



2025 Final Restoration Blueprint: Marquesas Region Maps



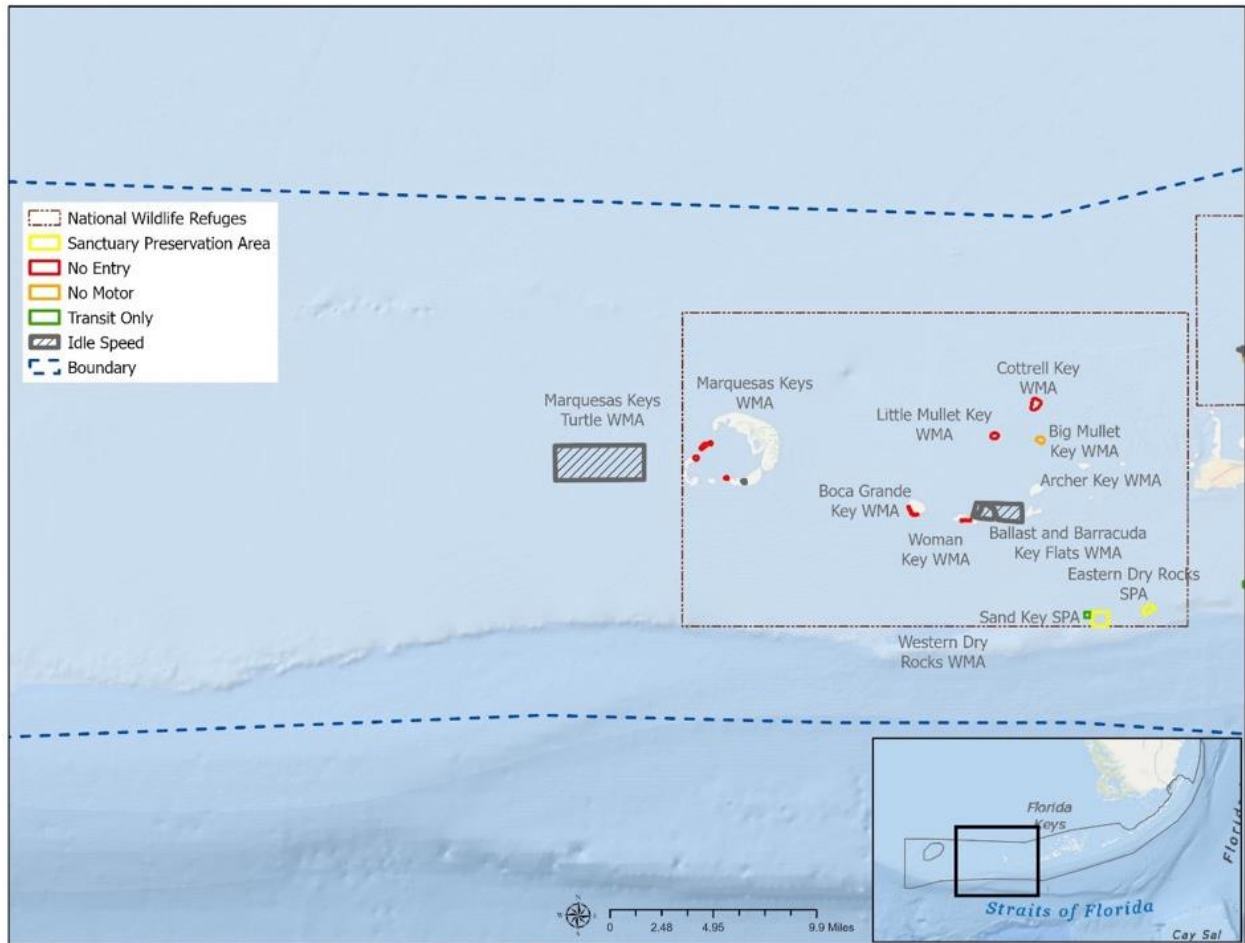


Marquesas Region: Marine Zones

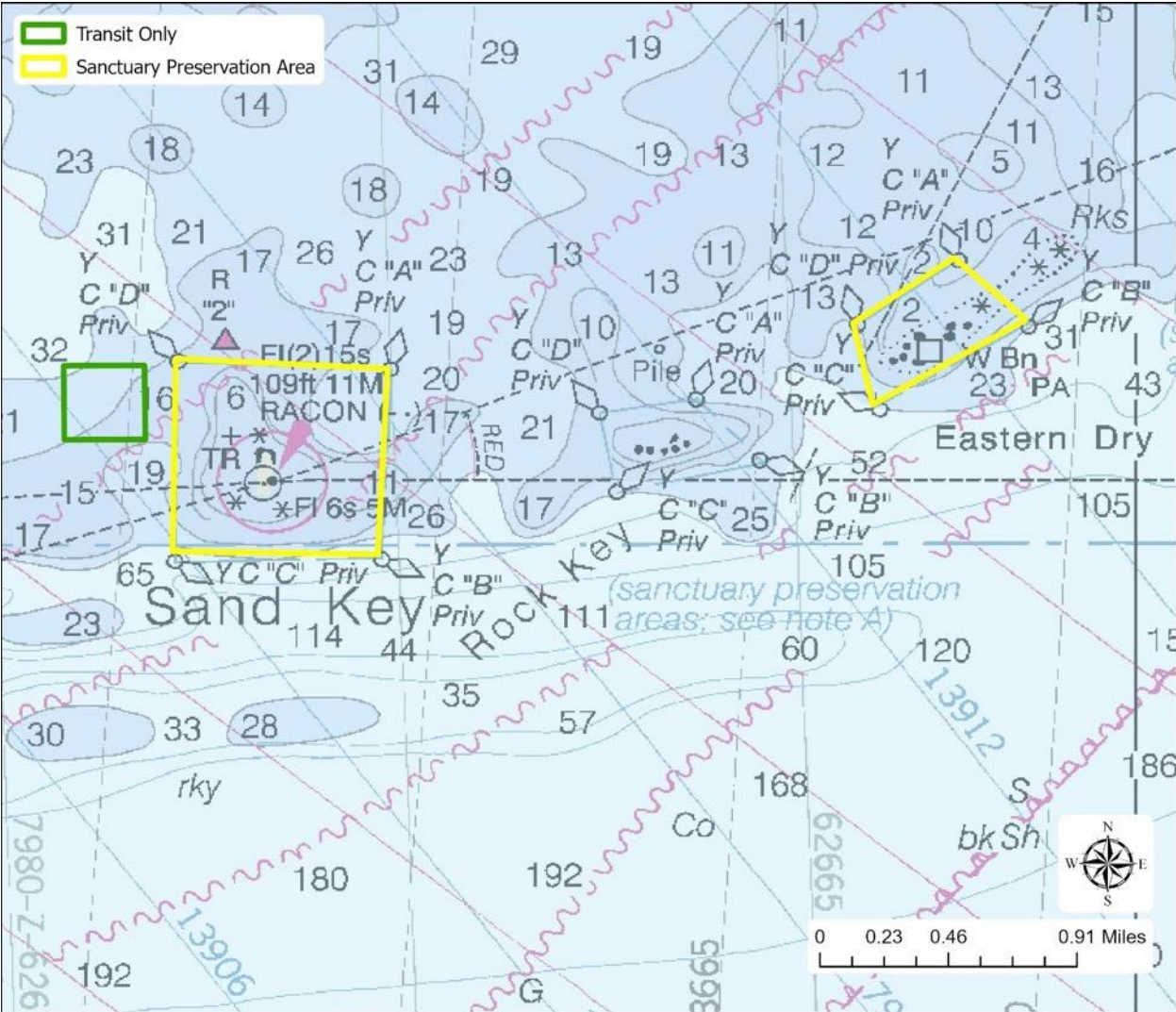
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Cover photo: Boca Grande Key Wildlife Management Area in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge lies 14 miles west of Key West, Florida. Photo: USFWS

Marquesas Regional Map




Sand Key and Eastern Dry Rocks Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and Sand Key Nursery Restoration Area



Sand Key Sanctuary Preservation Area is an active restoration site for endangered elkhorn and staghorn corals. This area historically supported endangered elkhorn, staghorn, pillar, and star corals. This sanctuary preservation area (SPA), approximately 0.45 square miles (286 acres), has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations include the addition of a no anchor regulation throughout this zone and eliminates the current exception for catch and release fishing by trolling; all other existing regulations are maintained. Implementation of the no anchor regulation is delayed until 2027.

Eastern Dry Rocks SPA is one of the seven Mission: Iconic Reefs restoration sites, and coral restoration is actively occurring here. This area historically supported thickets of endangered elkhorn and star corals. Eastern Dry Rocks SPA, approximately 0.14 square miles (91 acres), has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations include the addition of

