

## **Biscayne Bay Regional Restoration Coordination Team**

**NOAA Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory  
4301 Rickenbacker Causeway (entrance across from 75 Virginia Beach Drive)  
Key Biscayne, FL 33149**

**December 10, 2014**

### **Attendees**

Pamela Sweeney  
Phil Everingham  
Joan Browder  
Sarah de Fusco  
Jeffrey Mullins  
Michelle Metcalf (for Susan Shapiro)  
Patrick Pitts  
Tom Jackson  
Nancy Diersing  
Joan Lawrence  
Lt. John Ramos  
Robert MacKarvich

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Phil Everingham, Chairman of the BBRRCT, called the meeting to order.

### **2. Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:**

Nancy Diersing, Science Interpreter, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, gave a presentation on Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review in the Sanctuary.

The Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline extends from 2012 to 2017 when the revised rules will be promulgated and revised zones established. The process began with the Advisory council setting principles, goals, and objectives. Working Groups were formed and Advisory Council Feedback and Recommendations for agencies developed. The proposed actions and alternatives will be documented in a Draft Environmental Statement on which there will be agency review, public comment, and response to the public comment. This is anticipated to occur in the winter of 2015-Spring of 2016. A Final EIS will be developed culminating in the revised rules and zones in 2017. More information on the aforementioned Regulatory Review process can be found at <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/welcome>.

This presentation is available on the Task Force website at:  
[http://www.sfrestore.org/rrct/bbay/documents/bbrrct\\_handouts\\_past.html](http://www.sfrestore.org/rrct/bbay/documents/bbrrct_handouts_past.html)

**3. Law Enforcement Issues in Biscayne National Park:**

Law Enforcement Specialist Robert MacKarvich gave a talk on “law Enforcement Issues” in Biscayne National Park. Office MacKarvich informed the group that his officers have enforcement authority within the boundaries of Biscayne National Park and often work together with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officers. They have found the mapping apps developed by the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve very helpful.

**4. Enforcement Issues in Biscayne Bay:**

Lt. John Ramos of the Miami-Dade County Marine Patrol Unit discussed law enforcement issues in Biscayne Bay. There has been a disturbing rise in boating fatalities over the last years. Despite the rapid increase in boaters on Biscayne Bay, the Marine Patrol Unit has experienced a decrease rather than an increase in personnel. Alcohol related accidents and fatalities continue to be a problem. Officers are trained to handle boating under the influence of alcohol much like their counterparts on the highways in administering “boatside” dexterity tests and breathalyzer tests. Generally, the court system has not been experienced with handling marine enforcement issues; courts are becoming more familiar with marine related enforcement prosecutions. Lt. Ramos invited any interested team members to come out on the Bay.

**5. Wrap-up**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm.