over email.

- Brad Simonds said there had been a “temporary crisis” in which the ballyhoo were concentrated in certain areas; he said that now the ballyhoo numbers are going up and up. The other thing that contributed to the permitting issue was that people were concerned about SPAs increasing in size, and people got permits so as to not be “cut out of it”, he said. He agreed that a meeting did not need to be scheduled unless there was a dramatic problem. He concluded by noting that most ballyhoo for the world is supplied from the Keys.

- Mr. Bennis asked if there was someone else the SAC within the sanctuary looking at this issue on a yearly basis, and checking in with law enforcement to make sure things were going well. Mr. Nedimyer replied that there was a permit process, with Ms. Delaney [the sanctuary permit coordinator] taking care of compliance, renewed applications, etc. Chair Popham said she was doing an outstanding job policing this.

- Ms. Ferguson suggested that the information be sent to the Working Group in the summer, due to the time frame in which the group indicated for a potential meeting.

Mr. Nedimyer and Mr. Fajans agreed to this suggestion and amended the motion; Mr. Nedimyer read the motion, seconded by Mr. Fajans. The motion passed unanimously upon roll call vote. Below is the text of the motion.

Move to allow the Ballyhoo Workgroup to meet as needed instead of a mandatory annual meeting. Permit and catch data will be distributed to all participants in summer of each year, and any member of the group can request a meeting to discuss new issues.

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

### **SAC Education and Outreach Working Group Report**

Mr. Moe welcomed Dr. Brylske as a new member.

He reviewed that the group had met in September, and set up the meetings for 2010. The Working Group meetings will now be held at the SFFFK office, he noted, allowing for a call-in feature.

Mr. Moe said a short message had been developed for speakers making the education and outreach organization presentation, to help them focus their presentations.

He read an excerpt from the minutes of the last SAC meeting about education and outreach, which focused on council members and alternates trying to do a better job of reaching out to the community. He said the Working Group could help with this, but needed tools, and that one thing the group was working on was a library of PowerPoint presentations, to be initiated by the SAC and used by the SAC as needed as well as to be used in limited form by community interests. He said PowerPoint presentations were powerful tools, and could be changed. His idea was to have the SAC assess education and outreach needs and to develop information to go into a presentation, and that the work to put together a presentation would be done by the Working Group, putting content on an issue into a framework presentation (with information about the SAC, sanctuary, and topic at hand, up to 20 slides total). He thought they could be put on CDs and provided to the SAC, with SFFFK helping with the distribution. The Working Group is looking into the possibility of these PowerPoints, and he sought suggestions and comments from the SAC.

Mr. Moe reported that that Diana Ruelens talked about SFFFK's work at the last Working Group meeting. The environmental pledge was taken up by SFFFK and will be distributed by SFFFK. He mentioned SFFFK was applying for grants to support the work of the Foundation, and that new board member John Morrill was working to establish a successful grant program and membership/fundraising drive.

- He said that Mary Tagliareni had reported that six sanctuary positions were lost due to budget cuts and that two were education positions, held by Rewa Maldonado and Ivy Kelley.

- Mrs. Tagliareni said she wanted to make the SAC aware of the one page Science Summaries, which Nancy Diersing is the lead on; there were five at the last meeting. Mrs. Diersing works with other staff members on various projects and condenses the information down to a double-sided page. At this time, seven are available, and they are on the FKNMS website (on the front page, scroll down to New Offerings and click on Science Summaries). These are on water quality, phytoplankton, coral reef ecosystem monitoring, and seagrass; she said Mrs. Diersing is working on three more. The sanctuary is not printing stacks of them, enabling them to be updated, and so that people may download/print them from the website. She can also email them to people who request them. She added that, when the sanctuary goes into zone review, there will be one-pagers about it.

- Mr. Moe asked if there were any questions or suggestions. Mr. Makepeace asked that the presentations, once done, be posted on the web site; Mr. Moe said that could be considered. Mrs. Bradley suggested it be made as a PDF, so it could not be changed. Dr. Boyer commented that there is a lot of process to go through before posting on the sanctuary web site.

