

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION FAVORING CONTINUED EXPEDITION  
OF THE C-111 SPREADER CANAL PROJECT**

February 17, 2009

**WHEREAS** Florida Bay is part of Everglades National Park;

**WHEREAS** the flora and fauna of Florida Bay and the Florida Keys have suffered due to change in water management practices;

**WHEREAS** fish and wildlife populations are under significant stress within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary;

**WHEREAS** Florida Bay is exhibiting serious signs of decline;

**WHEREAS** the total economic value of fishing in the Florida Keys is highly valued;

**WHEREAS** the completion of the C-111 projects are absolutely crucial in order for Florida Bay to receive benefits from the restoration projects planned throughout the Everglades ecosystem;

**WHEREAS** implementation Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal is the only hope in the immediate future to reduce seepage from Taylor Slough into the C-111 canal;

**WHEREAS** \$70 million is currently being held by the South Florida Water Management District to proceed with the expedition of Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal project;

**WHEREAS** groundbreaking for Phase I of the C-111 project was scheduled for September;

**NOW THEREFORE, THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLVES AND RECOMMENDS:**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District should:

- Ensure the planning and permitting process for the Alternative for Phase I of the C-111 Spreader Canal project as identified by the stakeholder working group proceeds without further delay or additional setback due to negotiations between the USACOE and the SFWMD.

Passed unanimously on this date: February 17, 2009.

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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.