

SUPPORT OUR FLORIDA KEYS, SUPPORT FUNDING FOR KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT

With the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the third-largest coral reef in the world and its incomparable natural beauty, it is easy to see how the Florida Keys is truly one of Florida's environmental treasures. But, it's also much more, as the Florida Keys is a premier tourist destination, with a world-class recreational and industrial fishing industry, and one of the foremost naval training facilities in the nation.

All of this makes the Florida Keys a **significant economic driver** for the entire State of Florida.

In order to protect and preserve the Florida Keys and ensure it continues to be an economic driver for our state, in 2016 the State Legislature passed and Governor Scott signed into law, **the Florida Keys Stewardship Act** (Ch 2016-225 LOF).

THE FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT DOES THE FOLLOWING:

- With its existing authorizations, it aims to invest \$25 million per year for 10 years to carry out the environmental and public safety goals of the State's designation of the Florida Keys as an **Area of Critical State Concern (\$20M for water quality and \$5M for land acquisition)**;
- Invests in **infrastructure** to protect water quality and supply, and invests in land acquisition to protect **property rights and mitigate liability**, ensure **public safety** in case of an evacuation, preserve **unique habitat**, and protect against **military base encroachment**;
- Encompasses the remaining \$100M for wastewater infrastructure in the standing authorization for the Florida Keys under the Mayfield Authorization (maintaining current ILA distribution amounts) and an authorization of \$5M a year for 10 yrs from the Florida Forever Act.
- Adds in essential components to prevent the degradation of nearshore waters and the one-of-kind marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, such as storm water management, and the restoration of impaired canal waters;
- Creates an invaluable partnership between the Florida Keys and the State of Florida, allowing the state to protect the investments they have already made in the area; and
- Yields a significant return on investment for the entire State of Florida.

Making investments now is vital to ensuring that the Florida Keys continue to thrive for years to come, and that its environment is preserved for future generations of Floridians.

LET'S STAND TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF OUR FLORIDA KEYS AND SUPPORT APPROPRIATION FOR THE FLORIDA KEYS STEWARDSHIP ACT THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF THE FLORIDA KEYS:

- Monroe County generates more than \$200 million in sales tax revenue annually for the State of Florida.¹
- The Florida Keys' tourism industry alone creates approximately 33,000 jobs and their tourism-related sales exceed \$2.7 billion.²
- More than 80 percent of the spiny lobster harvested in the State of Florida is caught in Monroe County.³
- Recreational fishing generates approximately \$433 million in direct expenditures in the Florida Keys and creates more than 7,000 jobs.⁴
- United States military presence in Monroe County (Naval Air Station Key West, the nation's premier air-to-air tactical training venue, Army Special Forces and the U.S. Coast Guard) generates nearly \$800 million in positive economic activity and nearly 8,000 jobs.⁵

¹Florida Department of Revenue, 2015.

²Florida Department of Revenue, 2015.

³Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association, FKCFCA.org.

⁴Economic Impact of the Florida Keys Flats Fishery, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust, 2013.

⁵Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis, Enterprise Florida, 2013.

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