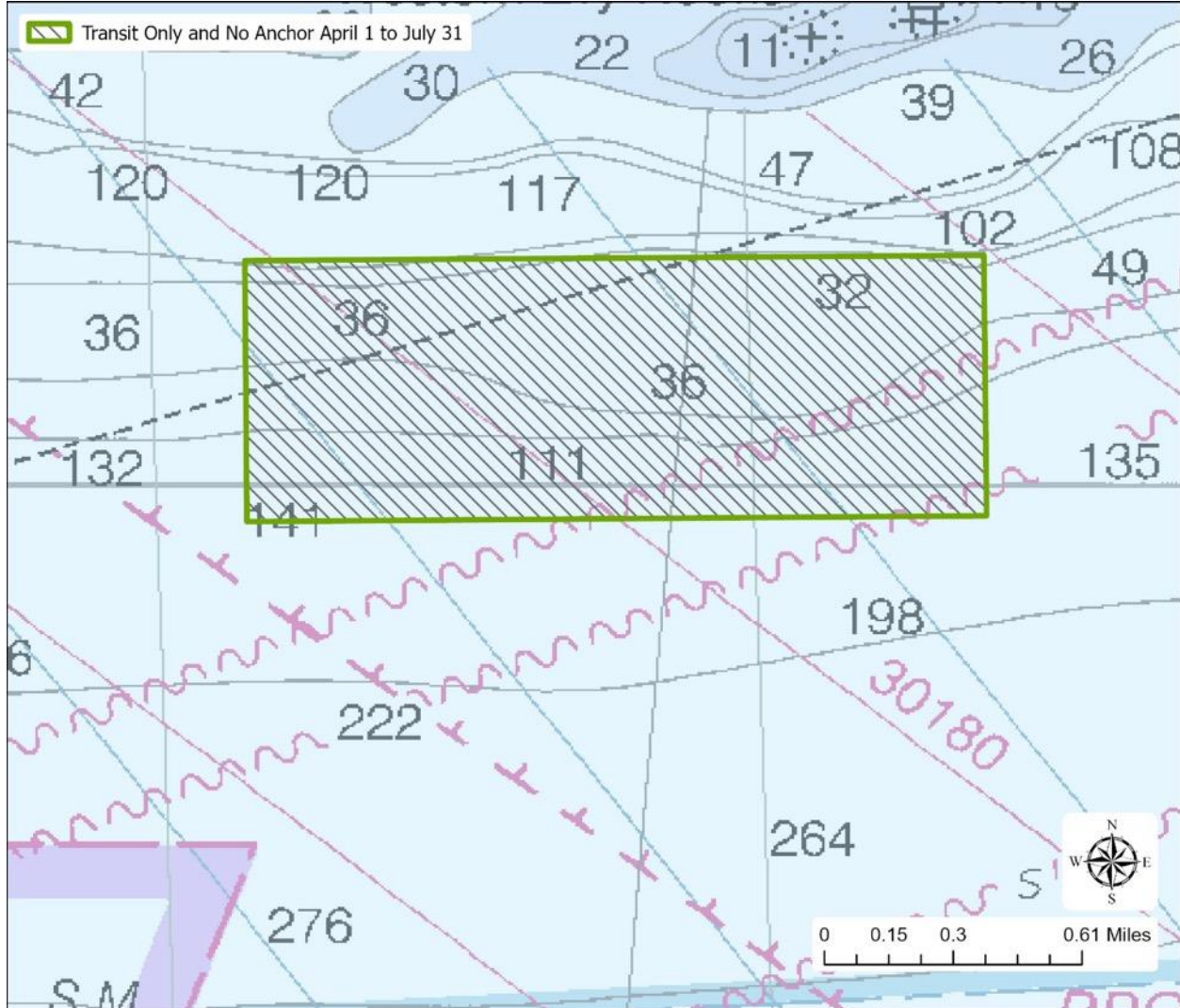


a no anchor regulation throughout this zone; all other existing regulations are maintained. Implementation of the no anchor regulation is delayed until 2027.

Sand Key Nursery Restoration Area: The 2025 updated regulations include this area as a new nursery restoration area that is approximately 0.07 square miles (43 acres).

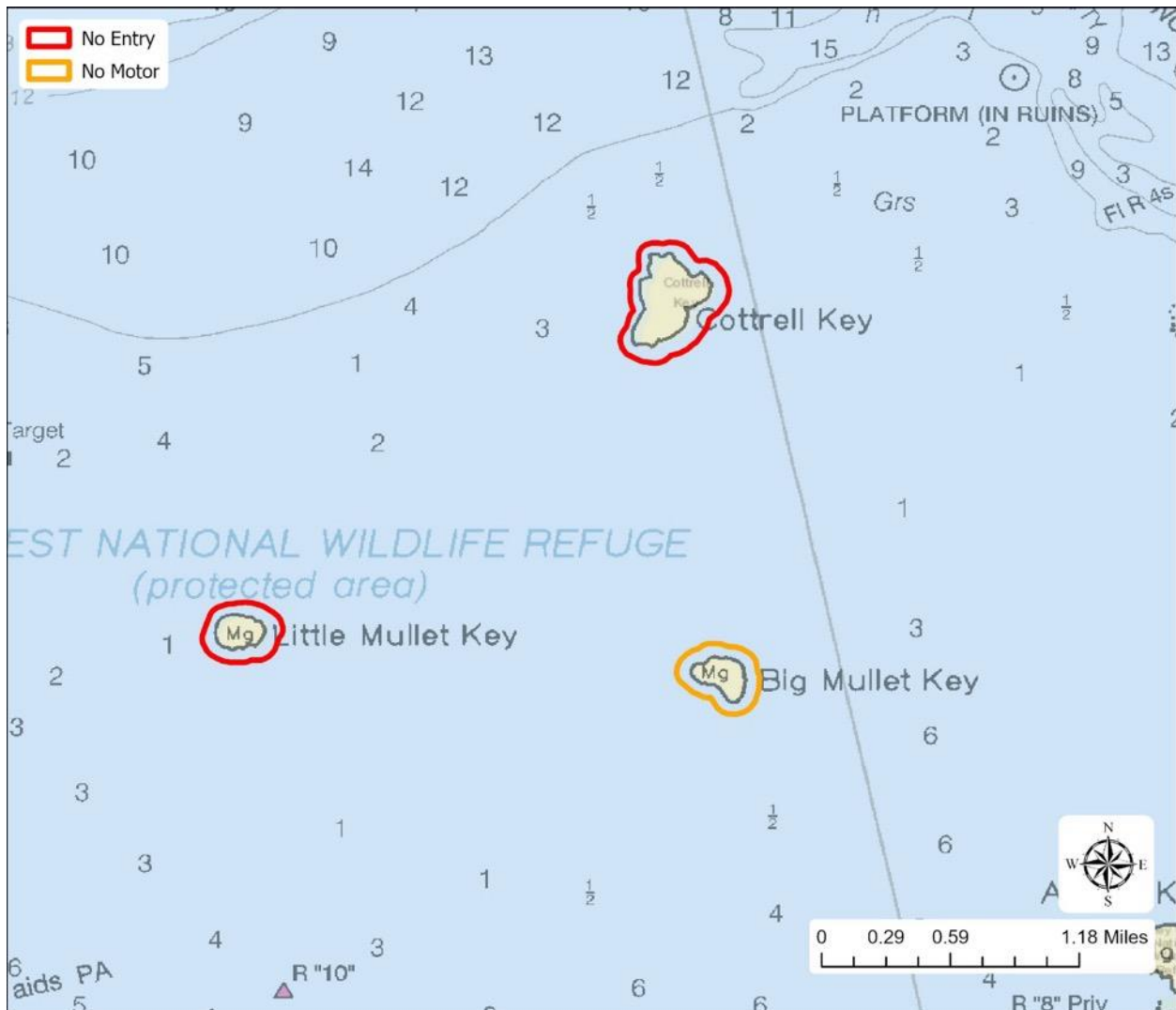
The 2025 updated regulations eliminate Rock Key SPA.

