



# Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary PROCESSES

## Introduction

The information presented here is from a larger study of three user groups: commercial fishers, dive operators and environmental group members on their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of management strategies and regulations in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). The study profiles these user groups and provides information on user group knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of FKNMS management strategies and regulations in the baseline 1995-96 period and how things have changed over a 10-year time period. Some new baselines are also established on new management strategies and regulations.



This fact sheet focuses on information obtained from environmental group members from two local environmental groups (Reef Relief and Last Stand) on the FKNMS processes to develop management strategies and regulations.

## FKNMS Processes

In both the baseline and 10-year replication, seven survey questions were used to assess the views of environmental group members on FKNMS processes to develop management strategies and regulations. The questions focused on views on whether the processes were fair and just and whether NOAA/FKNMS listened to the concerns of individuals and local and state government or whether individuals were included or could have influence in the process of developing the management strategies and regulations. A five-point agreement scale was used where 1=strongly agree and 5=strongly disagree. A “Don’t Know” response was also allowed, but this was not included in statistical tests of changes in mean scores. Here A=Strongly to Moderately Agree and D=Strongly to Moderately Disagree. Statistical tests were done to test whether there were statistically significant changes in these views over the 10-year period.

**Processes Fair and Just.** This group appeared to be the most uncertain about processes. A high proportion of this group answered “Don’t Know” to all seven of the questions asked about process in both the baseline and 10-year replications (generally in the 30-40 percent range). When we take out the “Don’t Knows”, as is always done in comparing mean scores, a majority of environmental group members were in agreement with all three questions on whether processes were fair and just. There were no statistically significant changes over the 10-year time period for questions 1 and 2 as the majority in both periods agreed that processes were fair and just. There was a significant change for questions 3, with a significant decline in disagreement (a positive change in view towards FKNMS) from 20.2% in the baseline to 12.2% in the 10-year replication.

Fair & Just - Question (Statement)	1996	2007	Statistical Difference
1. The processes that NOAA has used to develop rules and regulations for the FKNMS was open and fair to all groups.	31.3% A (2.59)	36.3% A (2.41)	NO (NO)
2. The Processes used by NOAA to develop boundaries and regulations for the FKNMS zones was open and fair to all groups.	30.8% A (2.79)	37.1% A (2.52)	NO (NO)
3. The procedures that NOAA has established to deal with violations of FKNMS regulations have been fair and just.	20.2% D (3.08)	24.2% A (2.70)	YES (YES)

- mean scores and statistical significance of mean scores in parentheses.



**NOAA Listened to Others.** Again it is important to note that over one-third of environmental group members lacked the knowledge on NOAA/FKNMS processes and procedures as indicated by the high proportion of “Don’t Know” responses in these questions. Once we remove the “Don’t Know” responses, a majority of environmental group members had positive views on whether NOAA/FKNMS listened and acted on others’ concerns on management strategies and regulations in both the baseline and 10-year replication. For question 1, on whether the average person could have influence, there was a statistically significant movement in the positive direction. For all other questions, there was a movement in the positive direction, but the movement was not statistically significant. So this group generally has a positive view of NOAA/FKNMS, but there is a need for more education and outreach to this group.

NOAA Listened to Others - Question (Statement)	1996	2007	Statistical Difference
1. It has not mattered whether the average person participated in the workshops and meetings on the FKNMS because the average person could not influence the final decisions.	50.3% D (3.46)	32.8% D (3.14)	YES (YES)
2. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of local and state governments in developing rules and regulations for the FKNMS.	34.7% D (3.43)	26.0% D (3.33)	NO (NO)
3. NOAA has not addressed the concerns of individual citizens in developing rules and regulations for the FKNMS.	37.5% D (3.30)	25.6% A (3.04)	YES (NO)
4. Once that the FKNMS regulations have been in effect, there has been no way that the average person could voice his/her opinion on the usefulness of the regulations.	36.9% D (3.09)	25.8% D (3.05)	NO (NO)

- mean scores and statistical difference of mean scores in parentheses.

## Access to Full Report

The full report can be cited as follows:

Shivlani, M., Leeworthy V.R., Murray, T.J., Suman, D.O., and Tonioli, F. 2008. Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions of Management Strategies and Regulations of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries by Commercial Fishers, Dive Operators, and Environmental Group Members: A Baseline Characterization and 10-year Comparison. Marine Sanctuaries Conservation Series ONMS-08-06. U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Silver Spring, MD. 170pp.

Available at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/conservation/pdfs/kap2.pdf>

Full Report and Executive Summary are also available in portable document format (pdf) from:

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