

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING THE LETTER AND FORMAL COMMENTS OF THE FLORIDA WILDLIFE COMMISSION SUBMITTED TO THE FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (FKNMS) IN RESPONSE TO THE FKNMS "DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY: A BLUEPRINT FOR RESTORATION" (DEIS); URGING FKNMS TO IMPLEMENT FWC RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ATTACHED LETTER FROM FWC CHAIRMAN ROBERT A. SPOTTSWOOD, DATED APRIL 29, 2020, ALONG WITH ITS ACCOMPANYING FORMAL COMMENTS; URGING FKNMS TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING WATER QUALITY TO PROTECT THE REEF; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF FKNMS, FWC, GULF OF MEXICO FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL, SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND THE KEY WEST CHARTERBOAT ASSOCIATION; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, the FKNMS has presented a draft DEIS, which proposes to expand the boundaries of FKNMS, modify existing sanctuary-wide regulations, modify existing marine zones, and create new marine zones and zone-specific regulations; and

WHEREAS, the FWC has submitted a letter and formal comments, which recommend modifications to the DEIS before it is implemented; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that the recommendations of FWC address the importance of preserving and improving waters in the FKNMS, while also protecting the interests of stakeholders including the State of Florida, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, as well as individuals that visit and fish in waters surrounding the Florida Keys; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that the waters and reef surrounding the Florida Keys require protection, and that FKNMS should take a balanced approach between resource needs and user access; 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 letter and formal comments submitted by FWC in response to the FKNMS DEIS.

Section 2: That the City Commission urges FKNMS to accept the recommendations of FWC contained in the Letter and formal recommendations from FWC Chairman Robert A. Spottswood, dated April 29, 2020.

Section 3: The City Commission urges FKNMS to focus on improving water quality, which will improve the overall condition of the reef, rather than closing access to certain state resources.

Section 4: That the City Clerk is hereby authorized to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to Ms. Sarah Fangman, NOAA/NOS Sanctuary Superintendent - Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, Eric Sutton - Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), Robert A. Spottswood - Chairman FWC, Brice Barr - President Key West Charter Boat Association, Thomas K. Frazer - Council Chairman, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and Jessica McCawley - Chair, South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Section 5: 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 _____, 2020.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2020.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2020.

Mayor Teri Johnston	_____
Vice Mayor Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Gregory Davila	_____
Commissioner Mary Lou Hoover	_____
Commissioner Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

TERI JOHNSTON, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK