



# Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

## Marine Zone Recommendation Highlights

April 16, 2019



# Sanctuary Advisory Council Goals



- To improve the diversity of natural biological communities ....and ....restore 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.

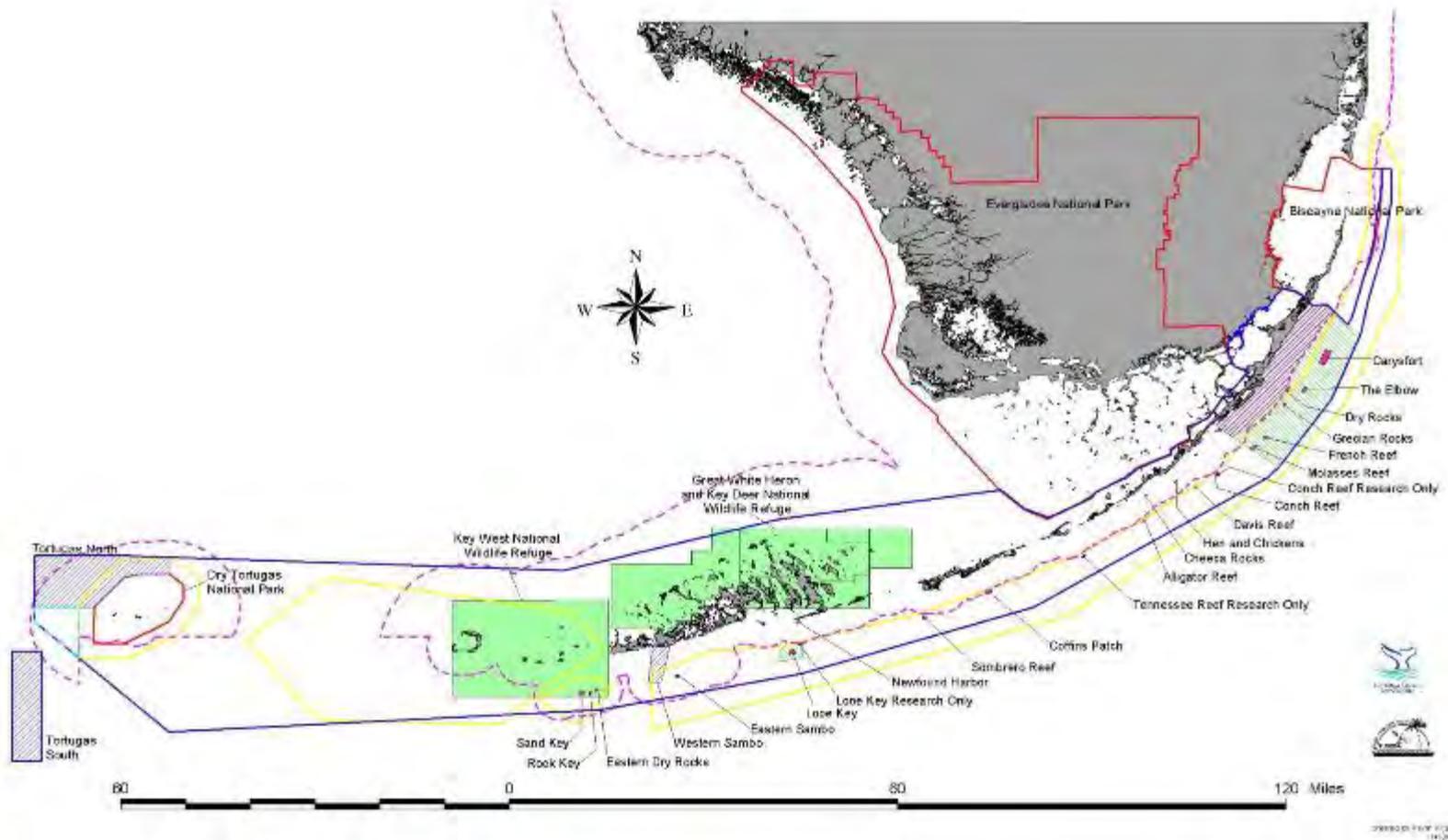
# Sanctuary Advisory Council Issues and Management Priorities for Review



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



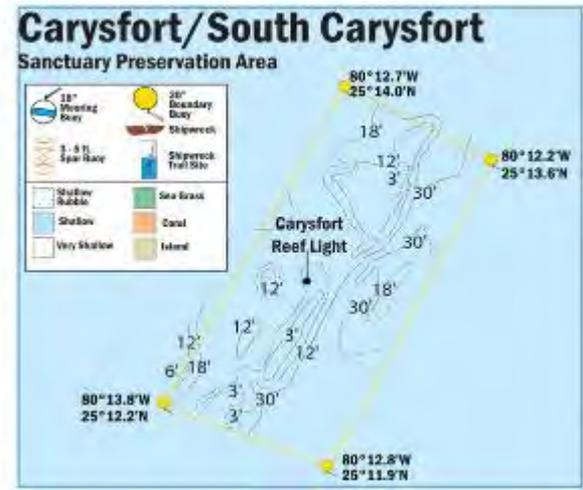
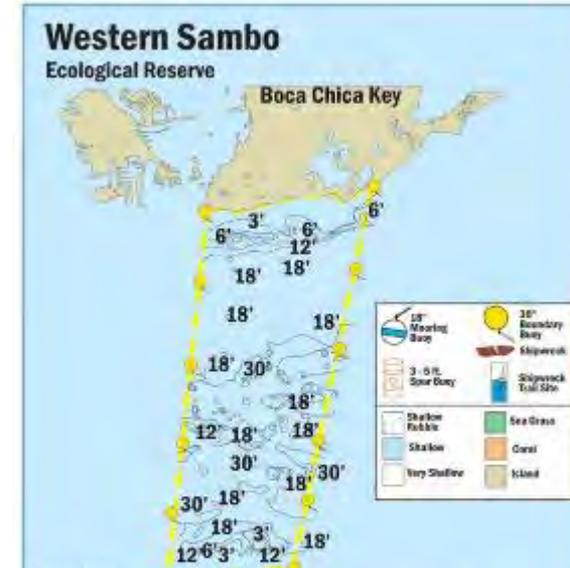
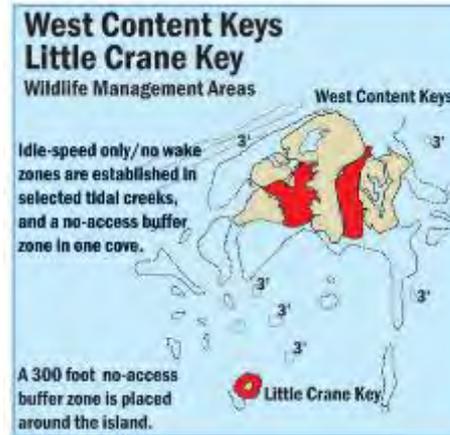
# Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



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# 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



# Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups: Specific Charges and Objectives



## **Ecosystem Protection Working Group:**

- Review Zones addressing ecosystem level protection in no-take / limited take zones.
- Review exceptions to regulations in SPAs and ERs.

## **Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Working Group:**

- Evaluate zones for habitat and wildlife protection;
- Identify concentrated uses that may be harming resources;
- Evaluate marine salvage issues and harm to seafloor – particularly seagrass habitats.

## **Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration Working Group:**

- Identify specific areas for active coral reef restoration and promote adaptive management;
- Identify permit procedures/regulatory challenges.



# Science Used in the Community Process & For Alternatives Analysis



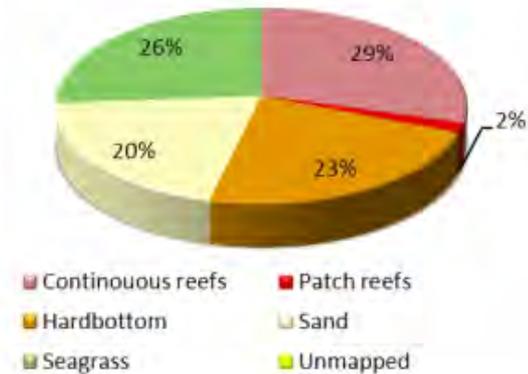
Metric Type	Resource Name	Metric Type	Resource Name	Metric Type	Resource Name
Coral Reefs	Endangered/proposed I species distribution	Fish	Fish abundance distribution	Human	Density of Commercial Fishers
	Hard coral density distr		Fish species richness distribution		Distribution of Commercial Fishing Landings
	Hard coral percent cover distribution		Grouper-snapper complex abundance distribution		Recreational Fishing Distribution
	Hard coral species richness distribution		Nassau-Goliath Group Abundance		Recreational Diving Distribution
	Soft coral density distribution		Barracuda abundance		Commercial Operator
	Resilient Reefs		Marine life ornamental abundance distribution		Recreational Diving Distribution
	Soft coral species richness distribution		Top 10 marine life ornamental species distribution		Marine Debris Density
Habitat	Areas of aggregated and reefs from Florida unified tract map	Parrotfish abundance	Permit Abundance		Vessel Grounding Numbers
	Areas of high structural	Fish Aggregations	Queen Conch		Marine Related Facilities Locations
	Seagrass density distrib				

