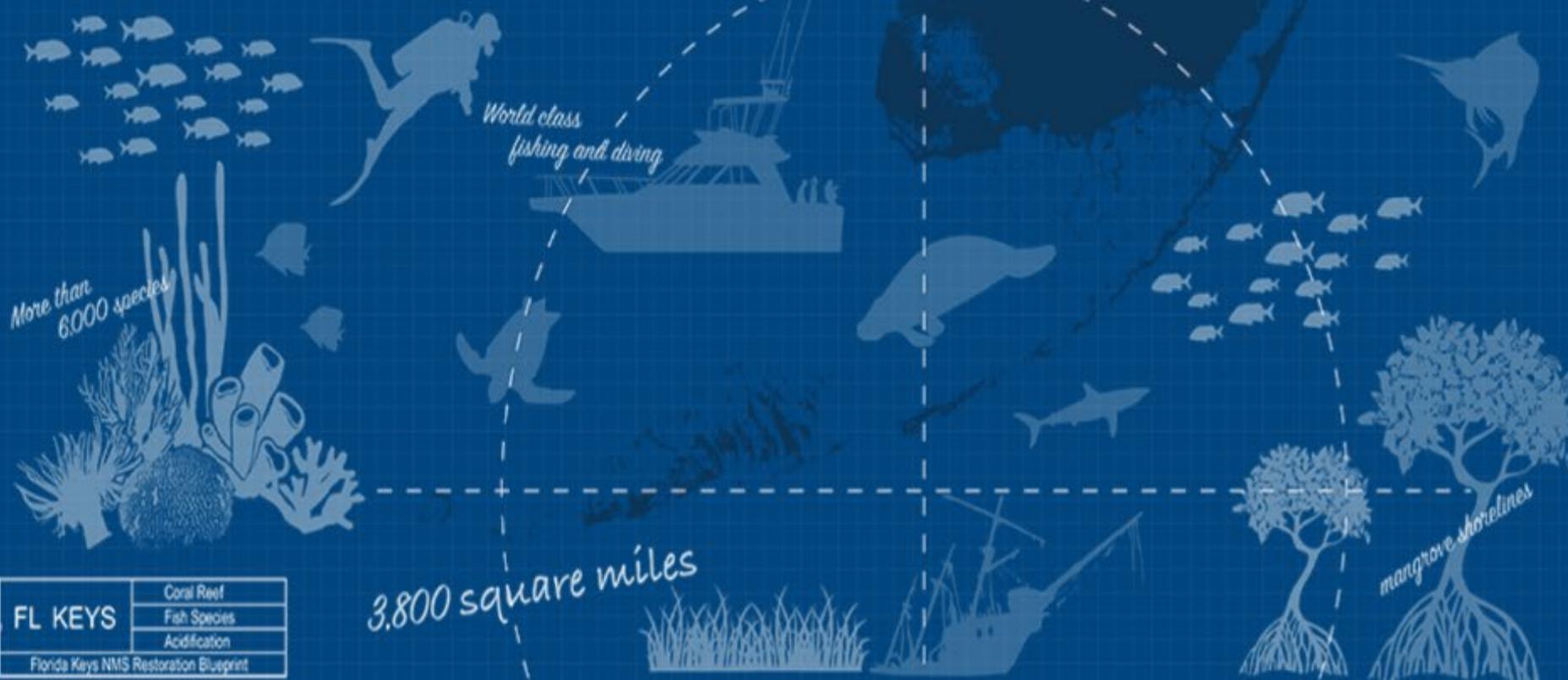




# FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY RESTORATION BLUEPRINT



FL KEYS	Coral Reef
	Fish Species
	Acidification
Florida Keys NMS Restoration Blueprint	



# Presentation Outline

- Why Create a Restoration Blueprint
- Proposed Rule highlights specific to South Atlantic Fishery Management Council comment letter and authorities
  - Sanctuary boundary
  - Sanctuary-wide regulations
  - Marine zones & associated regulations
- Socio-Economic Analysis
- Management Plan
- Public outreach products and tools



# Economic Impact of Visitors

A Healthy Florida Keys Ecosystem Provides:

