



SOUTH ATLANTIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

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Carolyn N. Belcher, Ph.D., Chair | Trish Murphey, Vice Chair
John Carmichael, Executive Director

September 23, 2022

Ms. Sarah Fangman
NOAA/NOS Sanctuary Superintendent
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
33 East Quay Road
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Ms. Fangman,

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council appreciates your participation in our meeting on September 21, 2022 to review the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Restoration Blueprint. During this meeting the Council discussed plans for developing comments on the Sanctuary proposals and ensuring there is adequate time for review by our advisory panels (AP). Because these APs are scheduled to meet in late October and early November, and the next Council meeting will be held December 5 – 9, 2022, the Council would not have enough time to consider AP recommendations and prepare comments by the current October 26, 2022 deadline for submission. We are also working to schedule a meeting of our Shrimp Advisory Panel in early 2023 to obtain their feedback. Therefore, the Council requests an extension until February 24, 2023 to provide comment on the proposed rule. This will allow the Council to review AP recommendations, further discuss the proposed rule at our December meeting, and develop comments for your consideration.

Thank you for considering our request. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, John Carmichael.

Sincerely,

Carolyn N. Belcher, PhD
Council Chair

LN #2022-25

cc. Council members and staff
Monica Smit-Brunello, NOAA GC