



MONROE COUNTY RESTORE ACT Project Funding Submittal Form

Purpose:

The RESTORE Act Project Submittal Form is designed to assist citizens, businesses and public or private organizations wishing to submit a project for consideration of funding from the RESTORE Act dollars allocated to Monroe County by the 2012 RESTORE Act.

Instructions:

- To be considered for RESTORE Act funding from Monroe County's RESTORE Act local allocation, or "local pot," you must complete this Project Funding Submittal Form and submit it electronically and hardcopy, by the due date: **AUGUST 30, 2013 AT 2:00 PM.** Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.
- Please submit one complete Submittal Form per project; if you have multiple projects, please submit one Submittal Form for each project.
- A complete Submittal Form will consist of the following four sections:
 1. Application Cover Pages - please use the formatted cover pages included (questions 1-6);
 2. Project Budget - please use the budget form included;
 3. Application Narrative -Detailed Project Information (questions 7-18);
(For this portion, please provide responses on normal, letter size paper, 12 pt. font, and 1" margins; and paginate. Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question. Please be sure to respond to each question. If a question is not applicable, please indicate that.)
 4. Any additional documentation necessary to fully understand your project.
- Please submit completed form ELECTRONICALLY, as a single PDF document, to tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov. Once your Form is received, you will receive a confirmation email.
- Please submit completed HARD COPY Form to Lisa Tennyson, Office of Management and Budget, 1100 Simonton Street, Room 213, Key West Florida 33040.
- Please refer to the Monroe County RESTORE Act website for additional information. Questions can be directed to Lisa Tennyson by email at tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov.

Selection for Funding:

- Proposals will be evaluated based on these criteria: 1) need for and benefits of the project; 2) cost-effectiveness and financial feasibility; 3) technical feasibility/probability of success; 4) timeliness of implementation and completion; 5) consistency with approved public plans/public support; and 6) project management capacity.
- Applications received by the due date, and which meet at least one of the allowable uses, will be reviewed and scored by the members of the Monroe County Local Advisory Committee.
- The Committee will meet in one or more noticed, public meeting(s) (dates to be determined) to discuss, evaluate and rank project submissions.
- The list of ranked projects will be presented to the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners which will make the final decision on project awards.

General Information:

- All project awards are subject to availability and amount of local RESTORE Act dollars directed to Monroe County.
- All project awards will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies (auditing, reporting, procurement, transparency, etc.). Federal rules and regulations guiding RESTORE Act project award funding are still being developed by the US Treasury. All information provided herein is subject to further revision pending the development and adoption of these rules.
- All projects must have a direct benefit to Monroe County pursuant to one or more of the RESTORE Act criteria.
- Applicants certify that the information provided in their completed Submittal Forms and in any supporting documents, are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. Inaccuracies, omissions, or any other information found to be false may result in rejection of this application and project funding consideration.
- All Submittal Forms and supporting documentation are subject to discussion and public input at RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee meetings, public meetings, and the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners; and those submitting proposals may be requested to present their proposals or respond to questions at such meetings.
- Applicants may be requested to provide additional information or to complete a supplemental project proposal form.
- All forms and supporting documentation are public information and will be made available to the public pursuant to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and policies.
- Projects for funding from other RESTORE Act provisions should be submitted to the appropriate funding entity, (ie, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, etc.) For additional information on other funding opportunities, visit the Department of Environmental Protection website at [www.dep](http://www.dep.gov).
- Projects must meet at least one of the uses listed below. The list of allowable uses has been ranked in priority order by the Local Advisory Committee and is provided as a reference.

Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee Ranking of Allowable Uses

Use	Rank
Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands	1
Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources	2
Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources	3
Promotion of tourism in the Gulf region, including recreational fishing	4
Workforce development and job creation	5
Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	6
Improvements to state parks affected by Deepwater Horizon oil spill	6
Implementation of federally approved marine/coastal management plan	8
Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region	9
Planning Assistance	10

APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 1 OF 2 (PROJECT BASIC CRITERIA)

Section 1: Application Cover Page; Basic Criteria

Please use this page, or re-create as is.

1. **PROJECT TYPE:** *(As mandated by the RESTORE Act, funds may only be used for one or more of the allowable uses listed below, which the County cannot amend or change. Carefully review each criteria listed below and determine if your project will achieve one or more of the allowable uses below. Projects that do not meet at least one of the allowable uses below will not be considered for funding. Check all that apply.)*

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on state parks in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Activities to promote tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region, for one or more of the following:
 - Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Region, including recreational fishing.
 - Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

2. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** *(Include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable)*

- Organization: Monroe County Board of County Commissioners; Marine Resources Office
- Address: 2798 Overseas Hwy., Suite 400
- City, State, Zip Code: Marathon, Florida, 33050
- Contact Person
 - Name: Richard Jones
 - Title: Marine Resources Senior Administrator
 - Phone: (305) 289-2805
 - Email Address: Jones-rich@monroecounty-fl.gov

APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 2 OF 2 (PROJECT SUMMARY)

Section 2. Application Cover Page; Project Summary Information

Please utilize this sheet or re-create, but keep format as is.