**\$2.9 Billion**

in tourism spending\*

**44%**

of Jobs  
(Highest percentage in FL)\*\*

**60%**

of Monroe County economy\*\*



\*Gazal, Andrew & Burns/2021

\*\*TBD Economics/2019

# Blue Economy of the Keys



## Tourism

5.3 million visitors in 2019

## Boating

4.5 million boaters per annum

## Diving and Snorkeling

1.86 million divers and snorkelers per annum

## Commercial Fishing

79% of the catch from the sanctuary is processed in Monroe County

## Recreational Fishing

2.7 million people fish in FKNMS each year





# **NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE FLORIDA KEYS**

The Future of the Keys Marine Environment is at Risk

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



# Florida Keys

National Marine Sanctuary

## CONDITION REPORT 2011



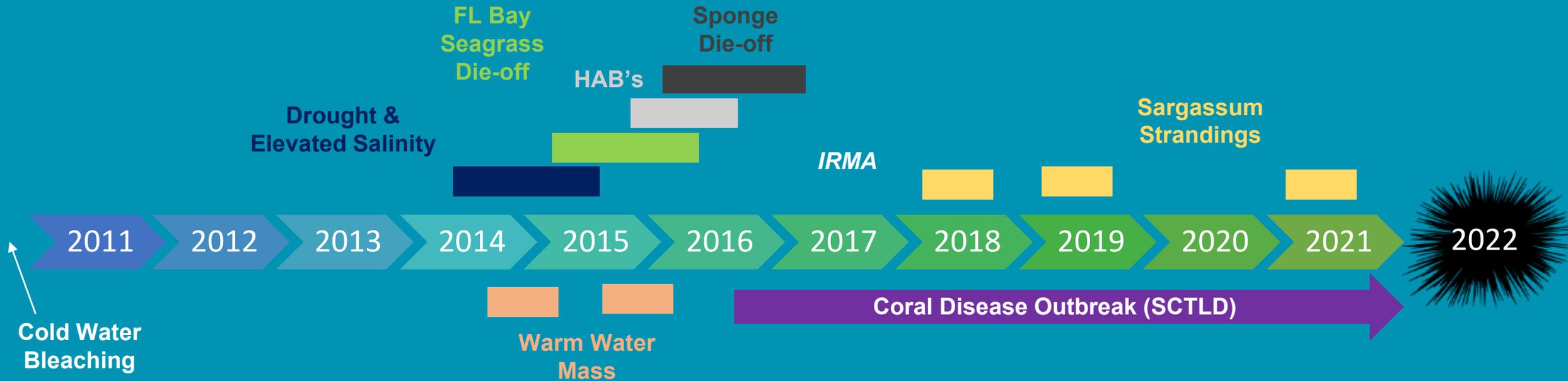
September 2011

# 17

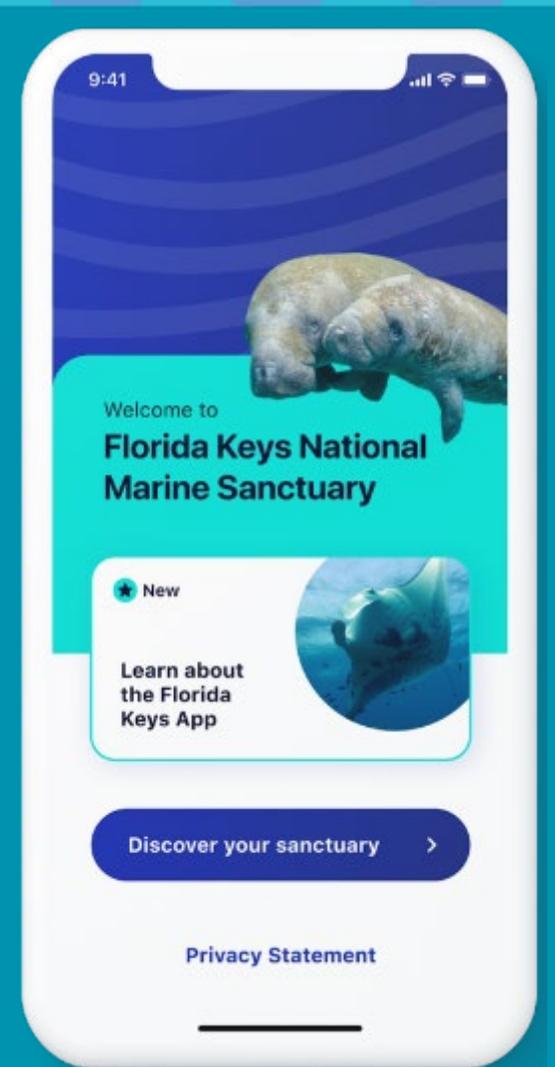
# QUESTIONS

on the health of the ecosystem

# Since 2011...



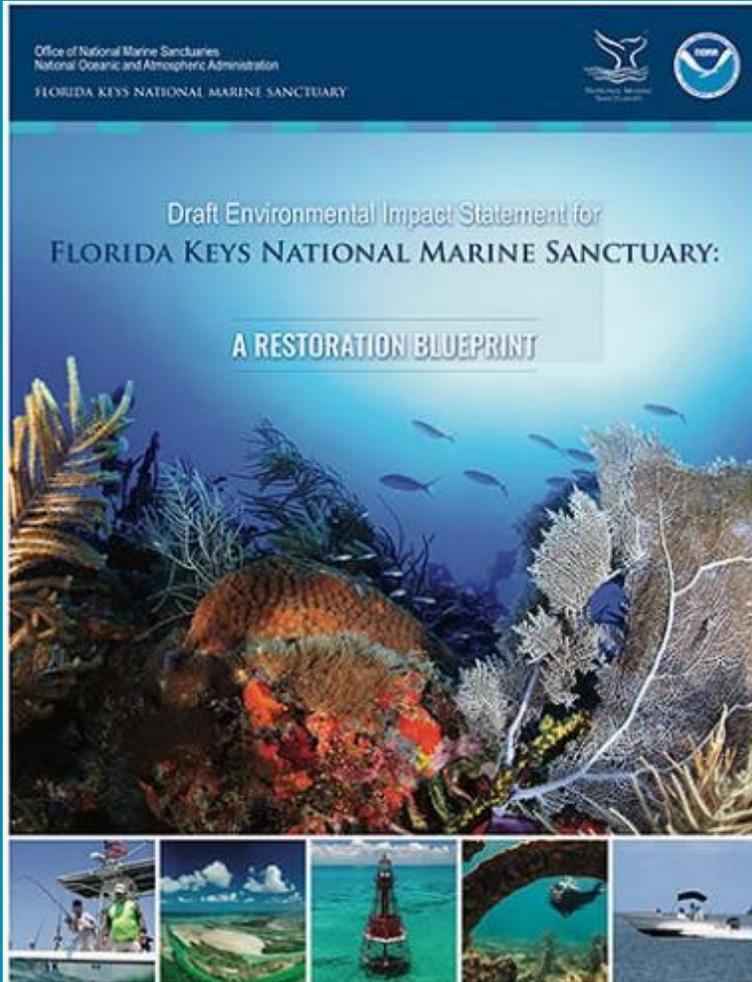
# Local Action to Enhance Resilience





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# Notice of Proposed Rulemaking



Proposed regulations for:

- Sanctuary boundary
- Sanctuary-wide regulations
- Marine zones & zone-specific regulations

Proposed Rule is informed by:

- Public and agency comment
- Updated socio-economic and environmental data

Pulls from all four alternatives included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

\*Management Plan is a separate document

# SAFMC comment letter topics & FKNMS proposed rule content

<b>Topics in 2020 SAFMC comment letter</b>	<b>Included in the proposed rule</b>
<i>Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan, Amendment 11</i>	<i>Not included</i>
<i>Delta Shoal SPA</i>	<i>Not included</i>
<i>Key Largo Management Area - no anchor</i>	<i>Not included</i>
<i>New Large Contiguous Areas</i>	<i>Not included</i>
<i>FKNMS Live Rock Aquaculture permit</i>	<i>Not included</i>

# SAFMC comment letter topics & FKNMS proposed rule content

Topics in 2020 SAFMC comment letter	Included in the proposed rule
Sanctuary boundary expansion & Tortugas South	Included
Temporary Regulation for Emergency & Adaptive Management	Included
Traditional Fishing definition and process for coordination	Included
Key Largo Dry Rocks-Grecian Rocks, Sombrero, and Alligator Reef SPAs, Tennessee Reef CA, coral restoration areas	Included
Baitfishing permits in Sanctuary Preservation Areas	Included
Water Quality and FKNMS role	Included in draft management plan
Impacts of climate change and coral disease	Included in draft management plan



