



Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Protection Work Group: Progress & Next Steps



Jack Curlett
Sanctuary Advisory Council – Recreational Fishing
Working Group Chair

Working Group Membership



Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

- Justin Bruland, SAC Commercial Fishing
- Bruce Frerer, SAC Recreational Fishing
- Pete Frezza, SAC South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
- Richard Grathwohl, SAC Fishing Charter Flats Guide
- David Makepeace, SAC Citizen at Large – Upper Keys
- Bruce Popham, SAC Boating Industry
- Jessica Pulfer, SAC Conservation and Environment

Working Group Membership



Community / Public Members

- Aaron Adams, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust
- Carla Bellenger, Key West Eco Tours, Inc.
- Mike Bresette, InWater Research Group, Inc.
- Tad Burke, Florida Keys Fishing Guide Association
- Charlie Causey, Florida Keys Environmental Fund
- John Coffin, Coffin Marine Services Inc.
- Roy Herndon, Marine Life Collectors
- Meaghan Johnson, The Nature Conservancy
- Bill Keogh, Big Pine Kayak
- John O'Hearn, Lower Keys Guides Association

Working Group Objectives



- Evaluate existing Wildlife Management Areas for effectiveness
- Develop recommendations considering existing regulations and zoning to further protect shallow water habitats
- Address concentrated uses that diminish or destroy habitats
- Identify where high impact activities known to occur should be allowed
- Identify seagrass and shallow water habitat areas for exclusion to allow for research control areas
- Evaluate mangrove habitat protection for bird nesting.
- Reduce damage to natural resources from improper vessel salvage methods.



January 30, 2013 Meeting 1



- Clarified role and authority of working group
- Identified the need to:
 - ✓ Value and recognize rights of various user groups
 - ✓ Be proactive about addressing potential new and emerging issues
 - ✓ Use the best available science to inform the process
 - ✓ Consider lessons learned from other sites

