



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary History, Condition Report and Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Update

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
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Presentation Outline



- Background: Florida Keys and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Condition Report
- Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Process
 - FKNMS Advisory Council
 - Goals, Principles and Priority Issues
 - Community Working Groups and Public Engagement
 - Working Group and Advisory Council Recommendations
- National Environmental Policy Act Requirements
- Components of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Overview of Alternatives
- Status and Next Steps



Credit : NASA

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

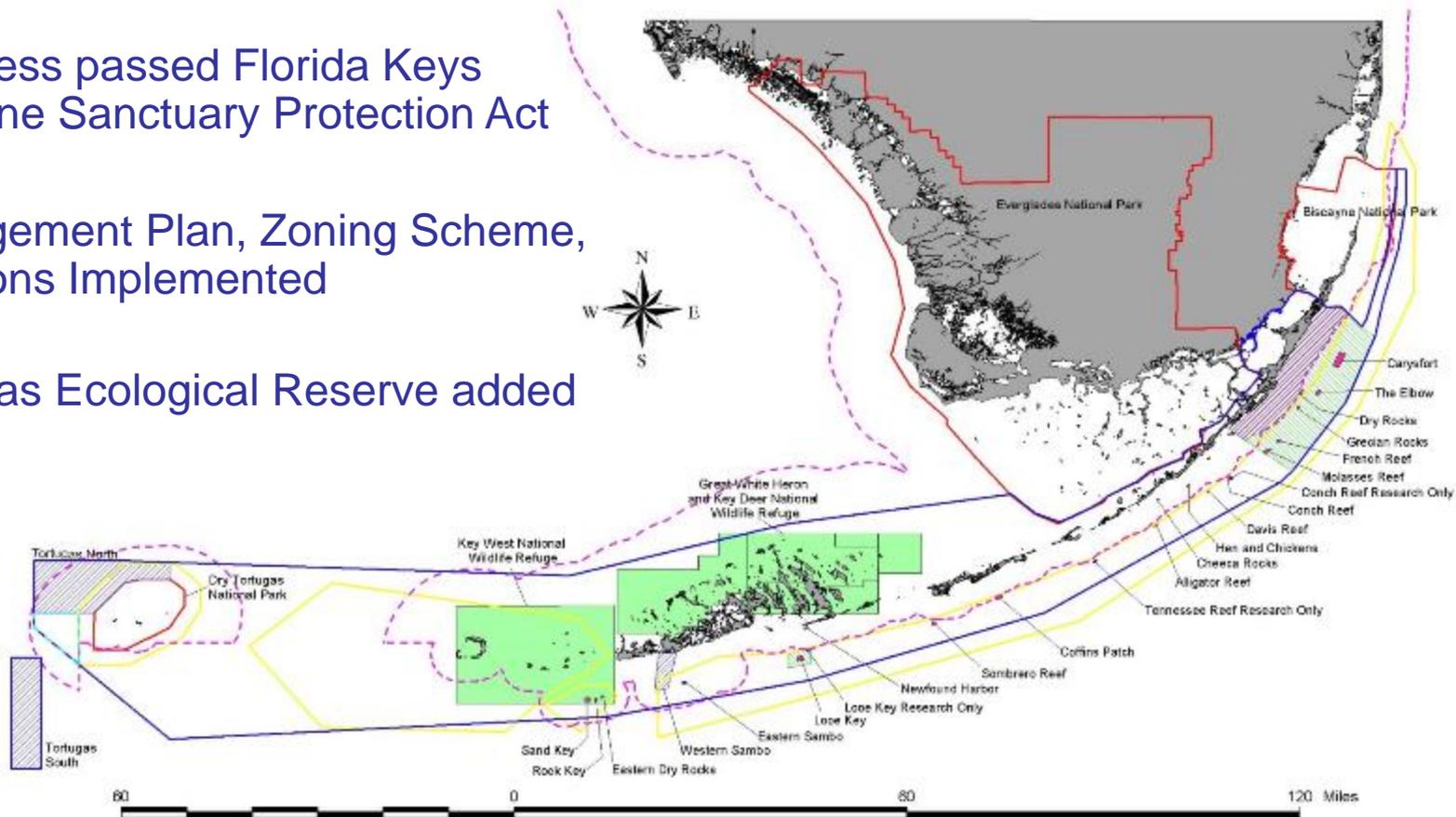


Partnership with State of Florida

1990 - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

1997 - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

2001 - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added



What types of activities does the Sanctuary regulate to protect resources?



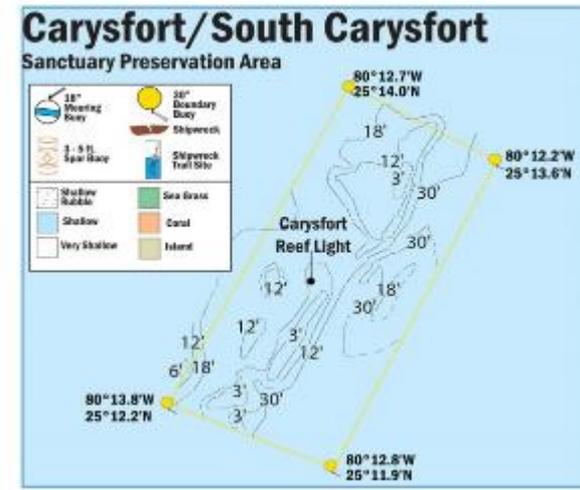
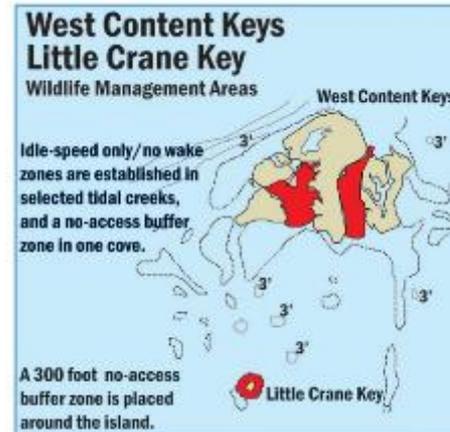
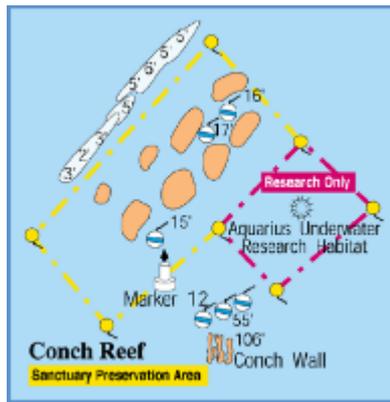
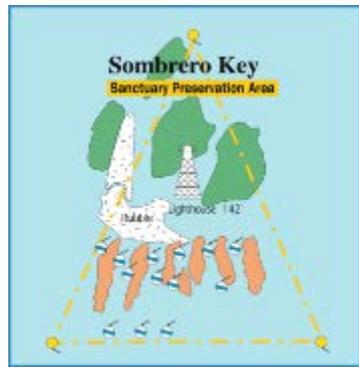
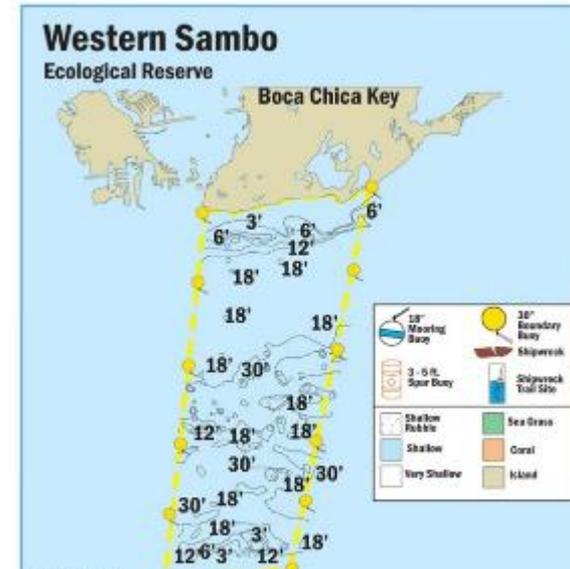
- Spearfishing
- Marine Life / Aquarium Collection
- Fishing / Trapping
- Personal Watercraft
- Airboats / Waterskiing
- Vessel Speed / Wake / Motor
- Vessel Size
- Anchoring / Mooring
- Access Restrictions
- Diving / Snorkeling
- Any touching / harming coral
- Vessel Discharges
- Oil and Gas Development
- Dredging



