

Restoration Blueprint

Sanctuary Advisory Council Priorities and Input
Part II: Virtual Working Session: April 21, 2020

Webinar Tips & Tricks

Every participant is in Listen Only mode. Advisory Council participation will be facilitated.

Advisory Council Members

During Advisory Council discussion periods, Advisory Council members can:

- 1) Type a question into the Question box
- 2) Raise your virtual hand

Individual Advisory Council members will be unmuted by a FKNMS staff facilitator to speak. Only one person will be unmuted at a time.

Members of the Public

Written public comment for Advisory Council member consideration for today's agenda will be accepted from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. today.

Submit written comments at floridakeys@noaa.gov.

These written comments will be made available to Sanctuary Advisory Council members following today's session.

Meeting Goals

- Clarify Restoration Blueprint proposals.
- Present draft Sanctuary Advisory Council proposals/motions.
- Sanctuary Advisory Council questions and discussion as time allows.
- Provide highlights from Sanctuary Advisory Council survey responses

Next Steps

- Public comments submitted today at floridakeys@noaa.gov will be shared with the Advisory Council.
- Staff and Advisory Council core group will determine next steps given outcomes of the survey, the March 24 and April 21 meetings.

Priorities discussed: March 24

- Boundary – incorporate Pulley Ridge
- Regulatory Priorities
 - 3.2.1: Live rock prohibition update
 - 3.2.2: Discharge regulation exception
 - 3.2.3: Shoreline slow speed
 - 3.2.4: Emergency regulations
 - 3.2.5: Historical resources permit categories
 - 3.2.6: Fish feeding
 - 3.2.7: Vessel groundings and derelict and deserted vessels
 - 3.2.8: Large vessel mooring buoy regulation
 - 3.2.9: Overnight use of mooring buoys regulation
- Marine Zone Regulations
 - 3.4.1: Motorized personal watercraft
 - 3.4.2: Tortugas North Ecological Reserve access permits
 - 3.4.3: Catch and release fishing by trolling in four sanctuary preservation areas
 - 3.4.4: Baitfish permits
 - 3.4.5: Limited use access restrictions for specific sanctuary preservation areas
- Marine Zones
 - Western Dry Rocks

Priorities remaining for discussion: April 21

- Marine Zones
 - Key Largo Management Area
 - Marquesas Turtle zone
 - SPAs to include deep reef habitats: Alligator Reef and Carysfort Reef SPAs
 - Large Contiguous Areas
 - Lower Keys Wildlife Management Areas
- Management Plan Priorities
 - Water Quality, Law Enforcement, Education and Outreach
 - Channel Marking
 - Artificial Habitats/Reefs
 - Carrying Capacity/User Fees
 - Adaptive Management

Marine Zone Boundaries



Marine Zones: Key Largo Management Area

Preferred Alternative: proposed anchoring prohibition



Alternative 1

Existing Management Area regulations



Preferred Alternative

Existing Management Area regulations
No Anchor

Marine Zones: Key Largo Management Area

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

The SAC supports Status Quo.

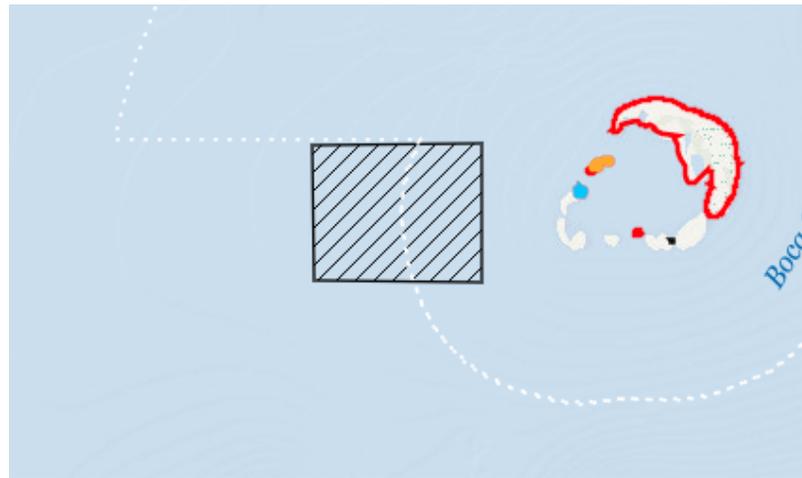
Marine Zones: Marquesas Turtle Zone

Marquesas Turtle Zone: protects internationally important sea turtle seagrass foraging habitat

