

**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review  
Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group  
Draft Criteria**

Overarching concepts to consider when identifying areas for ecosystem protection:

- Consider incorporating temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts associated with intense uses or seasonal ecological activities.
- Incorporate mechanisms for flexibility and adaptive management.
- Create a zoning scheme that is simplified, clear, easy to understand, and enhances compliance.

Category	Marine Zoning Goals & Objectives	Ecosystem Protection WG Objectives	Criteria
<p><b>Biodiversity &amp; Habitat</b></p> <p><i>Protect habitat types and quality</i></p> <p><i>Productive habitats</i></p> <p><i>Unique</i></p> <p><i>Resilience</i></p> <p><i>Diversity</i></p> <p><i>Protect keystone processes / species</i></p> <p><i>Protected species</i></p>	<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>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.</p> <p>Review and evaluate existing reserves designated for protection of coral reef ecosystems.</p> <p>Recommend new or modified ERs to ensure protection of a diversity of resources: full suite of marine flora and fauna.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas that would contain a range of natural biological diversity, ecological processes, and habitats necessary to sustain that biodiversity.</p> <p>Include zones along the length of the Keys in each of the sub regions.</p> <p>When selecting areas for ecosystem protection, consider resources that are rare and require unique areas for survival.</p>
<p><b>Sustainability / Connectivity</b></p> <p><i>Water Quality</i></p>	<p>Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that</p>	<p>Recommend new or modified ecological reserves to ensure protection of a diversity of</p>	<p>Try to choose areas that protect large contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide</p>

<p><i>Connectivity</i></p> <p><i>Resilience</i></p> <p><i>Protect keystone processes / species</i></p>	<p>provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life and protect and preserve all habitats and species.</p> <p>Increase abundance and condition of selected key species.</p>	<p>resources: spawning aggregations.</p> <p>Review current exceptions to regulations in Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves.</p>	<p>natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life.</p> <p>Try to choose areas that exhibit or could potentially enhance ecological resilience.</p>
<p><b>Allowable uses / Compatible uses</b></p> <p><i>Consider existing shore line development</i></p> <p><i>Protect marine based businesses</i></p> <p><i>Examine balance of eco-tourism vs extraction</i></p> <p><i>Accountability, fairness</i></p>	<p>Prevent heavy concentrations of uses that degrade Sanctuary resources.</p> <p>Minimize conflicts among uses compatible with the National Marine Sanctuary.</p>	<p>Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.</p>	<p>Try to choose areas and craft regulations with the primary objective of resource protection that minimize adverse impacts from human uses, increase positive socio-economic impacts, 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>
<p><b>Socio-Economic Impacts</b></p> <p><i>Protect marine based businesses</i></p> <p><i>Examine balance of eco-tourism vs extraction</i></p> <p><i>Examine high impact activities (eg lobster sport season)</i></p>	<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>Consider temporal zoning to address seasonal impacts associated with intense uses or seasonal ecological activities.</p> <p>Review and evaluate Sanctuary Preservation Areas reduction of conflicting uses.</p> <p>Ensure the FKNMS zoning scheme</p>	<p>Try to choose areas and craft recommendations that would serve to minimize adverse socio-economic impacts and increase positive socio-economic impacts on established users of resources in the areas and achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.</p>

<i>Accountability; fairness</i>	Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.	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.	
<b>Reference Area / Monitoring Sites</b> *Not specifically identified by working group <i>Consider similarity to current Research Zones</i>	Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research and control sites to help determine the effects of human activities.		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 specific access restrictions or closure.
<b>Enforcement / Compliance</b>  <i>Visitors should be educated about system and rules</i>  <i>Rules and regulations should be enforceable</i>	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.		Try to choose areas and craft regulations that would facilitate enforcement and encourage compliance.