3. Project Name: *(Provide a short, succinct title for the project)*

Keys-Wide Mooring Field System

4. Project Executive Summary: *(Provide a concise summary or abstract in the space below; do not exceed the space below.)*

The purpose of the proposed Keys-Wide Mooring Field System is to provide mooring fields in historically used anchorages throughout the Keys as a management tool to address a variety of anchoring impacts. Unmanaged anchorages are known to generate derelict and abandoned vessels, cause seagrass and coral damage due to inappropriate anchoring techniques, and are a concentrated source of illegally discharged sewage. New mooring fields, proposed for Jewfish Creek and Buttonwood Sound in Key Largo and Boca Chica Basin in the lower Keys will provide secure, environmentally friendly moorings and appropriate shoreside access and services, eliminate benthic damage, reduce the number of derelict vessels, and ensure the proper disposal of vessel sewage. The proposed project will provide for a complete Keys-wide system of mooring fields, adding to existing mooring fields at Pennekamp State Park, Boot Key Harbor in Marathon, and the Seaplane Basin in Key West. This Keys-Wide Mooring Field System will establish convenient, well distributed infrastructure for both local and transient boaters, while reducing or eliminating environmental impacts currently generated in unmanaged anchorages. This implementation supports tourism, protects the Keys' natural resources, creates jobs, and furthers the objectives of the FKNMS.

5. Range of Benefit: Does this project have a

- Local benefit?
- Keys-wide benefit?
- Regional benefit?
- Gulf-wide benefit?

(Provide the location of the project and a brief description of the area that is benefiting; do not exceed the space below.)

Mooring fields for the proposed Keys-Wide Mooring Field System are sited for Jewfish Creek and Buttonwood Sound on the bayside of Key Largo in the upper Keys, and Boca Chica Basin on the oceanside of the lower Keys. The project will provide 1) a regional benefit by providing infrastructure for all boaters visiting the Keys, and 2) a Keys-wide benefit by protecting the benthic environment in currently unmanaged anchorages and reducing the number of derelict vessels generated by managing the users of the proposed mooring fields.

6. Project Cost: *(Provide the actual/estimated project cost, the amount being requested with this submission, and the amount of match committed to the project from any source. Please make clear the total project cost and the amount you are requesting. There is an opportunity to provide detailed cost/request/match information in the narrative section (see question 8.)*

• Total Project Cost:	\$ <u>1,500,000</u>	
• RESTORE Request Amount:	\$ <u>1,000,000</u>	% of project cost: <u>66.7</u>
• Secured Cash Match (committed funding from other sources):	\$ <u>500,000</u>	% of project cost: <u>33.3</u>
• In-kind Match value:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Funding Gap:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Anticipated Cash Match (potential funding from other sources)*:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____

**These funds must be secured within 1 year of project award.*

APPLICATION PROJECT BUDGET

Section 3. Project Budget

PROJECT BUDGET Activity/ Item	Cost	FUNDING		
		Anticipated RESTORE Funding	Cash Match	In-kind Match
Planning/Design/Permitting				
	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	
Administration*:				
Planning Subtotal:	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	
Construction or Project Activity(ies)				
	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	
Administration*:				
Construction Subtotal:	\$750,000	\$500,000	\$250,000	
Monitoring				
Administration*:				
Monitoring Subtotal:				
Project Cost				
Total Administration*:				
TOTAL Project Cost:	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	\$750,000
Year 2	\$750,000
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

*Notes: Only complete the sections of the budget that are applicable for your project. Please refer to question 8 to provide further explanation of budget details. *The RESTORE Act places a total 3% cap on administrative expenses. We are uncertain at this point how this will be applied, how "administration" will be defined or assigned, or whether projects may even be able to include administration. We are waiting on further guidance from US Treasury rules to define this. Please keep this in mind as you develop your budget. Administrative costs typically include but may not be limited to overhead costs for basic operational functions (insurance, utilities), as well as costs associated with admin staff such as accountants, legal, etc.*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS – DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Section 4. Application Narrative; Detailed Project Information

Please respond clearly and specifically to each of the following questions. Use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and pagination, to aid in readability. There is no page limit, but please be as brief as possible. To complete your submission, please attach your response to these questions to the application cover pages and the budget page.

7. **Project Description:** *(Describe all aspects of the project; what issue, need, concern or problem does the project address? Why is the issue/need/concern/problem important? Is there an urgency or immediacy to the need? Provide facts and data sources used to support the need for this project. What and/or who does the project impact, benefit or affect; what will it accomplish when completed? Provide facts and data sources to support the expected impacts. Provide any other relevant information needed to describe your project. Be sure you make the connection between your project and the RESTORE Act criteria selected on first page. Provide citations for all references quoted or used to support the need for and impacts of this project.)*

Maximum 20 pts. *How important is this project in terms of the need it meets and the goals it is seeking to achieve? How critical is the need it addresses? Is the need supported by data/facts? Is this project likely to meet its goals? Is the project approach organized and well thought out?*

