Table 4.1. Summary of Experts' Responses to Data Availability and Threshold Questions

Expert	Current Research	Can Absolute Thresholds be Addressed?
Mike Durako, UNC	• Water quality vs. seagrass cover in Florida (Fourqurean and Rutton) • Water quality vs. seagrass in Chesapeake Bay (Dennison) • Seagrass recovery from prop-scarring (Kenworthy)	May be able to find thresholds for some factors
Jim Fourqurean, FIU	• Water quality vs. seagrass cover in Florida	Not discussed
Frank Sargent, FMRI	• Prop-scarring of seagrass beds.	Not discussed
Carmello Tomas, UNC (Wilmington)	• Phytoplankton nutrient bioassays in Florida Bay • Monthly surveys of phytoplankton biomass, primary productivity and C-14 in Florida Bay • Phytoplankton species abundance	Difficult for three reasons: • Very little data on role of benthic nutrient recycling • Limiting nutrients vary spatially • Phytoplankton responses in Florida Bay differ from other areas studied (e.g., Chesapeake Bay)
John Hunt, FMRI	• Florida Bay phytoplankton studies (Tomas) • Phytoplankton dynamics model (Phillips) • Phytoplankton monitoring in outer Florida Bay (Hitchcock)	Sufficient data do not yet exist. Nobody is modeling inshore phytoplankton population dynamics
Karen Bjorndal, University of Florida	• Density-dependent nesting in Costa Rica • Seagrass bed carrying capacity for green turtles • Carrying capacity of juveniles in seagrasses of Florida Bay (Schroeder)	Yes, but only in general terms. Principal concern is nesting and foraging habitat availability
Allen Foley, FMRI	• Nesting, turtle stranding and boat collision databases for FMRI	Not discussed
Mike Roblee, (USGS/FIU)	• Larval shrimp recruitment in the Keys (Criales)	Pink shrimp limited primarily by seagrass habitat availability
Kevin McCarthy (FMRI)	• Queen conch hatchery experiments (larval survival) • Population monitoring at 30 sites in Keys • Queen conch life history studies • Effects of pesticides on larval conch (proposal)	Difficult with queen conch. Unlikely to ever define minimum viable population size. It may be possible to define critical habitat areas for conch. May also define general parameters affecting growth rates at some point
Jerry Lorenz,	• Roseate spoonbills and prey	Only in very broad terms, primarily

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Audubon	(schooling fish) availability in the Upper Keys • Effects of changes in wet-dry season water availability on schooling fish community structure	with preservation of existing habitat and timing/volume of freshwater release into Florida Bay from SFWMD canals
Tom Bancroft, The Wilderness Society	• No longer conducting Keys research	Yes, in terms of amount of habitat necessary to sustain species
Numi Mitchell, The Conservation Agency	• Iguanid lizards in the Turks and Caicos	Data do not seem to be available for this, except as amount of habitat
Phil Frank, USFWS	• Ongoing census work for silver rice rat	No – relationships, in general, are far too vague. Better to focus on habitat preservation since the availability of appropriate habitat has the greatest effect on most terrestrial species of concern in the Keys.
Randy Kautz, FFWCC	• Recently completed a "sequel" to "Closing the Gaps"	Unclear. There is a need for additional information.
Mike Ross (FIU)	• Fire ecology of Big Pine Key pinelands (ongoing) • Key Largo hammock ecology (beginning)	• Limiting factors for pinelands are freshwater, fire and development • Limiting factors for hammocks development-related (fragmentation, edge effects, etc.) • Absolute thresholds are not available – for example, nobody has quantified (or even defined) edge effects on microclimate for rockridge communities