

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE KEY WEST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ITS OPPOSITION TO EXPANSION OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES AND/OR PRESERVATION AREAS WITHIN THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the abundance of quality fisheries, varied habitats and warm climate provide unrivalled conditions that make the Florida Keys a prime tourist destination and the *Fishing Capital of the World*; and

WHEREAS, the Key West Chamber of Commerce presented a resolution to the City Commission on January 21, 2015, to express concern over fishery management proposals being considered by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Advisory Council, which would effectively prohibit all recreational and commercial fishing and diving in certain areas of the FKNMS; and

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial fishing is the basis for thousands of local jobs, and to introduce prohibitive fishery management practices, without using the best available scientific data and information to ensure sustained benefits for current and future use of resources, would have a detrimental effect on individuals and businesses throughout the Florida Keys; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE

CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the City Commission supports the position of the Key West Chamber of Commerce as outlined in its resolution presented to the City Commission on.

Section 2: That this Resolution shall go into effect immediately upon its passage and adoption and authentication by the signature of the Presiding Officer and the Clerk of the Commission.

Passed and adopted by the City Commission at a meeting held this _____ day of _____, 2015.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2015.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2015.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Mark Rossi	_____
Commissioner Teri Johnston	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____
Commissioner Tony Yaniz	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK



510 GREENE ST • 1st FLOOR • KEY WEST, FL 33040 • 305.294.2587 • FAX 305.294.7806 • WWW.KEYWESTCHAMBER.ORG

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Joseph Walsh
Nrecki Will
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A RESOLUTION OPPOSING FURTHER EXPANSION OF ECOLOGICAL RESERVES
AND/OR PRESERVATION AREAS WITHIN THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL
MARINE SANCTUARY

WHEREAS, Florida's abundance of quality fisheries, fresh and saltwater habitats, climate and tourism opportunities for anglers make it the No. 1 designation for anglers and the *Fishing Capital of the World*; and

WHEREAS, the Key West Chamber of Commerce, (representing over 500 business members) is vitally interested in protecting the ecological resources of the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, within the federal boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the Magnuson Fishery Conservation and Management Act (18 U.S.C.A. 1801 *et seq.*) vests exclusive federal fishery management in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, that must follow the national standards in implementing for fishery management plans (16 U.S.C. 1851); and

WHEREAS, within the state boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary §379.2401 Fla. Stat. vests exclusive fishery management authority in the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission that makes annual recommendations to the Florida Governor and Legislature; and

WHEREAS, there is presently an ongoing attempt by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to institute fishery management plans/regulations that are not authorized by Congress, nor the Governor of Florida, nor the Florida Legislature; and

"The mission of the Greater Key West Chamber of Commerce is to serve its members and mutually and promote a viable economy for the businesses and working people of Key West."

WHEREAS, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is presently attempting to institute fishery management under the guise of establishing ecological reserves and/or preservation areas within which all recreational and commercial fishing and diving would be prohibited; and

WHEREAS, recreational and commercial fishing brings billions of dollars into the State of Florida, supporting more than 75,000 jobs that would be detrimentally affected by any expansion of "ecological reserves and/or preservation areas" within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and

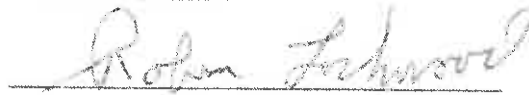
WHEREAS, instituting fishery management without using the best available scientific data and information that emphasizes enhancement of our fishery resources so as to provide optimum sustained benefits for the use of all people of this state and for present and future generations would have a severe detrimental effect, now and in the future, on all individuals and businesses with in the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, implementation of ecological reserves and/or preservation areas that would prohibit recreational and commercial fishing and diving would severely restrict the enjoyment of the natural resources and recreational areas within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; and

WHEREAS, implementation of ecological reserves and/or preservation areas that would prohibit recreational and commercial fishing and diving would create excessive fishing and recreational pressures on other areas within the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Key West Chamber of Commerce believes that in order to continue the protection of the reefs and fishery resources of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, any and all fishery management should be initiated, considered, and passed only through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

In testimony whereof the president of the Key West Chamber of Commerce has adopted this resolution on the 9th day of December 2014.



Robin Lockwood, MD

President, Key West Chamber of Commerce