

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Update



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
September 21, 2022



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Outline

1. Overview of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)
2. Management authorities in FKNMS
3. FWC guiding principles for evaluating FKNMS Restoration Blueprint
4. FKNMS topics for SAFMC to consider
5. FWC timeline/process moving forward

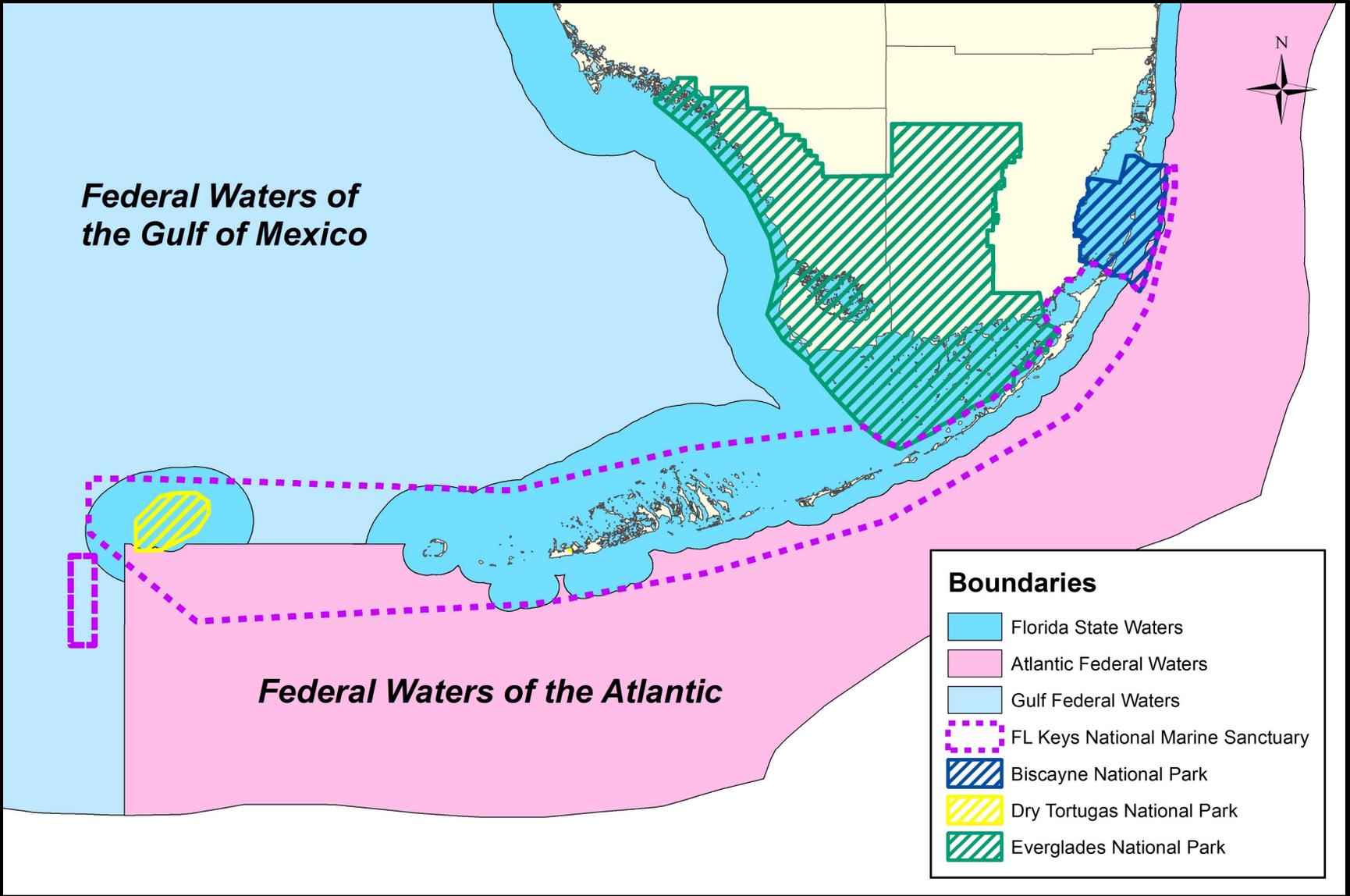


Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

- 3,800 square miles
- Shared trusteeship of marine resources with state
 - 60% within state waters
- Encompasses multiple habitat types