Alternative 1: Status Quo - No Zone

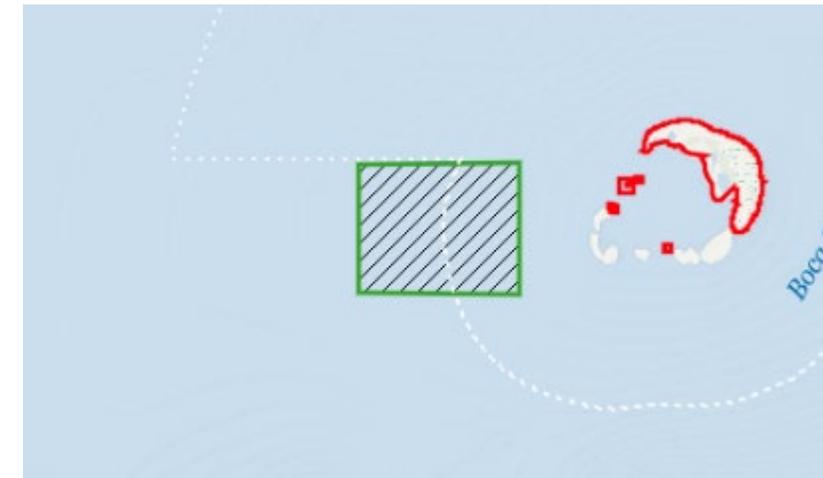


Alternative 2 & 3: Wildlife Management Area



 Idle Speed

Alternative 4: Conservation Area



 Idle Speed

 Transit Only

Marine Zones: Marquesas Turtle Zone

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

The SAC supports additional protections for sea turtle foraging habitat. Any specific spatial protections need clear scientific data.

Note if certain activities are compatible with the goals of this proposed zone (fishing, anchoring); are these activities impacting sea turtles

Consider a more refined area and regulations applied

Consider the need for safe transit and impacts due to this proposed marine zone

Consider seasonal application of marine zone and/or regulations

Note historical recovery of sea turtles; what is the purpose and intent/need for this marine zone

Note that this is a hot spot for turtles; further study of this area and possible impact to turtles

Marine Zones: Expansion to include deep reef habitats

(images show preferred alternative overlapping status quo)



Carysfort Reef



Alligator Reef



Western Sambo

Marine Zones: Expansion to include deep reef habitats

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

The SAC supports the extension of existing SPAs to encompass deep reefs, no anchoring in the entire zone including the new expansion area, and no trap fishing in the entire zone including the new expansion area, however, vessels should be allowed to operate at normal speed except among the mooring buoys of the highly-dived shallow reefs where idle or slow speed is prudent, and hook and line fishing should be allowed in the expansion area.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Question including exception for fishing, if expand consistent regulations; note the need to mark the area for multiple regulations

Each area considered individually for specific habitats/needs; clear understanding of boundaries

Proposed expansion interferes with some fishing activity, pelagic migratory species noted

Consider No Anchor regulation considerations for safety reasons

Consider goal of protecting deep reef habitats and applicable regulations (e.g anchoring); also consider original intent to protect historic fish spawning aggregation sites (be clear about location and species)

Consider areas from an ecosystem protection perspective

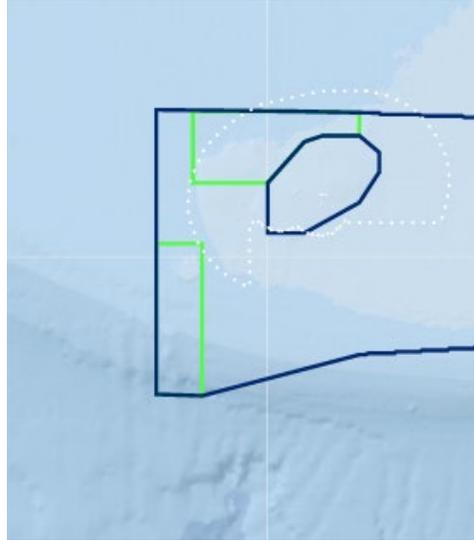
Consider overall number of zones and enforcement, public knowledge concerns

