FKNMS ZONING & REGULATORY REVIEW

Summary of Boundary Adjustment Options from the Scoping Process & Study Areas Recommendation

Presentation to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
December 2012
Ramifications of Identifying Study Areas

- Locations within the study area but outside present FKNMS boundaries also can be considered in the zoning and review process by the SAC working groups.
- Present Sanctuary-wide regulations would otherwise apply to the study area should those new boundaries be adopted.
- Evaluate economic and environmental impacts.
Notable Sanctuary-wide Regulations

• Operating a vessel in such a manner as to strike or otherwise injure coral, seagrass, or other immobile organisms attached to the seabed, or cause prop scarring

• Moving, removing, taking, injuring, touching, breaking, cutting or possessing coral or live rock

• Discharging or depositing treated or untreated sewage from marine sanitation devices, trash, and other materials

• Dredging, drilling, prop dredging or otherwise altering the seabed; placing or abandoning any structure on seabed.

• No mineral or hydrocarbon exploration

• Releasing exotic species
Summary of Scoping
Comments Regarding FKNMS
Boundary and Expanded
Protections
• ATBA Presently regulated by FKNMS
• Vessels greater than 50m prohibited from ATBA without permit
Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) -- Areas established by the IMO recognized as needing special protection for ecological, socio-economic, or scientific reasons and vulnerable to damage by international maritime activities.
Pulley Ridge

- Portion of Pulley Ridge presently a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)
- Strong ecological connectivity to the Florida Keys
Proposed Study Areas
Development: Considerations
Wildlife Refuge Boundaries

Key West National Wildlife Refuge

Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge

National Key Deer Refuge

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Boundary
FKNMS Ecological Connectivity

Sanctuary has strong ecological connectivity to Everglades ecosystem.
Western Sanctuary Region

- Pulley Ridge
- Riley's Hump
- Tortugas Bank
- Dry Tortugas National Park
- Tortugas South Ecological Reserve
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Boundary
- Key West
- Straits of Florida
Western Sanctuary Region

Far western extent of Tortugas Bank not presently within FKNMS

Potential Study Area Boundary

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FKNMS Boundary

PSSA Boundary