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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 maintain 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

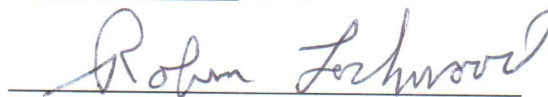
**WHEREAS**, instituting fishery management without using the best available scientific data and information that emphasizes enhancement of our fishery resources so as to provide optimum sustained benefits for the use of all people of this state and for present and future generations would have a severe 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 9<sup>th</sup> day of December 2014.



Robin Lockwood, MD

President, Key West Chamber of Commerce

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