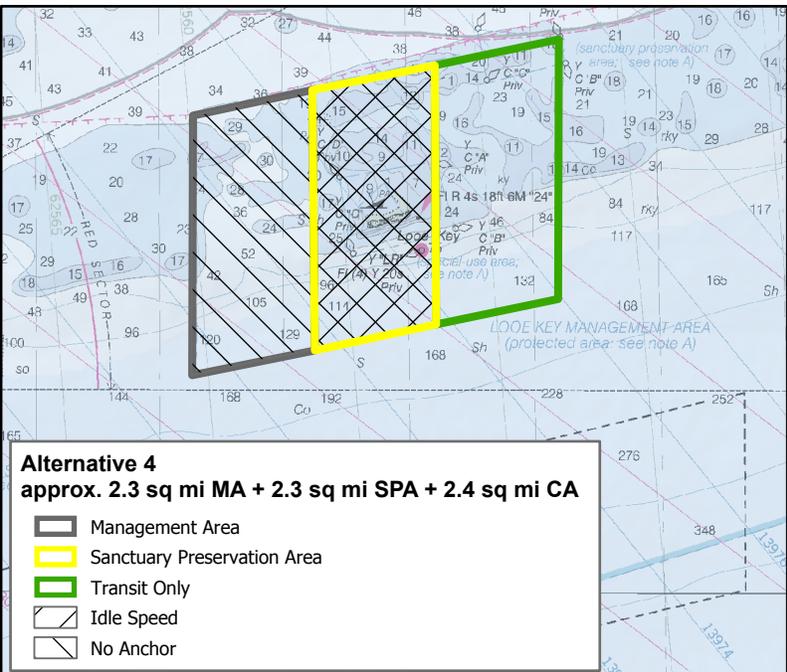
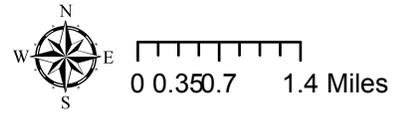


Alternative 3 is the same as Alternative 2



Looe Key Existing Management Area/Conservation Area, Special Use Areas, and Sanctuary Preservation Area



The EMA/MA, designated in 1981 as a national marine sanctuary, this zone includes a SPA and SUA. Reef habitats historically supported large thickets of ESA-listed elkhorn coral and pillar coral. The site currently contains the only remaining remnant elkhorn thickets within the Lower Keys, along with unusually large colonies of ESA-listed star corals and pillar corals. The site contains premier snorkel and dive locations and is renowned for high relief spur-and-groove habitats, undercut ledges and swim-throughs that support diverse fish assemblages. It also contains a large coral nursery and is an ongoing site for coral restoration of staghorn and elkhorn. The SUA/CA protects a system of offshore patch reefs with a linear reef margin, extensive sand plain and seagrass meadows, and low profile spur-and-groove reefs. Provides an area for comparative research studies including effects of low versus high use as it is within the complex of Looe Key EMA and Looe Key SPA. Historically supported large stands of ESA-listed staghorn corals and star coral and currently contains an offshore coral nursery along with important restoration sites. The SPA protects an area of transitional coral reef features and other benthic communities including seagrass. This zone was originally designed to limit consumptive activities and separate users engaged in different activities. This map contains proposed marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. For more details about the proposed alternatives and zone descriptions, including associated regulations, see Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this DEIS.

Lower Keys Region