- Mrs. Tagliareni said the Working Group was looking at different ways of getting messages across. The PowerPoint idea is one idea, and it can go in different directions. Mr. Makepeace suggested Comcast as

another venue; Mrs. Tagliareni said that staff does use it for other things like seagrass awareness month, etc. She said the group also talked about the fact each person giving a PowerPoint has notes to go along with a presentation and that not information would be delivered visually. There were several other suggestions regarding PowerPoints. Mrs. Tagliareni encouraged people to join the next Working Group meeting and to bring their ideas.

- Chair Popham said this was a great idea, that the SAC needed to get focused externally, and that is the SAC's job to talk to the constituent groups. He asked if Matt Stout would still come and do a media training for the SAC, which had been suggested in the past. Mr. Morton said Mr. Stout has moved up the chain [of positions in NOAA], but that there were other folks that could do it.

### **Florida's Coral Reef Conservation Program -- Chantal Collier and Jamie Monty (DEP)**

Mr. Bergh introduced Ms. Collier. He noted he had asked her to be here and he said he appreciated her willingness to attend. He said the Florida Coral Reef Conservation program goes up to Martin County. Ms. Collier thanked the group for the opportunity to talk, and mentioned that Ms. Monty would also be doing part of the presentation. She provided packets of information about the program to the SAC.

Ms. Collier said that the program is part of DEP, which is the state's lead for environmental management and stewardship; three divisions that work together are Regulatory Programs, Land and Recreation, and Planning and Management. The Office of Coastal Aquatic Managed Areas (CAMA) is within Land and Recreation, and it directs the state's management of FKNMS, preserves, reserves, and the Florida Coral Reef Conservation Program. This program was established to bring new efforts and attention to the northern portion of the Florida reef tract, she said. She reviewed the program's mission regarding research, monitoring, implementation, injury prevention, education and outreach, partnerships and stakeholder participation. Implementation of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative (SEFCRI) includes development of a designated managed area and a management plan for coral resources, she said. Also, she described that part of the mission is to furthering the state's efforts with the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee (USAIC).

Ms. Collier described SEFCRI and showed the region it covers. It is a locally developed plan for collaborative action among the relevant agencies/partners, she said. She reported that, of 140 original projects, after five years, 127 have been completed. They have worked on many things, including implementation, funding, mapping, vessel use patterns and impacts, cleaning up marine debris, water quality monitoring, preventing coral injury, etc.

Regarding the Florida Coral Reef Conservation Program, she talked about how they (with the DEP as lead) bring Florida issues to the national audiences of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the USAIC, and working to address common goals. The program would like to prevent coral injury and respond to injuries, and she said in 2006, CAMA took over the lead for response to reef injury, and has responded to 52 events in the region since then.

She reviewed a variety of programs and partnerships, saying that some of the things DEP had worked on with partners were anchorage issues (including working with Port Everglades and the Port of Miami), harbor safety committees, regulatory review, and education and outreach. Ms. Collier also reviewed that a Coral Reef Protection Act was proposed in 2007 and enacted in the summer 2009. She then described the DEP Coral Reef Conservation Program 2010-2015 Strategic Action Plan. The staff is working with stakeholders on a new strategic plan and strategies for implementation, she said. The program is now funded primarily from grants and state funds matching those grants, and they would like to build the program's capacity and shift to long term program development, she described. She noted that DEP has its own advisory group for this program. She said that some of the things they would like to accomplish are concluding the current, ongoing Local Action Strategies and in-house projects underway, and completing development of the Strategic Action Plan. Finally, she said they would working with

stakeholders in the region to identify a managed area in the northern extension of the Florida reef tract, and specific management alternatives and strategies for the area. She announced that Ms. Monty would be heading the effort up, and Ms. Monty then provided the rest of the presentation.

