

**RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION TASK FORCE AND THE C-SOP ADVISORY TEAM**

OCTOBER 11, 2005

**WHEREAS**, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (Public Law 101-605) finds the following:

Sec. 2(2) Adjacent to the Florida Keys land mass are located spectacular, unique and nationally significant marine environments, including seagrass meadows, mangrove islands and extensive living coral reefs.

Sec. 2(3) these marine environments support rich biological communities possessing extensive conservation, recreational, commercial, ecological, historical, research, educational and esthetic values which give this area special national significance.

Sec. 2(4) these environments are the marine equivalent of tropical rain forests in that they support high levels of biological diversity, are fragile and easily susceptible to damage from human activities, and possess high value to human beings if properly conserved.

Sec. 2(5) these marine environments are subject to damage and loss of their ecological integrity from a variety of sources of disturbance.

Sec. 2(8) the agencies of the United States must cooperate fully to achieve the necessary protection of sanctuary resources.

Sec. 8(a)(1)(A) recommend priority corrective actions and compliance schedules addressing point and nonpoint sources of pollution to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Sanctuary, including restoration and maintenance of a balanced, indigenous population of corals, shellfish, fish and wildlife, and recreation activities in and on the water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys National marine Sanctuary includes waters located within Florida Bay, Manatee Bay, Barnes Sound, Card Sound, Buttonwood Sound, Tarpon Basin and Blackwater Sound; and

**WHEREAS**, re-establishment of appropriate quality, quantity, timing and distribution of freshwater flows through Everglades National Park is critical to the restoration of Florida Bay and the resources of the FKNMS; and

**WHEREAS**, the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force has convened an Advisory Team to make recommendations regarding the Combined Structural and Operational Plan which is intended to restore those necessary freshwater flows; and

**WHEREAS**, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council does not have formal representation on the C-SOP Advisory Team, although the results of that process will dramatically impact the resources of the FKNMS.

**THEREFORE**, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, through its Superintendent, recommends the following conditions be achieved in the C-SOP Alternative to be adopted by the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force:

- (1) Restore the headwaters of Taylor Slough by restoring flows and water levels In Northeast Shark Slough; and
- (2) Maintain an effective hydrological barrier to keep water in Taylor Slough, and
- (3) Do not discharge polluted stormwater into pristine wetlands; and
- (4) Fill in L31W (from S175 south) and the aerojet canals to prohibit water from moving into C-111 thereby keeping it in Taylor Slough and moving toward central Florida Bay; and
- (5) Maintain canal levels and structural operations in C-111 and L31N to eliminate destructive pulses of freshwater entering Florida Bay and Barnes Sound.