National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Protection Work Group Objectives

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

Florida Keys National Wildlife Refuges:
Backcountry Management Plan

Jack Curlett
Sanctuary Advisory
Council Lead

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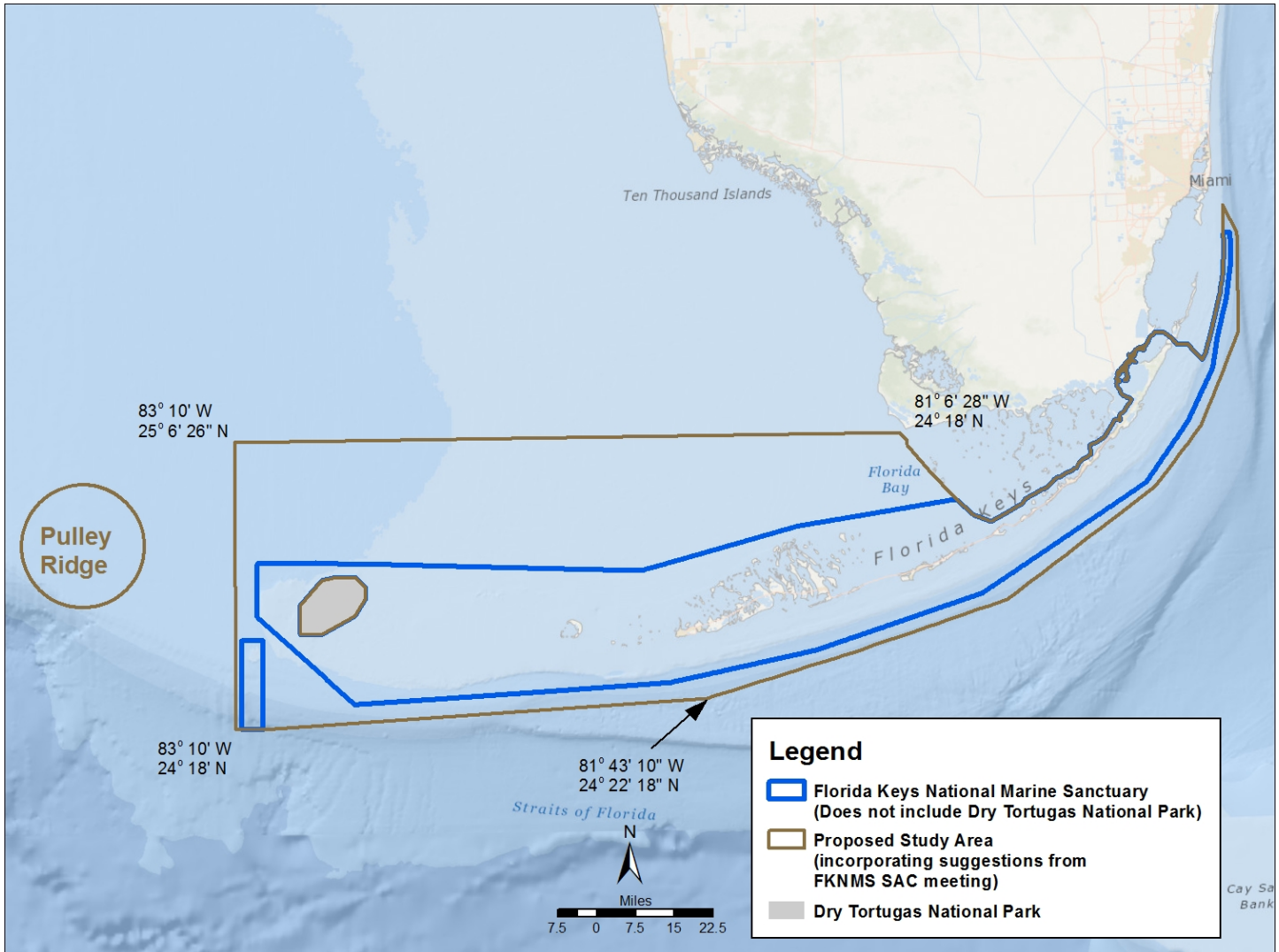
Working Groups

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

Study Area


Ten Thousand Islands
Miami
83° 10' W
25° 6' 26" N
81° 6' 28" W
24° 18' N
Florida Bay
Florida Keys
Pulley Ridge
83° 10' W
24° 18' N
81° 43' 10" W
24° 22' 18" N
Straits of Florida
N
Miles
7.5 0 7.5 15 22.5
Legend
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Does not include Dry Tortugas National Park)
Proposed Study Area (incorporating suggestions from FKNMS SAC meeting)
Dry Tortugas National Park

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.

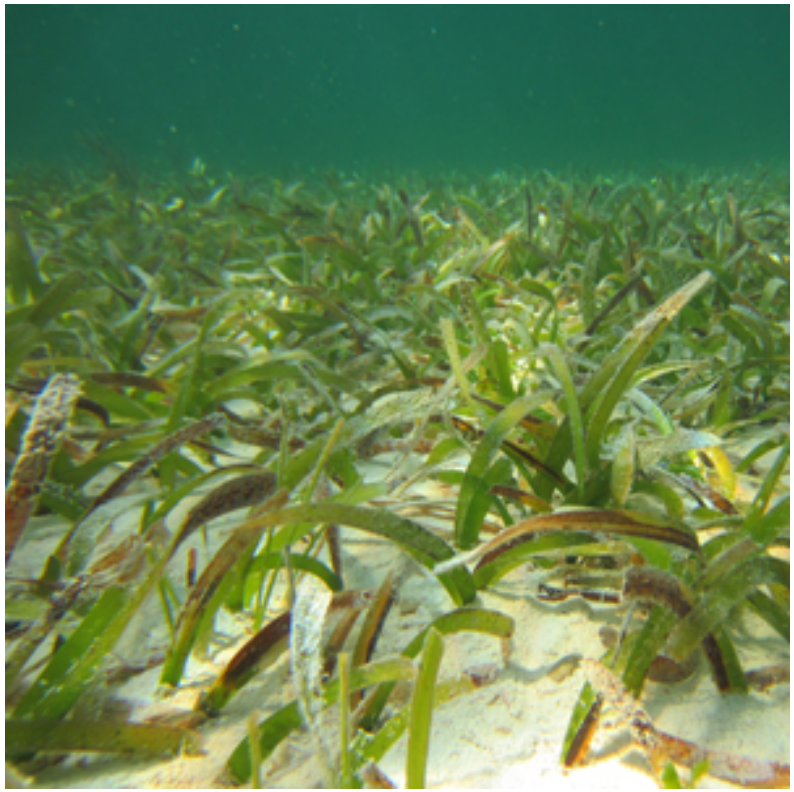
Cont.

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

Discussion

- Clarifying questions
- Identify individual and group interests
- Commit to the working group and its charge

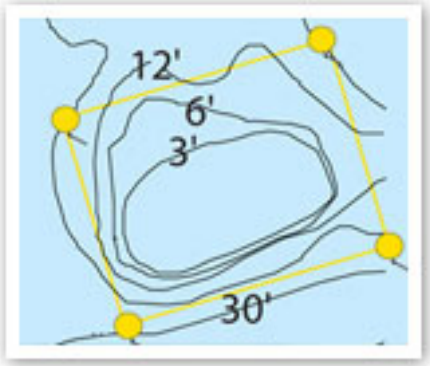


How to keep engaged and where to find more information:

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

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OTHER WG OBJECTIVES

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).

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

Cont.

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