

### Tortugas Region

Ecosystem Protection Working Group concepts presented for potential modifications to marine zones in the Tortugas region. The below table reflects working group discussion, zone and regulation concepts, issues to note, and status of working group decision. The following are Ecosystem Protection Working Group Tortugas region recommendation for the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Area	Rationale	Zone Concept	Regulation Concept	Consensus
Tortugas North		No change recommended	No change recommended	Consensus.
Tortugas South	Known fish aggregations are along edge of current boundary, an expansion to the west would provide greater protection. Additional good benthic features would also be captured through the western expansion.	Concept 1: Extend TSER boundary to the west to include areas potentially important for fish spawning		Consensus reached: Support Concept 2
	known fish aggregations are along edge of current boundary, an expansion to the west would provide greater protection. Better benthic features would also be captured through the western expansion. More area made available for fishing in the Southern area.	Concept 2: Extend the TERS boundary to the west to include areas potentially important for fish spawning. Move the TSER southern boundary north, removing some area that is now included in the ecological reserve.		
<b>Issues to Consider for Tortugas South and associated Concepts:</b> For any change to the southern boundary of TSER, need to know what resources are in that area before considering that modification. Concept two is a net gain for fishable area.				
General Sanctuary Area in Tortugas	Square Sanctuary off to make it easier for law enforcement. General Sanctuary regulations would apply in this area.	Concept 1: Extend the sanctuary boundary to include Tortugas South Ecological Reserve (TSER). Essentially close the gap so that general sanctuary regulations would apply in this area. Extend the sanctuary boundary from the west of Tortugas North Ecological Reserve (TERN) to the western side of the study area boundary.	General Sanctuary Regulations would apply	Consensus reached: support zone and regulation concepts.
	Simplify and enhance law enforcement. Minimize the chance of ship groundings, vessel discharge	Concept 2: Extend ATBA to include all Sanctuary as proposed in Concept 1	General Sanctuary and ATBA Regulations would apply.	Consensus reached: support zone and regulation concepts.
<b>Issues to Consider for General Sanctuary Area and associated Concepts:</b> Southern line of sanctuary boundary should follow a straight line of latitude to enhance enforcement and compliance.				