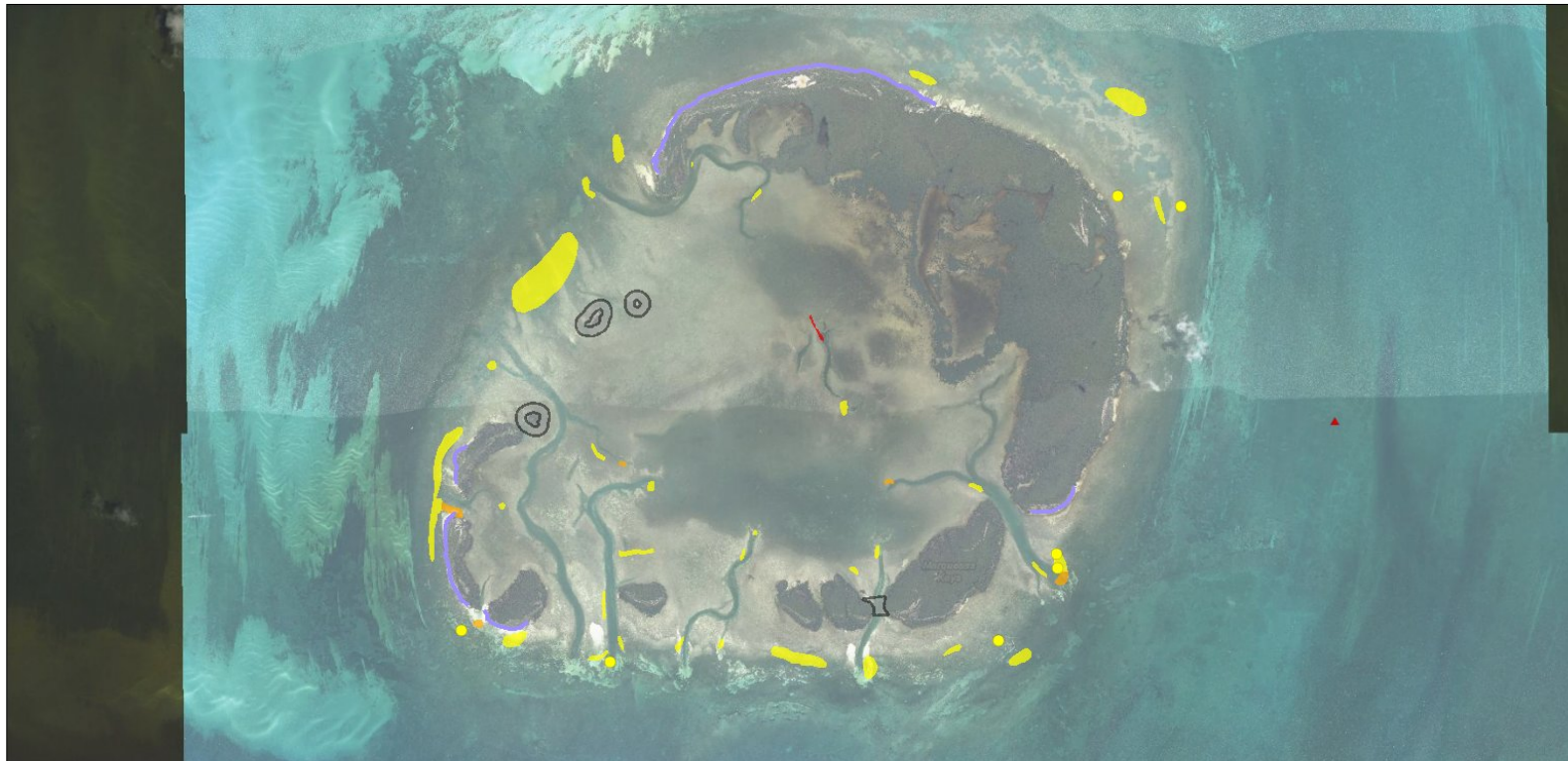


February 20, 2013 Meeting 2



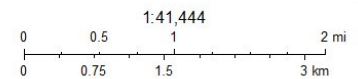
- Identified the need to:
 - ✓ Adequately protect each habitat type throughout FKNMS
 - ✓ Protect ephemeral/emerging habitat through adaptive management
- Identified:
 - ✓ Specific species of concern including marine mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, and Threatened/Endangered species and their habitats
 - ✓ Categories of activities and uses to be considered: Existing, Emerging/New, Concentrated, High Impact, and Other

Marquesas Keys Wildlife Management Area



April 9, 2013

