



# Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas & Wildlife Protection Working Group: Progress & Next Steps



Chris Bergh  
Sanctuary Advisory Council – Conservation & Environment  
Working Group Chair

# Working Group Membership: Sanctuary Advisory Council



- Chris Bergh, SAC Conservation and Environment
- Ben Daughtry, SAC Commercial Fishing – Marine/Tropical
- Ted Lund, SAC Fishing Charter Flats Guide
- Suzy Roebling, SAC Citizen at Large – Upper Keys
- Joe Weatherby, SAC Tourism

# Working Group Membership: Community / Public



- Maria Brandvold, Recreational Fisherman
- Tad Burke, Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association
- Mark Chiappone, NOVA Southeastern University
- Don DeMaria, Sea Sampler
- Tim Grollimund, SCUBA Diving Columnist/Underwater Photographer
- Manny Herrera, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Ernie Piton, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Dave Vandenbosch, Captain Hooks Dive Center and Marina
- Scott Saunders, Fury Water Adventures
- Mimi Stafford, Reef Relief

# Working Group 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.

# Working Group 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.

# March 14, 2013



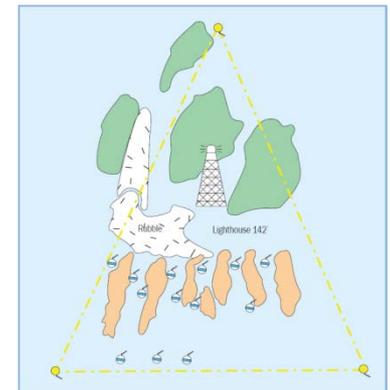
- Clarified role and authority of working group
- Identified
  - ✓ Specific ground rules for operation
  - ✓ Current FKNMS marine zoning and regulatory scheme
  - ✓ Work plan and objectives
  - ✓ Mapping and science support



# April 4, 2013



- Presentation:
  - ✓ Existing zones and regulations (Mary Tagliareni, FKNMS)
  - ✓ Current conditions and status of resources (Scott Donahue, FKNMS)
  - ✓ Reef ecosystem resilience (Dr. Rob Van Woesik) (see SAC Principle 4)
- Identified:
  - ✓ Primary habitats, resources, and data layers
  - ✓ Study areas and geographic regions to be considered
- Voted: to classify all areas of the Sanctuary as a specific zone type



May 2, 2013

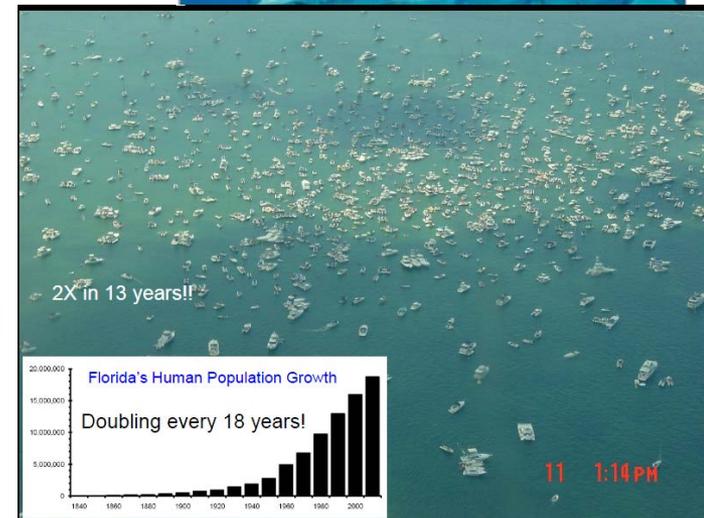


- Presentations:
  - ✓ Review working group process and timeline (Sean Morton).
  - ✓ Case Study – Tortugas Zone Performance (Dr. Tracy Ziegler, NPS)
  - ✓ Benthic Communities and Zoning (Dr. Steven Miller, NOVA SE)
  - ✓ Fish Communities and Zoning (Dr. Jerald Ault, UM - RSMAS)
- Discussed:
  - ✓ Defined ecosystem protection as it applies to the working group objectives.
  - ✓ Effects of zoning on fish and benthic communities
  - ✓ Criteria and factors to consider for Ecosystem Protection