Marine Zones: Large Contiguous Areas: Tortugas South

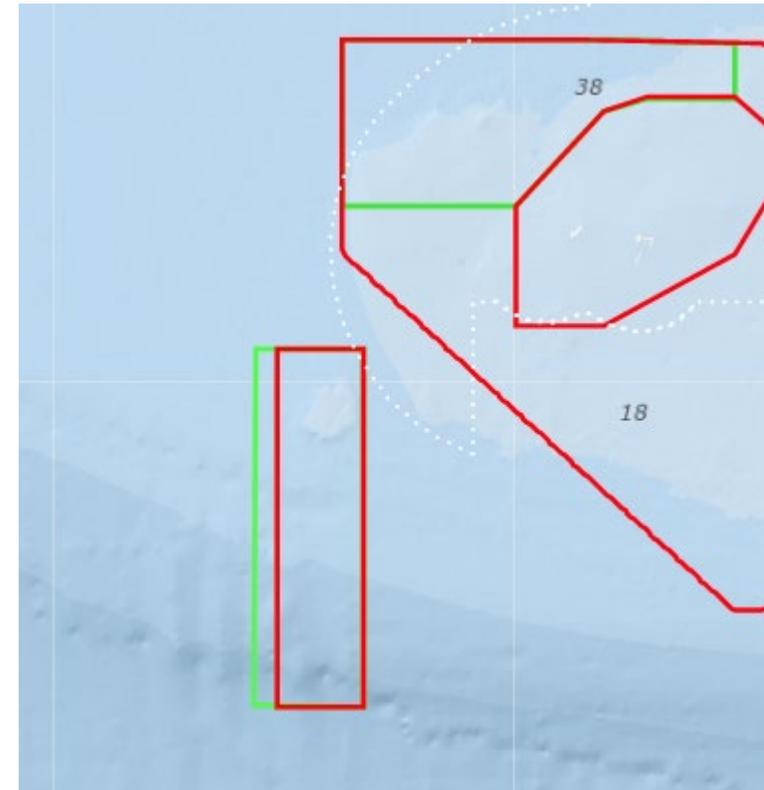
Tortugas South Alternative 1:
(with existing sanctuary boundary in red)



Tortugas South Alternative 3:
(with proposed sanctuary boundary in blue)



Tortugas South Alternative 1 & 3:
(with existing sanctuary boundary in red)



Marine Zones: Large Contiguous Areas – Tortugas South

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

The SAC supports the westward expansion of the Tortugas South Ecological Reserve and recommends that the southern boundary be moved north to allow fishing in the deeper waters, remote from Riley's Hump and the documented spawning aggregations. It is essential that the Sanctuary demonstrate that it is capable of removing, as well as creating, regulatory restrictions on fishing.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Note that this language reflects the Ecosystem Protection Working Group consensus/majority view

Question what resources are included in the deep reef area; opportunity for sanctuary to demonstrate a change in regulations

