



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process Overview

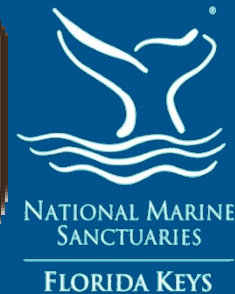
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges:
Backcountry Management Plan

Sean Morton
Sanctuary Superintendent

Nancy Finley
Refuge Complex Manager

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

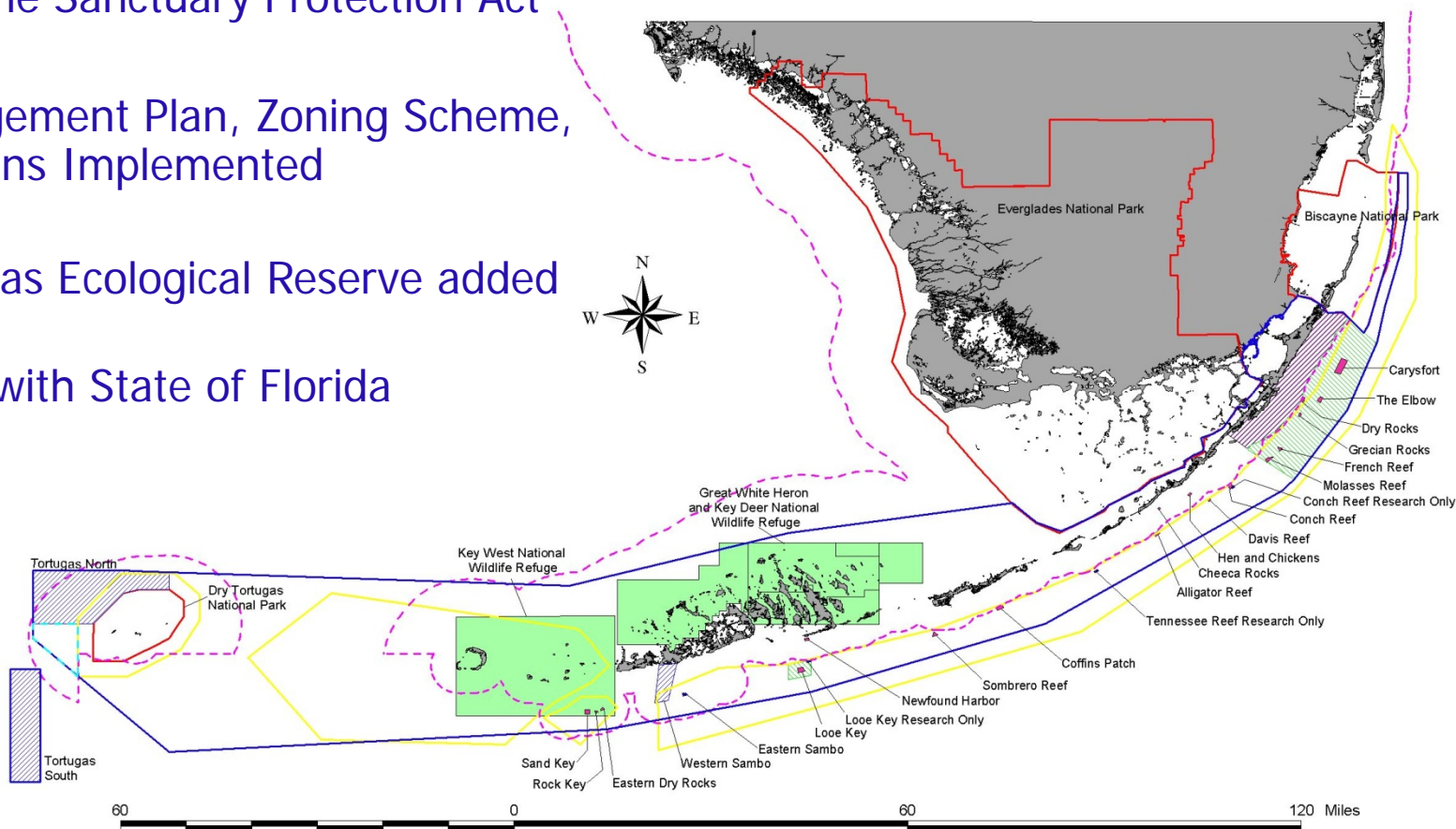


1990 - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

1997 - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

2001 - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added

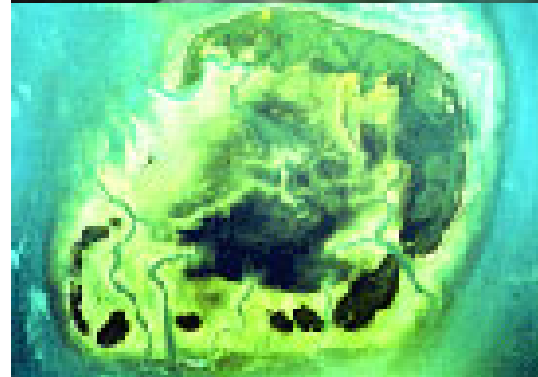
Co-Managed with State of Florida (DEP/FWC)