8. **Budget Narrative/Financial Feasibility/Cost-Effectiveness:** *(Be sure that your responses to this question and dollar amounts used are consistent with those used in Application Project Budget, and those in Question 6.*
- *Clearly indicate and describe the estimated or actual costs of the project.*
 - *Clearly indicate and describe the amount and use of RESTORE Act funding request.*
 - *Identify amount and sources for your secured cash match funding. [“Cash match” is defined as actual cash contributions to project costs. “Secured cash match funding” is funding that has been committed to your project.] Please demonstrate secured match funding with documentation such as commitment letter(s) from the funder(s).*
 - *Identify amount and sources for your anticipated cash match. [“Anticipated cash match” is potential funding you have sought or will seek but is not confirmed.] Please note that an applicant must have its project’s “anticipated cash match” secured within one year of award of RESTORE Act funding. Explain, if applicable, how these RESTORE funds may be used to leverage additional funding.*
 - *If your project is also using in-kind match [“In-kind match” is defined as contribution to project costs other than cash], please identify what the in-kind match includes and how you calculated its value.*
 - *Explain how the project is financially feasible [ie, is there a plan to cover all costs?]*
 - *Explain how the project is cost-effective [ie, is this project a good value, is it economical in terms of the tangible benefits produced by the money being spent?]*

Maximum 15 pts. *Several things will be evaluated with respect to the budget including match value, financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness.*

9. **Technical Feasibility:** *(Explain how this project is technically feasible; ie, how do you know that this is a feasible project that can be implemented and that will result in success. Describe the technologies involved. Describe relevant past experience or proven success with this type of technology and this type of project. Describe why this project is likely to succeed?)*

Maximum 5 pts. *Is this approach likely to work?*

10. **Readiness for Implementation/Permitting Considerations:** *(What steps are necessary and how long will it take to implement this project? Describe the required design and permitting work required for implementation.*

How far along is the design and permitting? Has it started? Is it complete? If required permits have already been obtained, please attach copies. If the design has been completed, please attach copy of the design work. If the design work has not yet begun, please tell us how long this will take. If permits are required, but not yet obtained, please discuss how you know your project will qualify for the required permits and how long will this permit process take. In other words, if your project is not shovel-ready, what is entailed and how long will it take to before it becomes shovel-ready? Identify the specific milestones and timeframe for each.)

Maximum 10 pts. Is the timeframe realistic? Is the permitting achievable? Is the timeframe acceptable?

11. **Project Completion Timetable:** *(Once the project can be implemented, what are the steps and how long will it take to complete the project? Identify milestones and timeframe for each.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Timeframe realistic? Is the timeframe acceptable?

12. **Environmental Benefits:** *(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. Identify and quantify all environmental benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated? How long before benefits are realized? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. Please address any potential environmental impacts (ie, loss of habitat) associated with implementing or maintaining the project.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Are the benefits impactful? Do the benefits address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?

13. **Economic Benefits:** *(Describe the economic benefits that will be achieved. Identify and quantify all economic benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated? When do you expect to see the results? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? How will you ensure the achievement of long-term benefits? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. If this is a workforce development project please describe how the project will result in new, expanded or retained business development opportunities and job creation. Please include detail about what types of jobs will be created? How many and when? What is the anticipated annual salary or hourly rate, are the jobs full time or part time, are benefits included, etc.?)*

Maximum 10 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?

14. **Community Economic and/or Environmental Resilience Benefits:** *(Describe if the project assists with our community's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover (environmentally and/or economically) from hazards or threats, eg. hurricane evacuation, flood mitigation and prevention, future oil spills, shoreline protection, etc.)*

Maximum 5 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood

of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits?

15. **Complements to Existing Efforts/Public Acceptance:** *(How does the project complement existing local, regional or state efforts/plans/objectives or on-going efforts/activities. Explain why your project does not interfere or conflict with any existing efforts, and why your project is not duplicative of any existing efforts. Also, please explain whether your project is consistent with/included in a local government Comprehensive plan, Capital plan, Mitigation Plan, Wastewater or Storm Water Master Plan, etc. If not part of an already approved plan, please describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project. Explain any efforts to determine public acceptance.)*

5 pts. Does the project align with county and/or municipal priorities? Is there clear public support?

16. **Compliance with Federal, State, Local Regulations:** *(Describe how the project complies with all regulations. Note: Additional restrictions and requirements may be applicable based on US Treasury guidance to be established pursuant to the RESTORE Act.) No points awarded, since compliance with regulations is a requirement.*

17. **Project Management Capacity:** *(We expect that all funded projects will receive a high degree of scrutiny from both state and federal agencies throughout their duration both programmatically and financially, and will be required to comply with a rigorous standard for monitoring, reporting and auditing of both results and expenditures.*

Please also note that the framework for RESTORE Act project funding has not yet defined but will likely draw significantly from federal grant guidelines, rules, regulations and requirements. Therefore, assuming the applicant entity will be responsible for implementing and administering its project according to federal grant guidelines, concisely:

- 1. Describe the expertise, experience and prior success of the organization and persons to implement the type and size project proposed here.*
- 2. Describe the organization's experience with federal grant requirements, and with management of government grant-funded projects of this type and size, including financial and outcomes, monitoring, reporting and auditing.*
- 3. Describe your plan for programmatic and financial management, oversight and monitoring.*
- 4. Describe the project management team, including the names, qualifications, experience and prior success of those responsible for design, implementation, outcomes achievement, and financial management.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Does the organization or sponsor have the demonstrated ability and experience to implement/administer this project, and deliver on the outcomes?

