

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 2010 MEETING OF
FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN FOR
THE FLORIDA REEF TRACT – 2010-2015**

April 20, 2010

Whereas, land-based sources of pollution, habitat degradation and overfishing have been the major drivers of accelerating decline in the health of the world's coral reef ecosystems over the past two centuries;

Whereas, climate change is now exacerbating and compounding these more localized stressors;

Whereas, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Management Plan directs implementation and development of strategies to minimize negative impacts to sanctuary resources from direct and external stresses;

Whereas, the combined effects of climate change and direct human-related stresses are now recognized as the greatest long-term threat to the Florida reef tract;

Whereas, the FKNMS Advisory Council has been engaged in the process of developing and recommending management actions to conserve the marine resources of the Florida Keys and adjacent waters since 1990;

Whereas, FKNMS research and monitoring results have demonstrated consistent declines in coral health and percent cover since 1990 with significant and alarming episodic mass bleaching events correlated to elevated sea surface temperatures;

Whereas, the FKNMS Advisory Council, members of the public, resource managers, stakeholder representatives, and scientists have been collaboratively engaged in the effort to define and establish best practices to ensure the resilience of Florida's Reef Tract and dependent socio-economic concerns through the activities of the Florida Reef Resilience Program (FRRP) since 2004;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL SUPPORTS the development of a Climate Change Action Plan for the Florida Reef Tract 2010-2015 with a goal of providing resource managers, law-makers, and the public a framework and set of prioritized actions to ensure a sustainable future for the Florida Reef Tract and the regions socio-economic interests.

Passed on this date: April 20, 2010.

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.