Ms. Monty described SEFCRI, including its vision, authority, long term goal, and steps to get there. The focus is on developing a protection strategy that balances protection and resource use, she said. She noted that, currently, DEP does not have the authority or a legislative mandate to go ahead with the long term goal, and does not have an area to manage at this time. The cumulative goal is to identify a managed area and management plan that balances user needs while preserving and protecting the biodiversity, quality, cultural heritage, and socioeconomic value of Southeast Florida Coral reefs. DEP plans to work from the bottom up, using an open public forum, she said.

Ms. Monty noted there were three types of projects - science projects, stakeholder projects, and outreach projects. They hired a contractor to do a status and trends analysis, she said, and she outlined the work. She reported that a vessel use pattern study of the four county area should be done in next few months. She added that the same contractor will do a coral reef impact study. Ms. Monty also briefly reviewed some preliminary findings from some of the projects. One result from a project on stakeholder perceptions on uses of the reef was that 50% of those responding believed that marine resources required management, and another was that 70% believed marine protected areas could effectively manage resources. Another project will use results from stakeholder projects in outreach; she said they were in the process of forming groups for that now.

Ms. Monty concluded by discussing future plans for projects. They plan to put together working panels to hear the results of the science projects, and to learn what they feel are best management options for a management area type and management actions. They hope to wrap up the science and stakeholder projects in 2010, then move on to the working panels, and then hold public workshops and meet with the relevant government authorities.

- Bruce Frerer asked if the subcontractor for reef mapping/type/location was a biologist from the Rosenstiel School at the University of Miami. Ms. Monty replied that the University of Florida was doing the work. Mr. Frerer commented that he knew of someone who was working on a similar project. Mr. Hunt noted they were two separate projects, and Ms. Collier said various sources of funding were being used over multiple years.

- Dr. Causey commented that Ms. Collier and Mr. Edwards are both in CAMA and both have the same boss, so there is integration there.

- Mr. Osburn asked if the work was grant driven; Ms. Monty said that it was. He asked if there was any contingency if they did not get the grant funds. Ms. Collier said three positions were full time state staff members, and that everything else was funded through grants and state matching funds; they have raised this issues and have asked for dedicated funding, she said. She added that ideally, they would like to expand and have another office farther north. Also, she said they are not currently able to fully match the federal grants they receive, so they hope to improve there.

- Dr. Causey asked if they planned to have a mooring buoy program; he also mentioned sources the sanctuary had gotten funds from. Ms. Collier said they had no money within the program for that but they turned to the counties for it and were looking at all sources. She reviewed the status of buoys in the various counties and some of the issues surrounding a buoy program, including being able to maintain buoys once installed.

***Management Plan Implementation– Mr. Morton (FKNMS)***

- Mr. Morton said he had made this a standing item for the SAC agenda because it would be changing, and he wanted the SAC and public to be notified about the status of things like [proposed] regulations and marine zoning. He said the proposal for the expansion of no discharge regulations [of marine sanitation

devices] throughout FKNMS was still under review at NOAA downtown. He said there were some unfilled positions there that were holding things up.

- On the zoning end of things, as Mr. Morton said at the June SAC meeting, milestone will include release of the FKNMS *Condition Report* and the ten-year report of monitoring within zones in FKNMS. He said that the FKNMS research staff was still working with various primary investigators and getting the information together. He said the ten year monitoring report would probably be ready around first of year, and then the *Condition Report* would probably be ready in March.

- Also in June, Mr. Morton said he had talked about funding, and he noted that FKNMS continues to look to NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. He introduced Dana Mendez, who is the local field representative for that program in this region.

### **Enforcement in the FKNMS – Special Agent Blackburn and Special Agent John O'Malley (OLE)**

Mr. Morton said that, after this presentation, he would like to hear if the SAC had further questions about law enforcement and if they were getting enough input or if there was anything they would like to change, as the question had been asked by the ONMS. He added that, unfortunately, Jeff Radonski of the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and Karen Raine of NOAA General Counsel were unable to be present at this meeting.

