

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

March 12, 2025
8:45 AM – 12:45 PM

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

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1793019136515034456>

Webinar ID: 195-444-147

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

Objectives:

- Assess the current status and advise on future efforts within the WQPP Communications Subcommittee and toward the Congressional Report.
- Discuss priorities for water quality improvements and special studies in the Florida Keys.
- Review the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) Restoration Blueprint Final Rule and discuss water quality-relevant highlights and implementation planning.
- Understand the current status of Harmful Algal Blooms in the Florida Keys.
- 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:

- November 13, 2024 WQPP Steering Committee meeting notes.
- FKNMS [Restoration Blueprint Final Rule and Management Plan](#)

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, *Dave Whiting, DEP/Wade Lehmann, EPA*
 - 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*
- 9:20 AM** **II. WQPP Communications Subcommittee, Shelly Krueger, Sea Grant / Genevieve Schave, DEP**
(10 min) Update on the Communications Subcommittee status and next steps.

- *Steering Committee Q&A and Discussion (10 min)*
- 9:40 AM** **III. WQPP Congressional Report, Beth Smith, EPA**
(5 min) Overview of progress and next steps for completing the WQPP Congressional Report.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (15 min)*
- 10:00 AM** **IV. EPA South Florida Program: FY25 Priority Topics Discussion**
- *Steering Committee Feedback and Discussion (15 min)*
- 10:15 AM** **V. Water Quality Improvement Program Updates, Dimael Lopez-Roman, USACE SAJ**
(15 min) Update on progress and next steps for the Water Quality Improvement Program.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 10:35 AM** **Break (15 minutes)**
- 10:50 AM** **VI. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint, Beth Dieveney, FKNMS / Karen Bohnsack, FKNMS**
(35 min) Overview of the Restoration Blueprint Final Rule and changes to the FKNMS boundary, regulations, marine zones and management plan, including water-quality relevant highlights and implementation efforts.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (20 min)*
 - *Potential Steering Committee Action Item*
- 11:45 AM** **VII. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Permits and Authorizations, Matt Stout, FKNMS**
(5 min) Update on the status of FKNMS permitting and authorizations.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 11:55 AM** **VIII. Harmful Algal Bloom Prognosis, Tom Matthews, FWC**
(15 min) Overview on the status of harmful algal blooms in the Florida Keys.
- *Steering Committee Q&A/Discussion (5 min)*
- 12:15 PM** **IX. Public Comment (10 minutes)**
- 12:25 PM** **X. Steering Committee Member Updates**
(15 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.
- 12:40 PM** **Wrap-Up and Review Action Items**
- 12:45 PM** **Adjourn**