# Natural Resource Analysis

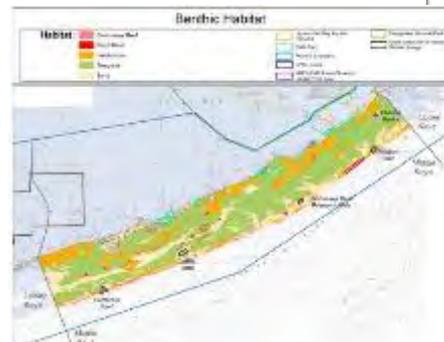
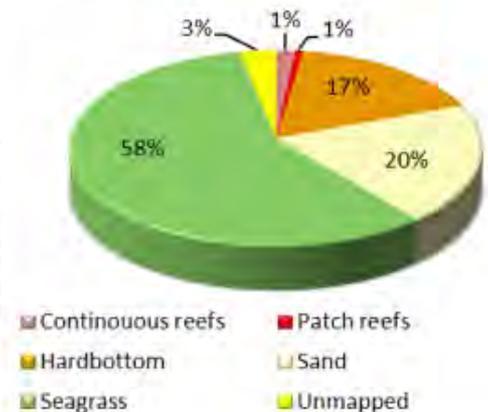


- Area within current marine zoning scheme?
- Habitat types distributed within current marine zoning scheme
- High relief reefs
- Resilient reefs
- Federal and State threatened coral species
- Fish spawning aggregation areas
- Coral cover and diversity
- Fish abundance and diversity

**SPAs, SUAs**



**Remaining FKNMS, oceanside**



# 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: 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>

# Research Relevance to Advisory Council Goals

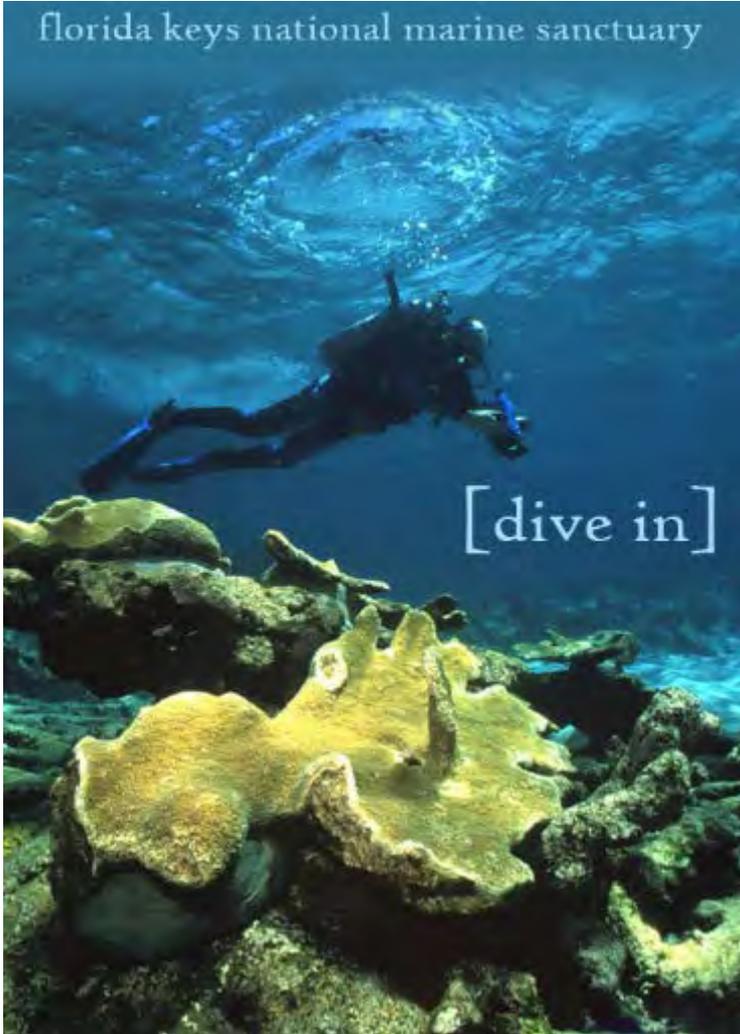


- Shallow Water Habitats and their Ecological Importance
  - Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research.
  - Develop recommendations considering existing regulations and zoning to further protect shallow water habitats.
- Marine Zone Case Study: Western Sambo Ecological Reserve
  - Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas.
- Fish Aggregation Sites
  - Recommend new or modified ERs to ensure protection of a diversity of resources including spawning aggregations.

# Thank You!



florida keys national marine sanctuary



## Websites:

[floridakeys.noaa.gov](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov)

[facebook.com/floridakeysnoaa.gov](https://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>