May 23 , 2013



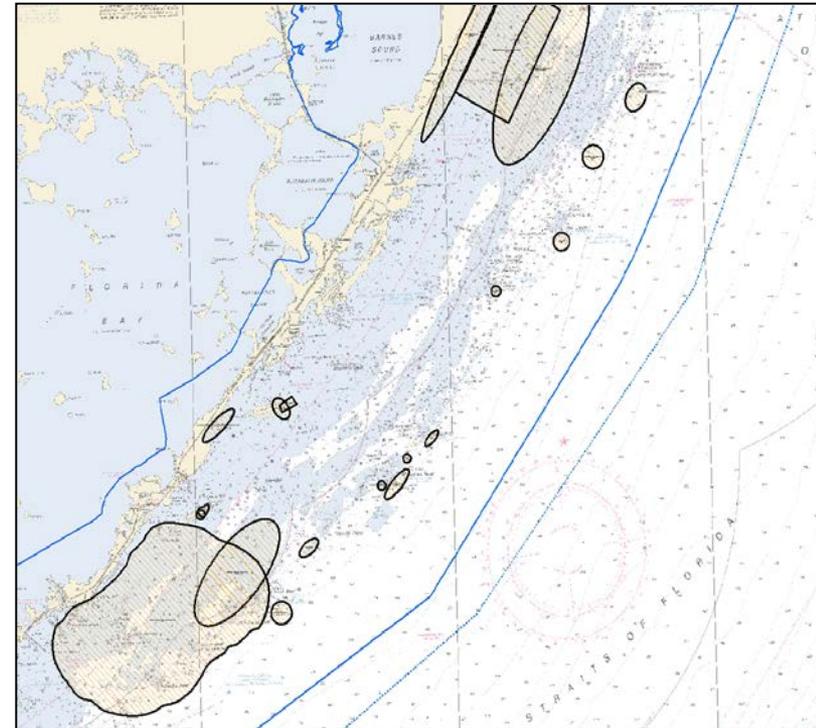
- Presentations: Reef Fish Spawning Aggregations (Danielle Morley, FWC / FWRI)
- Discussed fisheries management and fisheries regulation
  - ✓ This working group should not consider species specific recommendations.
- Identified a range of ecosystem protection components to consider when making recommendations regarding fish spawning aggregations.



May 23 , 2013  
(con't)



- Exercise: WG members identify and map ecosystem components, areas, and uses.
- Vote: If four or more meetings are missed, voting by that member is not allowed.
- Homework assignment:
  - ✓ Review SPA and ER spreadsheet and provide suggestions and justifications for boundary modifications.



# June 13, 2013

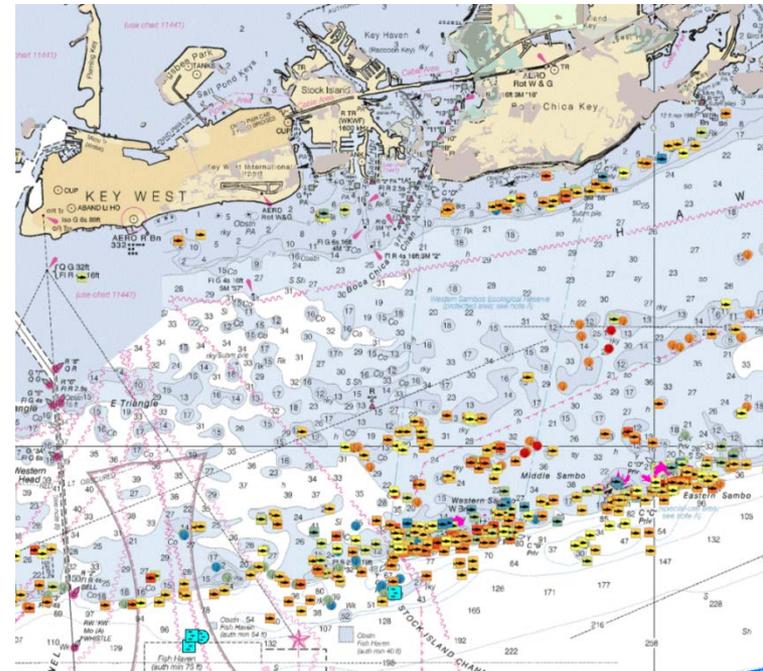


- Presentation: Performance Evaluation of Western Sambo Ecological Reserve (John Hunt, FWC )
- Discussed:
  - ✓ WSER boundary as it relates to the working group objectives
  - ✓ Cross cut issues across all ERs and SPAs (e.g., baitfishing, anchoring, catch and release, consistent regulations, etc.)
  - ✓ Reviewed maps and tables of existing ERs & SPAs, along with some member's recommended modifications and justifications
  - ✓ The potential of altering FKNMS and TER boundaries in the Tortugas region.

# June 13, 2013 Meeting 5 (con't)



- Identified:
  - ✓ Select biological information in SPAs and ERs as it relates to the SAC and working group objectives
  - ✓ Discussed boundary modifications and justifications for existing SPAs and ERs.
  - ✓ Additional GIS data needs for the working group



# Decisions of Note



- Administrative decisions
  - ✓ Identified working group members and rules of operation
  - ✓ Identified available scientific/data resources and mapping tools
  - ✓ Voted in favor of SAC principle 2
  - ✓ Voted that members can miss no more than three meetings before losing voting privilege.
- No formal recommendations for Advisory Council at this time





# Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: [floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)

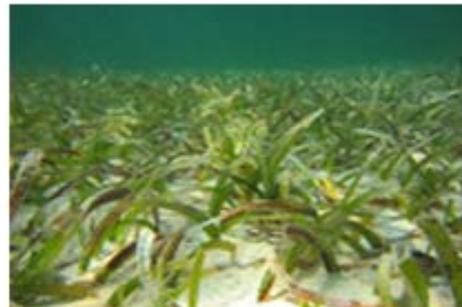


Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources: [http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms\\_zone\\_review](http://ocean.floridamarine.org/fknms_zone_review)



**Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group**  
Coral health in the sanctuary has declined over the past several

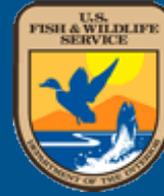


**Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group**  
Hardbottom communities and



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National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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