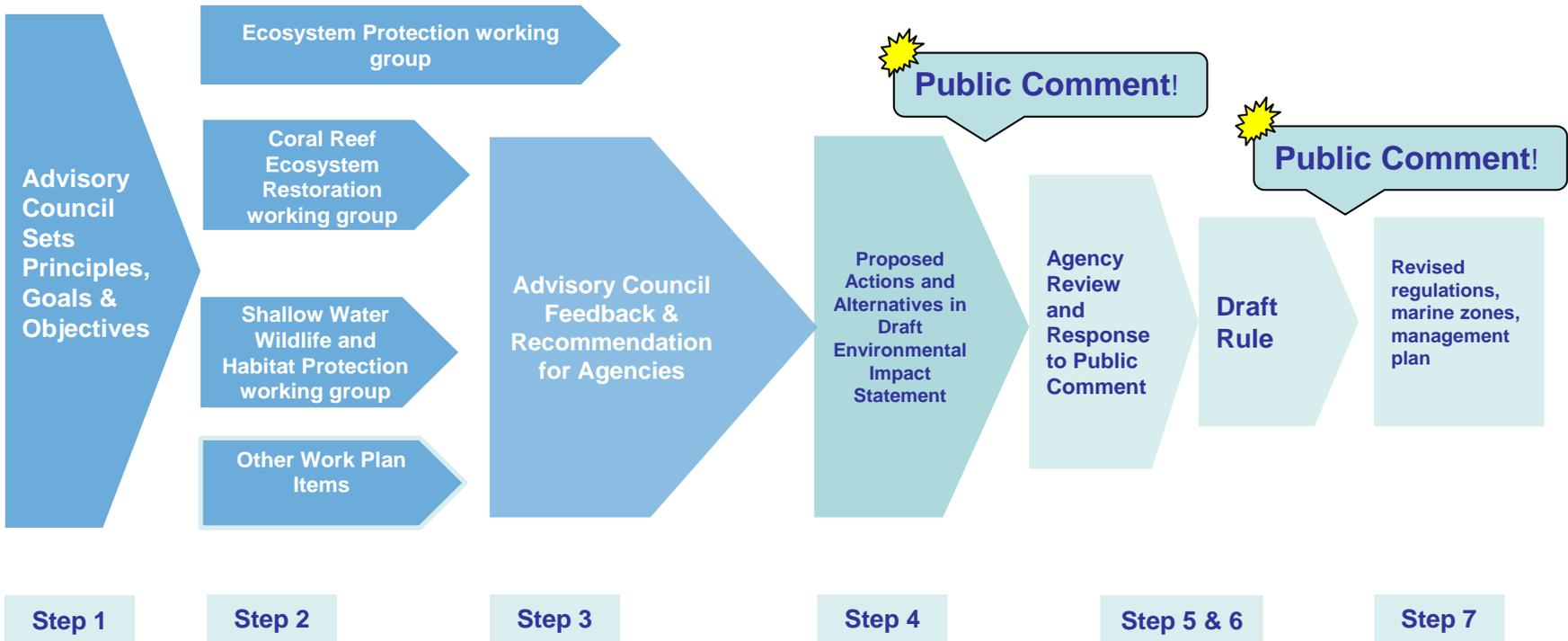




Restoration Blueprint

Public Engagement & Public Comment Summary

Marine Zoning & Regulatory Review Time-Line



Sanctuary Advisory Council Action

- ✓ 12/11/2012 Study Areas and Boundary Modifications
- ✓ 12/11/2012 Personal Watercraft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
- ✓ 2/19/2013 Vessel / Boating Licensing and Education
- ✓ 4/16/2013 Education and Outreach
- ✓ 7/9/2013 Alternative Funding / User Fee
- ✓ 8/20/2013 Boater Education
- ✓ 2/18/2014 Law Enforcement (Action – 4/15/2014)
- ✓ 6/17/2014 Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
 - *Working group met January – June 2013*
- ✓ 6/17/2014 Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection
 - *Working group met January – June 2013*
- ✓ 8/19/2014 Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection
 - *Working Group met March – September 2013 & March – July 2014*