18. **Additional Information:** *(Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in understanding the project. Please be mindful of the electronic file size of your application. We will be forwarding this application to various reviewers/recipients electronically. Many servers do not accept large file sizes. Also limit attachments to those measuring 8x11 that can reproduced with little or no expense (limit color photos, blueprint type documents, etc.)*

SCORING RUBRIC

Project Description	20
Project Budget (Match, Financial Feasibility, Cost- effectiveness)	15
Technical Feasibility	5
Readiness for Implementation	10
Completion Time	10
Environmental Benefits	10
Economic Benefits	10
Community Resilience Benefits	5
Complements Existing Efforts/Public Support	5
Management Capacity	10
Maximum Points	100

SOLICITATION TIMEFRAME

- Funding Solicitation Opens: July 22, 2013
- Funding Solicitation Closes: August 30, 2013

TENTATIVE PROJECT REVIEW/AWARD TIMEFRAME

- Local Advisory Committee Review/Ranking Meeting(s): September/October, 2013
- BOCC Decision of Project Awards: October/November, 2013

APPLICATION QUESTIONS – DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

Section 4. Application Narrative; Detailed Project Information

Please respond clearly and specifically to each of the following questions. Use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and pagination, to aid in readability. There is no page limit, but please be as brief as possible. To complete your submission, please attach your response to these questions to the application cover pages and the budget page.

7. **Project Description:** *(Describe all aspects of the project; what issue, need, concern or problem does the project address? Why is the issue/need/concern/problem important? Is there an urgency or immediacy to the need? Provide facts and data sources used to support the need for this project. What and/or who does the project impact, benefit or affect; what will it accomplish when completed? Provide facts and data sources to support the expected impacts. Provide any other relevant information needed to describe your project. Be sure you make the connection between your project and the RESTORE Act criteria selected on first page. Provide citations for all references quoted or used to support the need for and impacts of this project.)*

Maximum 20 pts. How important is this project in terms of the need it meets and the goals it is seeking to achieve? How critical is the need it addresses? Is the need supported by data/facts? Is this project likely to meet its goals? Is the project approach organized and well thought out?

The Keys-Wide Mooring Field System project includes the planning/design/permitting and installation of three mooring fields, along with the establishment of associated upland service facilities through public/private management arrangements.

Background

Monroe County waters have traditionally been utilized for anchoring of liveaboard vessels, consistent with the water-oriented lifestyle of Florida Keys inhabitants. However, an increase in liveaboard numbers and anchorages in recent decades has generated a variety of negative environmental impacts associated with improper boating behaviors and practices, including:

- *Haphazard anchoring techniques*
- *Overboard dumping of vessel sewage*
- *Generation of derelict and abandoned vessels*
- *Placement of marine debris as mooring devices on sovereign submerged lands*
- *Habitat degradation*

In 1990 Florida Sea Grant conducted a boat liveaboard study (Antonini, et al., 1990) which estimated the number of liveaboards in Monroe County at 274 and cited associated impacts including floating debris, sewage, garbage, noise, crowding, abandoned boats, lack of appropriate shoreside access and crime. Twenty years later, an inventory of liveaboards by Monroe County cited a significant increase in liveaboard vessels, documenting at least 14 anchorages containing an estimated 600-800 liveaboard vessels. That inventory documented

boating impacts in crowded anchorages including seagrass damage from ground tackle, lack of space for transient vessels, abandoned and derelict vessels, sunken vessels, marine debris, and illegal discharge of sewage.

To address environmental impacts associated with inappropriate anchoring practices the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) established a *Mooring Buoy Action Plan* in 1996. Since that time mooring fields have been established in Key West and Marathon, producing positive environmental impacts and modifying the mooring habits and behavior of liveaboard boaters in those locales. The use of mooring fields to address remaining unmanaged liveaboard anchorages was further documented in the 2002 Keys-Wide Mooring Field System study by Monroe County, which evaluated anchorages Keys-wide and provided a prioritization list for additional mooring field implementation. And in 2009 the Florida Legislature passed Statute 327.4105 promoting the establishment and use of mooring fields by directing the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to create a Pilot Program for Anchoring and Mooring. Monroe County was included in the statute as a participant in the Pilot Program, due to the high demand for moorings in the Keys and regional impacts associated with unmanaged anchorages. Pilot Program workshops were conducted in the Keys in 2011, and received input from the public in support of additional mooring fields.

In 2012 the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) made a commitment to further address liveaboard anchoring impacts, directing staff to pursue development of an additional mooring field (the Board recognized the DEP 'Drop A Hook' Program, no longer active, which promoted mooring fields every 25-50 miles along the Intra-Coastal Waterway to both provide for visiting boaters and reduce anchoring impacts). Monroe County staff responded to the BOCC directive by soliciting proposals for a Feasibility Study to 1) evaluate the current need for mooring fields, 2) prioritize a list of suitable mooring field sites, 3) prepare conceptual mooring field designs, and 4) conduct pre-application meetings with applicable state and federal agencies. The BOCC has committed County funds to provide for design/engineering/build of one additional mooring field in FY'14 and '15 based on the recommendations of the Feasibility Study (anticipated for completion in October 2013).

