



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review: Alternatives Development Process

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Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline



2012

2013

Winter & Spring 2014

Fall 2014

Winter 2015-
Spring 2016

2017



Looking Ahead – Overall Next Steps



✓ Advisory Council Feedback & Recommendation for NOAA/FWS

- NOAA/FWS develops range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on scoping comments, Advisory Council recommendations and input, and other agency input.
- Proposed Alternatives and Analysis released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- NOAA/FWS Prepare Response to Public Comments and Draft Regulatory Changes
- Proposed Actions and Analysis released in a Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Revised Rules and Marine Zones

Draft Alternatives Development and Environmental / Economic Analysis



- Staff develops range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on scoping comments, Advisory Council recommendations and input, and agency input.
- Alternative development includes coordination amongst agencies looking at feasibility, enforceability, administrative requirements, cost, legality, etc.
- Staff analyzes environmental / economic benefits and impacts of each alternative

Advisory Council Work-Plan



1. Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
2. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
4. Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management
5. Artificial Habitats
6. Boundary Modification
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Fishery Management Coordination

Programmatic Work-Plan Items – Non-Regulatory Strategies & Actions



1. Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
2. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
4. Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management
5. Artificial Habitats
6. Boundary Modification
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Fishery Management Coordination

Regulatory Work-Plan Items



1. Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
 - Towing and Salvage Operations
2. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
4. Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management
5. Artificial Habitats
6. Boundary Modification
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Fishery Management Coordination

Spatial Options Proposed through Working Group & SAC Review



Advisory Council requested analysis of the following:

- Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection:
 - Eliminate: 2
 - Status Quo: 7
 - Modify: 19
 - New: 24 proposed by working group; 1 proposed by SAC
- Ecosystem Protection:
 - Modify: 11
 - Modify: Sanctuary Boundary
 - New: 7 proposed by working group; 1 proposed by SAC
 - Remove: exception for catch and release by trolling in 4 SPAs where it is currently allowed

Draft Alternatives Development Process: Staff and Partner Agency Review



Advisory Council Goals

- Reduce Stressors
 - from human activities by establishing areas that restrict access to sensitive wildlife populations and habitats (SAC Goal A.1)
- Minimize Conflicting and Heavy Concentration of Use (SAC Goal B.1 & B.2)
- Protect Large Contiguous Habitats (SAC Goals A, A.2, A.3 & A.4)
- Facilitate Research
 - Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research and control sites to help determine the effects of human activities (SAC Goal B.3).
- Protect Resources and Allow Use (SAC Goal B)
 - Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy (SAC Goal B.4)

Draft Alternatives Development Process: Staff and Partner Agency Review



Advisory Council Principles

- Bordering and overlapping marine management regimes should be considered
 - *Compatible with National Wildlife Refuge purposes and wilderness designation.
- Temporal zoning should be considered as a tool.
- Each habitat type should be represented in a non-extractive marine zone in each of the biogeographically distinct sub-regions of the Florida Keys.
- Information on resilient reef areas that can serve as refugia
- Size, cumulative total area, and spatial relationship of marine zones matter greatly in achieving resource protection in FKNMS