Engage with community that fishes in area; consider feedback received

Marine Zones: Large Contiguous Areas

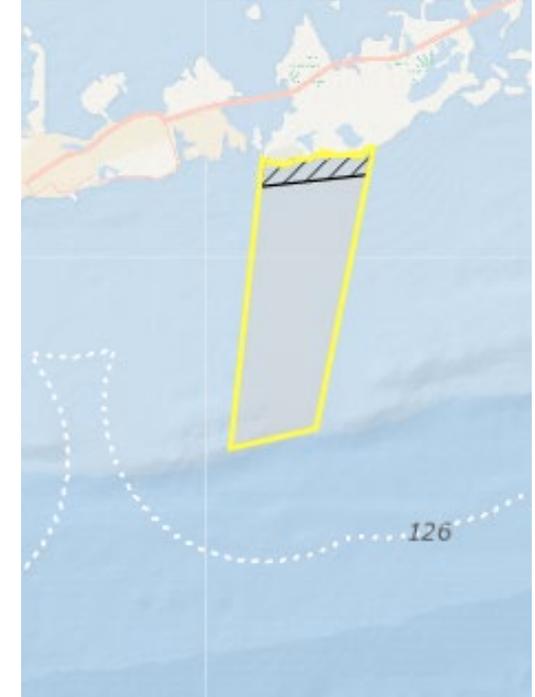
Upper Keys Alternative 4:
Carysfort SPA



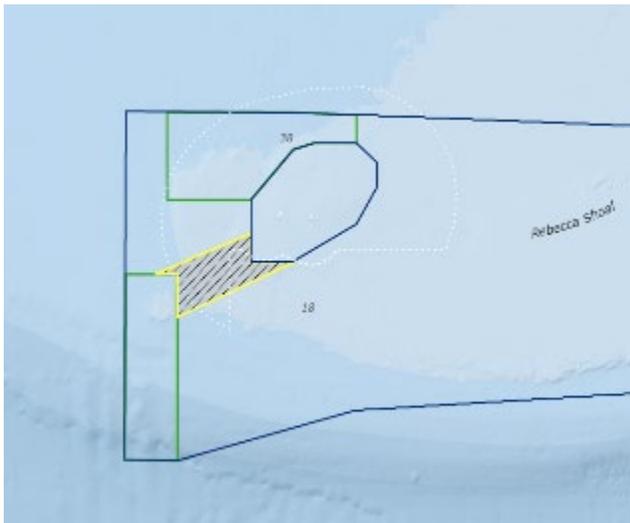
Middle Keys : Long Key-Tennessee Reef
Alternative 3: SPA **Alternative 4: CA**



Lower Keys: Western Sambo
Alternative 3: SPA



Tortugas Alternative 3:
Tortugas Corridor SPA



-  No Anchor
-  Idle Speed
-  Sanctuary Preservation Area
-  Transit Only

Marine Zones: Large Contiguous Areas

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

No draft proposal/motion was submitted in advance for this topic.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Caryfort: if considered as preferred alternative would have driven input related to uses / activities in this area; consider more flexible closure that allows certain activities that are compatible with goals of protecting large contiguous areas (could be considered at Long Key as well)