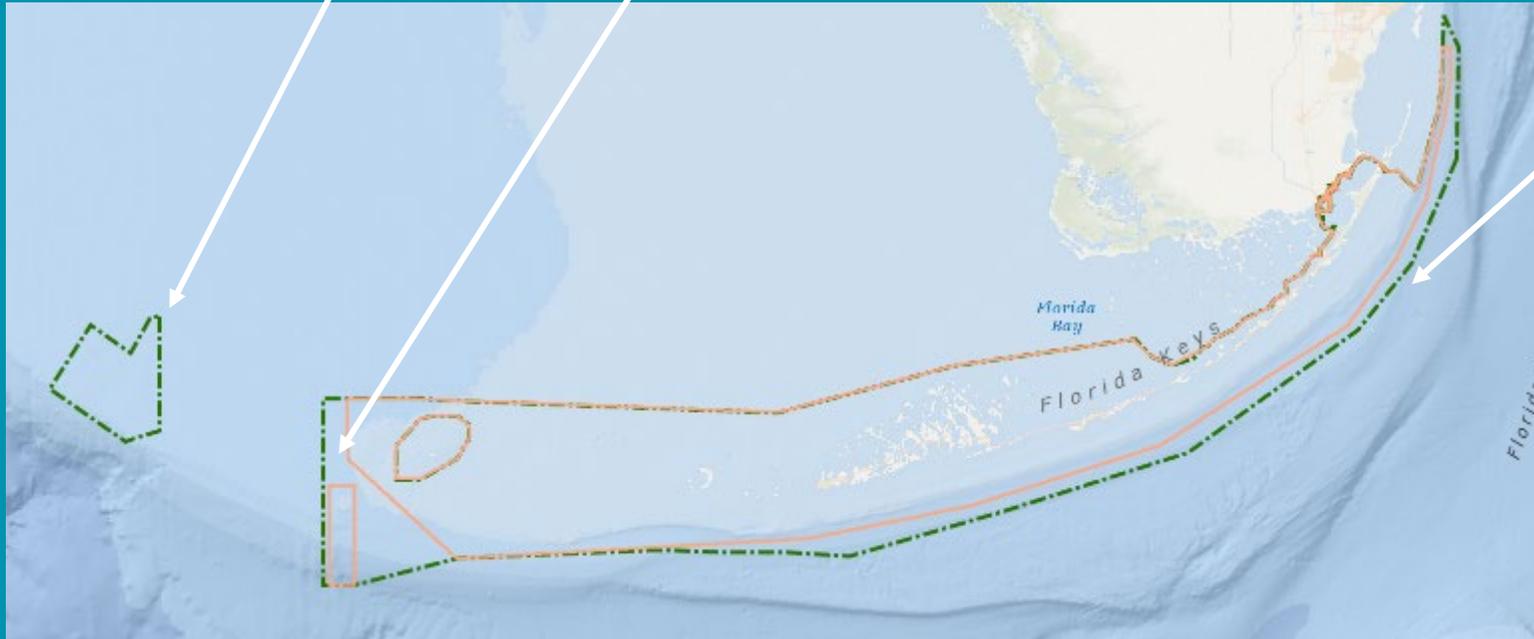
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# Sanctuary Boundary: Proposed Expansion

Nationally Significant - Pulley Ridge

Connectivity - Tortugas Region

*Connect & Preserve Special Habitats*



Consistent regulation - Expand boundary to include areas already closed to large vessel traffic

-  Existing: 3,800 sq miles
-  Proposed: 4,800 sq miles



# TEMPORARY REGULATION EMERGENCY & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

*Act Quickly to Respond & Protect*

## Proposed regulation:

180-day action + optional 186-day extension

## 3 Categories:

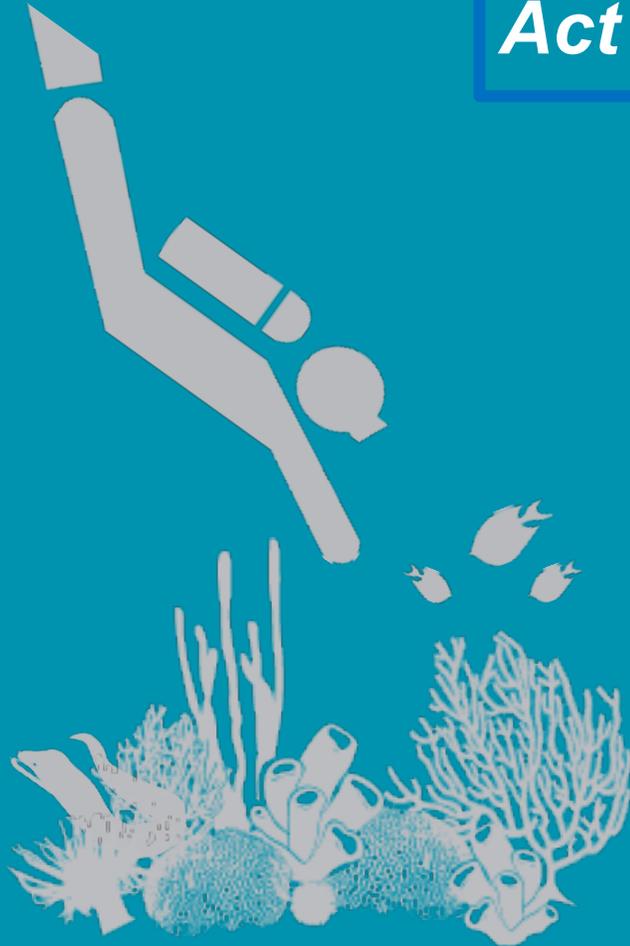
Minimize  
resources  
impacts

Initiate  
restoration

Facilitate  
timely  
research



Sets process for implementation





*Traditional fishing* means those commercial or recreational fishing activities that were customarily conducted within the sanctuary prior to its designation as identified in the 1996 Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan for this sanctuary.

## Next Steps and Implementation:

- Work with NMFS, FWC, and the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic FMCs on an updated Protocol for Cooperative Fisheries Management to:
  - clarify traditional fishing activities, and
  - develop a transparent process to evaluate new or modified fishing activities and other relevant changes to fisheries management.

# Marine Zones & Associated Regulations: Proposal Goals

- Protect sensitive habitats and ecological functions
- Facilitate ecosystem restoration
- Simplify and create consistent regulations

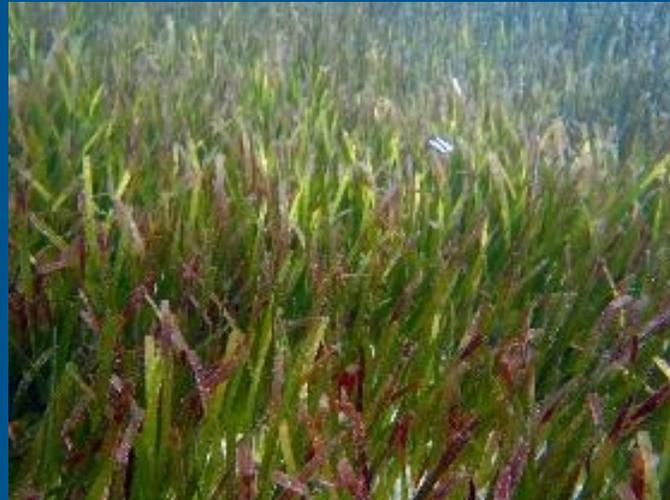


Photo Credit: Shawn  
Verne



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# SANCTUARY PRESERVATION AREAS