Multiple Management Authorities in South Florida



FWC Authority in FKNMS

- Authority to implement fisheries regulations in state waters of the FKNMS
- Limited authority to implement regulations for:
 - Boating
 - Habitat and wildlife



FWC Guiding Principles for Evaluating FKNMS Plan

1. Addressing ecosystem-level change a high priority
 - Water quality, water flow, coral loss
2. Fisheries management reserved to FWC in state waters
3. Consider closures and access restrictions on a case-by-case basis
4. Need to clearly define rationale for proposed actions
 - What issue is being addressed?
 - What has past experience taught us?
 - What are likely outcomes?
 - Evaluate relative to expected stakeholder impacts
5. Must be fair to all stakeholders



FWC Involvement in FKNMS Process

2019

- FWC stakeholder engagement
- Coordination with Councils on DEIS
- FWC internal evaluation meetings

2020

- Begin updating MOAs/MOUs
- FWC submitted comment letter

2022

- FWC stakeholder engagement
- Coordination with Councils on updated Restoration Blueprint
- Work with Councils, NMFS, and FKNMS on updating MOAs/MOUs



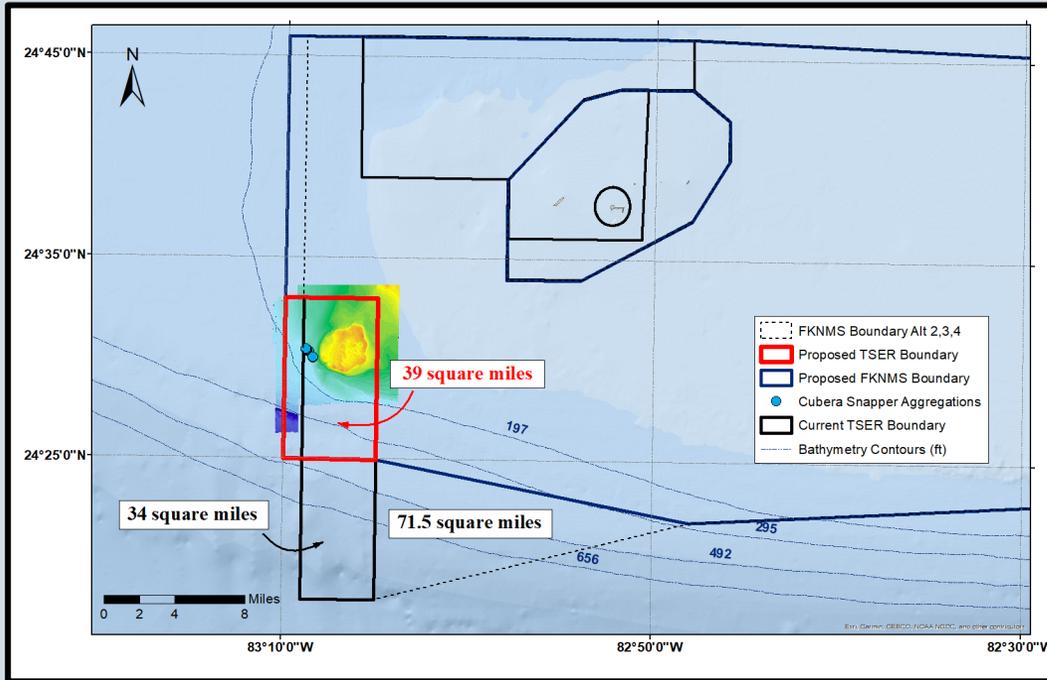
FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Overarching FKNMS issues
 - Water quality
 - Education
 - Law enforcement
 - Artificial reefs