Western Dry Rocks Wildlife Management Area



This zone protects a reef that supports multi-fish spawning aggregations. Sanctuary regulations align with and complement Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission regulations that established a seasonal closure at Western Dry Rocks that prohibits fishing from April 1 through July 31 annually. Sanctuary regulations also include a no anchor regulation during this same time period to provide further protections for this important fish aggregation and spawning site. The 2025 updated regulations include this area as a new wildlife management area (WMA) that is approximately 1.0 square miles (626 acres).

Big Mullet Key, Little Mullet Key and Cottrell Key Wildlife Management Areas



Big Mullet Key: This existing minimum 100-yard distance is needed to minimize disturbance to wading and migratory birds, like great white herons, who use this area to rest, nest, and eat. Big Mullet Key WMA (approximately 0.05 square miles; 33 acres) has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations make no changes to this existing marine zone. This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

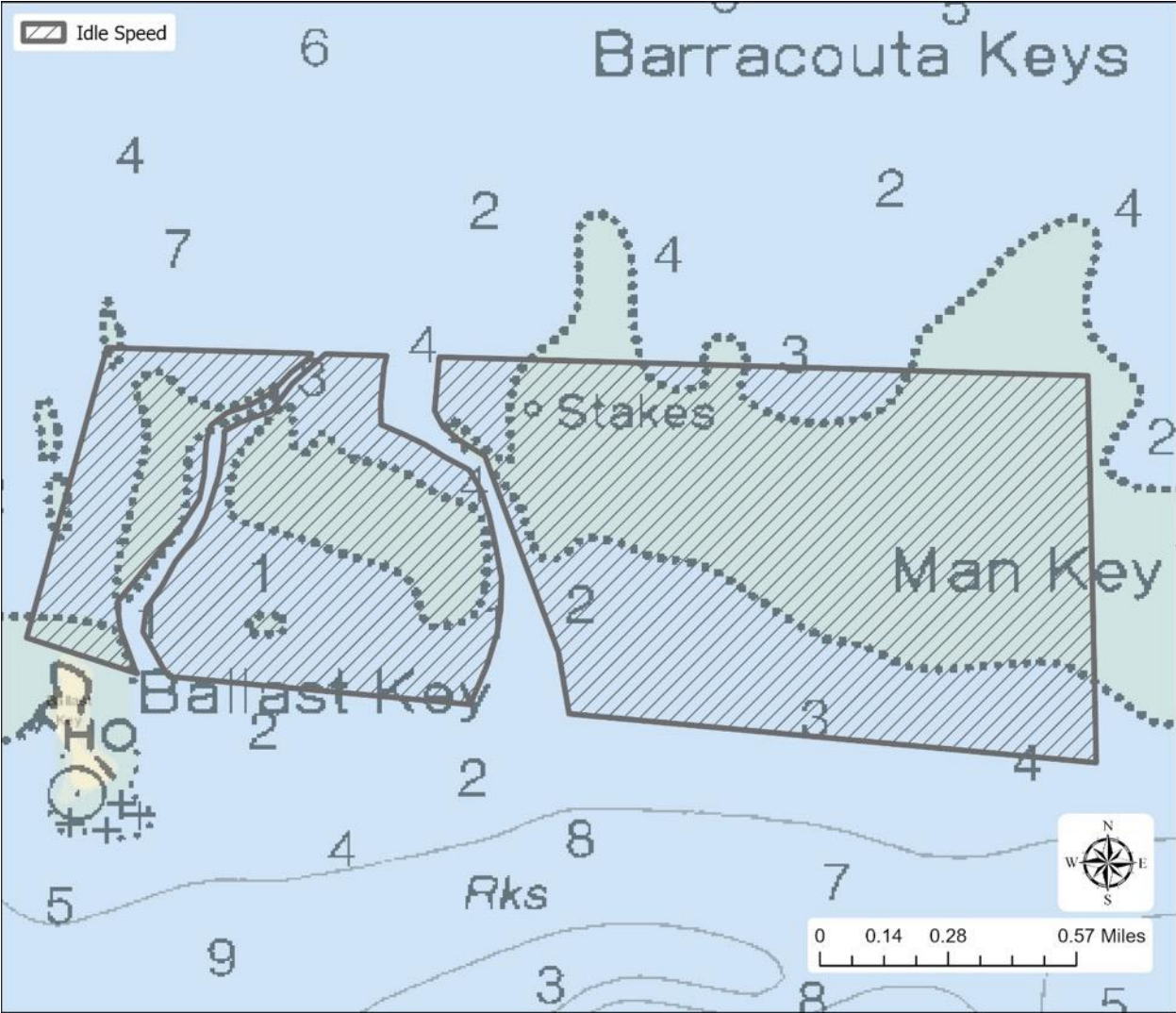
Little Mullet Key: This minimum 100-yard distance no entry zone is needed to minimize disturbance to wading and migratory birds, like great white herons, who use this area to rest, nest, and eat. Little Mullet Key WMA (approximately 0.05 square miles; 31 acres) has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations make no change to this zone other than changing the regulatory terminology of no access buffer to no entry to better align with regulatory terminology used by the state of Florida. This WMA is within the Key West



