

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

June 21st, 2005
Marathon Garden Club

M O T I O N S

- 1) Moved Ken Nedimyer, seconded Ralph Boragine, passed unanimously upon voice vote. That the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council accept the findings and recommendations of the Spearfishing Tournament Working Group and enter them into the Public Record. They are as follows:
 - I. Due to lack of information about the total number of fish harvested (those taken during the tournaments, the working group believes there is an excellent opportunity for tournament participants and organizers to work closely with the fisheries management agencies or researchers (FWC, NOAA Fisheries, councils, or other) to provide data (life history, tissue samples, etc.) in order to better understand these target species.
 - II. At the current level, spearfishing tournaments do not need to be regulated, banned or limited by number of tournaments or participants.
 - III. The level of spearfishing tournament activity should be a matter of FKNMS record.
 - IV. The working group recommends that spearfishing tournaments should not be aggregate weight tournaments.

- 2) Moved by Richard Grathwohl (Recreational Fishing Representative), seconded by Ralph Boragine (Commercial Fishing Representative), passed unanimously upon roll call vote. That the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Advisory Council respects the exhaustive efforts that were undertaken in bringing together an expansive and representative stakeholder working group that reviewed all the scientific and socio-economic data that resulted in unanimous support for the establishment of the Tortugas Ecological proposal, including the boundaries located within Dry Tortugas National Park. The FKNMS Advisory Council further has received periodic updates on the many benefits that are accruing as a result of the establishment of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve Management Plan, and the anticipated increase in benefits that will be associated with providing the habitat connectivity that can only be accomplished when the final Dry Tortugas National Park portion of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve is finalized. This FKNMS Advisory Council is fully cognizant of the commitment and sacrifices made by all user groups in reaching the agreements on the management protocol of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, including the portion located within Dry Tortugas National Park, reached in consideration of equity of shared adversity for commercial, recreational, charter, spearfishing and diving interests. This FKNMS Advisory Council respects the fact that each of these user groups was fully represented on the Tortugas Ecological Reserve Working Group, and each group representative at the conclusion of the exhaustive, two year working group

process, voted to support the boundaries and the regulations that comprise the Tortugas Ecological Reserve, including the portion located within Dry Tortugas National Park.

Therefore, the FKNMS Advisory Council strongly recommends that the Florida Governor and Cabinet vote to adopt the management agreement for the Tortugas Ecological Reserve for the portion contained within Dry Tortugas National Park.

3) Moved by Ken Nedimyer, seconded by David Hawtof and Ralph Boragine, passed unanimously upon roll call vote. That the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council establish a working group to advise NOAA Fisheries in development of recommendations on the proposed listing of two acroporid coral species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.