Marine Zoning Plan for Resource Protection and Limiting User Conflicts



- Sanctuary Preservation Areas
- Ecological Reserves
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Special Use Areas (Research Only)
- Area To Be Avoided: Large Ships > 50m



Operations



Vessels

- 23 Vessels
- 10' to 57'

Facilities

- Key West
 - 3 Buildings
- Key Largo
 - Building & Docks

Administration

- 33 staff

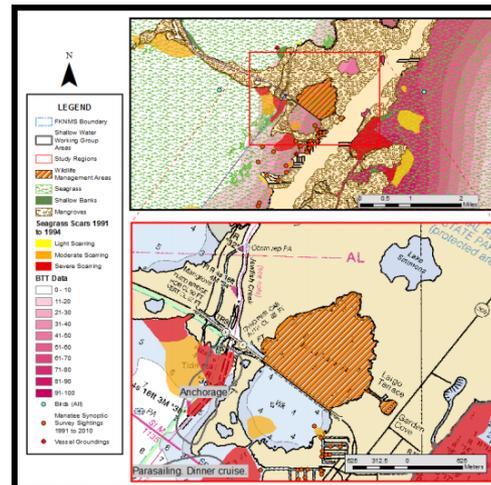
Diving

- NOAA Divers
- FIU Divers

Science and Research

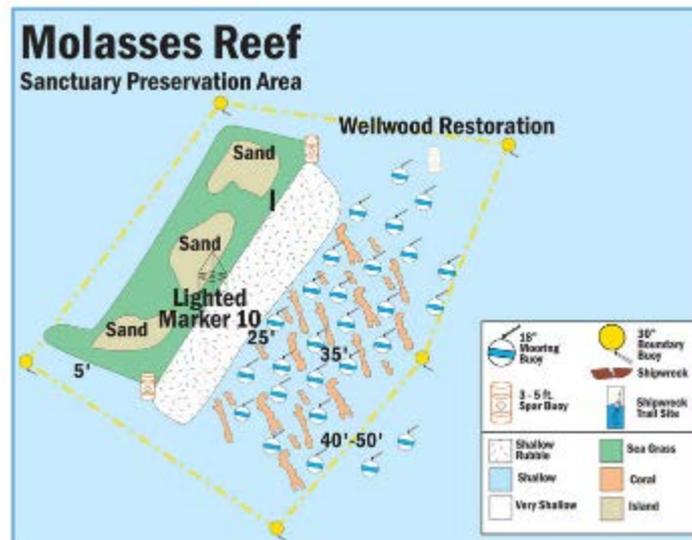


- Damage Assessment
- Restoration
- Permit Review
- Research Support
- GIS



Buoys

- 1981: First Install
- 490 Mooring buoys
- 121 SPA Zone Buoys
- 160 WMA Zone Buoys
- 37 Informational Buoys



Enforcement

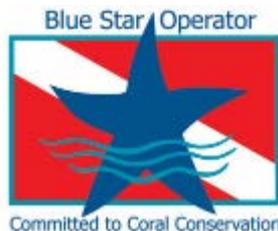


- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- U.S. Coast Guard
- NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Education, Outreach, and Volunteer Programs



- Team OCEAN
- Blue Star
- Festival and Events
- Boater Education
- Florida Keys Eco-Discovery Center



Florida Keys

National Marine Sanctuary

CONDITION REPORT 2011



September 2011

2011 FKNMS Condition Report: Foundation for Regulatory and Zoning Changes



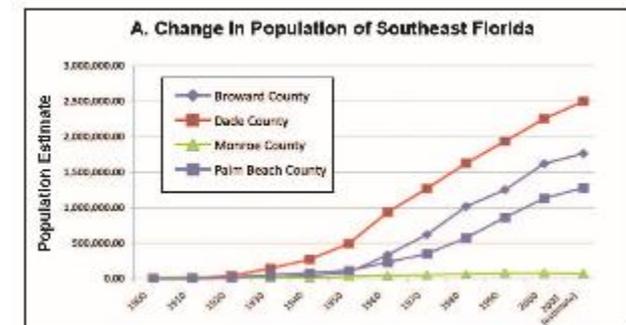
- History of discharges, coastal development, habitat loss, and over exploitation of large fish and keystone species
- Poaching, vessel groundings and discharging of marine debris
- Can be improved with long term management efforts, regulatory compliance and community involvement



Trends:

- ▲ Conditions appear to be improving.
- Conditions do not appear to be changing.
- ▼ Conditions appear to be declining.
- ? Undetermined trend.
- N/A Question not applicable.