Advisory Council and Public Information Sessions

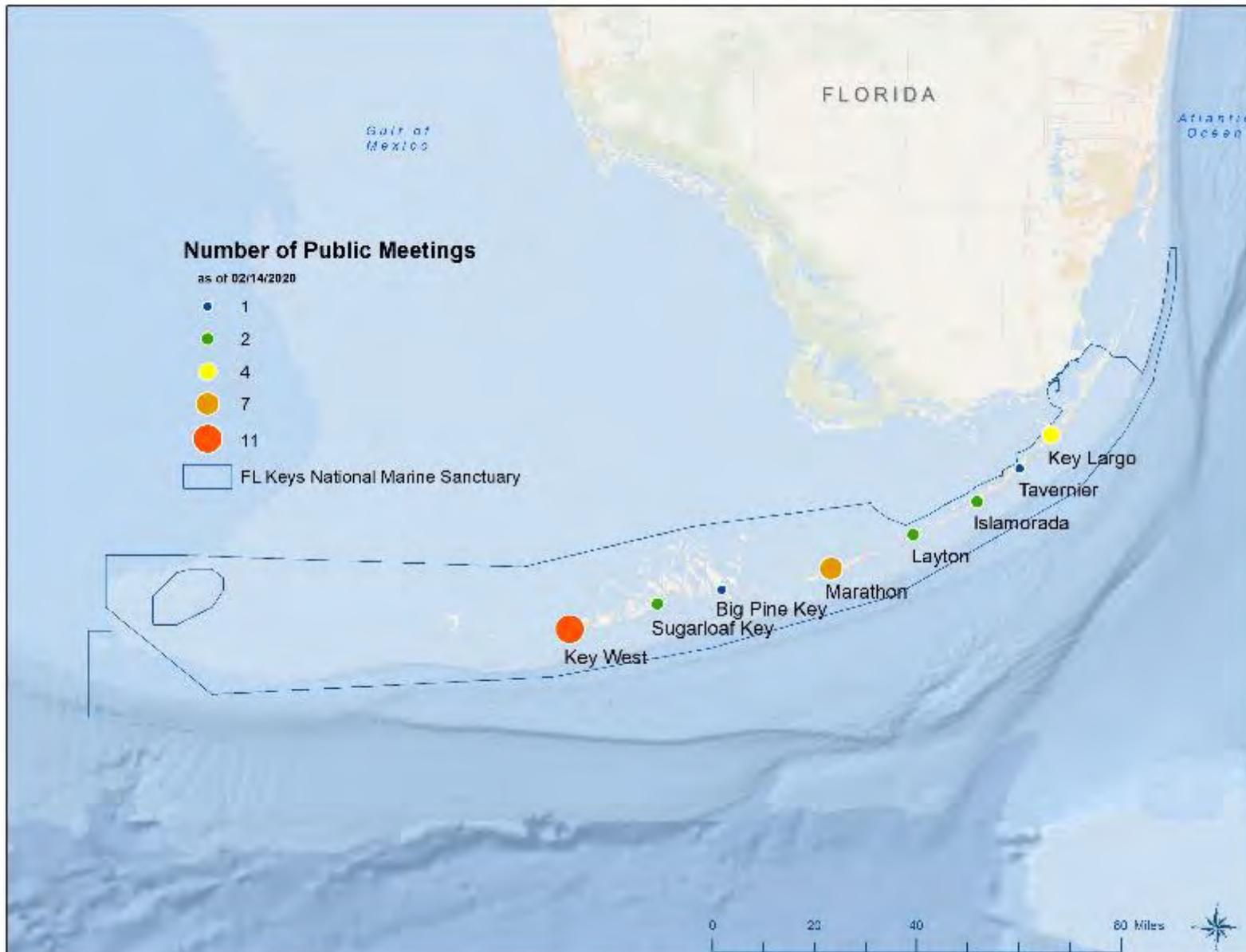
Date	Meeting Type	Public engagement opportunity	Location
September 23	Public Information Session	Written Q&A; Written Comment	Key West
September 30	Public Information Session	Written Q&A; Written Comment	Marathon
October 7	Public Information Session	Written Q&A; Written Comment	Tavernier
October 15	Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting	Written and Oral Public Comment	Key West
October 28	Public Information & Comment Opportunity	Written Q&A; Oral Public Comment	Miami
November 4	Public Information & Comment Opportunity	Written Q&A; Oral Public Comment	Ft. Myers
November 6	Public Comment Opportunity	Written and Oral Public Comment	Marathon
December 10	Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting	Written and Oral Public Comment	Islamorada

Public Comment Period:
Submit public comments:

