

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review
Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection Working Group**

Draft Criteria

Category	Marine Zoning Goals & Objectives	Shallow Water WG Objectives	Criteria
Biodiversity & Habitat	<p>To improve the diversity of natural biological communities in the Florida Keys to protect, and, where appropriate restore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes overall and in each of these sub regions Tortugas, Marquesas, Lower, Middle, and Upper Keys.</p> <p>Improve/maintain the condition of the biologically structured habitats.</p> <p>Increase abundance and condition of selected key species.</p>	<p>Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness in protecting wildlife and their habitats under current as well as emerging public uses and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Evaluate mangrove habitat protection for bird nesting.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas that would contain a range of shallow water natural biological diversity, ecological processes, and habitats necessary to sustain that biodiversity.</p> <p>Select areas in each of the sub-regions relevant to shallow water habitats Tortugas, Marquesas, Lower, Middle, and Upper Keys.</p>
Sustainability / Connectivity	<p>Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life and</p>	<p>Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness in protecting wildlife and their habitats under current as well as emerging public uses and environmental conditions.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas that protect large contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life.</p>

	<p>protect and preserve all habitats and species.</p> <p>Increase abundance and condition of selected key species.</p>	<p>Evaluate mangrove habitat protection for bird nesting.</p>	
Allowable uses/ compatible uses	<p>To facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities.</p> <p>Minimize conflicts among uses compatible with the National Marine Sanctuary.</p> <p>Prevent heavy concentrations of uses that degrade Sanctuary resources.</p>	<p>Address concentrated uses that diminish and destroy seagrass and shallow water habitats.</p> <p>Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed and encouraged for public and private uses.</p> <p>Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness in protecting wildlife and their habitats under current as well as emerging public uses and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas and craft regulations with the primary objective of resource protection that minimize adverse impacts from human uses and promote achieving the above criteria.</p> <p>Try to choose areas and craft regulations that minimize user conflict and prevent heavy concentrations of uses that degrade Sanctuary resources.</p>
Socio-Economic Impacts	<p>To facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities.</p>	<p>Address concentrated uses that diminish and destroy seagrass and shallow water habitats.</p> <p>Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed and encouraged for public and private uses.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas and craft recommendations that would serve to minimize adverse socio-economic impacts on established users of resources in the areas and achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.</p>

	Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.	Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods.	
Reference Area/ Monitoring *Not specifically identified by working group	Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research and control sites to help determine the effects of human activities.	Identify seagrass and shallow water habitat areas for exclusion to allow for research control areas.	Try to choose areas that would serve as undisturbed monitoring sites for research and control sites to help determine the effects of human activities. Research control or monitoring sites should be designed with a specific research question to be addressed and have specific criteria to determine success and length of closure.
Enforcement/ compliance	Reduce stresses from human activities by establishing areas that restrict access to sensitive wildlife populations and habitats.	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	Try to choose areas and craft regulations that would facilitate enforcement and encourage compliance.