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/scipublications/condition.html>

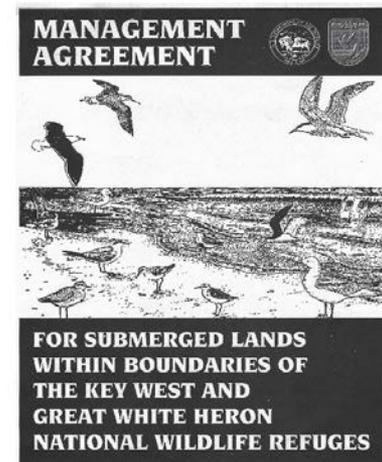
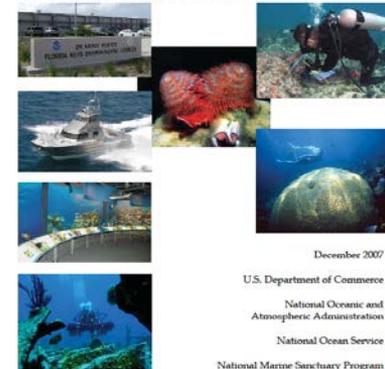


Why conduct the review?



- Community interest
- Periodic evaluation and public input is good management
- Science shows we can make improvements in management
- Emerging threats – climate change, invasive species, new marine uses
- Requirements – federal law and state resolutions, action plans adopted in 2007

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan

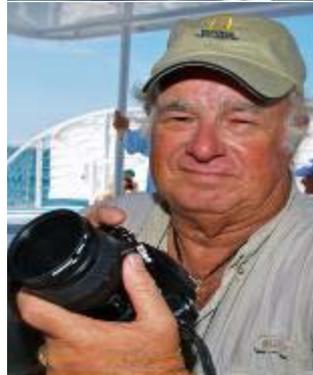


Looking Forward: Sanctuary Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts



Community-based advisory group providing advice to Florida Keys NMS Management.

- Boating Industry
 - Elected County Official
 - Citizens at Large (3)
 - Conservation (2)
 - Research
 - Education
 - Tourism (2)
 - Diving (2)
 - Charter Fishing (2)
 - Commercial Fishing (2)
 - Recreational Fishing
 - Cultural Resources
- 15 Non-Voting Local, State and Federal Agency Representatives



Sanctuary Advisory Council Goals



- To improve the diversity of natural biological communitiesandrestore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes overall;
- Reduce stresses from human activities by establishing areas that restrict access to sensitive wildlife populations and habitats;
- Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas;
- Minimize conflicts among uses;
- Prevent heavy concentrations of use;
- Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research; and
- Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Issues and Management Priorities for Review



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. Study Area & Boundary Modification
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Coordination with Fishery Management Agencies



Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups: Proposing Alternatives to Analyze in Draft EIS



Ecosystem Protection WG (and Council) Recommend Analysis of:

- Modify 11 existing marine zones, Sanctuary and ATBA boundary
- Propose 7 new marine zones
- Remove certain exceptions in 4 existing marine zones
- Regulations range from limited access or anchoring restrictions to no access (research only)

Shallow Water WG (and Council) Recommend Analysis of:

- Remove 2 existing zones (not needed), Modify 19 existing zones
- Propose 24 new zones – mainly pole /troll or idle, some temporal access restrictions

Coral Reef (and Council) Recommend Analysis of:

- Entire reef recommended for restoration; prioritized 36 sites

Sanctuary Advisory Council Work-Plan (Completed)



- ✓ 12/11/2012 – Study Areas and Boundary Modifications
- ✓ 12/11/2012 – Personal Watercraft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
- ✓ 4/16/2013 – Education and Outreach
- ✓ 2/19/2013 – Vessel / Boating Licensing and Education
- ✓ 7/9/2013 – Alternative Funding / User Fee
- ✓ 8/20/2013 – Boater Education
- ✓ 2/18/2014 – Law Enforcement (Action – 4/16/2014)
- ✓ 6/17/2014 – Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
- ✓ 6/17/2014 – Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
- ✓ 8/19/2014 – Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
- ✓ 10/21/2014 – Permit Procedures, Regulations, Adaptive Management, Artificial Habitats, Water Quality and Fishery Management Coordination
- ✓ 2/18/2017 – Mandatory Boater Education