Project Scope

The project scope for Restore Act funding includes implementation of three mooring fields (sites at Jewfish Creek, Buttonwood Sound, and Boca Chica Basin) which will, combined with existing mooring fields, comprise a Keys-Wide Mooring Field System. Monroe County has started the groundwork on the project by commissioning the Feasibility Study, being conducted by Coastal Systems International (CSI) which will provide preliminary mooring field designs and ensure the feasibility of required environmental permits prior to commencing the actual design/permit/build contractual process which will be awarded through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. Monroe County has committed \$500,000 towards the mooring field project. In addition to installation of the mooring fields themselves, shoreside service facilities will be identified (through the Feasibility Study) that may be used for the management of the mooring fields through public-private partnership arrangements. Shoreside service facilities are necessary support infrastructure from which to manage the mooring field, provide dinghy docks, and amenities (laundry, trash, parking, bathhouses, etc.).

Mooring field design and capacity will be based on the projected use of each mooring field (to be determined based on current anchorage use). The projected use, generated by the Feasibility Study, will determine the number of moorings recommended at each site. Each of the three mooring fields is anticipated to provide for 50-100 vessels. Mooring systems will be based on the proven design of helical embedment anchors and shock-absorbing downlines which are currently used in the Boot Key Harbor and Key West mooring fields. These mooring systems create negligible bottom disturbance during installation and ensure that the downline does not come into contact with the seafloor during use, eliminating the benthic damage associated with the use of traditional ground tackle (i.e. anchor and chain). Each mooring field site and layout will be based on the most practical ingress/egress from adjacent boating routes (intra-coastal waterway on the bayside, and Hawk Channel on the oceanside), and adjacency to the shoreside service facility. Existing mobile vessel pumpout service, contracted by Monroe County, will provide sewage pumpout service to the three mooring fields.

The implementation of the Keys-Wide Mooring Field System and provision of shore-side service facilities will create a level of boating infrastructure sufficient to serve liveaboard vessels and meet the needs of cruising enthusiasts whom recognize the Keys as one of the world's premier cruising destinations. Mooring field policies and procedures (i.e. management) will ensure that current anchoring impacts are eliminated, providing for environmental protection and the reduction of abandoned and derelict vessels.

8. Budget Narrative/Financial Feasibility/Cost-Effectiveness: *(Be sure that your responses to this question and dollar amounts used are consistent with those used in Application Project Budget, and those in Question 6.*

- *Clearly indicate and describe the estimated or actual costs of the project.*
- *Clearly indicate and describe the amount and use of RESTORE Act funding request.*
- *Identify amount and sources for your secured cash match funding. ["Cash match" is defined as actual cash contributions to project costs. "Secured cash match funding" is funding that has been committed to your project.] Please demonstrate secured match funding with documentation such as commitment letter(s) from the funder(s).*
- *Identify amount and sources for your anticipated cash match. ["Anticipated cash match" is potential funding you have sought or will seek but is not confirmed.] Please note that an applicant must have its project's "anticipated cash match" secured within one year of award of RESTORE Act funding. Explain, if applicable, how these RESTORE funds may be used to leverage additional funding.*
- *If your project is also using in-kind match ["In-kind match" is defined as contribution to project costs other than cash], please identify what the in-kind match includes and how you calculated its value.*
- *Explain how the project is financially feasible [ie, is there a plan to cover all costs?]*
- *Explain how the project is cost-effective [ie, is this project a good value, is it economical in terms of the tangible benefits produced by the money being spent?]*

Maximum 15 pts. Several things will be evaluated with respect to the budget including match value, financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness.

Estimated project costs include the following elements for the three mooring fields:

- 1) Design and permitting
- 2) Installation

All three proposed mooring field sites are included in the feasibility study. One of the three Keys sites will be implemented (design/permitting and construction) utilizing the \$500,000 budgeted by Monroe County. Restore Act funding, if awarded, will be used for the additional two sites. The following budget table specifies costs for each of the proposed mooring fields.

The budget includes a timeline for the completion of implementation of the three mooring fields. Design/permitting is scheduled to be performed in Year 1, with the installation of the three mooring fields occurring in Year 2.

Proposed Mooring Fields Sites and Associated Costs			
Proposed Mooring Field Sites	Year 1	Year 2	Cost
	Design/Permitting	Installation	
Jewfish Creek anchorage	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Buttonwood Sound anchorage	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
Boca Chica Basin anchorage	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
			\$1,500,000

Total project cost: \$1,500,000
 Other/Secured funding: \$500,000 from Monroe County: (secured cash match funding)
Funding requested: \$1,000,000 from Restore Act

Monroe County is prepared to proceed with the implementation of one of the three mooring fields regardless of Restore Act funding. Monroe County has budgeted \$500,000 (see attached) which will be used for both Design/Permitting and Installation of one mooring field. The Feasibility Study currently being conducted will be used to initiate implementation of one mooring field, and will assist with implementation of two additional mooring fields if Restore Act funding is secured.

The Keys-Wide Mooring Field project is an effective use of funds, as there will be a net savings realized by the reduction in derelict vessels generated, elimination of vessel sewage being discharged into the water column, and protection of the benthic environment by eliminating the scouring created by anchors and chains. New jobs will also be created for the management of the mooring fields.

9. **Technical Feasibility:** *(Explain how this project is technically feasible; ie, how do you know that this is a feasible project that can be implemented and that will result in success. Describe the technologies involved. Describe relevant past experience or proven success with this type of technology and this type of project. Describe why this project is likely to succeed?)*

Maximum 5 pts. Is this approach likely to work?