*Separate Conflicting Uses, Protect Habitats, Create Consistency*

**Sanctuary  
Preservation  
Areas**

6.4	12.1
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● 17 ○ ○

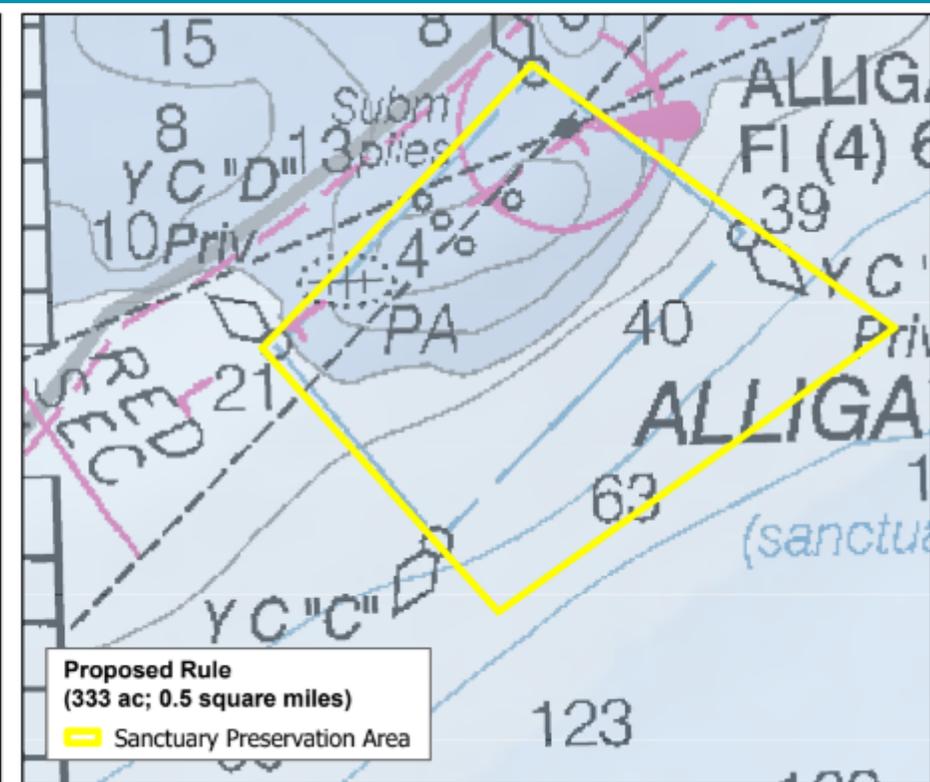
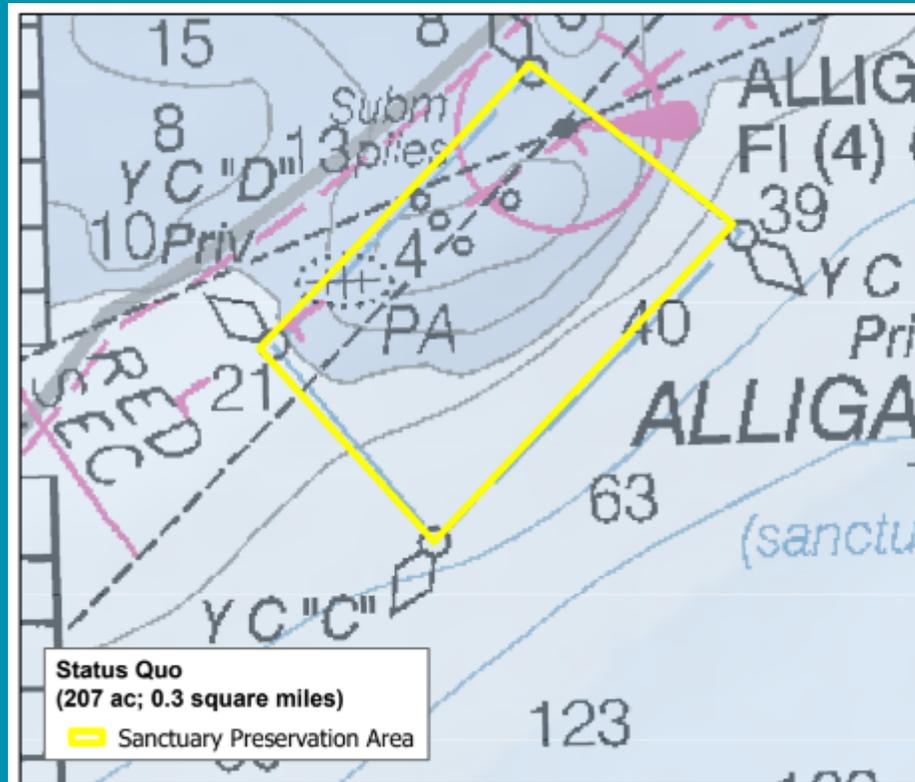