Sanctuary Advisory Council: Proposing Alternatives to Analyze in Draft EIS



- Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
- Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
 - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/Recommendations-for-SAC.pdf>
- Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
 - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/documents/20140819eprecommendations.pdf>
- Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management
- Artificial Habitats
- Study Area & Boundary Modification
- Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
- Water Quality
- Coordination with Fishery Management Agencies
 - <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/othermaterials/20141209sacworkplanactions.pdf>

Looking Ahead – Next Steps



✓ Advisory Council Feedback & Recommendation for Agencies

- Agency staff develops range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on scoping comments, Advisory Council recommendations and input, and agency input.
- Potential Alternatives and Analysis released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Agency Review and Response to Public Comments
- Proposed Actions and Alternatives released in a Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Revised Rules and Marine Zones

Looking Ahead – 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

Proposed Actions and Alternatives released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement



- Executive Summary
- Section I – Background
- Section II – Purpose of and Need for Action
- Section III – Description of Proposed Actions and Alternatives
- Section IV– Affected Environment and Resources Analyzed
- Section V – Environmental Consequences, Cumulative Impacts, and Comparison of Alternatives

Proposed Actions and Alternatives released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement



Section III – Description of Proposed Action and Alternatives

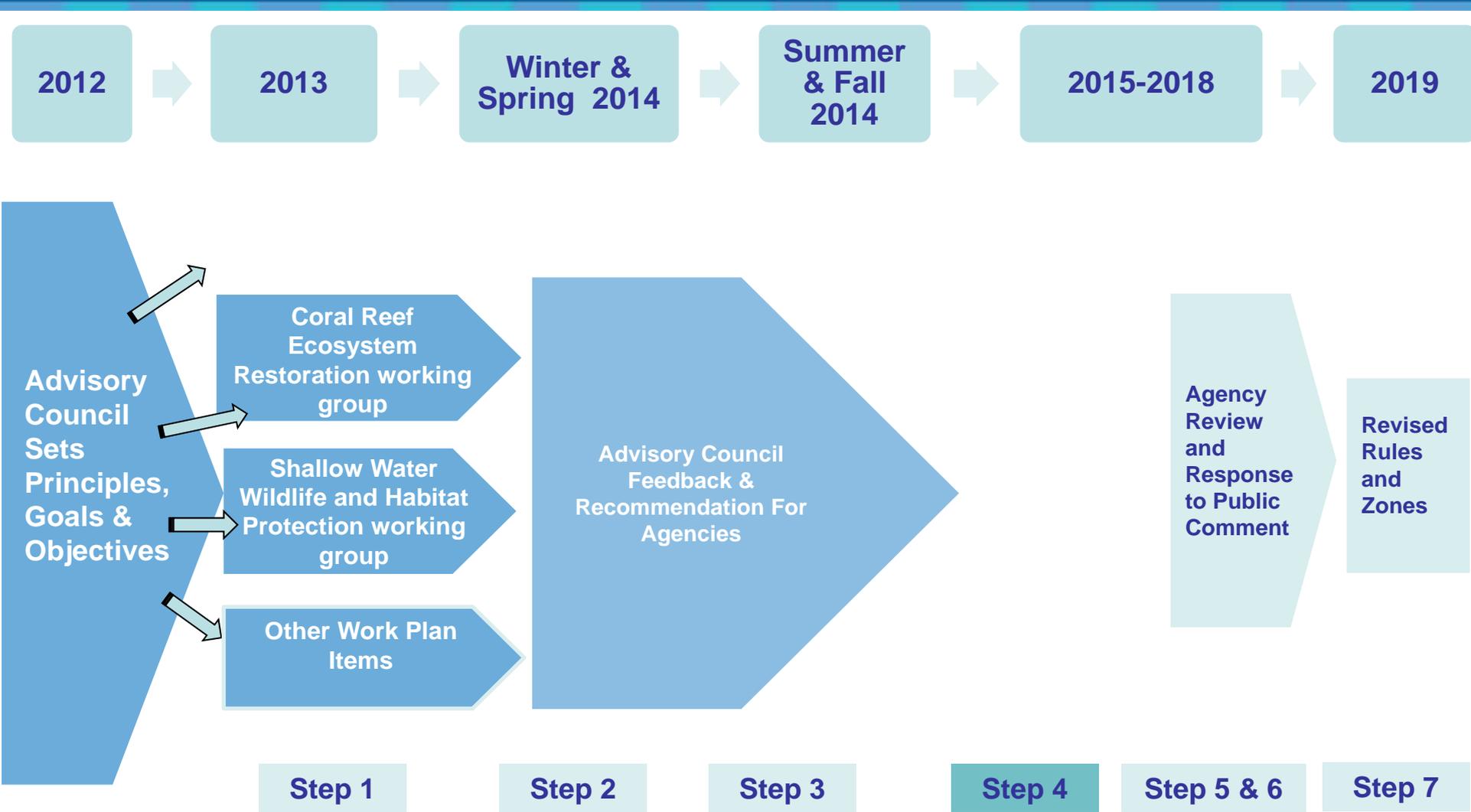
Alternatives

- No Action
- Range of Reasonable Alternatives (3)

Alternative Components

- Boundary expansion
- Sanctuary-wide regulations
 - Technical Revisions/Updates
 - Regulatory
- Marine zones and zone specific regulations

Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline



Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts From The Beginning for All Management Changes



Community Based Stakeholder Driven Process:

Public Input → Advisory Council → Agency Decision



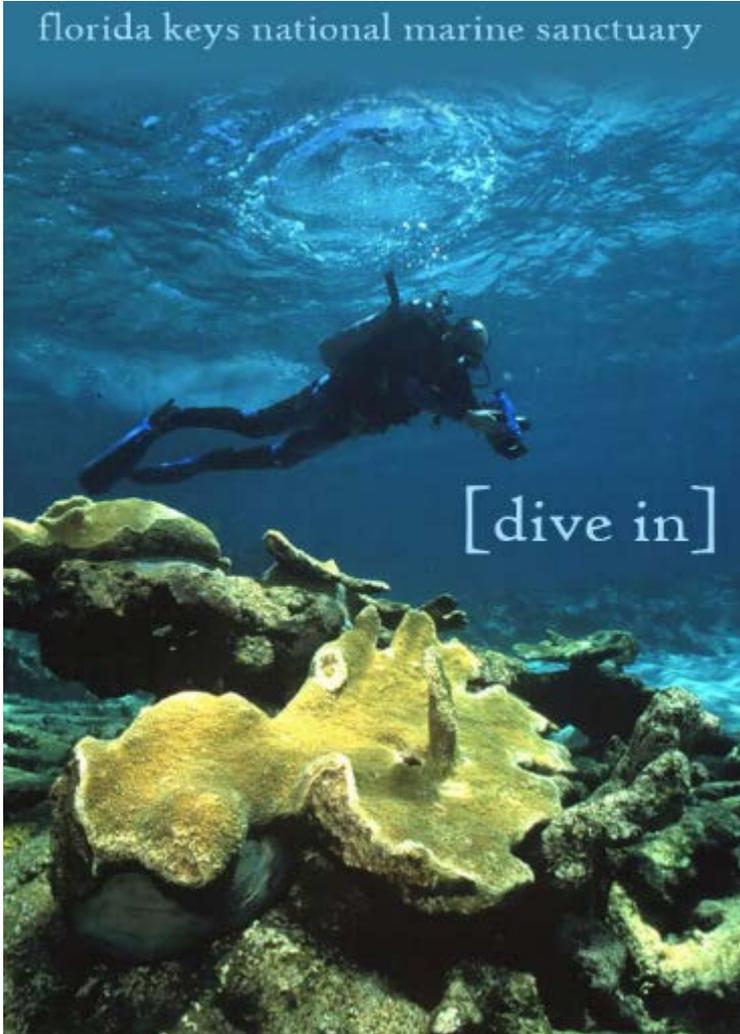
"The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is a fine example of a government program that works in its intended form... for the people, by the people, specific to its unique region. It is a group that listens, speaks, and acts on input from all the various stakeholders of that region."

Captain Steve Leopold,
Charter/Sports Fishing Seat

Thank You!



florida keys national marine sanctuary



Websites:

floridakeys.noaa.gov

facebook.com/floridakeysnoaa.gov

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Sanctuary Advisory Council:

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/>

Regulatory Review:

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/review/welcome.html>