National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

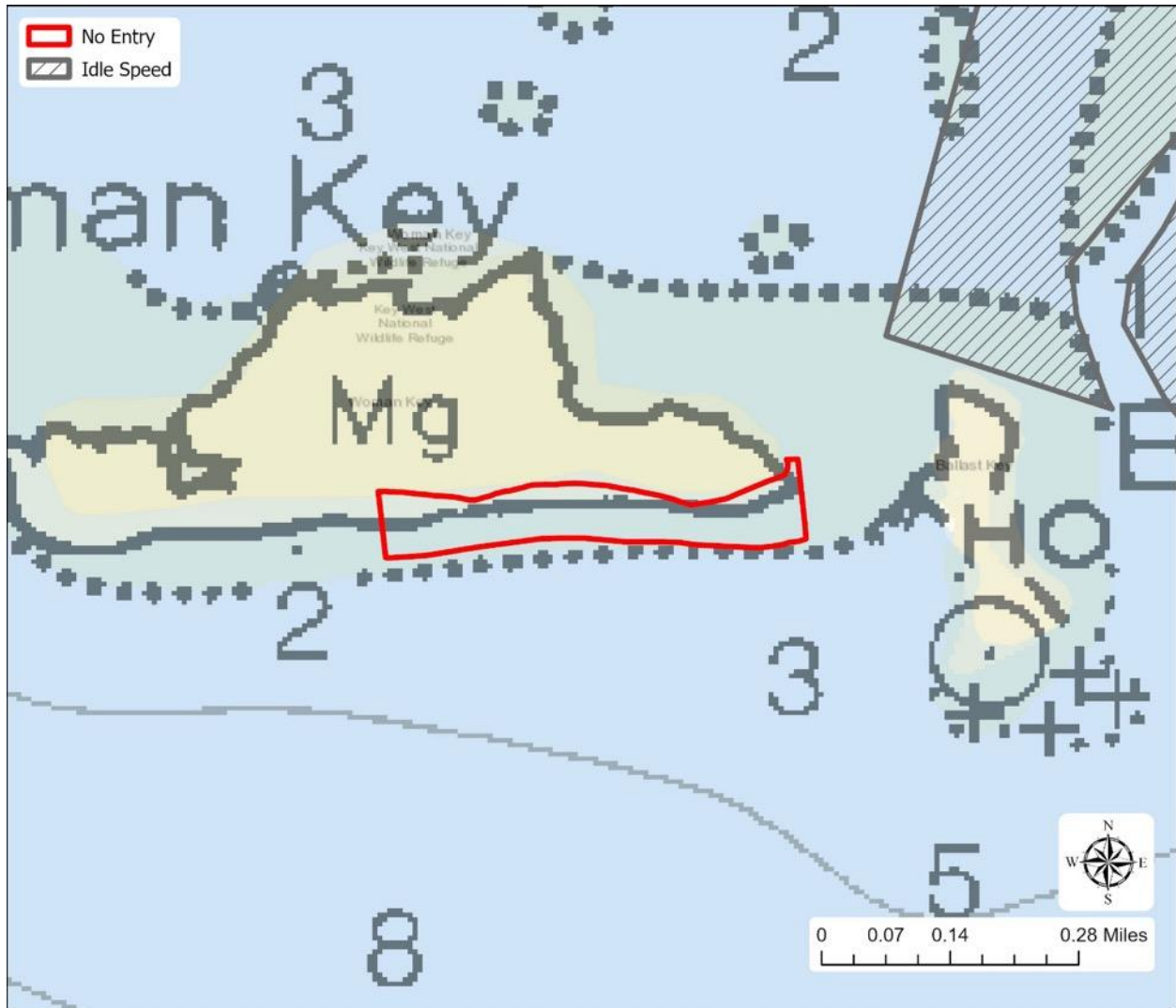
Cottrell Key: This minimum 100-yard distance no entry zone is needed to protect wading birds, like great white herons, who use this area to nest, rest, and eat. Cottrell Key has one of the highest annual counts of nesting great white herons in the lower Florida Keys. Cottrell Key WMA (approximately 0.08 square miles; 57 acres) has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations change the existing no motor regulations to no entry. This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