Long Key: area may not be capturing the best habitat for a large contiguous area; unique area due to proximity to #5 bridge and connectivity with FL Bay (water, species, nursery/off-shore); association with State park – uninhabited area and near shore areas (beaches, seagrass, etc), interesting area for research

Western Sambo: specific issue of idle speed/no wake in this area

Tortugas Corridor: consider effectiveness of existing marine zones in this area (and for region) and how this corridor may contribute

Consider application of idle speed/no wake in all proposed large contiguous areas (Hawk's Channel transit)

Importance of protecting large contiguous areas; support creative application to achieve this concept

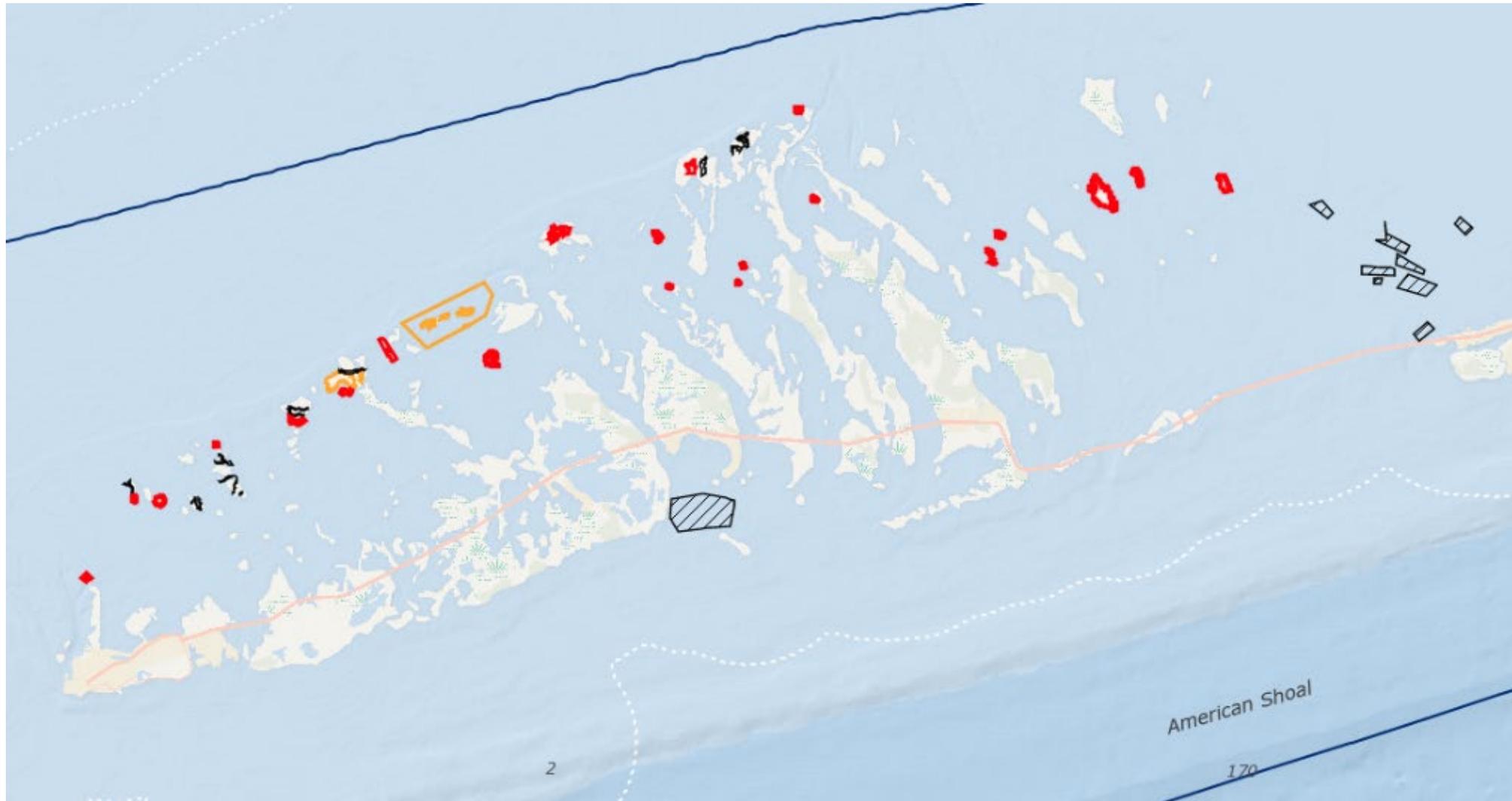
Consider consistency among regions for how any large contiguous marine zones may be implemented

