

**Resolution of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory  
Council in support of local, state and national actions to reduce  
greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants related to energy  
production**

Whereas, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was established by President George H. Bush in 1990, and

Whereas, the legislation creating the FKNMS found that 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, and

Whereas, these marine environments support rich biological communities possessing extensive conservation, recreational, commercial, ecological, historic, research, educational, and esthetic values which give this area special national significance, and

Whereas, 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, and

Whereas, The south Florida region not only is home to the world's third largest coral barrier reef, but it shelters more than 6 million full-time residents and attracts millions of seasonal visitors annually with nearly 4 million traveling to the Keys alone each year, and

Whereas, Florida's reefs are an important "engine" of the region's economic prosperity generating nearly 40,000 jobs annually in Monroe, Miami-Dade, and Broward Counties, and producing nearly \$3.4 billion in income and sales, and

Whereas, these marine environments are subject to damage and loss of their ecological integrity from a variety of sources of disturbance, and

Whereas, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, "Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis," which represents the state of the art on the subject, states that "eleven of the last twelve years (1995-2006) rank among the 12 warmest years in the instrumental record of global surface temperature" and that "observations since 1961 show that the average temperature of the global ocean has increased to depths of at least 3000m and that the ocean has been absorbing more than 80% of the heat added to the climate system" and that "most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century is very likely (>90% likelihood) due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations," and

Whereas, the EPA states that "The Everglades and other south Florida ecosystems already are stressed by the pressures of human development, with global warming adding

additional stresses, such as higher water levels, increased salinity and warmer temperatures, and

Whereas, Governor Crist in the Florida State of the State address of 2007 stated that “Global climate change is one of the most important issues that we will face this century”, and

Whereas, fossil fuel emissions are the greatest cause of global warming, with 40% of carbon dioxide emissions coming from coal burning plants, and

Whereas, in the United States, 80% of fossil fuel emissions are generated by energy production; and

Whereas, the US EPA reports that coal is the most polluting of all fossil fuel sources of energy, causing more pollution per unit of electricity than any other fuel,

Whereas, 50% of CO<sub>2</sub> released during the burning of fossil fuels is absorbed by the world’s oceans changing the chemical balance of the oceans and weakening coral skeletons which reduce the ability of corals and some marine creatures to grow, and

Whereas, Florida became 3°F warmer over the course of the 20th century with more and stronger tropical storms, sea level rise double that predicted by computer models, increased droughts, and warmer, more acidic oceans in recent years, and

Whereas, elevated sea temperatures caused by a warming world are also contributing to severe coral bleaching events, and rendering corals more susceptible to diseases, and

Whereas, 2005 was the hottest year on record globally, and for the waters of the Caribbean producing extensive coral bleaching from Colombia to the Florida Keys, and

Whereas, since 1930 the sea level has risen 9 inches in Key West, and is increasing at about a foot per century, and Whereas, on barrier islands such as the Florida Keys, a one-foot rise could put water 200 to 2,000 feet inland, and

Whereas, The Federal Government and the State of Florida have been charged to jointly develop and implement a comprehensive program to reduce pollution in the waters offshore the Florida Keys to protect and restore the water quality, coral reefs, and other marine resources of the Florida Keys environment, and

Whereas, mercury is currently a significant and widespread contaminant in the South Florida ecosystem, and any addition of mercury or mercury mobilizing pollutants from energy production services should be avoided, and

Whereas, power plants generate significant levels of air pollution, including nitrogen oxide, sulfide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, particulate

matter and sulfuric acid mist, all of which significantly degrade air quality in the Sanctuary and pollute its outstanding waters, and

Whereas smog and soot forming pollutants and fine particulates emitted by power plants are linked to increased incidences of asthma, heart attack, lung cancer and other respiratory ailments, and

Whereas, nitrogen oxide emissions contribute to nitrate and nutrient deposition in water bodies that can cause algal blooms and red tides, and

Whereas ,for the purposes of the FKNMS and Protection Act the term “adverse effect” means any factor, force, or action that would independently or cumulatively damage, diminish, degrade, impair, destroy, or otherwise harm any of those qualities, values, or purposes for which the Sanctuary is designated, and

Whereas, it is consistent with the FKNMS and Protection Act for local, state and federal agencies to cooperate with the FKNMS Advisory Council, charged with providing recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce on actions necessary to provide for the protection of the marine resources of the Florida Keys, in addressing adverse effects over which those agencies have jurisdiction, and

Therefore, the FKNMS Advisory Council resolves that greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants related to energy production represent an adverse effect on the FKNMS. This Council, local, state and federal agencies charged with oversight and management of the FKNMS and citizens concerned with the well-being of the Florida Keys marine environment and the economy that it supports should become informed of the causes and effects of energy production pollutants. Furthermore any and all actions should be taken to reduce or eliminate the sources of energy production pollutants that are causing significant harm to the resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

The FKNMS staff is requested to send certified copies of this Resolution to the Governor and members of the Florida cabinet; the Secretary of Florida DEP; FDCA; the Executive Director and Governing board members of the SFWMD; Florida Senator Larcenia J. Bullard and Florida Representatives Ron Saunders, Stan Mayfield, Baxter Troutman, and Trudi Williams; and also to send copies to Dirk Kempthorne, Secretary of the Interior, U.S. Department of the Interior; Matthew J. Hogan, Acting Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife & Parks; Fran P. Mainella, Director, National Park Service, all located at 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240; Pat Hooks, Regional Director, National Park Service Southeast Region, 100 Alabama St. SW, 1924 Building, Atlanta, GA 30303; and Fred Gaske, State Historic Preservation Officer, 505 S. Bronough St., Tallahassee FL 32399-0250.

Passed unanimously on this date, May 22, 2007.