August 2019 through January 31, 2020
www.regulations.gov

Individual Community Organization Meetings & Briefings

Mainland Florida:
Miami
Ft. Myers
Orlando



Public Comment Totals and Distribution

- Total Individual Comment Records Submitted: **1007**
- Representing over **32,000** total comments due to sign-on comments

Meeting & Date	Written	Oral
Key West – September 23	77	NA
Marathon – September 30	12	NA
Key Largo – October 7	13	NA
Miami – October 28	NA	2
Ft. Myers – November 4	1	6
Key West – October 15	13	50
Marathon – November 6	3	23
Islamorada – December 10	11	40
Mailed in	37	

Organizations Represented

- State and Federal Agency
- Local municipalities
- Homeowners Associations
- Fishing Organizations
- Diving Organizations
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Trade Organizations
- Scientists / Permit Holders
- Schools – Universities, Grade Schools, etc.
- Local & National Petitions / Sign-On Letters

General Comments

In Support –

- General support of the need to take action, note Alternative 3 or Alternative 4 at a minimum
- Recognize the need for additional action to protect and maintain the Florida Keys ecosystem
- If submitted general statement of support usually included support for boundary expansion to include Pulley Ridge

In Opposition –

- General opposition of any action (implied related to any additional spatial closures or restrictions)
- Generally also included statements related to the need to address water quality, education, and enforcement
- Some identified the fishery management councils and FWC for their role in regulating fishing activity

Boundary Proposal Comments

Few direct comments; most were part of a more general comment

In Support –

- Pulley Ridge: protect unique ecological features; possible resilient reefs; source populations for Florida Keys
- Area to Be Avoided: additional protections for deep reef area; historical resources in this proposed boundary expansion area
- Tortugas Region: additional protections for habitats, important area for a range of marine and avian species

In Opposition –

- Pulley Ridge: already protected through GMFMC HAPC; sanctuary protections not justified
- Area to Be Avoided and Tortugas Region: not needed; overreach

Sanctuary-Wide Regulations

Live Rock Prohibition

- Most comments were related to specific marine zone proposals and potential impact to existing live rock operations

Discharge Regulations

- Few comments with majority in support; need for clarification

Emergency Regulation

- Support of additional action and flexibility this proposal provides
- Concern that “emergency” is not clearly defined; importance of following Administrative Procedures Act

Historical Resources Permitting

- Support additional protections; aligning with State process; enhancing historical resource research
- Loss of ability to treasure hunt/salvage; limits ability to conduct operations; not properly vetted

Sanctuary-Wide Regulations (continued)

Vessel Grounding, Deserted Vessels

- Few comments; all support

Large Vessel Mooring Buoy

- Few comments with majority in support; need more mooring buoys and stakeholders advice for placement
- Specific comments to ensure resource protection – clarify definition of large vessel and modify definition of vessel rafting

Overnight Use of Mooring Buoys

- General support for additional protections for habitats
- General opposition due to public access, public safety, and agency overreach

Sanctuary-Wide Regulations (continued)

Fish Feeding

- General support for additional protections for public safety, animal behavior, and to align with State regulations
- General opposition due to impact to local economy
- General opposition due to loss of public engagement and educational opportunities

Shoreline Slow Speed

- General support to simplify shallow water regulations; provide protection for habitats and wildlife; potential for fewer individual Wildlife Management Areas
- General concern due to blanket regulation in areas where “getting on plane” is needed and is better for the habitat; access concerns

Marine Zone Regulation Comments

No Anchor in all SPAs

- General support where habitat protections are needed
- General opposition to large no anchor areas, particularly where anchoring has little impact
- Some input on better defining anchoring / anchor types
- Some input on updating existing anchoring regulation

Idle Speed / No Wake in all SPAs

- General support for additional safety and environmental protections in small targeted areas
- General opposition for large areas due to safety concerns, impact to operations, and lack of justification

No Anchor in Key Largo Management Area

- General opposition; Some comments support additional no anchor areas “where needed”

Marine Zone Regulation Comments (continued)

Eliminating Bait fishing permits in SPAs

- Few comments:
 - Support consistency of regulations and clarity
 - General opposition, particularly for Lampara fishery due to low number of permits, reporting requirement, and low impact to habitat

Eliminating Catch and Release by Trolling in 4 SPAs

- Few comments:
 - Support for consistency of regulations and clarity
 - General opposition to loss of access