Monroe County is experienced in the development and maintenance of mooring fields. The Monroe County Marine Resource Office performed the planning and design work for the Boot Key Harbor Mooring Field located in Marathon in the middle Keys, and provided oversight for the installation of Phase I, including 25 moorings. That mooring field, now owned and managed by the City of Marathon, has 226 moorings and is one of the most successful mooring fields in the country. Mooring systems are based on the helical embedment anchor system, equipped with Stormsoft shock absorbing down-lines. This system is also used in the Key West mooring field, as well as other mooring fields throughout Florida. The County anticipates utilizing the same mooring system for the proposed mooring fields.

Monroe County is currently utilizing Coastal Systems International (CSI) for a Feasibility Study to provide preliminary data and recommendations prior to submittal of final design and environmental permit applications for the mooring fields. CSI is experienced in planning and design projects in the marine environment, and has been involved with several mooring field development and build projects in Florida (Dinner Key mooring field, Sarasota mooring field, Naples mooring field).

- 10. Readiness for Implementation/Permitting Considerations:** *(What steps are necessary and how long will it take to implement this project? Describe the required design and permitting work required for implementation. How far along is the design and permitting? Has it started? Is it complete? If required permits have already been obtained, please attach copies. If the design has been completed, please attach copy of the design work. If the design work has not yet begun, please tell us how long this will take. If permits are required, but not yet obtained, please discuss how you know your project will qualify for the required permits and how long will this permit process take. In other words, if your project is not shovel-ready, what is entailed and how long will it take to before it becomes shovel-ready? Identify the specific milestones and timeframe for each.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Is the timeframe realistic? Is the permitting achievable? Is the timeframe acceptable?

Monroe County has begun a Feasibility Study (conducted by Coastal Systems International) to evaluate the three proposed mooring field sites, consider physical and environmental permitting factors, and provide preliminary design plans. The products of the Feasibility Study will help streamline the final design/permit process by providing the groundwork for the mooring field development, as well as identification of any potential permitting issues. The Feasibility Study final report (scheduled for completion in September) is anticipated to be presented to the County Commission in October 2013. Based on BOCC acceptance of the Feasibility Study recommendations, the Year 1 tasks (design/permitting) may proceed as early as late fall 2013.

Monroe County does not anticipate any issues that may delay the start or completion of the project. Mooring field implementation has the full support of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). Based on BOCC direction to proceed, the County will issue a Request for Qualifications to award a contract for the design/permit/build of the proposed mooring fields.

- 11. Project Completion Timetable:** *(Once the project can be implemented, what are the steps and how long will it take to complete the project? Identify milestones and timeframe for each.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Timeframe realistic? Is the timeframe acceptable?

The timeline for completion of the Keys-Wide Mooring Field System is two years. The Feasibility Study, currently underway, will provide the preliminary groundwork for mooring field implementation by performing site evaluations, determining permitting feasibility and availability of potential shoreside service facilities, and developing a conceptual mooring field design for the first of the three mooring fields. The Feasibility Study will make recommendations for a public/private management arrangement, as well as developing elements to be included in a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Upon completion of the Feasibility Study (September 2013) the RFQ will be issued, and based on responses, a contract will be awarded for the Design/Permitting and Construction of the first of three mooring fields. It is anticipated that the Design/Permitting phase will be completed in Year 1, and the Construction phase completed in Year 2.

- 12. Environmental Benefits:** *(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. Identify and quantify all environmental benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated? How long before benefits are realized? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. Please address any potential environmental impacts (ie, loss of habitat) associated with implementing or maintaining the project.)*

Maximum 10 pts. Are the benefits impactful? Do the benefits address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?

Management of currently unmanaged anchorages is necessary to ensure the protection of marine environmental resources in the Florida Keys and address the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels. Anchoring impacts in crowded Keys' anchorages is well documented, and the use of managed mooring fields is an accepted and proven strategy to address the variety of anchoring and boating impacts. Mooring fields are recommended in the Monroe County Comprehensive Plan, the Monroe County Boating Impacts Management Plan, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan. In 2009 the Florida Legislature recognized the need to address statewide anchoring impacts and specifically included Monroe County as one of five Pilot Program sites in the State to test regulatory regimes designed to address anchoring impacts and support the use and development of mooring fields. Monroe County developed anchoring regulations in 2012 for several overcrowded anchorages in the Keys, including Boca Chica Basin. The implementation of additional mooring fields at Boca Chica Basin, and other high priority sites, is supported by the Pilot Program and will serve to enhance the management of

vessel anchoring. Managed mooring fields, combined with Pilot Program anchoring regulations, will be part of a comprehensive system of vessel management in Monroe County.

Restore Act funding of Keys mooring fields is anticipated to provide the following benefits:

- *Improved water quality through the provision of mooring field pumpout service*
- *Management of currently unmanaged liveaboard anchorages*
- *Reduction of anchoring generated seagrass scarring and coral damage*
- *Elimination of derelict and abandoned vessels*
- *Economic boost through the creation of additional jobs*
- *Improved/expanded boating infrastructure for cruising vessels*
- *Supports tourism*

Benefits of the Keys-Wide Mooring Field System will be realized at the end of Year 2 of the project, with the installation of mooring fields at Boca Chica Basin, Jewfish Creek and Buttonwood Sound. Placing local liveaboard and transient vessels on moorings, combined with mooring field regulations and shoreside service providers, will ensure immediate environmental improvements with the removal of anchors, chains and other marine debris currently used by vessels in anchorages. In addition anticipated mooring field regulations, supported through a state sovereign submerged land lease, will not allow for stored vessels which are often unattended for extended periods of time. These implementations will ensure that only proper, seaworthy vessels are moored and that no benthic damage is allowed to occur. Mobile pumpout vessels will perform regular required pumpouts, ensuring that the anchorages are free of overboard discharge (currently occurring in many crowded anchorages). The managed mooring fields will also save the County and State hundreds of thousands of dollars currently spent for the removal of derelict vessels.

