

RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-108

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA,
VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, FLORIDA, URGING FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY TO LISTEN TO STAKEHOLDER
COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS, AND TO NOT LIMIT PUBLIC
ACCESS UNNECESSARILY WITHIN SANCTUARY WATERS; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE**

WHEREAS, on November 16, 1990, Congress designated the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) to be protected under management of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); and

WHEREAS, NOAA 's current management of the sanctuary is based on its 1997 final environmental impact statement (EIS) and a 2007 revised management plan; and

WHEREAS, the 1997 EIS and 2007 management plans implemented sanctuary-wide regulations and established the nation's first comprehensive network of marine zones in the FKNMS after years of planning, design, and public input; and

WHEREAS, in September 2011 NOAA published the "Condition Report" for the FKNMS, the first attempt to comprehensively describe the status, pressures and trends of resources in the sanctuary and should be used in conjunction with the more detailed summaries of the individual monitoring and research programs (e.g., zone monitoring program, water quality protection program, etc.); and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Conditions Report helps identify strengths in current monitoring efforts, as well as factors that may require monitoring and potential remediation in the years to come and provide guidance for future management challenges. For example, this report supports the need for additional management actions that address the degraded conditions of some key habitats and living resources in the sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, due to the 2011 Conditions Report, FKNMS is updating its management plan and recently released "Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: A Restoration Blueprint" to help counteract the decline in resource condition in the Florida Keys through a series of regulatory and management measures designed to reduce threats and where appropriate, restore coral reefs, seagrasses, and other important habitats; and

WHEREAS, the FKNMS is holding a series of public meetings for stakeholders to learn more about the Restoration Blueprint proposal and is accepting Public comments in person, online, and by mail through January 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, after the public comment period ends, the comments will be reviewed, and NOAA will formally propose a set of draft regulations to establish changes. There will be another round of public comments on the refined proposal. Subsequently, if NOAA moves forward with a final action, a final environmental impact statement and final notice of proposed rulemaking will be published in the Federal Register. That would be followed by an opportunity for review by the governor of Florida as well as by Congress. It is expected that implementation of any final action to occur approximately three years following public release of the Restoration Blueprint; and

WHEREAS, the Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village") recognizes the recreational and commercial importance of the marine resources of the Florida Keys, and protecting these sanctuary resources is valuable not only for the environment but also or the economy; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes the special marine resources of the region, which led to the area's designation as a national marine sanctuary, contribute to the high quality of life for

residents and visitor, without these unique marine resources, the quality of both life and the economy of the Keys would decline; and

WHEREAS, the Village recognizes Public input is vitally important determine the future of the Florida Keys and strongly encourages FKNMS to listen to stakeholder comments and suggestions, and to not limit public access unnecessarily.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Consideration of Stakeholder Input. The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands hereby urges the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) to listen comments and suggestions from stakeholders, and to not limit public access unnecessarily within sanctuary waters.

Section 3. Additional Funding for Enforcement Resources Within the FKNMS.
The Village Council of Islamorada, Village of Islands further encourages and supports the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) to secure additional funds from the Federal Government and State of Florida to supplement Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) for enforcement of marine regulation.

Section 4. Transmittal. Direct the Clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon

its adoption.

Motion to adopt by Councilwoman Deb Gillis, second by Vice Mayor Ken Davis.

FINAL VOTE AT ADOPTION

VILLAGE COUNCIL OF ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS:

Mayor Mike Forster	YES
Vice Mayor Ken Davis	YES
Councilwoman Deb Gillis	YES
Councilwoman Cheryl Meads	ABSENT
Councilman Jim Mooney	YES

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 12th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.



MIKE FORSTER, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF
ISLAMORADA, VILLAGE OF ISLANDS ONLY



ROGET V. BRYAN, VILLAGE ATTORNEY

This Resolution was filed in the Office of the Village Clerk of this 17 day of Dec., 2019.



KELLY TOTH, VILLAGE CLERK