

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

July 24, 2025
8:45 AM – 1:00 PM

This meeting will be held virtually via GoToWebinar. To register and join:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6425784994389956949>

Webinar ID: 277-978-043

Meeting Purpose: Convene the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Steering Committee to review the status of Florida Keys water quality and discuss ongoing efforts, issues and future actions.

Objectives:

- Review research associated with PFAS in Florida’s drinking and surface waters, and learn about efforts to reduce PFAS in Florida Keys drinking water.
- Understand progress and plans for the Monroe County Artificial Reefs Program.
- Discuss timeline, next steps, and potential water quality improvements associated with the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvement Program (FKWQIP).
- Assess the current status and advise on next steps for the WQPP Communications Subcommittee and WQPP Report to Congress.
- Provide an open forum for information sharing and discussion on complementary efforts and emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.

Meeting Materials:

- March 12, 2025 WQPP Steering Committee meeting notes
- Draft Communications Subcommittee Scope of Work
- Draft WQPP Report to Congress

Agenda

8:45 AM **WQPP Log-In and Technology Check, *WQPP Steering Committee Members and Presenters Only***
(15 min) GoToWebinar sound check with Steering Committee members and presenters.

9:00 AM **I. Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Call to Order and Opening Remarks, *Wade Lehmann, EPA/ Dave Whiting, DEP*
- Steering Committee Roll Call and Housekeeping
- New Member Introductions
- Review and Adopt Agenda
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- Approve Minutes from November 13, 2024
 - *Steering Committee Vote*
- Confirm WQPP Representative on the SAC Adaptive Management Working Group
 - *Steering Committee Vote*

- 9:20 AM** **II. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Florida's Water, Dr. John Bowden, University of Florida**
(30 min) Overview of outcomes from a comprehensive statewide mapping effort of PFAS across Florida.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (10 min)
- 10:00 AM** **III. FCAA – Plans to Address PFAS in Drinking Water, David Hackworth, FCAA**
(20 min) Update on efforts underway by FCAA to reduce PFAS in drinking water.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (10 min)
- 10:30 AM** **IV. Monroe County Artificial Reefs Program, Dr. Hanna Koch, Monroe County**
(10 min) Overview of the Monroe County Artificial Reefs Program, including current progress and future efforts.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (5 min)
- 10:45 AM** **Break** (15 minutes)
- 11:00 AM** **V. Water Quality Improvement Program Updates, Dimael Lopez-Roman, USACE SAI**
(15 min) Update on progress and next steps for the Water Quality Improvement Program.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (15 min)
- 11:30 AM** **VI. WQPP Communications Subcommittee, Scott Atwell, FKNMS / Genevieve Schave, DEP**
(10 min) Update on the Communications Subcommittee status and next steps. A draft scope of work will be shared and discussed.
- *Steering Committee Q&A and Discussion* (10 min)
 - *Potential Steering Committee Vote*
- 11:50 AM** **VII. WQPP Congressional Report, Beth Smith, EPA**
(10 min) Overview of progress and next steps for completing the WQPP Congressional Report. An updated draft will be shared and discussed.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion* (20 min)
 - *Potential Steering Committee Vote*
- 12:20 PM** **VIII. Public Comment** (10 minutes)
- 12:30 PM** **IX. Steering Committee Member Updates**
(25 min) Opportunity for Steering Committee members and/or their invited staff provide updates on recent activities or emerging topics of relevance to the Water Quality Protection Program.
- 12:55 PM** **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 1:00 PM** **Adjourn**