The provision and required use of pumpout vessels in the proposed mooring fields will provide great environmental benefit. The illegal overboard discharge of sewage from vessels creates nutrient loading and presents a significant health concern to the public. The implementation of mooring fields distributed throughout the Keys will ensure that cruising vessels have pumpout facilities when transiting the Keys, and staying in the various mooring field facilities.

- 13. Economic Benefits:** *(Describe the economic benefits that will be achieved. Identify and quantify all economic benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated? When do you expect to see the results? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? How will you ensure the achievement of long-term benefits? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. If this is a workforce development project please describe how the project will result in new, expanded or retained business development opportunities and job creation. Please include detail about what types of jobs will be created? How many and when? What is the anticipated annual salary or hourly rate, are the jobs full time or part time, are benefits included, etc.?)*

Maximum 10 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?

Monroe County's marine environment, including the only barrier reef in the country, both directly and indirectly generates more than 70,000 jobs and \$6 billion dollars in economic activity annually, according to a study published in 2005 by the University of Miami (*Towards Sustainable Multispecies Fisheries in the Florida, USA, Coral Reef Ecosystem, Bulletin of Marine Science, 2005; Ault, Jerald, et al.*). Each year, \$1.3 billion is spent in marine outdoor activities by almost 3 million visitors; it provides 58% of all jobs (FKNMS Revised Management Plan, 2007; Sanctuary Biennial Report Part 2 to Congress 2013). Water related activities, including snorkeling, diving, fishing, and other activities support 33,000 jobs in the Florida Keys (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet). From 2007 to 2008, more than 400,000 visitors and residents of the Florida Keys engaged in over 2 million person-days of recreational sport fishing. These recreational fishers spend \$262 million in Monroe County, approximately \$103 million of which was directly spent on fishing items (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet). Approximately 739,000 visitors and residents participated in 2.8 million days of diving in the Florida Keys from 2007-2008; \$51.7 million was spent at diving/snorkeling operations. Moreover, divers spend a total of \$450 million in Monroe County, Florida Keys, supporting more than 7,500 jobs (NOAA, FKNMS Socioeconomics Factsheet).

The health of the marine environment is critical to the economy of the Keys and the significant tourism base. Improvements to the environment to be provided by the mooring field project will help ensure the sustainability of boating, diving, and other marine related tourism.

The use of managed mooring fields, particularly by local liveaboards, is a regulated means of ensuring that vessels are maintained and are not allowed to come in contact with the seafloor; a primary cause of benthic damage. In addition, moorings ensure that vessels are secure and not allowed to break loose; a common occurrence with traditionally (and often haphazardly) anchored vessels. The required use of provided mobile pumpout vessels eliminates the occurrence of illegal overboard discharge, typical in historic unmanaged anchorages. These implementations are anticipated to provide a much needed behavioral and cultural change in living aboard in the Keys, by providing liveaboard boaters with the tools and infrastructure to liveaboard responsibly. In addition, the provision of shoreside service facilities provides mooring field patrons with convenient shoreside access and amenities, eliminating the need to access the shore in, quite often, inappropriate or unapproved locations. These implementations provide a significant social benefit to both boaters and land-side property owners.

- 14. Community Economic and/or Environmental Resilience Benefits:** *(Describe if the project assists with our community's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover (environmentally and/or economically) from hazards or threats, eg. hurricane evacuation, flood mitigation and prevention, future oil spills, shoreline protection, etc.)*

Maximum 5 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits?

Properly designed mooring fields and engineered moorings provide not only secure mooring for vessels during normal weather conditions, but are also far superior to traditional ground tackle during storm events; quite common in the Florida Keys. Rock embedment helical anchors, mated with Stormsoft downlines have proven to be resilient in a number of hurricanes in the Florida Keys and other parts of Florida, with no documented storm-related failures. The shock-absorbing Stormsoft downlines ensure that the shock of vessels being tossed in heavy chop is absorbed, preventing jerking and potential failure of the mooring anchor and hardware. While post-storm recovery presents a significant effort to local governments in the Keys (e.g. derelict vessel cleanup, channel marker rebuilding, etc.) the security of engineered moorings and managed mooring fields lessens the impacts and associated recovery efforts, and ensures that suitable moorings are available after the storm event.

Mooring fields not only keep vessels secure during storm events, but help protect nearby maritime infrastructure including markers, dockage and other shoreline structures. The three mooring fields proposed will help protect marine and other shoreline facilities adjacent to those mooring fields, as well as shallow water resources that would otherwise be impacted by unsecure wind driven vessels.