Special Agent Blackburn was the first speaker, and he began with a general review. He said of 120 agents, fourteen were in Florida. He added that Florida and Alaska have higher concentrations of agents than some other areas. He showed a graphic of the area covered by the Southeast Division, and reported that there were two enforcement agents. The area covers from the Mexican border to North Carolina, he said. He said there are also joint enforcement agreements with the state and the Coast Guard, and that they have an agreement with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The OLE mainly came into being in 1983 when the Magnuson Stevens Act was passed, and that gave OLE the authority to enforce fishery laws out to 200 miles. Under that act, cases are all civil, he said. They either take cases directly or through referrals from the state or Coast Guard, and they put them into the civil procedure with NOAA General Counsel, he said. He added that special agents may also take criminal cases on a variety of topics. There are two special agents in the Keys, and they receive information about potential violations from a variety of sources.

Special Agent Blackburn reviewed the many types of cases they deal with, and provided highlights from some recent cases. Issues they deal with include such things as people breaking laws regarding charter boats, the reef fish fishery, import and export of fish, recreational fishing, smuggling, mislabeling of fish, closed turtle excluder devices, robbing archeological artifacts, and lobster habitats (casitas).

- In one case where a boat dumped its nets within the sanctuary, the captain got a sentence of 16 months in prison.

- In a case where an archeological artifact (an anchor) was stolen, the person was caught when he posted it on the internet.

- In a case where *Ricordia* coral and live rock was illegally being taken and sold for the aquarium trade to suppliers in Germany, they were able to prosecute it as criminal case under the Lacey Act. This Act has provisions for criminal cases when a territory, state or another country's boundary is crossed, he said.

- When they work in the Tortugas, they use FWC platforms and the *Gladding*, he stated.

- In "Operation Tortuga Hooker", Special Agent Blackburn discussed how Robert Hammer illegally took fish in the Dry Tortugas, stayed in the National Park overnight, then offloaded the fish at the Sunset Marina. He was able to elude law enforcement for six years in a small boat with three large engines. He also put fish in the same box as his roadkill collection box. Special Agent Blackburn noted the work was done by him, Special Agent O'Malley and Joe Scarpa, and that they had to get various other people before they were able to get Mr. Hammer.

- Special Agent Blackburn concluded by reviewing the key details of "Operation Freezer Burn" lobster case [reviewed at a number of previous SAC meetings] involving David and Denise. Dreifort and others,

including how they gathered evidence for the case, and the sentences people received. The total retail value of the seized lobsters was over \$85,000, he said.

Special Agent O'Malley provided more information about the artificial habitats used in the Dreifort case, and he noted that the OLE was still looking at dozens of people who also catch lobsters this way. He said they also worked on "Operation Frost Bite" which involved two guys who used to work for Mr. Dreifort – John Buckheim and Nick Demauro. In this case, they used the Lacey Act and underlying state law, and they put trackers on a vessel and truck. The agents found they were using someone else's license to sell the catch from 5-6 people's recreational licenses, along with using illegal habitats attached to the seafloor. The catch was sold without permits to restaurants and fish houses, Special Agent O'Malley said. The habitats were attached to the seafloor, to try to keep from losing them during hurricanes, he said. In addition, in this case, a boat was sunk in FKNMS, and he said it was located and identified with a combination of sidescan sonar, a Coast Guard helicopter, and visually going to the location on the *Gladding* and looking at it. He noted other entities were still working on the case.

Discussion ensued.

- Mr. Smith asked if they had figured out how much Mr. Dreifort or the others were worth. Special Agent Blackburn said Mr. Dreifort was hiding the money in different places; it was found that up to \$1.1 million was gotten illegally, and the ruling was that NOAA would use the \$1.1 million to hire a contractor to remove the artificial habitats.