## Separate Conflicting Uses, Protect Habitats, Create Consistency



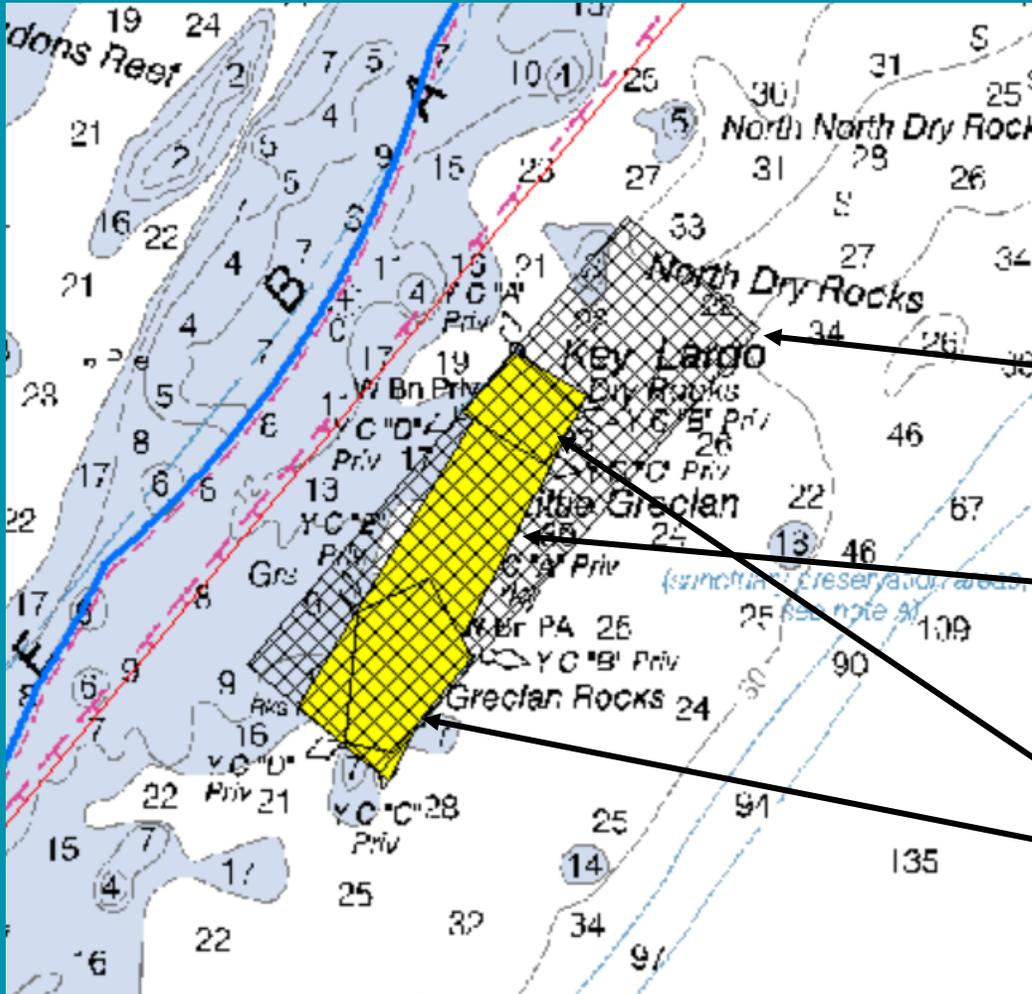
Photo Credit: Jack Fishman





# Key Largo Dry Rocks-Grecian Rocks SPA

*Separate Conflicting Uses,  
Protect Habitats, Create  
Consistency*



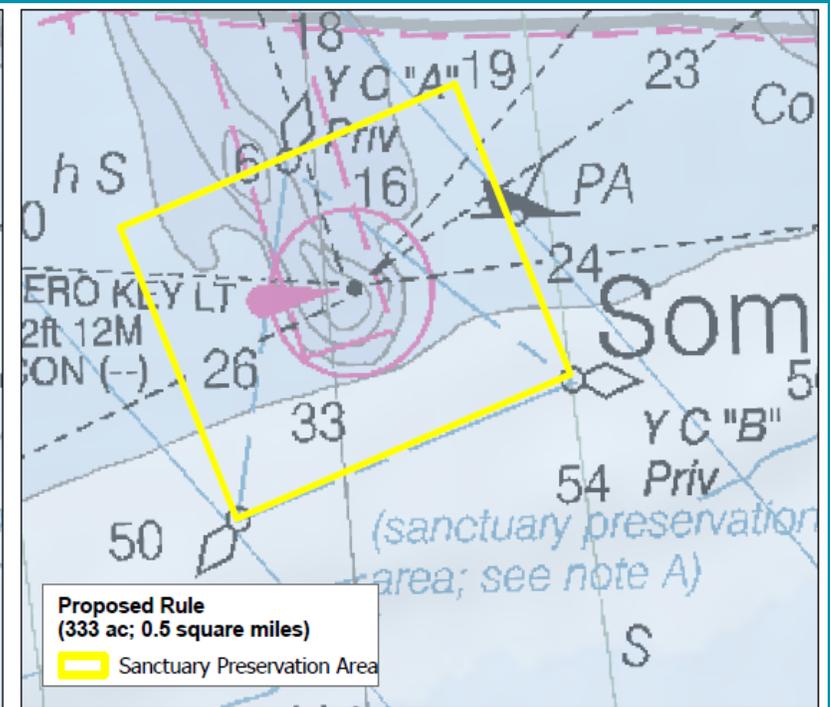
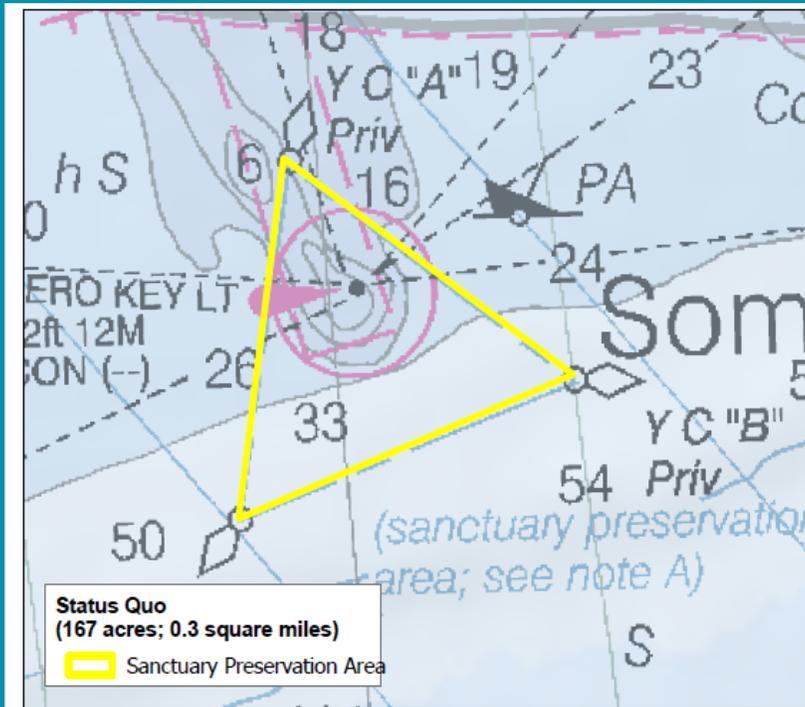
DEIS proposal (1.2 square miles)

Propose rule marine zone (0.5 square miles)

Existing marine zones (0.3 square miles combined)



