

**FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**  
**Water Quality Protection Program Steering Committee Meeting**

**November 15, 2021**  
**8:45 AM – 3:00 PM**

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7906768853629376268>

**Webinar ID: 639-885-315**

**Meeting Purpose:** Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review outcomes and recommendations from key water quality monitoring and related projects, consult on a framework for evaluating FKNMS water quality monitoring programs, and generate discussion among members on timely issues and activities related to water quality priorities.

**Objectives:**

- Review and vote on updates to the WQPP Steering Committee Bylaws.
- Understand the objectives, progress, and outcomes of ongoing nearshore water quality monitoring efforts.
- Explore next steps for evaluating FKNMS water quality monitoring programs; consider management needs, evaluation framework, and technical expertise needed.
- Receive updates on the status of ongoing efforts related to priority water quality concerns: shallow injection wells and ecosystem connectivity.
- Learn about the latest conditions on Florida's Coral Reef, including long term status and trends and Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease impacts and response efforts.
- Provide an open forum for discussion on recent activities and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

**Meeting Materials:**

- Minutes from July 23, 2021 WQPP Steering Committee meeting
- WQPP Steering Committee membership list
- Draft updates to the WQPP Bylaws
- Sample WQPP Steering Committee application form
- Draft management questions and framework for a water quality monitoring program evaluation
- Project and monitoring reports (as relevant and available)

**Participation Guidelines:** This meeting will be held virtually via the GoToWebinar platform. All members of the WQPP Steering Committee, Management Committee and Technical Advisory Committee will have the ability to unmute their own microphones to speak, with Steering Committee members provided the first opportunity. Prior to speaking, WQPP members are asked to use the 'raise hand' feature in the GoToMeeting platform to be recognized by the Chair. All other attendees will be muted by the meeting organizer and can indicate a desire to speak by using the 'raise hand' feature or typing into the question box. Input from non-WQPP members will be allowed at the discretion of the meeting Chair. There will be an opportunity for public comment.

## Agenda

- 8:45 AM**      **WQPP Log-In and Technology Check**
- 9:00 AM**      **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Call to Order (*Wade Lehmann, USEPA, WQPP Chair*)
  - Roll Call and Housekeeping
  - Opening Remarks (*Wade Lehmann, USEPA /Jon Iglehart, FDEP*)
  - Review and Adopt Agenda
    - *Steering Committee Vote*
  - Approve Minutes from July 23, 2021
    - *Steering Committee Vote*
  - Retirement Recognition: Gus Rios for 35 years of service to DEP
- 9:30 AM**      **II. WQPP Steering Committee Bylaws** (*WQPP Management Committee*)  
(20 min) Discussion and vote on additional draft updates to the WQPP Steering Committee Bylaws, to include a process for selecting new 'Knowledgeable Citizen' representatives to serve on the Committee.
- *Steering Committee Vote*
- 9:50 AM**      **III. Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Document: Nearshore Water Quality Monitoring Update** (*Ken Weaver/Benjamin Ralys, DEP*)  
(20 min) Overview of the Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Document, the latest nearshore water quality monitoring results, and next steps for assessing compliance with water quality standards.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (20 min)*
  - *Potential Steering Committee Action Item*
- 10:30 AM**      **Break (15 minutes)**
- 10:45 AM**      **IV. Project Update: Do Canals in the Florida Keys Contribute to Nearshore Water Degradation?** (*Kathleen Sealey, University of Miami*)  
(20 min) Presentation on the outcomes of a project to measure the effects of canals on nearshore water quality.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (20 min)*
  - *Potential Steering Committee Action Item*
- 11:25 AM**      **V. Steering Committee Discussion: Next Steps for Initiating a FKNMS Water Quality Monitoring Program Evaluation** (*WQPP Management Committee*)  
(10 min) Introduction to proposed guiding management questions and framework for evaluating FKNMS water quality monitoring programs.
- *Steering Committee Feedback and Discussion on Next-Steps (40 min)*
- 12:15 PM**      **Lunch (45 minutes)**

- 1:00 PM**      **VI. Project Update: Quantifying the Impact of Shallow Wastewater Injection in the Florida Keys** (*Lee Kump/Miquela Ingalls, Penn State University*)  
(15 min) *Presentation on the status of a special study to investigate the impact of shallow injection wells on surface waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 min)*
- 1:25 PM**      **VII. Florida Keys and South Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team Update** (*Kelly Cox, Audubon Florida*)  
(15 min) *Progress update on the Ecosystem Connectivity Team, a working group of the FKNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council and WQPP to improve engagement in regional issues of concern to water quality in the Florida Keys.*
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 1:45 PM**      **VIII. Florida Keys Coral Reef Status Updates:**
- **Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Program** (*Rob Ruzicka, FWC*)
    - *(20 min) Update on the latest status and trends of Florida's Coral Reef.*
  - **Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease** (*Maurizio Martinelli, Florida Sea Grant*)
    - *(10 min) Update on disease progression and response efforts.*
  - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 min)*
- 2:25 PM**      **IX. Public Comment** (*15 minutes*)
- 2:40 PM**      **X. Steering Committee Member Updates** (*All*)  
(15 min) *Members of the Steering Committee provide updates on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.*
- 2:55 PM**      **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items** (**5 minutes**)
- 3:00 PM**      **Adjourn**