- 15. Complements to Existing Efforts/Public Acceptance:** *(How does the project complement existing local, regional or state efforts/plans/objectives or on-going efforts/activities. Explain why your project does not interfere or conflict with any existing efforts, and why your project is not duplicative of any existing efforts. Also, please explain whether your project is consistent with/included in a local government Comprehensive plan, Capital plan, Mitigation Plan, Wastewater or Storm Water Master Plan, etc. If not part of an already approved plan, please describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project. Explain any efforts to determine public acceptance.)*

5 pts. Does the project align with county and/or municipal priorities? Is there clear public support?

The implementation of a Keys-Wide Mooring Field System is consistent with the goals of the Monroe County 2010 Comprehensive Plan and objectives of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan, and complements F.S. 327.4105 which established the Pilot Program for Anchoring and Mooring. The goals of the Pilot Program are to encourage the establishment of additional public mooring fields and to develop and test policies and regulatory regimes that: promote the establishment and use of mooring fields, promote public access to waters of the state, enhance navigational safety, protect maritime infrastructure, protect marine environment, and deter improperly stored, abandoned or derelict vessels. The Keys-Wide Mooring Field System supports and provides for the above objectives and furthers the vision and objectives of Monroe County and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The regulations authorized by the Pilot Program and ordained by Monroe County will be optimized with the establishment of additional mooring fields and the authority, through the Pilot Program, to regulate vessels within and outside of those mooring fields.

Implementation of mooring fields in Monroe County furthers the efforts of the DEP Southeast District's former 'Drop a Hook' program to establish managed mooring fields every 25-50 miles

throughout the state. The DEP Drop a Hook program was instrumental in the development of the Boot Key Harbor mooring field in the middle Keys.

- 16. Compliance with Federal, State, Local Regulations:** *(Describe how the project complies with all regulations. Note: Additional restrictions and requirements may be applicable based on US Treasury guidance to be established pursuant to the RESTORE Act.) No points awarded, since compliance with regulations is a requirement.*

The proposed Keys-Wide Mooring Field System project is consistent with Monroe County Comprehensive Plan Objective 202.4 which addresses the siting of mooring fields and the reduction of pollutant discharges into surface waters, and Monroe County Code Sec.26-37 which establishes rules and regulations for existing and future mooring fields.

Local, state and federal permit applications will be prepared and submitted for the proposed mooring fields. Monroe County will adhere to all applicable regulations. The Feasibility Study (currently underway) will include pre-application meetings with state and federal agencies to discuss current regulations and criteria and introduce agency representatives to the proposed project. Monroe County anticipates applying for sovereign submerged land leases for the three mooring fields.

- 17. Project Management Capacity:** *(We expect that all funded projects will receive a high degree of scrutiny from both state and federal agencies throughout their duration both programmatically and financially, and will be required to comply with a rigorous standard for monitoring, reporting and auditing of both results and expenditures.*

Please also note that the framework for RESTORE Act project funding has not yet defined but will likely draw significantly from federal grant guidelines, rules, regulations and requirements. Therefore, assuming the applicant entity will be responsible for implementing and administering its project according to federal grant guidelines, concisely:

- 1. Describe the expertise, experience and prior success of the organization and persons to implement the type and size project proposed here.*
- 2. Describe the organization's experience with federal grant requirements, and with management of government grant-funded projects of this type and size, including financial and outcomes, monitoring, reporting and auditing.*
- 3. Describe your plan for programmatic and financial management, oversight and monitoring.*
- 4. Describe the project management team, including the names, qualifications, experience and prior success of those responsible for design, implementation, outcomes achievement, and financial management.)*

Maximum 10 pts. *Does the organization or sponsor have the demonstrated ability and experience to implement/administer this project, and deliver on the outcomes?*

1. Staff of the Monroe County Marine Resources Office has the background and experience necessary to carry out the implementation of mooring fields. Marine Resources staff was instrumental in the implementation of the first phase of the Boot Key Harbor Mooring field in Marathon, Florida, and continues to work closely with management of the Boot Key Harbor and Key West (Garrison Bight) mooring fields in the funding and maintenance of

those mooring fields. The County anticipates hiring a qualified, experienced consultant to provide for the design, permitting, and construction of the mooring fields. County staff will provide oversight of the awarded consulting team, ensuring coordination and the successful completion of mooring field implementation.

2. Monroe County staff regularly works with both state and federal grant programs in the application and management of grants. Staff of the County Marine Resources Office will be the grant manager for the Restore Act grant, and provide oversight of grant funding, expenditures, reporting, monitoring and auditing.
3. County staff will provide all oversight and processing of grant expenditures in accordance with the terms of the grant contract and Monroe County policies and procedures. Staff will maintain all programmatic and budgetary files, documents, invoices, etc. in adherence with County procedures, and under the oversight of the County Clerks Office.
4. The consulting firm (yet to be determined) will be chosen through the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. The duties of the awarded consulting firm will be stipulated by contract. The RFQ, and resulting contract award, is anticipated to be completed in late 2013. Upon execution of the contract, information (names, qualifications, etc) will be made available and provided to the applicable granting authority.

- 18. Additional Information:** *(Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in understanding the project. Please be mindful of the electronic file size of your application. We will be forwarding this application to various reviewers/recipients electronically. Many servers do not accept large file sizes. Also limit attachments to those measuring 8x11 that can reproduced with little or no expense (limit color photos, blueprint type documents,etc).*

The following map illustrates the location and distribution of the proposed (and existing) mooring fields that would comprise the Keys-Wide Mooring Field System.

