

**EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2011 MEETING OF
FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

**Resolution of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council accepting the guidance provided in the document called “Implementing Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary’s Regulatory and Marine Zoning Action Plans” and requesting that FKNMS initiate a formal regulatory review process followed by public scoping to enable modification of the Sanctuary’s Regulatory Action Plan, Marine Zoning Action Plan and other management plan components to improve the Sanctuary’s ability to achieve its purpose.
August 16, 2011**

Whereas, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) is supporting more than 33,000 jobs in ocean recreation and tourism, accounting for 58 percent of the local economy and \$2.3 billion in annual sales, and

Whereas, the Sanctuary was established in 1990, and

Whereas, since that time successful regulations and other resource management strategies have only been able to slow, not stop, the decline of many FKNMS natural resources as evidenced by the Draft Current Conditions Report for the Sanctuary and attested to by SAC members’ individual and collective experience, and

Whereas, regulations in general and marine zoning in particular are among the most powerful tools available to FKNMS for achieving its purpose, and

Whereas, since the last FKNMS Management Plan Revision in December 2007 members of the Advisory Council and other FKNMS constituents have requested specific changes to the Zoning Action Plan as a partial remedy for declining resource condition and minimization of conflicts among resource users, and

Whereas, in March 2008 the Advisory Council hosted a public workshop focused on gathering input from FKNMS constituents about their general preferences and specific recommendations concerning zoning in the Sanctuary and made that input available to staff, and

Whereas, in February 2011 the FKNMS Advisory Council selected the management plan update process, with emphasis on marine zoning, as a top priority for the year to come, now

Therefore, the Advisory Council resolves to accept the guidance provided in the document, “Implementing Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary’s Regulatory and Marine Zoning Action Plans” and request that FKNMS initiate a formal regulatory review process followed by public scoping to enable modification of the Sanctuary’s Regulatory Action Plan, Marine Zoning Action Plan and other management plan components to improve the Sanctuary’s ability to achieve its purpose.

Among other things, the review should include: an evaluation of the FKNMS boundaries to determine whether they should be modified to include key resources and address connectivity issues outside the Sanctuary, address neighboring threats, or ease enforcement; assessment of the current Sanctuary-wide regulations to determine whether they need to be changed, added to, or reduced; review of the types, locations, individual and cumulative size, shape, and number of marine zones to determine whether existing zones should be changed or new areas designated; and assessment of the current zone-specific regulations to determine whether they need to be changed, added to, or reduced.

Passed on this date: August 16, 2011

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.