Limited Entry in Select SPAs

- General opposition
- Many support some action to address numbers of users and carrying capacity of the sanctuary and particular areas
 - Education / Blue Star Certification and permit
 - Include backcountry areas in proposal

Marine Zone Comments – General

General opposition to any new or modified marine zones

Marine zones to protect new habitat types –

- General support to protect patch reef, deep reef, hardbottom and seagrass habitats
- Comments on individual proposals provided site specific input

Marine zones to facilitate coral reef restoration –

- General support for additional protections of existing nursery sites, including “no anchor” regulation
- Support for protecting coral restoration sites as needed

Marine zones to protect large contiguous habitat areas –

- General support of the concept and need; modifications to existing proposals
- General opposition to the specific areas proposed

Marine Zone Comments – Upper Keys

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Key Largo No Anchor Zone

- General opposition; Some support additional “No Anchor” areas where needed

Carysfort

- Need to protect deep reefs, historic spawning aggregation site, and coral nursery and restoration sites
- Mixed comments for a large shoreline to deep reef protected area

Turtle Rocks

- Support for additional protections of in-shore patch reefs for habitat, ESA coral, and demonstrated resilient reef areas
- Support for proposed expansion to encompass a known historical resource site

Marine Zone Comments – Upper Keys (continued)

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Pelican Key

- General support for additional protections due to increasing and new uses (fireworks, seaplane, etc.)

Whitmore Bight

- General support for additional protections
- “Idle Speed / No Wake” is sufficient; important area for kayaking, flats fishing, etc.

Marine Zone Comments – Middle Keys (continued)

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Long Key Tennessee Reef

- General opposition to a shoreline to deep reef SPA due to:
 - Loss to local access, use, and economic value/opportunity
 - Nearshore use by flats fisherman; proposal for nearshore catch and release area
 - Use of area by lobster fishermen
 - Mixed habitat that may not be highest quality for protection through zoning
- General support to protect large contiguous habitats
 - Value of this site for habitats and species
 - Other areas in Middle Keys are proposed

Marine Zone Comments – Middle Keys

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Channel Key Bank / Red Bay Bank & associated Idle Speed /No Wake areas

- General support for protections of additional habitat types and for “No Take” status
- General opposition to “No Take” status due to use of these areas for fishing, particularly lobster fishing; other areas of similar habitat were recommended
- General support to protect this area from vessel damage; support for channel marking vs. zoning

Turtle Shoals

- Support for protecting in-shore patch reefs for habitat, ESA coral, and demonstrated resilient reef areas

Marine Zone Comments – Middle Keys

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Marathon Shoreline

- General opposition to “No Motor” zone due to impact to use of area, access to shoreline and homes, and potential impact to economy
- Concern related to use of channels
- General support for “No Motor” areas in targeted, heavily impacted areas along this shoreline

Marine Zone Comments – Lower Keys

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Key Lois / Loggerhead Key

- General opposition due to impacts to access and use
- General opposition of “Idle Speed / No Wake” in such a large area
- Note that the user conflict is minimal
- Concern about access to channel

Western Sambo

- General opposition to nearshore “Idle Speed / No Wake” or “No Entry” proposals – impact to local community and would not achieve intended goal
- Mixed comments about expansion to include deep reef portions

Marine Zone Comments – Backcountry WMAs

Backcountry Wildlife Management Areas

- General opposition to closures that impact locals' recreation areas; areas used by eco-tour operators
- Concern about use of channels
- Recommend channel marking vs. zones
- Clarification for “No Motor” definition
- Several comments recommended additional areas to protect through zoning and channel marking
- Limit commercial activity

Zones most often noted: Snipes Key, Marvin Key, Boca Grande, Woman Key, Archer Key, Barracuda Key, and Contents

Marine Zone Comments – Marquesas (continued)

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Western Dry Rocks

- General support of protecting fish spawning aggregation sites; particular support for protection when Permit are spawning
- General opposition due to impact to use and economy; recognize recent action by FWC to protect mutton snapper
- General opposition to a “Trolling Only” regulation – not well defined and would not achieve intended goal

Marquesas Turtle Zone

- General support to protect important seagrass foraging grounds for sea turtles
- General opposition for “Idle Speed / No Wake” due to safety and navigation considerations; noted this location is not the best site for the intended goal