- Dr. Causey asked about the status of the Dreiforts' homes, and Special Agent Blackburn replied that they were to be sold, but that they had not sold yet.

- Mr. Moe commented that a person buying the lobsters should know their origin. Special Agent O'Malley said that was part of the ongoing investigation. He described some of the difficulties, including that people mostly wait to sell illegally caught lobsters when they are in season (mostly). Special Agent Blackburn said that wholesalers make reports to the state, and added that he knew some lobsters were being sold on the black market.

- Mr. Grathwohl commended them for their work.

- Mr. Malcom, asked if the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) got involved after OLE's work was done. Special Agent O'Malley replied that the IRS did not share information about what they were doing with OLE, so he did not know.

- Mr. Nedimyer referred to a presentation made to the SAC some time back on casitas and the people present; Dr. Causey and Special Agent O'Malley replied that the casita investigation was still ongoing.

- There was a question about removal of the casitas, and Special Agent O'Malley said that it would go out for bid for a contractor to do the work, but NOAA would do supervised monitoring.

- Mr. Morton noted that OLE and FWC provides input at every SAC meeting, and that the SAC can have special presentations like this one. He asked if that was enough input to the SAC, and said he wanted to get back to his boss with a report, so he could get back to the Inspector General. Chair Popham said that he and Mr. Morton had chatted about this, and Chair Popham said he was comfortable about the information they were getting on enforcement, including the information from Ms. Raine on prosecution. He noted that the USFWS was also here at every meeting. He said they were not hearing on a regular basis from the Coast Guard, though they have come to SAC meetings occasionally, and added that there had been little bit of Sheriff's patrols, but not very much now.

- Dr. Causey commented that enforcement was a critical part of this sanctuary and all sanctuaries, and that enforcement had been hit hard at FKNMS, as previously reported. Mr. Morton reviewed that NOAA provides vessels, vehicles, fuel and salaries for law enforcement in FKNMS, and that it adds up to about a quarter of the FKNMS operating budget. Dr. Causey also said that another part of NOAA had been paying for fuel up until about three years ago [due to an oversight]. There was some discussion about the impact that this had within the sanctuary.

-Mr. Osburn said that this included a negative impact on the commercial fishing industry, and he reviewed the ways in which commercial fishermen were working with law enforcement and others to assist law enforcement when violations are suspected.

- Mr. Moe commented that it would be helpful to let the general population know of the considerable impact poaching had on the resources and economy in the Keys. He felt there should be more support for catching poachers. Chair Popham agreed that poaching was harmful, noting that it takes considerable effort to catch poachers via gathering evidence and building a case. He felt there was plenty of support.

### **Public Comment**

There was none.

### **Everglades National Park Pole/Troll Pilot Project – Dave Hallac (ENP)**

Mr. Hallac started with an apology that Dan Kimball, the ENP Superintendent, could not at the meeting; Mr. Kimball was dealing with plans for rebuilding Flamingo, he said. He thanked the group for its input on the marine alternative for the General Management Plan (GMP), and said several different groups had provided recommendations that the NPS look at pole/troll zones. He added that no one recommended not trying pole/troll zones. He said he and Mr. Kimball had talked, and agreed it made sense to start looking at pilot zones now, and he mentioned that that got funding for a pilot project. He reviewed how they did some homework, and looked at two other places' planning processes, noting that the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge had a similar pole/troll zone to what they would like to propose for Everglades National Park (ENP).

Mr. Hallac mentioned that ENP had received input on four potential options for pole/troll zones in Florida Bay, and that the ENP staff was going to propose using aspects from each of them. He reviewed the four proposals, which they evaluated for access, educational impact, enforceability, signability, “bang for the buck”, public support, damage to resources, ability of resources to recover, and potential for a good fishing experience. Based on those criteria, they concluded Snake Bight might be the most appropriate place for the pilot project. They also wanted to keep the area people might need to push their boats under two miles. He showed a graphic of what they are considering in terms of a Jimmy's Lake proposed idle zone and said they are seeking feedback. There will be two more stakeholder meetings, a 30 day comment period, and education and outreach materials will be developed, and other actions to be taken before a final zone is implemented, he noted. He then asked the SAC for feedback.

