

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

**August 11, 2022**  
**8:45 AM – 4:00 PM**

**\*\*Meeting changed to virtual participation only.\*\***

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2912923385110556428>

**Webinar ID: 104-798-395**

**Meeting Purpose:** Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review ongoing efforts associated with Florida Keys' water quality and marine resources, and discuss timely issues and activities relevant to the WQPP.

**Objectives:**

- Learn about the status of key management activities within Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), including the Restoration Blueprint and Mission: Iconic Reefs.
- Receive updates on monitoring and disturbance response efforts along Florida's Coral Reef, including the Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Program, coral rescue from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease, and the Caribbean *Diadema* die-off.
- Explore the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Five-Year Work Program and how water quality improvements are incorporated along roadways.
- Review the activities and progress of the Florida Keys and South Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team. Investigate additional opportunities to engage in regional water quality issues.
- Discuss the draft Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress and other administrative business.
- Provide an open forum for discussion on recent activities and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

**Meeting Materials:**

- Minutes from March 7, 2022 WQPP Steering Committee meeting
- <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint/>

**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**  
(15 min) Sound check with Steering Committee members and presenters attending via GoToWebinar.
- 9:00 AM**      **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Call to Order (*Wade Lehmann, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), WQPP Chair*)
  - Roll Call and Housekeeping
  - Opening Remarks (*Wade Lehmann, EPA / Jason Andreotta, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)*)
  - Review and Adopt Agenda
    - *Steering Committee Vote*
  - Approve Minutes from March 7, 2022
    - *Steering Committee Vote*
- 9:20 AM**      **II. FKNMS Restoration Blueprint** (*Sarah Fangman, NOAA FKNMS*)  
(20 min) Overview of the proposed updates to FKNMS regulations, marine zones and management plan.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 minutes)*
- 9:50 AM**      **III. Mission: Iconic Reefs** (*Sarah Fangman, NOAA FKNMS*)  
(15 min) Update on progress and current status of the Mission: Iconic Reefs initiative.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 10:10 AM**      **Break (15 minutes)**
- 10:25 AM**      **IV. Florida Keys Coral Reef Updates:**
- **Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Program** (*Rob Ruzicka, FWC*)
    - (20 min) Update on overall benthic community status and the effects of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.
    - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 minutes)*
  - **Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response: Coral Rescue Update** (*Stephanie Schopmeyer, FWC*)
    - (20 min) Review recent information about the coral rescue effort, including new advances in propagation and outplanting.
    - *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 minutes)*
- 11:25 AM**      **V. Caribbean *Diadema* Dieoff** (*Bill Sharp, FWC*)  
(10 min) Update on the status of the Caribbean die-off of *Diadema antillarum*, including potential water quality linkages and risk assessment.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 minutes)*

- 11:45 AM**      **Lunch (1 hour)**
- 12:45 PM**      **VI. Florida Department of Transportation Five-Year Work Program and Potential Opportunities for Water Quality Improvement**
- 1:45 PM**      **VII. Florida Keys and Southeast Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team (TBD)**  
(10 min) Review activities and progress within the Florida Keys and Southeast Florida Ecosystem Connectivity Team.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion: What other opportunities are there to be more proactive against regional threats to water quality in the Florida Keys? (20 minutes)*
- 2:15 PM**      **Break (15 minutes)**
- 2:30 PM**      **VIII. Management Committee Updates**  
(15 min) Status report and feedback on WQPP planning and organization.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (10 minutes)*
- 2:55 PM**      **IX. WQPP Report to Congress**  
(5 min) Overview of the draft 2022 Water Quality Protection Program Report to Congress, additional contributions needed, and review request.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 minutes)*
- 3:05 PM**      **X. (TBD) Friends of the Lower Keys (FOLKS) Update**  
(10 min) Review of FOLKS' data and water quality concerns.
- *Steering Committee Q&A (5 minutes)*
- 3:20 PM**      **XI. Public Comment (15 minutes)**
- 3:35 PM**      **XII. Steering Committee Member Updates (All)**  
(20 min) Members of the Steering Committee provide updates on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.
- 3:55 PM**      **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 4:00 PM**      **Adjourn**