

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

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FLORIDA FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
COMMISSION'S (FWC) PROPOSED
CHANGES TO PERMIT REGULATIONS**

December 8, 2009

WHEREAS permit are an economic and ecologically significant fish species in the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), and

WHEREAS there are no regulations for permit in federal waters and the Magnuson-Stevens Act allows state regulations to extend into federal waters in the absence of federal rules, and

WHEREAS the benefits of proposed regulations would aid enforcement of state fishery rules and protect permit spawning fishery stocks within federal waters, and

WHEREAS there is currently no commercial trip limit for permit within the slot limit of 11-20 inches for state or federal waters, and

WHEREAS even though commercial harvest is small there is the potential for this fishery to grow and a trip limit would be a proactive way to prevent excessive expansion of this fishery, and

WHEREAS there is a lack of data on spawning aggregations and no current stock assessment on permit

NOW THEREFORE the FKNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) resolves to support the two below FWC staff recommendations, which were drafted as a result of findings from the Permit Fishery Workshop, and will be presented to the full FWC Commission on December 10:

- Extend state permit regulations into federal waters
- Initiate a commercial trip limit number for permit

The SAC further recommends the support of a spawning season closure for permit until such time that the science is in place showing there is no detrimental effect on permit stock assessments.

The SAC further resolves to request that the acting superintendent forward this resolution to the FWC by email due to the timing, to commissioners@myfwc.com and cc to Jessica.mcawley@myfwc.com and cc to mark.robson@myfwc.com.

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.