Ballast and Man Key Flats Wildlife Management Area



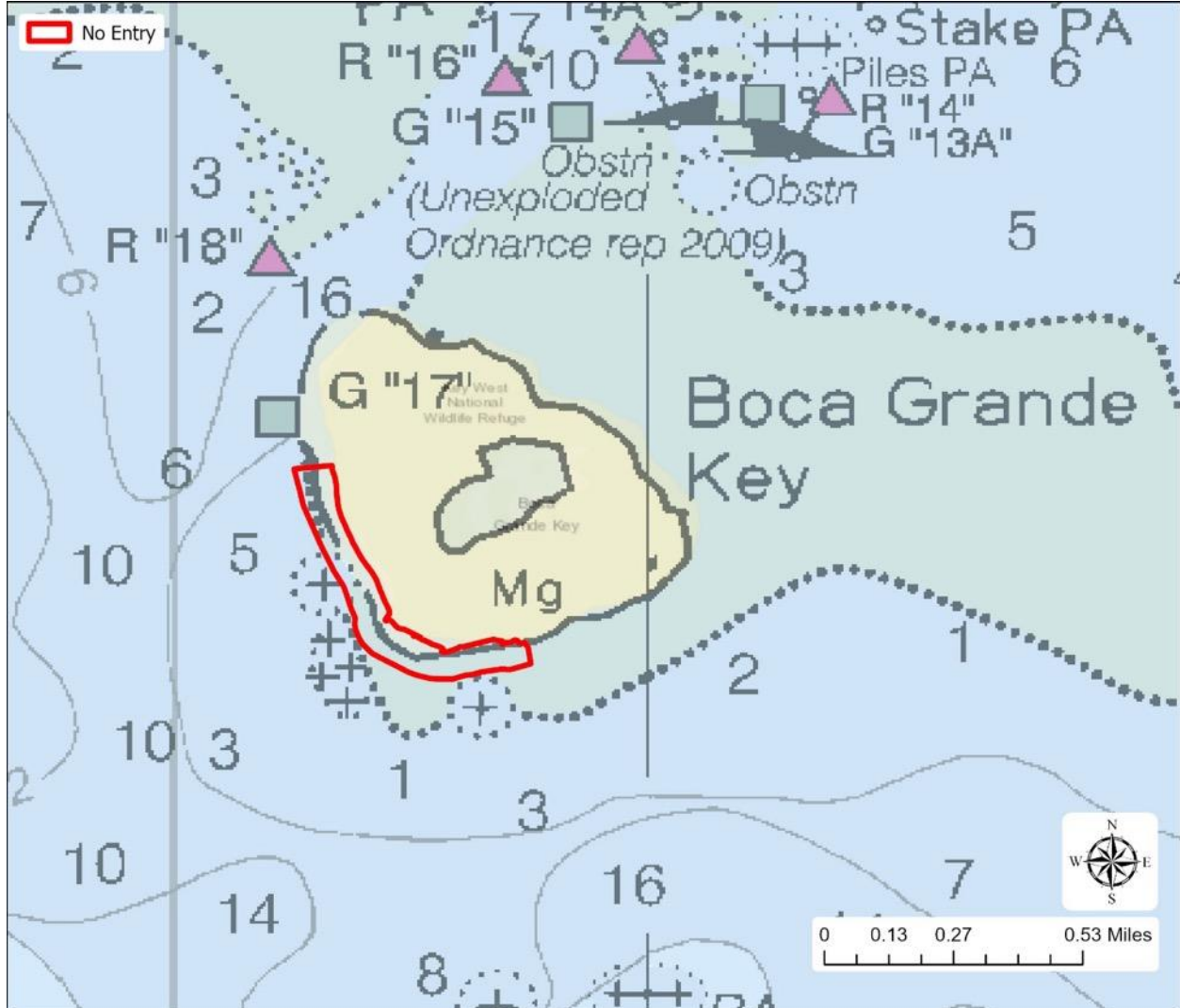
This idle speed no wake zone is in effect to protect sea turtles and the shallow habitats in the area as well as reduce used conflict between different recreational user groups. The 2025 updated regulations include this area as a new idle speed no wake wildlife management area that is approximately 1.5 square miles (970 acres) except the two channels between the Keys are open for normal operation. This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge.