## Separate Conflicting Uses, Protect Habitats, Create Consistency





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# CONSERVATION AREAS

*Protect Contiguous, Diverse Habitats & Facilitate Research*

## Conservation Areas\*

194

213



6





# Tennessee Reef Conservation Area

*Facilitate Research, Protect Habitats*

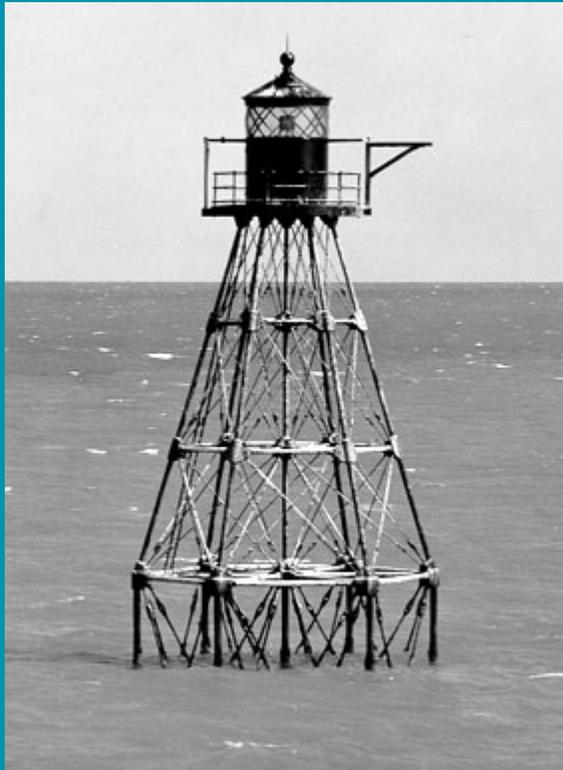
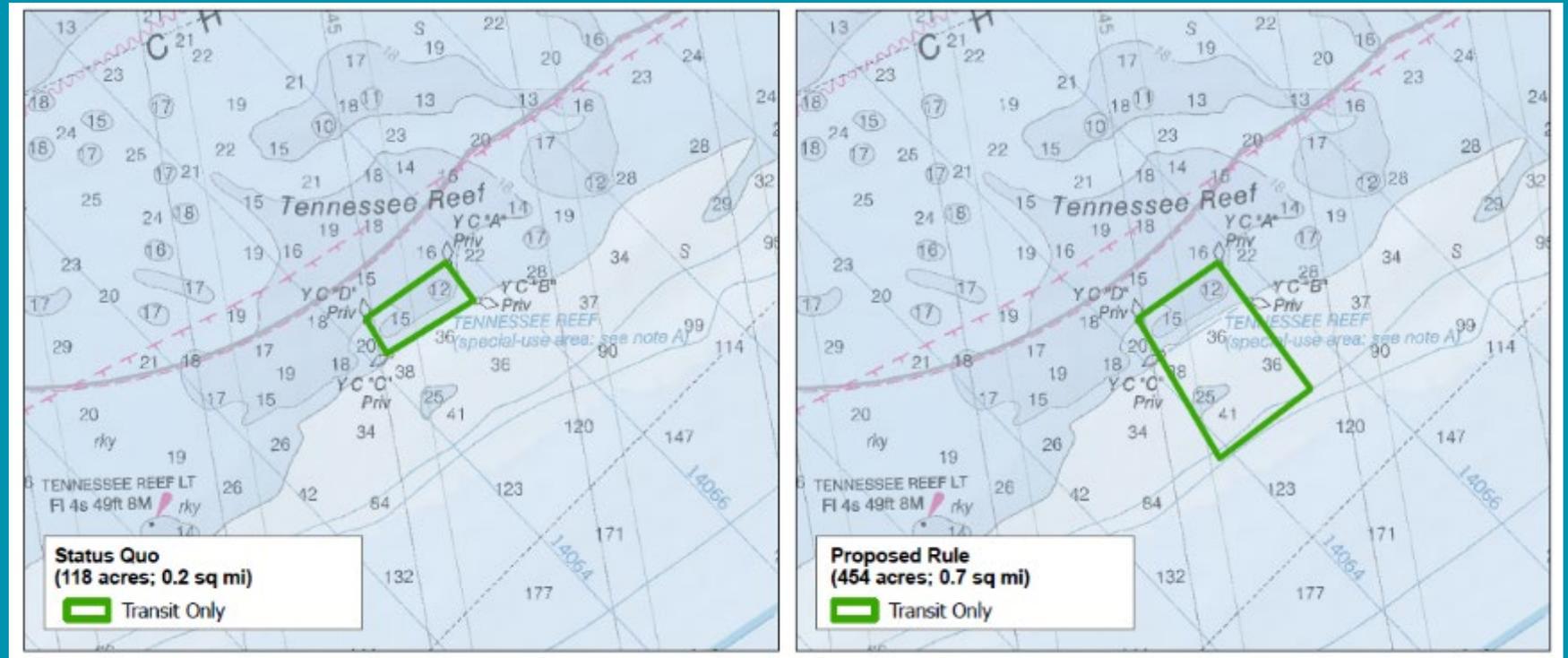


