

The Florida Keys are an unparalleled ecosystem. With reefs, wrecks, tidal flats and mangrove shorelines set amid a staggering arrangement of aquamarine colored waters. It is America's sub tropical playground welcoming visitors from around the globe.

The economy of the Florida Keys (Monroe County) is driven by access to this ecosystem. In a NOAA study it was surmised that upwards of 63% of the County's economy is derived from direct and indirect use of this resource. Without question, this ecosystem is our community's greatest resource. Yet it is finite.

Pressure to accommodate a growing variety of uses and higher volume of users, has resulted in the need for management to protect and ensure that it remains vibrant, and healthy for years to come. It is the task of lawmakers to find a balance between access for users, and protecting the health of this ecosystem. We are dedicated to becoming active participants in this process.