- Mr. Makepeace said he felt it was important to hold a stakeholder meeting between Marathon and Key Largo. Mr. Hallac thought that was good feedback.

- Mr. Trice said this was fantastic news, that he was pleased, and that it appeared to be well thought out. He said there were a lot of next steps, and wondered when it might be implemented. Mr. Hallac said the goal was twelve months for having the zone set up, and enforcement from an education perspective. Mr. Trice then commented he was glad Porpoise Point was not included, as it is not as deep as shown on the map.

– Mr. Frezza said he also was happy, and agreed about Porpoise Point. He asked if Tin Can Channel would be marked or not. Mr. Hallac said they hoped not to put new markers out for this project, but to use existing markers. He said some signs may need to go into bay bottom. He added they have been talking about doing a study on the impact of new channel markers.

- Mr. Bennis agreed with the previous comments, and said he hoped that, after some period, there would be some followup with feedback going to the groups using the zone. Mr. Hallac agreed, saying they planned to implement the zone for three years, then get feedback from the community, probably annually.

- Chair Popham asked if a control area had been picked. Mr. Hallac said no, and it would be hard to do scientifically. There is only one Snake Bight, and many people are using it. He felt if the area showed a decrease in propeller scars over time, that would be enough.

- Both Chair Popham and Mr. Curlett echoed the thoughts of the others, that the proposal looked good.

Chair Popham then introduced Mr. Lewis, the Superintendent of Biscayne National Park (BNP), who had a few brief remarks to dovetail onto the Everglades presentation. He said he wanted to talk about the BNP Fishery Management Plan (FMP) and General Management Plan (GMP). He mentioned the recent Columbus Day event in BNP, and the number of people there. Law enforcement also came from FWC, Miami-Dade, etc., and he said it was important to manage this safely. It is not an event with a permit, it is just a gathering of people, he said. The Columbus Day Regatta used to be in BNP with a permit, but there was a fee, and one year the organizers decided not to pay the fee and hold it outside BNP. If it were proposed as a permitted event, he would say no, but it is an event that has been allowed for many years. Dr. Causey said that, in sanctuaries, unless something is expressly prohibited, it is allowed.

Mr. Lewis reviewed that the BNP held a series of meeting on the FMP and came out with a draft alternative which was presented to public; over 320 comments were received. He noted BNP was working with FWC on the plan. They are now entering the comments into a computer tracking system and are trying to make sense of what they heard. He said they heard a lot of good things, they he knew a Working Group from the SAC was involved on it years ago. Once the analysis of comments is done, they will meet with FWC to figure out the final proposal and the tools to get there. Once they have come up with what they think is the best plan, they will then take it to his bosses in Atlanta and Washington, DC, and then to the FWC Commission. FWC would then have to enact any rule changes needed to help implement the plan. He said there would be a lot of room for public comment as this moved forward.

On the GMP, they also held a series of meetings on potentially having marine reserves and some portion of BNP in a natural state. He reported that science showed the vast majority of the reef fish in the park were not over the legal limit, so it made sense to have a there be a place where the public could go to see a natural reef tract. There was an agreement with FWC to have a marine reserve only if nothing else worked in the FMP. But, Mr. Lewis said they had been clear that they were looking at this in the context of the GMP, for purposes of having the area look like a natural ecosystem. During the public comment sessions, after the data was reviewed, they asked people to sit down at tables and not what they thought she be on the maps, and each group came up with a potential reserve for consideration, except for one group of scientists (they did not feel they had enough information). All of the feedback was OK, he said, and individual input was also received. He said he was not sure where they were going from here, but that in about a year, they will come out with proposed reserve(s) in the GMP.