Photo Credit: USCG

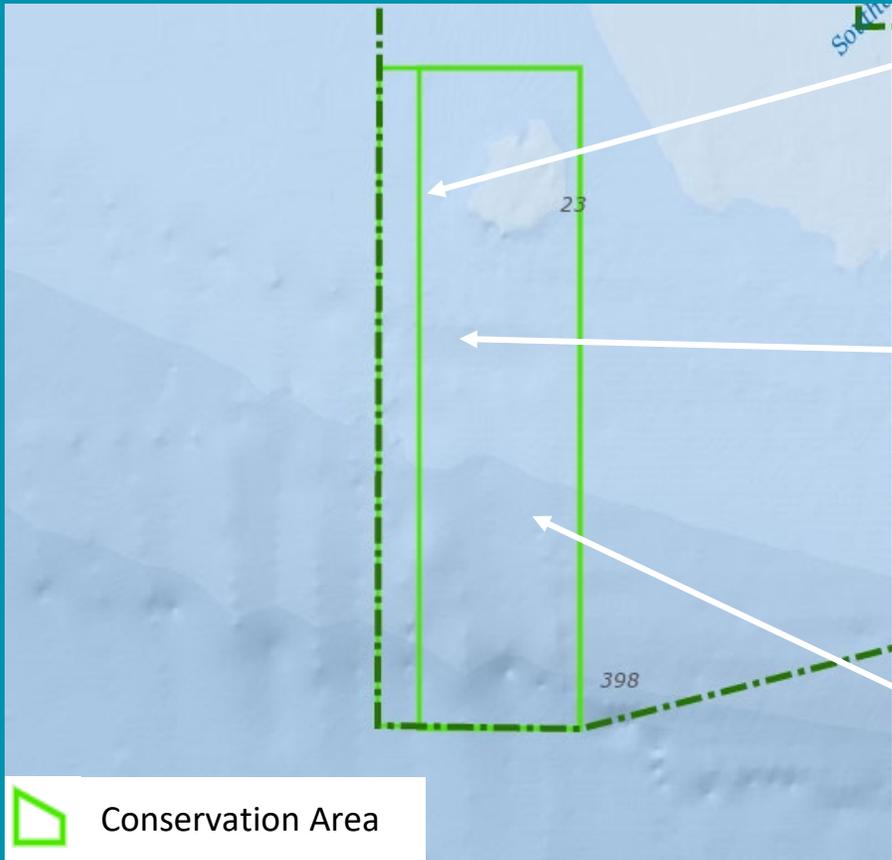




# CONSERVATION AREAS

**Modified:**

**Tortugas South (90.38 sq miles)**



*Protect Additional  
Fish Spawning  
Habitat*





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# RESTORATION AREAS

*Protect Nurseries & Facilitate Restoration*

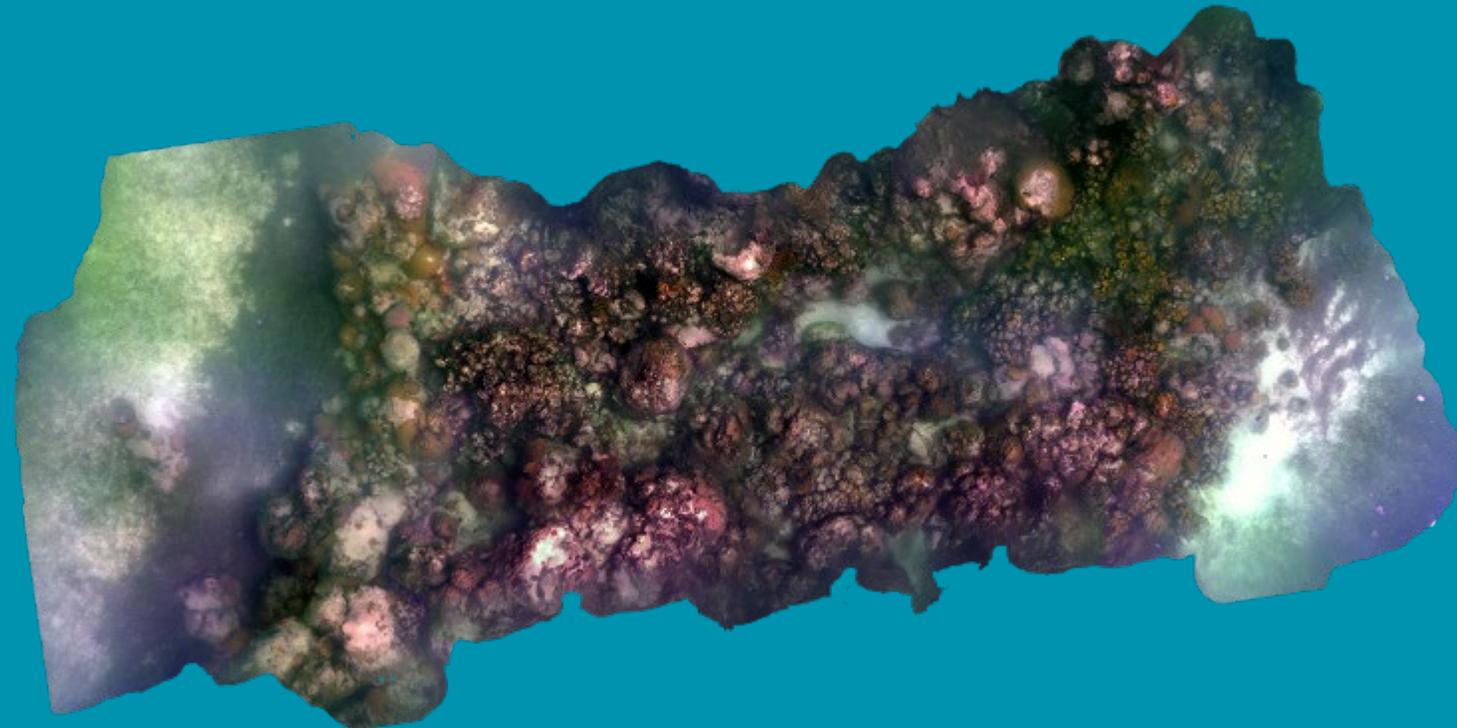




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# RESTORATION AREAS

**Cheeca Rocks East and Cheeca Rocks South Habitat Restoration Areas - proposed new (0.15 sq miles including Cheeca Rocks SPA)**





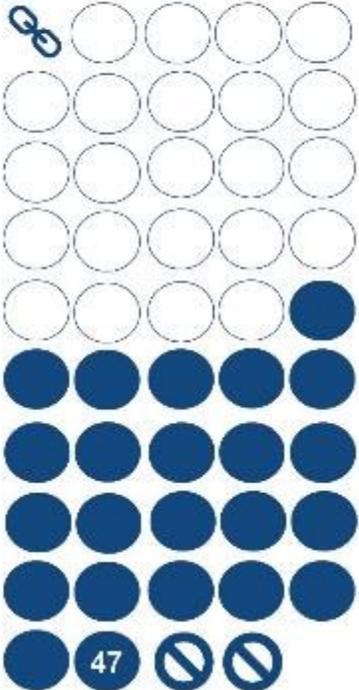
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# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

*Protect & Minimize Wildlife Disturbance*

## Wildlife Management Areas\*\*

37.5 322.6



Regulations Vary



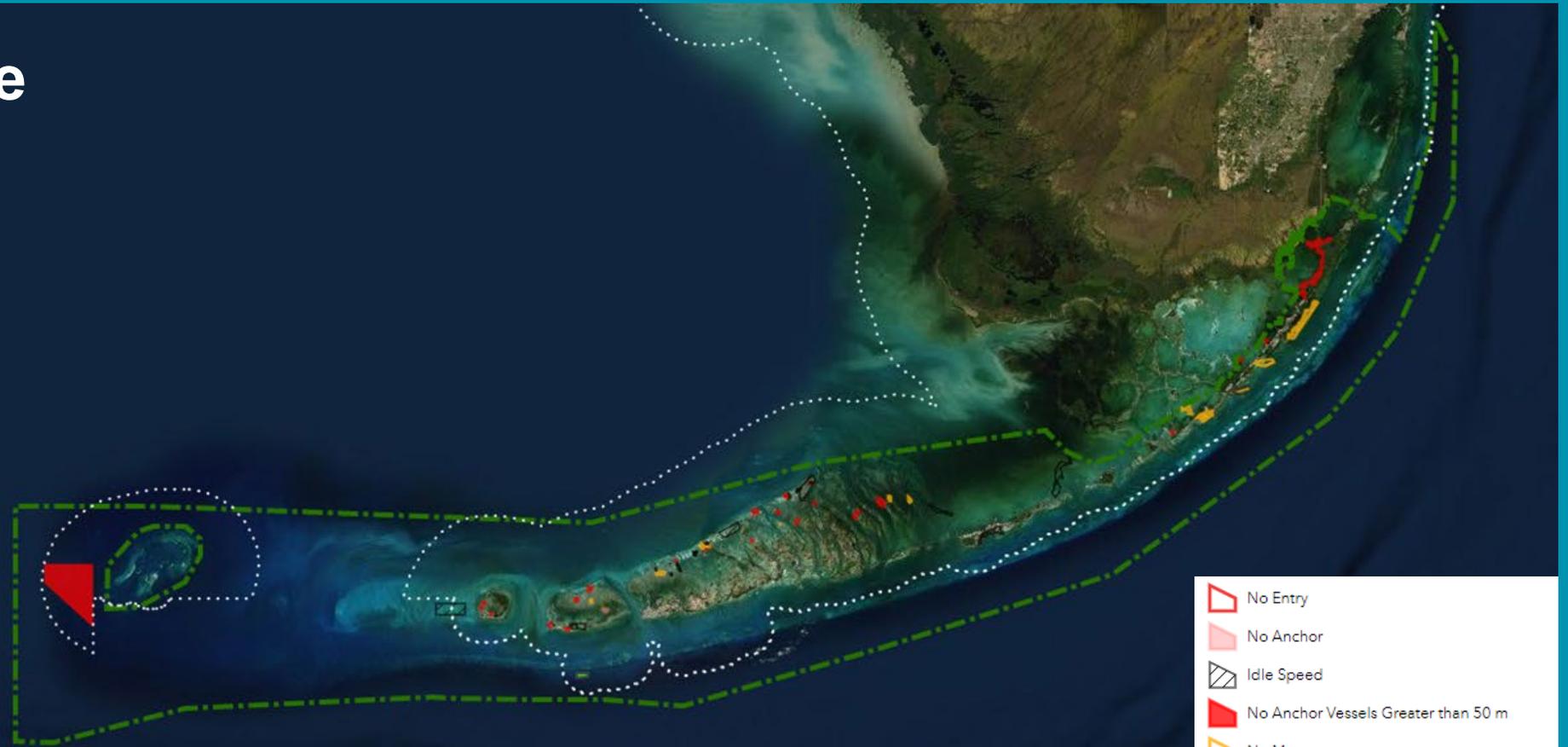
\*\*Note: Proposed rule WMA area includes Pulley Ridge and Tortugas Bank No Anchor Area