Consider goals of marine zones and impacts by all user groups (e.g. fishing vs. diving)

Consider use of adaptive management strategy (e.g. 5-year closure, assess, adapt if needed, etc); could be flexible based on uses and habitat protection needs

Marine Zones: Wildlife Management Area

Preferred alternative: Lower Keys

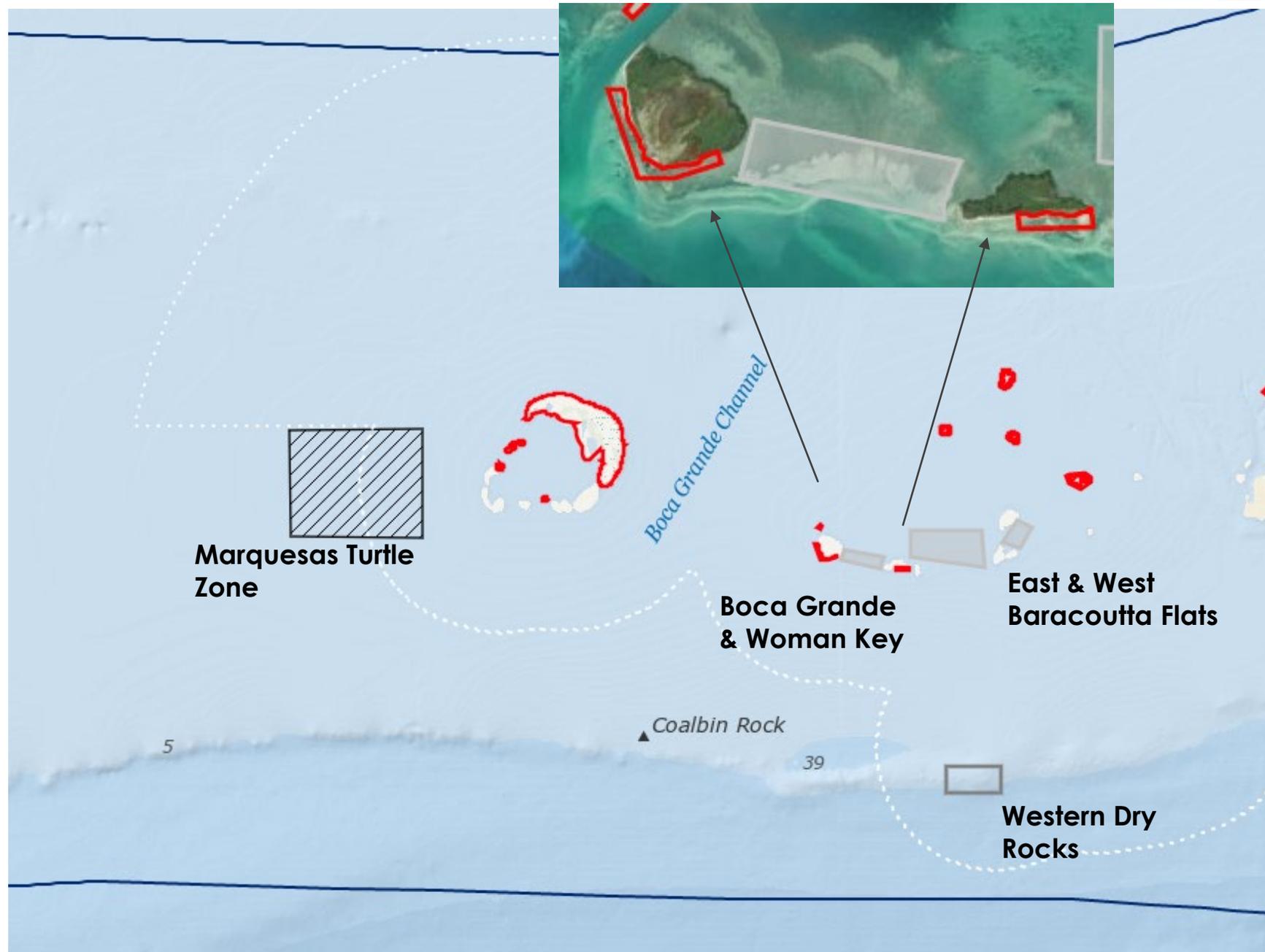


-  No Entry
-  No Anchor
-  Idle Speed
-  Trolling Only
-  No Motor

Marine Zones: Wildlife Management Area

Preferred alternative:
Marquesas

-  No Entry
-  No Anchor
-  Idle Speed
-  Trolling Only
-  No Motor



Marine Zones: Lower Keys Wildlife Management Areas

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

No draft proposal/motion was submitted in advance for this topic.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Too many different regulations within these marine zones; also an increased number of marine zones – consider public education and compliance

Consider simplifying marine zones, clearly marking, enforce

Revisit proposed slow speed zone along all shorelines; could serve to replace many of these individual zones; however consider those zones that are needed for particular species of concern, confer with USFWS (e.g. birds); could simplify; consider enforcement challenges

Specific comments related to proposed zones to protect Florida bay bank habitats – specificity of where/how regulations are applied and purpose and intent of these zones

Consider other areas that may need additional protections (e.g. Tower Flats, slightly off-shore shallow banks)

Note that impacts many of these marine zones are intended to address are boating impacts – need for better protection, channel marking, boater education

Marquesas island proposed closure and clarity of purpose and intent

Snipes, Marvin, Boca Grande examples given to ensure proposals are clear

Consider purpose and intent of closed areas for various species (e.g. birds), provide data, and consider appropriate regulations

Signage needed at important bird nesting areas

Consider vessel and aircraft disturbances to sensitive bird nesting islands

Consider adaptive management

Management Plan

Management Plan SAC Priorities: Water Quality, Law Enforcement, Education and Outreach

Restoration Blueprint Proposal see:

- Water Quality – pg. 67, Management Plan Goal 2, Objective 1, Activities 1-6.
- Law Enforcement – pg. 70, Management Plan Goal 3, Objective 3, Activity 1; pg. 75, Management Plan Goal 5, Objective 4, Activity 1
- Education – pg. 71-73, Management Plan Goal 4, Objectives 1-3, and all associated Activities (8+)

Draft proposal/motion for Advisory Council consideration

The SAC has said it before many times: We heard the public commenters loud and clear, and we agree that FKNMS and its constituent agency implementers and partners need to work even harder on water quality improvements within and beyond sanctuary boundaries, law enforcement capacity and staff retention, and outreach/education efforts.

However, the SAC does not believe these are the only issues that need to be addressed in the sanctuary for the FKNMS to achieve its purpose. Other challenges and opportunities are addressed in other discussions and potential motions.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Consider enforcement of non-compliance on water quality related issues

Consider additional water quality monitoring (citizen science program) in addition to ongoing Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) monitoring

Greater access/communication from WQPP

Management Plan SAC Priorities: Channel Marking

(including marked running lanes and back country routes)

Restoration Blueprint Proposal see:

Channel Marking - pg. 70, Management Plan Goal 3, Objective 3, Activity 4

Draft proposal for Advisory Council consideration

No draft proposal was submitted in advance for this topic.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Consider strategic marking of channels and routes