Woman Key Wildlife Management Area



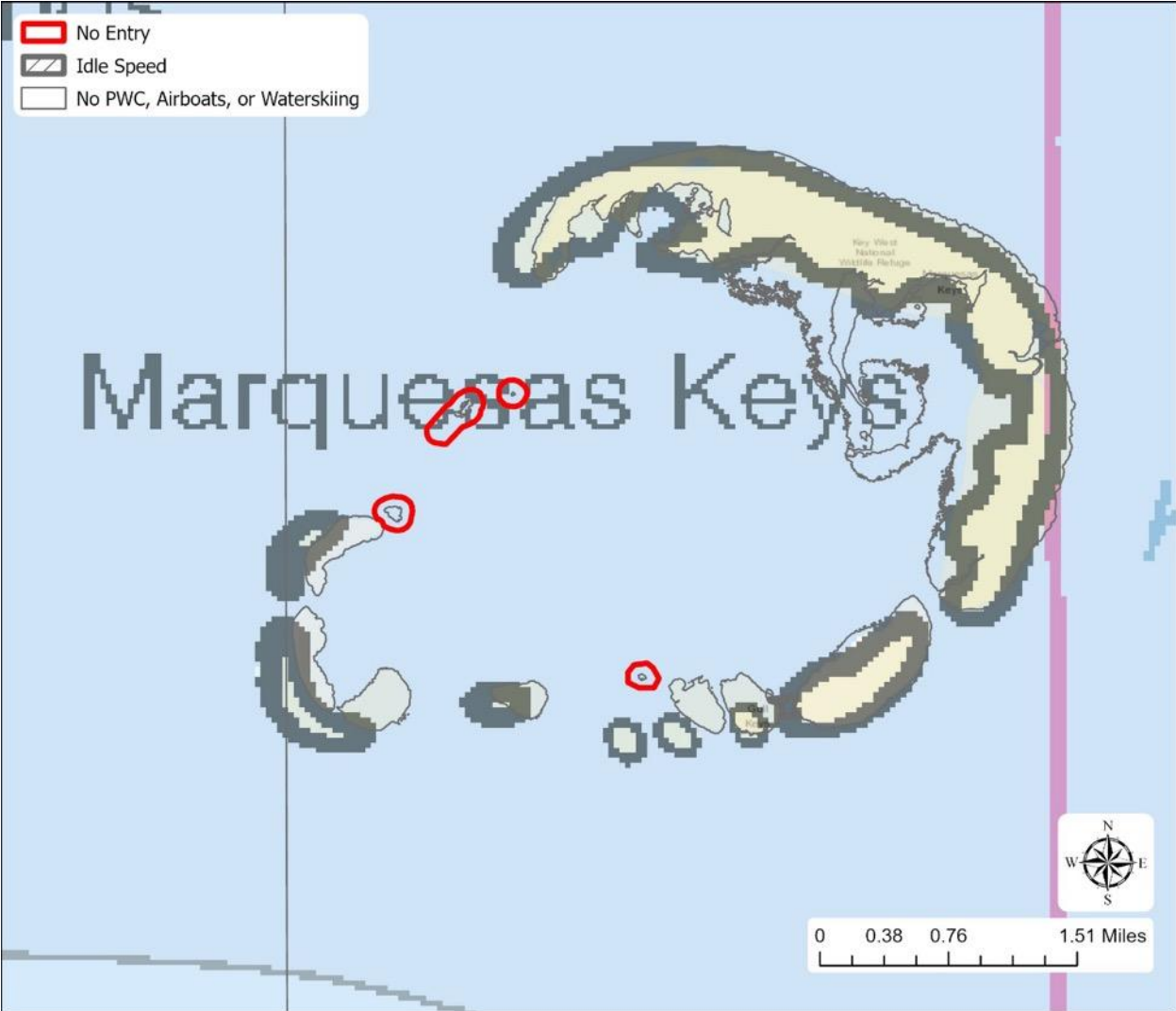
This minimum 100-yard distance no entry zone around Upper Harbor Key is to protect birds, like reddish egrets, great white herons, little blue herons and more, who may use this area to nest, rest, and eat. The idle speed no wake for the surrounding flats is in effect to reduce prop scars and vessel groundings, which have impacted this area that is used by birds looking for food. Woman Key WMA has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations expand the existing no entry area by approximately 0.01 square miles (8.6 acres) for a total of 0.02 square miles (16 acres). This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