- Chair Popham said Mr. Lewis was welcome to come back and share more information on this with the SAC. He said Mr. Curlett was the head of the Working Group Mr. Lewis had mentioned.

- Dr. Causey said there had been some confusion among a sportfishing association between the FMP and GMP. He said the group could help push back on this. He also said there had been a proposed FKNMS Ecological Reserve in that area, but they ended up taking it out. He added that the greatest poaching was at Carysfort, and that they come from Biscayne. He also said that from his experience, putting lines on a map is the last thing you want to do in the process.

- Mr. Simonds talked about the “freedom to fish movement”, and that the failure of that philosophy was a failure to take responsibility for the resource. He said the number of recreational anglers has skyrocketed, but they fail to say recreational fishing takes its toll.

### **Discussion about Potential Youth Involvement with FKNMS SAC – Mr. Morton (FKNMS) and Mr. Makepeace (SAC)**

Chair Popham introduced the topic of possibly getting youth involved in the SAC. Mr. Morton said Mr. Basta, his boss, wanted to see each council look into this. Mr. Morton said it was brought up at the last meeting and at the SAC Summit. He reviewed there are some more formal, complicated actions that could potentially be taken: a youth seat (which would possibly involve the charter) and a youth working group. Other, less formal options include a youth shadow program, having a high school class come and

present to the SAC, or obtaining youth input through the SAC Education and Outreach Working Group. He turned it over to Mr. Makepeace and the SAC for discussion.

- Dr. Boyer asked how young was “youth.” Mr. Morton said the general thought was in the high school age [ONMS defines youth as ages 14 to 17], and there were certain limitations related to things like child employment law, dedication of a youth, turnover, and one person vs. more. He noted the students who spoke during the public comment period were younger.

- Dr. Brylske said there were three community college students present during the meeting in the morning.

- Mr. Bergh commented it could get complicated, getting one person to come six times a year, or getting a student from every class to come to one meeting a year to then report back to his/her class on what happened at the SAC meeting.

- Chair Popham asked Mr. Makepeace to comment, noting he was a teacher, and had made some inquiries of his colleagues.

- Mr. Makepeace said he was a high school teacher, but said involving college students in the SAC was appropriate. He said his concern was the interest level, and that the SAC had to be of interest to the students. The idea Mr. Bergh proposed of having a student report back on a SAC meeting sounded a lot like work, he thought. He added that there has to be adult involvement/supervision at meetings, and the logistics of transportation needed to be considered. He was intrigued by the idea of a working group, but wondered about recruitment and keeping them involved over the long term, and said from his experience, youth always respond to a crisis. He said they move on to other things quickly, so the level of engagement would need to be considered as it is important. Regarding the input from his colleagues, one said that the only way to get the youth involved was to give them voting membership. Mr. Makepeace recommended that, after more discussion from the SAC at this meeting, a few people from the SAC get together and look at this more. He also said the SAC discussion may lead to discover that the SAC does not want to do anything.

- Dr. Brylske and Bob Holston expressed interest in being involved.

- Mrs. Bradley suggested asking the youth what role they might want to play. Mr. Makepeace mentioned possibly bringing some kids to the meeting. Mr. Nedimyer said his experience is that there needs to be something for kids to do; he suggested having kids who want to come in and do a presentation on a rotating basis.

- Mr. Makepeace suggested that any the SAC tried now should be simple, and that involving the charter now was ahead of the curve.

- Dave Vaughan said it was a wonderful idea, and knew that some other boards had a youth representative, sometimes with the seat rotating around quickly.

- Mr. Trice commented he not sure of objective of what trying to be accomplished. If it was to develop new stewards, he thought that was great, but he thought maybe only a dozen youth were really into what the SAC was doing. He also wondered if there was time, given the limited SAC agendas, for the idea to have an extra hour for a youth presentation.

- Chair Popham said having a clearly defined goal should be part of the process.