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# WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

## Proposed Rule



- No Entry
- No Anchor
- Idle Speed
- No Anchor Vessels Greater than 50 m
- No Motor
- Transit Only and No Anchor April 1 to July 31
- No Motor and No Anchor

# Socio-Economic Analysis

## Benefits

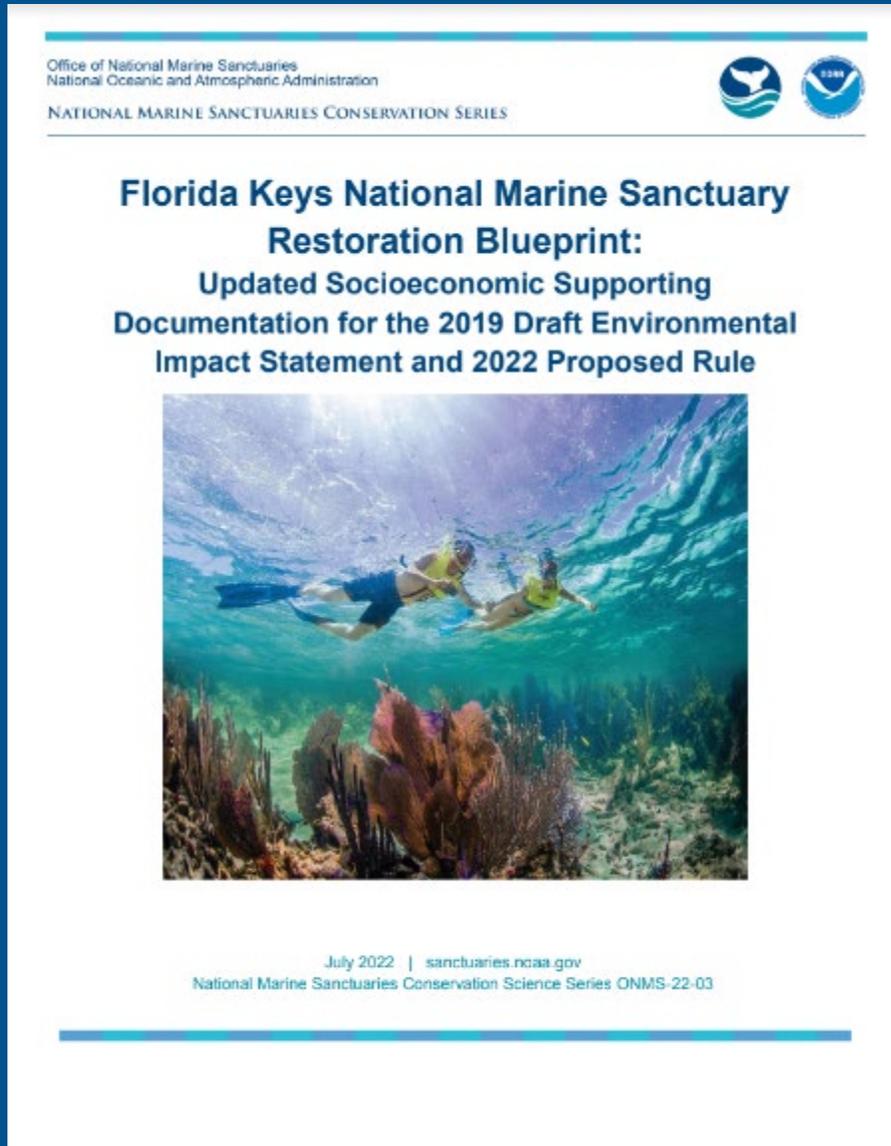
Maintaining the flow of services afforded by healthy marine ecosystems:

- productive fisheries
- tourism
- recreational opportunities
- non-market value

## Costs

Maximum potential loss (assuming no replacement):

- less than 1% of annual revenue for all affected fisheries (commercial and recreational)
  - Excepting lobster fishery (~2% annual loss)





**Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary  
Restoration Blueprint:  
Revised Draft Management Plan**



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

# Management Plan

**Focuses on understanding and improving the condition of sanctuary resources through reducing threats and addressing emerging issues**

Proposed actions focus on:

- targeted research
- updated and adaptive management efforts
- regulatory compliance
- community involvement
- stewardship



# Management Plan: Priority Themes

- Management Effectiveness and Adaptive Management
- Water Quality
- Restoration
- Visitor Use Management
- Enforcement
- Stewardship and Engagement





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# Resources for public engagement: <https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint/>

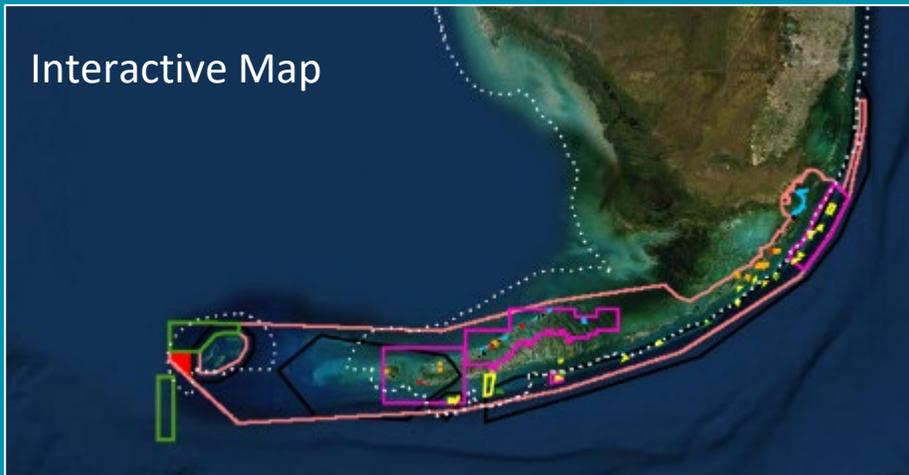
## Video Library



## Document Library



## Interactive Map



## Public Meeting Information & Registration Links

COMMENT  
NOW

## Summary Presentation



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### Presentation Outline

- Why Create a Restoration Blueprint
- Restoration Blueprint timeline and status
- Proposed Rule highlights
  - Sanctuary boundary
  - Sanctuary-wide regulations
  - Marine zones & associated regulations
- Public outreach products and tools
- Next steps and how to stay engaged



Photo Credit: Corals Seawater Society



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# Public Comment Opportunities

## Q&A

- August 16 - Virtual ✓

## Public Comment

- August 30 - Virtual ✓
- September 20 – Coral Shores H.S. ✓
- September 21 – Marathon H.S.
- September 22 – Key West H.S.
- October 18 – Marathon - Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
- Oct. 26 – COMMENT CLOSES

A graphic on a white grid background. In the center is a large blue circle containing a white QR code. Surrounding the QR code are silhouettes of marine life: a school of fish in the top left, a manatee in the top right, a sea turtle in the bottom left, and a shark in the bottom right.

**Learn more and make your comments  
by scanning the QR code or visit:  
[floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint/](https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint/)**



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