Boca Grande Key Wildlife Management Area



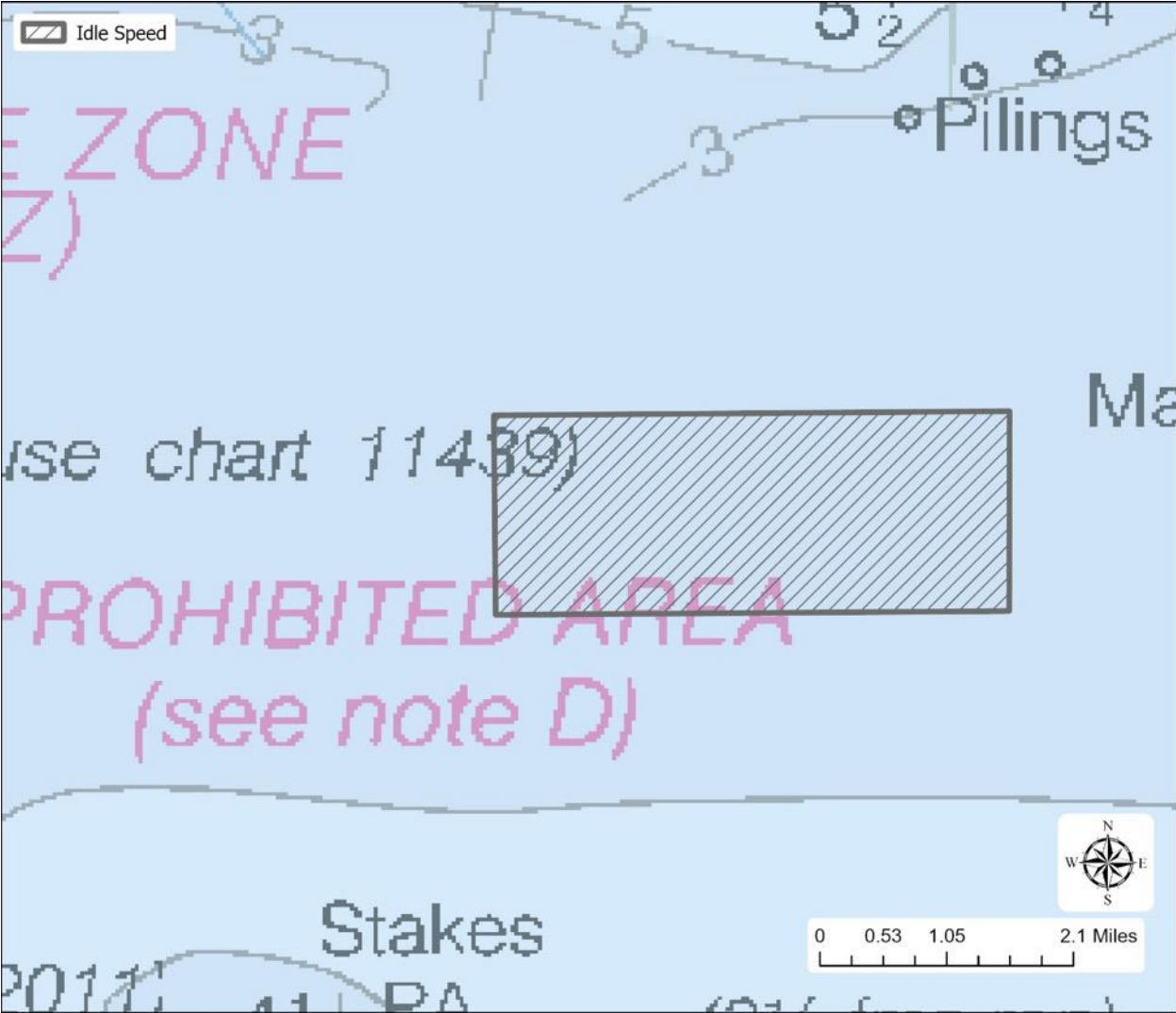
This minimum 100-yard distance no entry zone is needed to minimize disturbance to wading and migratory birds, like great white herons, who use this area to rest, nest, and eat, and sea turtles who use these islands as nesting areas. This area is also home to sensitive habitat for the Miami blue butterfly. This is an important biodiversity hotspot in the National Wildlife Refuge and the sanctuary. Boca Grande Key WMA has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations expand the existing no entry area by approximately 0.01 square miles (8.0 acres) for a total of 0.04 square miles (26 acres). This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

Marquesas Keys Wildlife Management Area



This minimum 100-yard distance no entry zone is needed around some of the islands to minimize disturbance to wading and migratory birds, like great white herons, who use this area to rest, nest, and eat, and sea turtles who use these islands as nesting areas. Marquesas Keys WMA has been a sanctuary marine zone since 1997. The 2025 updated regulations maintain an idle speed no wake area in one southern channel; change two no motor areas to no entry and slightly expands the area included as no entry (islands in the northwest); add a no entry area around an island in the southern portion of the Keys; and finally for the western most island that is currently zoned, change the regulatory terminology of no access buffer to no entry to better align with regulatory terminology used by the state of Florida. The total area included in the Marquesas Key WMA is approximately 0.12 square miles (76.4 acres). This WMA is within the Key West National Wildlife Refuge with access restrictions outlined in their 1992 backcountry management plan.

Marquesas Keys Turtle Wildlife Management Area



This area is idle speed no wake to protect sensitive habitats in a rare, internationally important foraging ground for green sea turtles that travel throughout the Caribbean basin. The 2025 updated regulations include this area as a new idle speed no wake wildlife management area that is approximately 6.4 square miles (4,079 acres).



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