- Mr. Malcom suggested the idea of a “junior SAC” or SAC club at a high school, where they could get together under the guidance of a teacher, and they could come up with their own ideas of how to tackle an issue, on their own terms. His idea was that it would be inspired by the SAC, but not necessarily having the students come in to the SAC meetings.

- There were several more comments building upon those already made.

- Chair Popham said there were a lot of great ideas, and wondered if the idea should go to the school board first. Mr. Makepeace felt that was way ahead of the curve, and that home schooled kids should not be underestimated. Chair Popham asked who might wish to join in a group looking at this. Mr. Bergh pointed out that the SAC Education and Outreach Working Group already existed, and suggested having that group work on it. Mr. Moe agreed that it made the most sense, and Chair Popham asked that a working group meeting be held before the next SAC meeting. *ACTION ITEM:* Mr. Moe to arrange for a



meeting of the SAC Education and Outreach working group prior to the December SAC meeting, to discuss potential youth involvement in the SAC.

- Ms. Ferguson mentioned that the ONMS had already done thinking about this and had developed some guidance on the potential nonvoting youth seat and youth working group ideas. Depending on what the SAC might propose, checking further with ONMS might also be required, she noted.

### **Marine and Estuarine Goal Setting for South Florida (MARES) – Dr. Boyer (Florida International University)**

Dr. Boyer started by saying that the MARES project was funded by NOAA CSCOR, and that many people in the room were involved in it. The idea is to produce integrated assessments in the marine region and in integrated management, he said, and to help policymakers and managers manage the system better. He described the boundaries in Florida to be covered, and said they will look at the areas over time in a series of workshops.

Mrs. Bradley provided the DPSIR framework to him, and he showed a graphic of it, describing how it incorporates external physical drivers, and sociological drivers, and all the things that drive the system. They would like to have quantitative ecosystem indicators (such as periphyton), and plan to get people together to hash out what those should be. The idea is to develop conceptual models of what is going on, what is important, how things affect indicators of ecosystem health, and then how to use that information in decisionmaking and management, he reported. The first workshop will be on the Florida Keys in December, he said, and that anyone who wanted to join could. He said the product was intended to assist NOAA, DEP, the Coral Reef Conservation Program and others in the future.

### **Education/Outreach Presentation –Ocean Reef Rod and Gun Club -- Jack Curlett (Ocean Reef Rod and Gun Club)**

Mr. Curlett said that 25 years ago, there was an Ocean Reef group that fished, swapped stories and had tournaments. Hurricane Andrew wiped it out, and after about five years of rebuilding the club, it officially became the Ocean Reef Rod and Gun Club, and it took on raising funds (and Mr. Curlett noted that a number of buildings were built at Ocean Reef with private donations made to the Ocean Reef Foundation). The first year they had 44 members and raised \$1,200. One project they decided to do was to put stakes at the four foot depth limit the bay side, and they got a permit to do it. This ran jet skis out further, and helped get more members who wanted to pay for the stakes, he said. They also supported fishing tournaments, and put in a gun range. To reach out to those people who do not hunt and fish, they also have a caroling boat before Christmas, which lets different people know about the Club. The Club now has 500 members, and Mr. Curlett says he automatically bills them \$110 once a year. Other things they do are work with Mr. Trice on kids and fishing, and making donations to various other groups. He listed a number of the groups they support, including Mote (mostly for coral reef habitat and nursery work), the Coral Restoration Foundation, Bonefish and Tarpon Unlimited (for a bonefish tagging award), The Nature Conservancy, the Billfish Foundation, Island Dolphin Care, a scholarship program, the Carysfort Weather buoy, and SFFFK. At this meeting, he presented SFFFK with \$8,000 for John Halas and mooring balls. He also said a new partner is John Pennekamp State Park for mooring balls, and presented Pat Wells with a check for \$14,900. The club serves as stewards of Ocean Reef's waters and fisheries, Mr. Curlett said.

Chair Popham thanked Mr. Curlett, and thanked all of the attendees for coming to the meeting.

Adjourned, 4:10 PM.