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Sanctuary Expansion



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

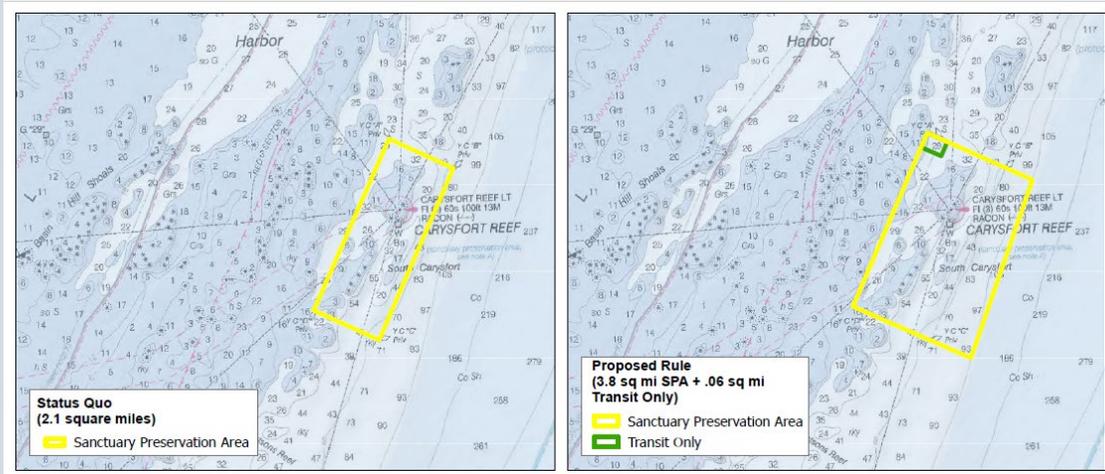
- Large, contiguous habitat Sanctuary Preservation Areas
 - ~~Carysfort Reef~~
 - ~~Long Key/Tennessee Reef~~
 - Western Sambo Ecological Reserve
 - ~~Tortugas Corridor~~



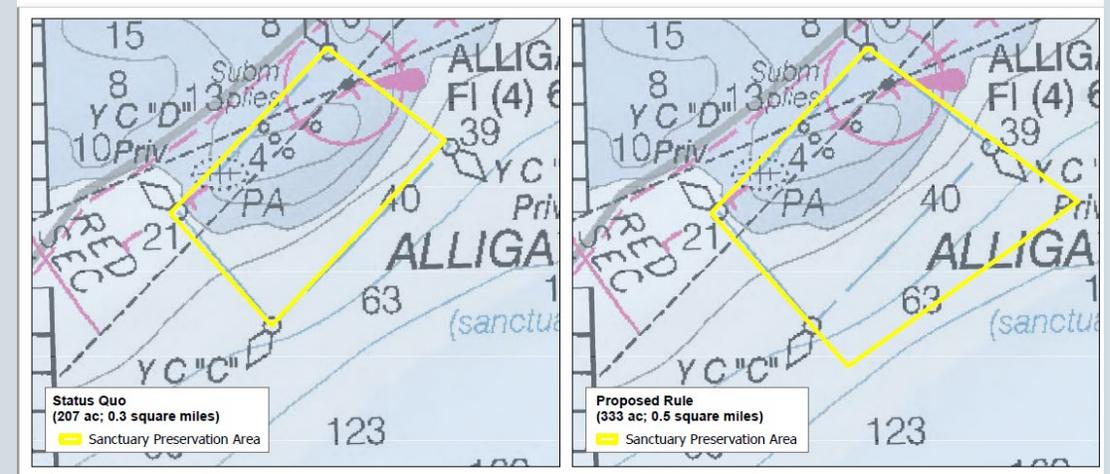
FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Expansion of SPAs into deepwater habitat