Key West and Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuges



- Key West NWR – First national wildlife refuge in Florida Keys – established in 1908
- Great White Heron NWR established in 1938
- Protected as Existing Management Areas and Wildlife Management Areas in sanctuary's zoning and regulations
- Update to Backcountry Management Plan: management agreement between State of Florida and USFWS

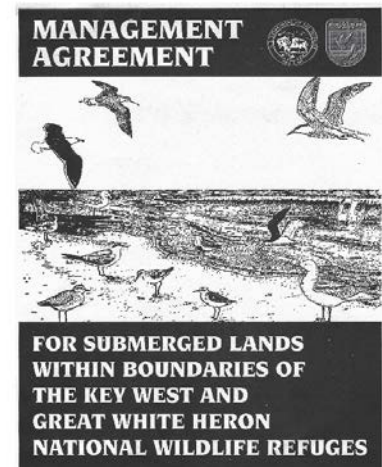
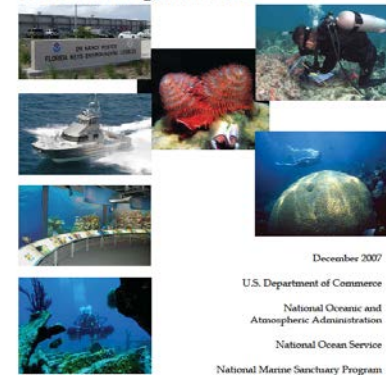


Why conduct the review?



- Community interest!
- Periodic evaluation and public input is good management
- Science shows we can make improvements in management
- Emerging threats – climate change, invasive species, new marine uses
- Requirements – federal law and state resolutions, action plans adopted in 2007

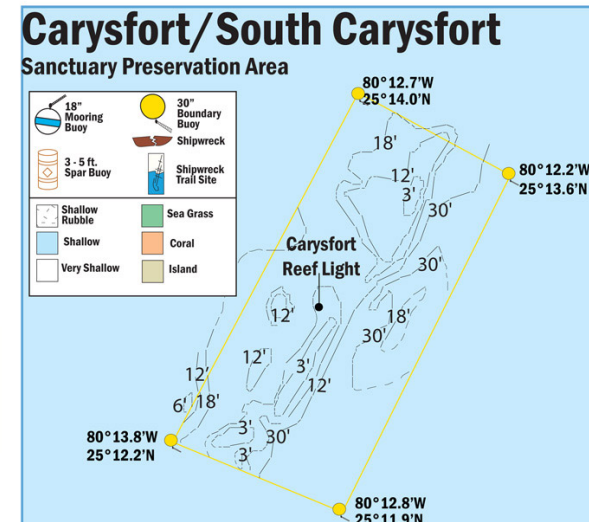
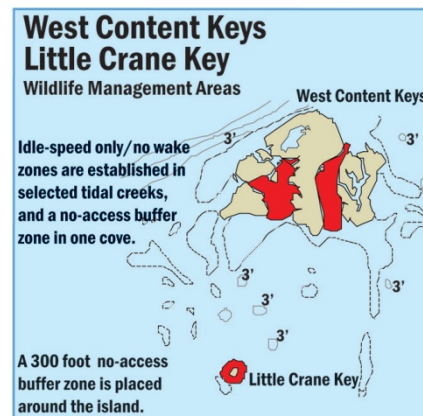
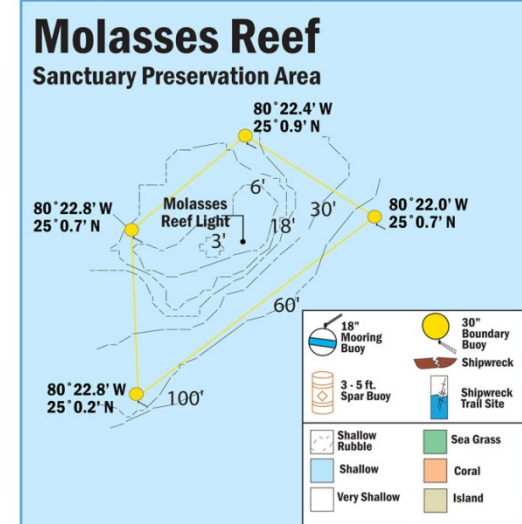
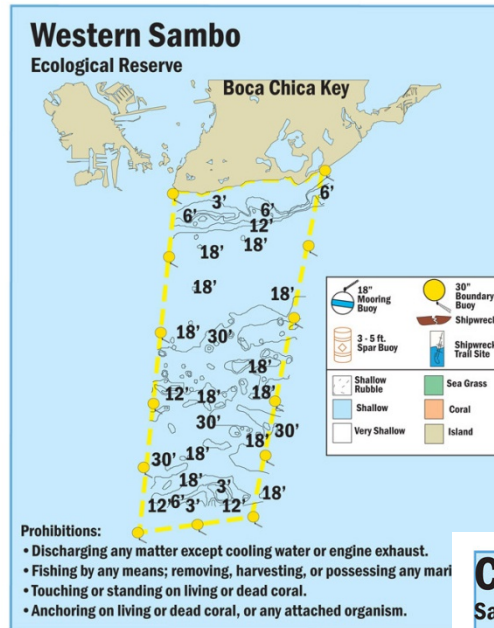
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan



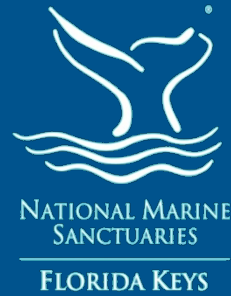
Marine Zoning for User Conflicts and Resource Protection



- Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) and Ecological Reserves (ERs) – No Take Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) – Access and Boating Restrictions
- Existing Management Areas (EMA) – Previously Designated Zones / Regulations
- Special Use Areas – Research Only



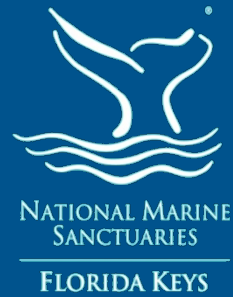
What types of things do the Sanctuary and Refuge regulate?



- Dumping / Discharges
- Spearfishing
- Fishing
- Vessel Speed
- Personal Watercraft
- Vessel Access
- Groundings
- Marine Construction & Dredging
- Oil and Gas Development
- Touching / Standing on Coral
- Diving / Snorkeling
- Marine Life / Aquarium Collection



Sanctuary Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts

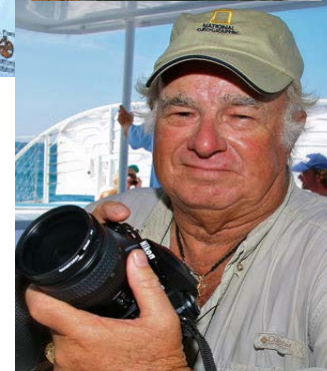


Community-based advisory group

Lead role in conducting review

Representing:

- Boating Industry
- Elected County Official
- Citizens at Large (3)
- Conservation (2)
- Research
- Education
- Tourism (2)
- Diving (2)
- Charter Fishing (2)
- Commercial Fishing (2)
- Recreational Fishing
- Submerged Cultural Resources
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration



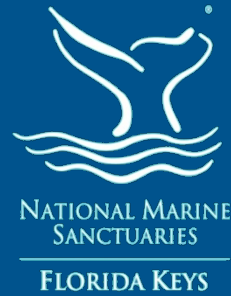
What happens to the public comment?



- Public comments collected, categorized and provided to Sanctuary Advisory Council
- Sanctuary Advisory Council identified and prioritized issues to be addressed
- Sanctuary Advisory Council forms working groups, conducts workshops, develops regulatory alternatives and recommendations to NOAA and USFWS



Working Groups



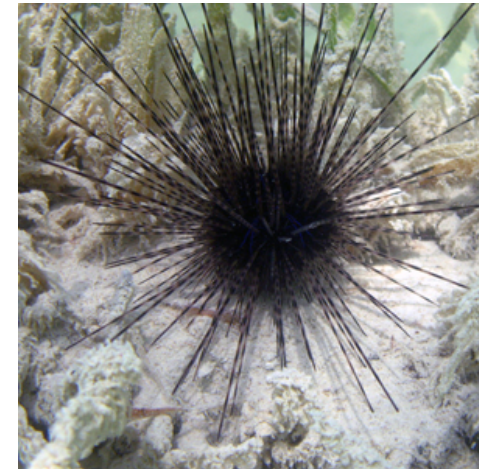
Sanctuary Advisory Council endorsed the following Working Groups:

- Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
- Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
- Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection

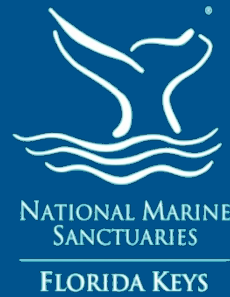
Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Objectives



- Identify specific areas and zones for active restoration of coral reef ecosystem.
- Identify regulatory impediments and appropriate permitting conditions for active restoration of coral reef ecosystem species.
- Identify adaptive management measures and criteria for opening area closed for restoration purposes (i.e. performance standards for sunset).



Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection – Objectives



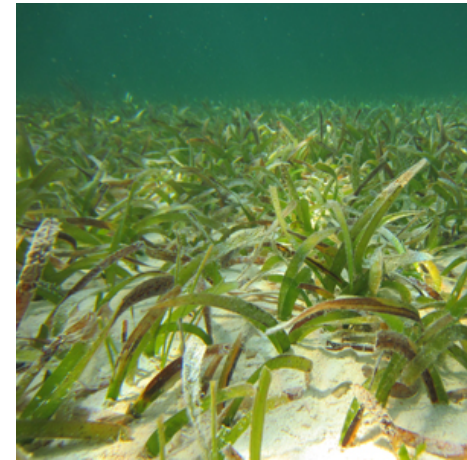
- Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness in protecting wildlife and their habitats under current as well as emerging public uses and environmental conditions
- Develop recommendations considering existing regulations and zoning – mainly use of vessel restrictions on access, anchoring, speed, and channel marking – to further protect seagrass and critical shallow water habitats in FKNMS.
- Address concentrated uses that diminish and destroy seagrass and shallow water habitats.

Cont.

Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection – Objectives



- Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed and encouraged for public and private uses.
- Identify seagrass and shallow water habitat areas for exclusion to allow for research control areas.
- Evaluate mangrove habitat protection for bird nesting.
- Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods

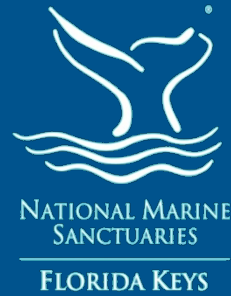


Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection – Objectives



- Review and evaluate existing reserves designated for protection of coral reef ecosystems.
- Review current exceptions to regulations in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves.
- Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.
- Recommend new or modified ecological reserves to ensure protection of a diversity of resources:
 - Spawning aggregations
 - Full suite of marine flora and fauna

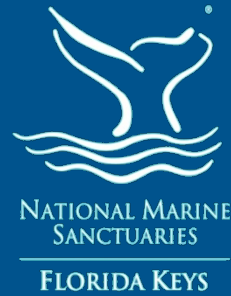
Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection – Objectives



- Consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts associated with intense uses or seasonal ecological activities (i.e., nesting, breeding, spawning).
- Ensure the FKNMS zoning scheme promotes sustainable use of the sanctuary resources and protects areas that represent diverse habitats as well as areas important for maintaining natural resources and ecosystem functions.



Looking Ahead: Timeline for Review



Fall 2012 – Fall 2013

- Working groups, workshops, science evaluation
- Advisory Council develops draft recommendations

Spring 2014 – Fall 2014

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- State and Federal Coordination
- Fishery Management and Endangered Species Consultations
- Public Comment

Spring / Summer 2015

- Final Regulations / Final EIS / Record of Decision

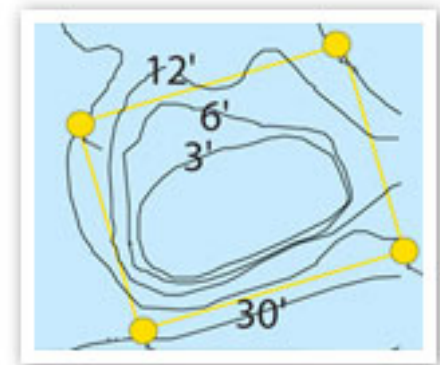
How to keep engaged and where to find more information:



Visit our website at floridakeys.noaa.gov

Contact your Advisory Council Working Group Chair:

- **Shallow Water:** Jack Curlett - jackcurlett@bellsouth.net
- **Coral Ecosystem Restoration:** Ken Nedimyer - sealifefl@bellsouth.net
- **Ecosystem Protection:** Chris Bergh – cbergh@tnc.org



MARINE ZONING &
REGULATORY REVIEW

Follow us on Facebook:

facebook.com/floridakeysnoaagov
facebook.com/floridakeysrefuges

Contact us at:

sean.morton@noaa.gov
Beth.dieveney@noaa.gov