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wildlife Management Areas (NWR and FKNMS) | Odd-numbered Daybeacon | Even-numbered, Unlighted Buoy |
| Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches Florida | Unnumbered, Lighted Buoy | Odd-numbered, Unlighted Buoy |
| FKNMS Vessel Groundings (2000-2012) | Even-numbered, Lighted Buoy | Light Scarring |
| <all other values> | Odd-numbered, Lighted Buoy | Moderate Scarring |
| Unnumbered Daybeacon | Light | Severe Scarring |
| Even-numbered Daybeacon | Unnumbered, Unlighted Buoy | |



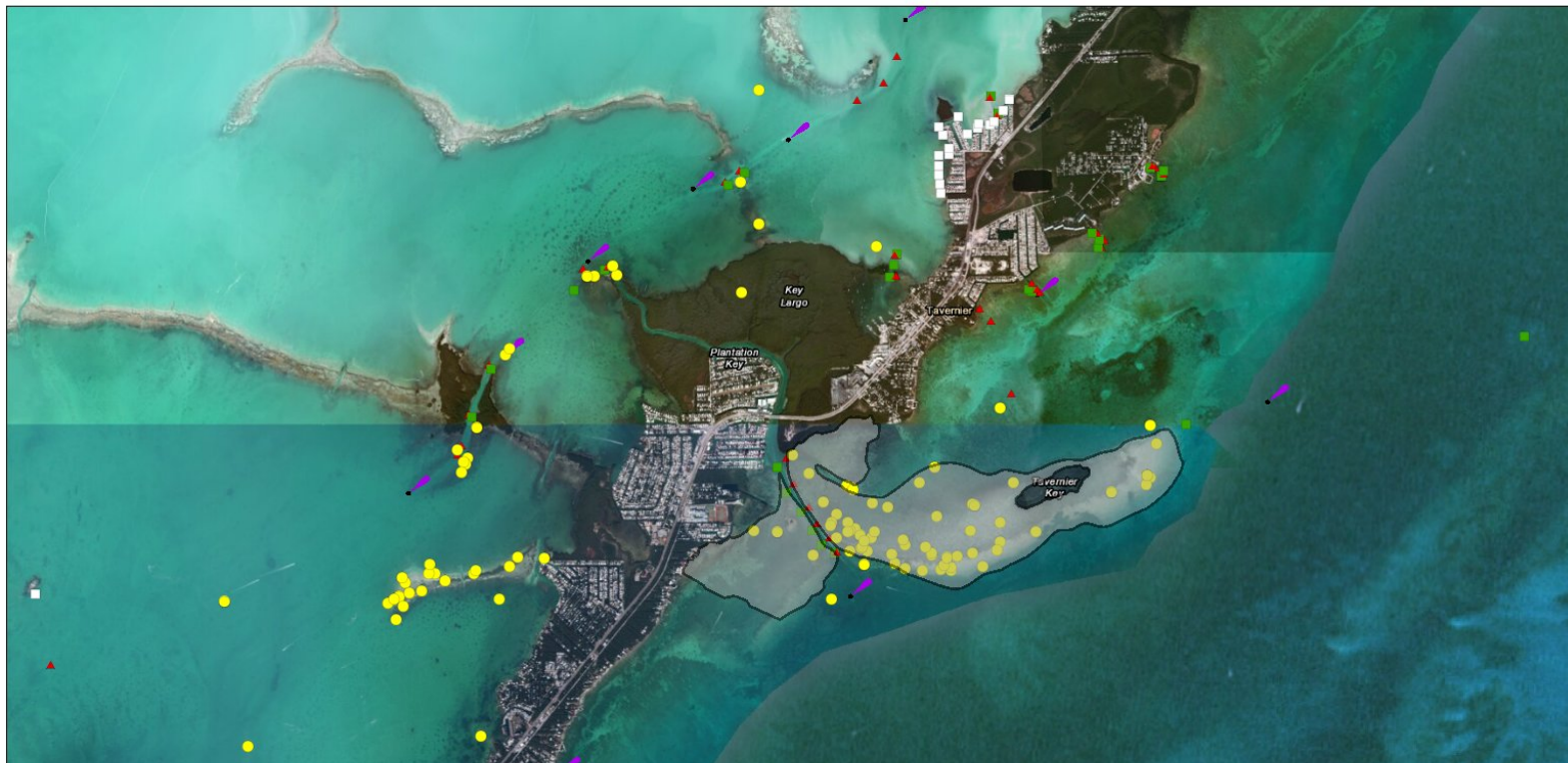
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March 12, 2013 Meeting 3



