

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2009 MEETING OF THE
FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION**

December 8, 2009

Whereas, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (Act) was established by Congress and signed into law by President George H. Bush in 1990; and

Whereas, the Act recognized the natural resources located within the Sanctuary boundaries as the underwater equivalent of the tropical rainforests; and

Whereas, the Act required the development of a management plan that would protect those resources, which include the world's 3rd largest coral barrier reef; and

Whereas, the Act authorizes that the Sanctuary is to address impacts occurring from both within and outside of the Sanctuary boundaries that are negatively affecting those resources; and

Whereas, regular monitoring and scientific assessments have established that warming ocean temperatures related to anthropogenically induced global climate change are having deleterious impacts on the health of the Florida Keys coral reef ecosystem; and

Whereas, catastrophic collapses of various ecosystems, including tropical coral reefs, are projected if global temperatures exceed an increase of 2° C or higher, according to the 2007 report by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and

Whereas, the United Nations 2009 Climate Change Conference is currently being held in Copenhagen, Denmark with the goal of reaching an international accord on greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would curtail rising temperatures and catastrophic climate impacts; and

Whereas, the United States Congress has yet to adopt binding climate change legislation nor agreed to any international climate change treaties,

Therefore, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council strongly encourages the United States delegation to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference to support international covenants to reduce greenhouse gas emissions commensurate with preventing a global temperature increase of 2° C or higher, and that the United States Congress ratify such a treaty.

Passed unanimously on this date: December 8, 2009.

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.