

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA, SUPPORTING HOUSE BILL 53/SENATE BILL 232 ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHEAST FLORIDA CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION AREA; DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO PROVIDE COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION TO MEMBERS OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

WHEREAS, economically and ecologically valuable nearshore coral reef resources are found in Florida coastal waters from Martin County to the Dry Tortugas, and comprise the Florida Reef Tract - the only coral reef tract in the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Keys portion of the Florida Reef Tract is recognized and protected by management plans of the National Marine Sanctuary, National Parks, and National Wildlife Refuges, however the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract, stretching from Miami-Dade County to St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County, remains unprotected and without a state-adopted management plan addressing its future sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the highly-accessible Southeast Florida Coral Reef Tract has experienced impact from extremely high usage year-round and from water quality degradation caused by numerous factors, including: Prolonged periods of exceptionally warm water temperatures, acidification, and from direct human inputs such as

excessive stormwater discharge events and the continued operation of Ocean outfalls and septic systems; and

WHEREAS, disease outbreaks are occurring along the entire Florida Reef Tract and have impacted over 21 species of reef-building stony corals, including several listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and the State Imperiled Species Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to support and advance the protection and restoration of the entire Florida Reef Tract, through establishment of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation Area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF KEY WEST, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the City Commission of City of Key West supports House Bill 53/Senate Bill 232, establishing the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Ecosystem Conservation area, and the Florida Legislature is hereby urged to support and fund this important legislation intended to improve and protect Florida waters and land.

Section 2: That the City Clerk is directed to provide copies of this Resolution to Governor Rick Scott, Senate President Joe Negron, House Speaker Richard Corcoran, Senator Anitere Flores, and Representative Holly Raschein.

Section 3: 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 _____, 2018.

Authenticated by the Presiding Officer and Clerk of the Commission on _____ day of _____, 2018.

Filed with the Clerk on _____, 2018.

Mayor Craig Cates	_____
Vice Mayor Clayton Lopez	_____
Commissioner Sam Kaufman	_____
Commissioner Richard Payne	_____
Commissioner Margaret Romero	_____
Commissioner Billy Wardlow	_____
Commissioner Jimmy Weekley	_____

CRAIG CATES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CHERYL SMITH, CITY CLERK