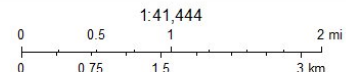
- Identified the need to:
 - ✓ Consider the use of temporal zoning as a management tool
- Identified criteria to use for developing options and recommendations:
 - ✓ Biological/Ecological: connectivity, habitats of significant importance, temporal activities (i.e. spawning, migration), natural disturbances, invasive species, habitat history, and species life stages
 - ✓ Social/Economic: party zones/vessel congregations, fishing/marine debris issues, regulatory compliance issues
 - ✓ Identified activities/uses and their impacts within each region

Tavernier Key Wildlife Management Area



April 9, 2013

- Wildlife Management Areas (NWR and FKNMS)
- Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches Florida
- FKNMS Vessel Groundings (2000-2012)
- <all other values>
- Unnumbered Daybeacon
- ▲ Even-numbered Daybeacon
- Odd-numbered Daybeacon
- Unnumbered, Lighted Buoy
- Even-numbered, Lighted Buoy
- Odd-numbered, Lighted Buoy
- Light
- Unnumbered, Unlighted Buoy
- Even-numbered, Unlighted Buoy
- Odd-numbered, Unlighted Buoy



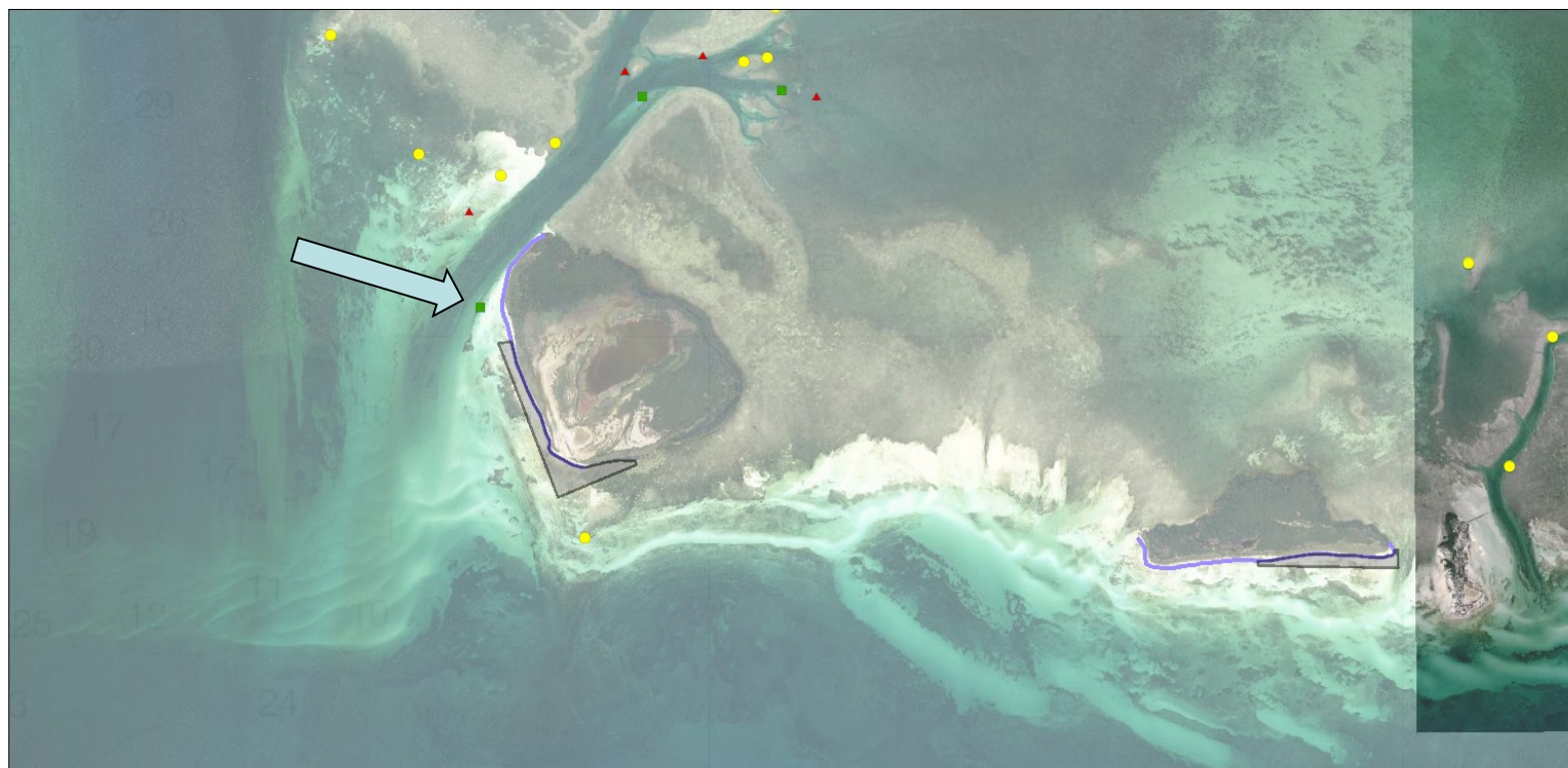
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April 2, 2013 Meeting 4



- Discussed the impact of props scars and vessel groundings, and potential for injury recovery
- Identified the range of shallow water habitats including
 - ✓ beaches,
 - ✓ seagrass,
 - ✓ coral, and
 - ✓ hardbottom
- Reviewed work group created charts and data layers

Boca Grande and Woman Key Wildlife Management Areas



April 9, 2013

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Wildlife Management Areas (NWR and FKNMS) | Odd-numbered Daybeacon | Even-numbered, Unlighted Buoy |
| Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches Florida | Unnumbered, Lighted Buoy | Odd-numbered, Unlighted Buoy |
| FKNMS Vessel Groundings (2000-2012) | Even-numbered, Lighted Buoy | |
| <all other values> | Odd-numbered, Lighted Buoy | |
| Unnumbered Daybeacon | Light | |
| Even-numbered Daybeacon | Unnumbered, Unlighted Buoy | |

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Boca Grande Wildlife Management Area



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

FLORIDA KEYS



Decisions of Note



- Administrative decisions
 - ✓ Identified species of concern and their habitats
 - ✓ Identified biological/ecological factors for developing zoning recommendations
 - ✓ Identified social/economic factors for developing zoning recommendations
 - ✓ Identified activities/uses and their impacts within each region
- No formal recommendations for Advisory Council at this time



Upcoming Meeting Agenda



Wednesday, April 30 – Marathon Garden Club

- Presentations:
 - ✓ National Park Service Commercial Use Authorizations
 - ✓ Current salvage operations and techniques
- Review work group recommendations for existing Wildlife Management Areas and existing regulations
- Review and finalize criteria for developing options and recommendations
- Discussion: Identify criteria for reducing salvage impacts
 - Equipment & Techniques
 - Experience
 - Permits

Meeting Schedule & Location



Marathon Garden Club

- Tuesday, April 30
- Tuesday, May 21
- Tuesday, June 11



Working Group Resources



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: floridakeys.noaa.gov

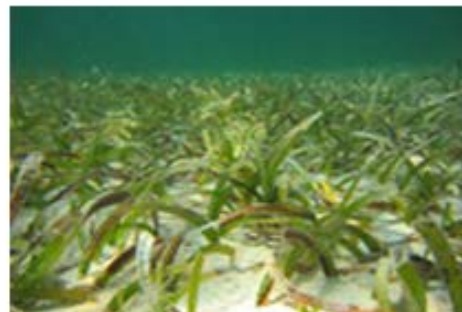


Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review

Maps, Data, and GIS Resources: 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



Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves, Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection Working Group

National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Shallow Water Wildlife & Habitat Protection Work Group

Jack Curlett
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Working Group Chair