

Coral Committee

Action Guide and Next Steps for Tab N

Agenda Item IV: Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Proposed Rule

Timeline Status: Presentation, discussion, and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: Ms. Sarah Fangman (FKNMS Sanctuary Superintendent) will present the Proposed Rule for the FKNMS Management Review: Blueprint for Restoration. The Council provided comments on the draft environmental impact statement in 2020. The proposed sanctuary expansion includes areas within the Council's jurisdiction such as Pulley Ridge and the Tortugas Ecological Reserves. The deadline to submit public comment is on October 26th, 2022, which is in the middle of the October Council meeting. In June, the Council directed staff to draft and submit a request for an extension to the October 26th public comment deadline. This extension request would allow additional time to convene the Council's advisory panels and synthesize relevant recommendations on the boundaries and any recommended changes to fishing regulations for those areas. Staff will provide an overview of the plan for convening advisory panels and timelines for submitting comments, with the current timeline and if the extension may be granted. The Committee is encouraged to ask questions and provide feedback to Sanctuary staff and Council staff for next steps.

Agenda Item V: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Comments on FKNMS Proposed Rule

Timeline Status: Information

Council Input and Next Steps: Upon the release of the FKNMS Proposed Rule, Dr. Sweetman (Florida FWC) will go over some of the key points the Florida FWC may comment on. The Committee can ask questions and discuss if these are issues they would also like to see in the Council's comment letter to the FKNMS.

Agenda Item VI: Other Business

Timeline Status: Discussion and recommendations

Council Input and Next Steps: If time permits, additional items may be brought up for discussion during the adoption of the agenda to be considered at a future Committee meeting.