Marine Zone Comments – Tortugas

Zones selected due to number of individual comments received

Tortugas Corridor

- General opposition due to use of area for recreational and commercial fishing activity, including lobster fishing
- General opposition due to the lack of scientific justification
- General support for protecting fish spawning aggregations and related activities

Additional Marine Zone Recommendations

Example from Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association comment



Additional Marine Zone Recommendations

Example of individual public comment



Resource impact examples

photos specific to Pelican Key)



Management Plan-related Comments

- Channel Marking
- Mooring Buoys
- Enforcement
- Water Quality
- Education – particularly related to boating: knowing the waters and regulations
- Restoration
- Artificial Reefs
- Personal Watercraft
- Climate Change

Other Issues Addressed in Comments

- User Fees
- Access Permits
- Lobster Mini Season
- Climate Change



Restoration Blueprint

Regional Fishery Management Council Consultation

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Comment

Agency Consultation

The National Marine Sanctuaries Act – Procedures for Designation and Implementation

NMSA

Section

304(a)(5) –

Fishing

Regulations

* Provide appropriate regional fishery management council opportunity to prepare draft regulations

* Council may draft regulations or determine regulations are not necessary

* Council action must fulfill NMSA purposes and policies and goals and objectives of designation

* Use national standards of Magnuson-Stevens Act as guidance

* If Council declines, determination is rejected or, fails to act in timely manner, Secretary shall prepare fishing regulations

* Cooperate with other fishery management authorities

Fishery Management Council and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Sessions

Date	Meeting Type	Engagement opportunity	Location
September 16	GMFMC Coral SSC, Coral AP, Shrimp AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Tampa, FL
October 2	GMFMC Reef Fish AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Tampa, FL
October 2	FWC Commission Meeting	Presentation, Q&A	Cape Canaveral, FL
October 10	SAFMC Snapper Grouper AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Webinar
October 21	GMFMC Meeting	Presentation, Q&A	Galveston, TX
October 22	SAFMC Ecosystem Habitat Protection AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	St. Petersburg, FL
October 29	SAFMC Shrimp, Coral, Dolphin/Wahoo, and Mackerel/Cobia APs	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Webinar
November 13	Joint GMFMC & SAFMC Spiny Lobster AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Webinar
December 5	SAFMC Meeting	Presentation, Q&A	Wilmington, NC
December 12	FWC Commission Meeting	FWC staff presentation and discussion, Public Comment likely	Panama City
January 9	GMFMC Standing SSC	Presentation, Q&A	Webinar
January 27	GMFMC Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	New Orleans, LA
February 19	FWC Commission Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	Tallahassee, FL
March 2	SAFMC Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	Jekyll Island, GA

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Completed consultation at Jan. 30, 2020, meeting.

Council chair will draft and submit a letter to include the range of issues discussed by the full council including:

- Boundary proposal
- Specific marine zone proposals in GMFMC jurisdiction
- Baitfishing proposal

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Discussion and direction expected at March 2, 2020, full council meeting

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission

Discussion and direction expected at February 19, 2020, meeting

Issues Presented for Consideration (December 12, 2019)

- **Sanctuary boundary expansion**
- **Sanctuary-wide Regulations** - fish feeding
- **Marine Zones and Regulations**
 - Phase-out of baitfish permits
 - Protection of large, contiguous habitat
 - Expansion of Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs) and Western Sambo Ecological Reserve
 - Tortugas Spawning Corridor SPA
 - Limited access to Carysfort, Sombrero, and Sand Key SPAs
 - Western Dry Rocks Wildlife Management Area
 - Backcountry Wildlife Management Areas
 - Key Largo Management Area
- **Management Plan** - law enforcement

Other Agency Consultations

- National Marine Sanctuaries Act Section 303 Consultations (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. 1433(b)(2)):
 - US House of Representatives Committee on Resources
 - US Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - Secretaries of State, Defense, Transportation, and the Interior; other interested Federal agencies
 - Relevant State agencies
 - Regional Fishery Management Councils
 - Other interested persons
- National Historic Preservation Act Section 106
- Coastal Zone Management Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation & Management Act



Restoration Blueprint

Sanctuary Advisory Council Advice and Recommendation

Sanctuary Advisory Council

Role: Provide advice and recommendation to Sanctuary Superintendent

February 18 Meeting

Location: Marathon

Goal: Issue Identification & Prioritization

March 24-25 Meeting (TBD)

Location: Marathon

Goal: Advice and Recommendation





THANK YOU

Insert Image