Coordinate with USFWS for marking while also acknowledging wilderness designation

Coordinate with USCG

Management Plan SAC Priorities: Artificial Reefs/Habitats

Restoration Blueprint Proposal see:

Artificial Habitat - pg. 70, Management Plan Goal 3, Objective 3, Activity 8

Draft proposal for Advisory Council consideration

I would like the subject of artificial reefs to be discussed by the Core group and/or SAC. I would like certain types of artificial reefs and habitat restoration activities be identified as priorities.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Consider opportunities for citizen science, education, research

Consider broader role to facilitate habitat restoration (e.g. sponge, mangrove); apply adaptive management, and marry with applicable regulations; partner with various and relevant user groups

Concerns raised about artificial reef function, potential impact to ecosystem (e.g. invasive species); how this aligns with restoration of natural ecosystem

Consider need/role of artificial reef/habitats in light of status of natural resources

Note the need for careful regulation of any use of artificial reefs/habitat (e.g. casitas)

Other Management Priorities

Other Management Priorities: Carrying Capacity/User Fees

Restoration Blueprint Proposal see:

- 3.4.5, Limited use access restrictions for specific sanctuary preservation areas.
- Carrying Capacity - pg. 69, Management Plan Goal 3, Objective 1, Activities 1 and 2
- User Fees - pg. 175-176 Considered and Eliminated

Draft proposal for Advisory Council consideration

No draft proposal was submitted in advance for this topic.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Consider opportunities to assess carrying capacity of the reef and mechanisms to manage that use

Consider other partners their roles and authority

Establish goals and outcomes for this effort

Concern about additional fees by individuals

Further discussion about scope, scale, and intent is needed

Other Management Priorities: Adaptive Management

Restoration Blueprint Proposal see:

3.2.4 – Emergency regulations

Draft proposal for Advisory Council consideration

I propose a fully articulated description of what adaptive management is and how, step-by-step, a constituent or stakeholder group can engage with FKNMS process to challenge, increase or decrease or otherwise alter any of the rules we are making. Our citizens should understand that they can effect change.

I propose the Core Group and/or SAC discuss Adaptive Management vis a vis how it is worded in this document and how it is used in our Sanctuary in more detail and, if agreeable, provide feedback on appropriate language which addresses application.

April 21, 2020 Input:

Emergency regulations are important, however only one side; Adaptive management could apply to create or remove regulations (Dry Tortugas Research Natural Area example provided)

Provide feedback loop for review of policies and for public to present topics for review/discussion

Advisory Council Survey Outcomes

Advisory Council Responses by Seat

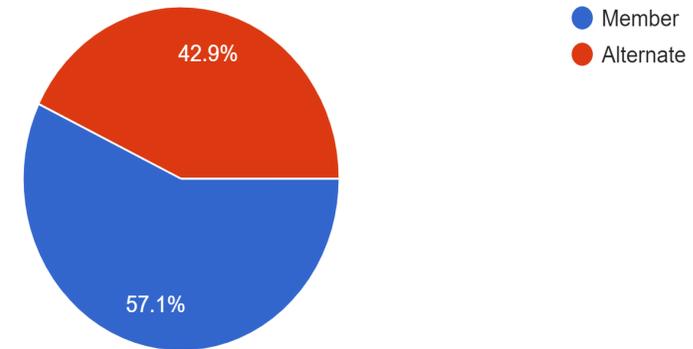
data pulled: April 20, 2020

21 of 40 potential SAC member and municipality members responded

- Citizen at Large – Upper Keys (1)
- Citizen at Large – Lower Keys (2)
- Conservation and Environment (3)
- Diving – Upper Keys (1)
- Education (2)
- Fishing – Charter Flats (2)
- Fishing – Charter Sports (1)
- Fishing – Recreational (1)
- Fishing – Commercial Marine Life/Tropical (1)
- Fishing – Commercial Shell/Scale (1)
- Research and Monitoring (1)
- South Florida Ecosystem (1)
- Submerged Cultural Resources (1)
- Tourism – Upper Keys (1)
- Tourism – Lower Keys (1)
- Municipality (1)

Are you the Member or Alternate for this seat?

21 responses



Next Steps

- Public comments submitted today at floridakeys@noaa.gov will be shared with the Advisory Council.
- Staff and Advisory Council core group will determine next steps given outcomes of the survey, the March 24 and April 21 meetings.



THANK YOU

Insert Image