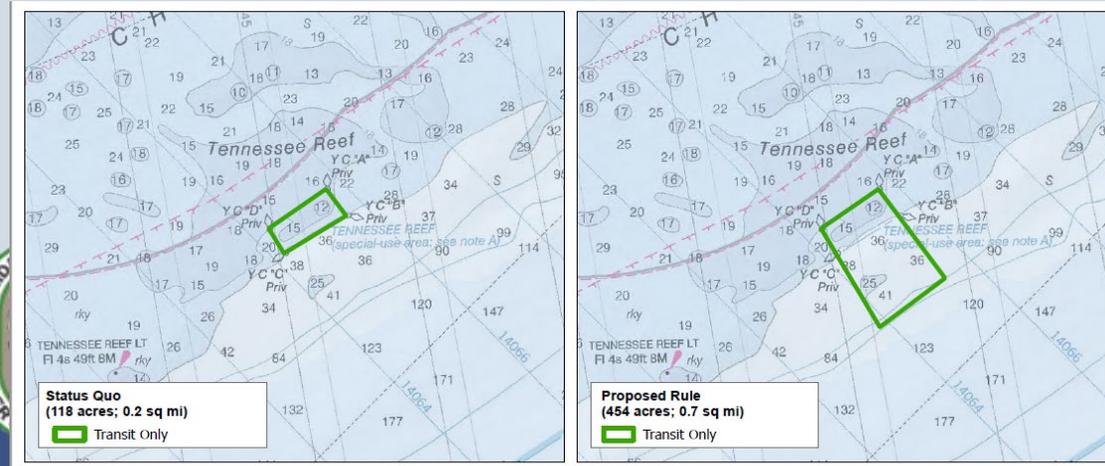
Carysfort Reef (SA federal waters)



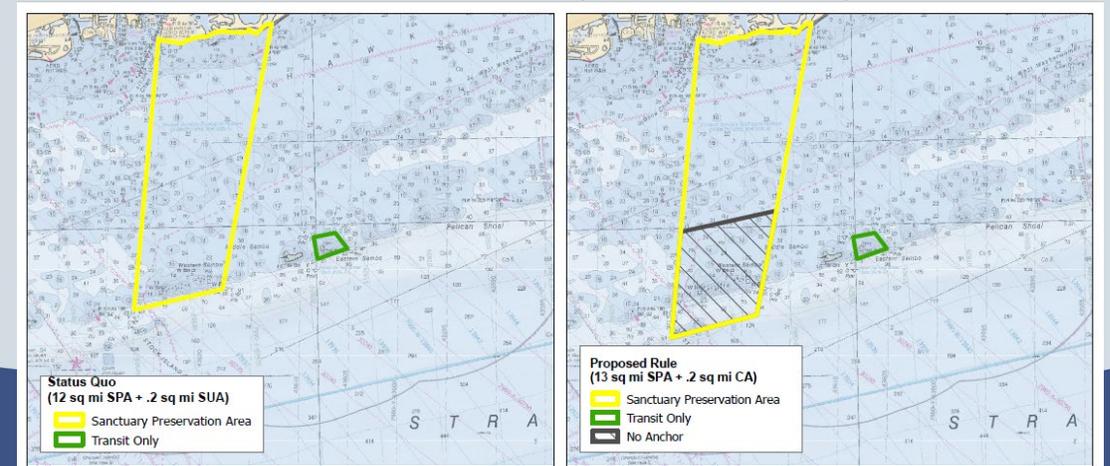
Alligator Reef (SA federal waters)



Tennessee Reef (SA federal waters)



Western Sambo (state waters)



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Baitfish permits – proposed phase-out

Sanctuary Preservation Area	Gear Type and Size Allowed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newfound Harbor 	Cast nets which are no greater than 14' stretched length and/or modified lampara nets which are no greater than 500 sq. feet of mesh area, no greater than 2" stretched mesh, and are not constructed wholly or partially of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sand Key • Rock Key • Eastern Dry Rocks • Hen and Chickens • Cheeca Rocks 	Cast nets which are no greater than 14' stretched length, and/or modified lampara nets with no net size restriction, but that do not have greater than 2" stretched mesh, and are not constructed wholly or partially of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looe Key • Sombrero Key • Coffins Patch • Alligator Reef • Davis Reef • Conch Reef • Molasses Reef • French Reef • Grecian Rocks • Dry Rocks • The Elbow • Carysfort Reef 	Cast nets and/or modified lampara nets.



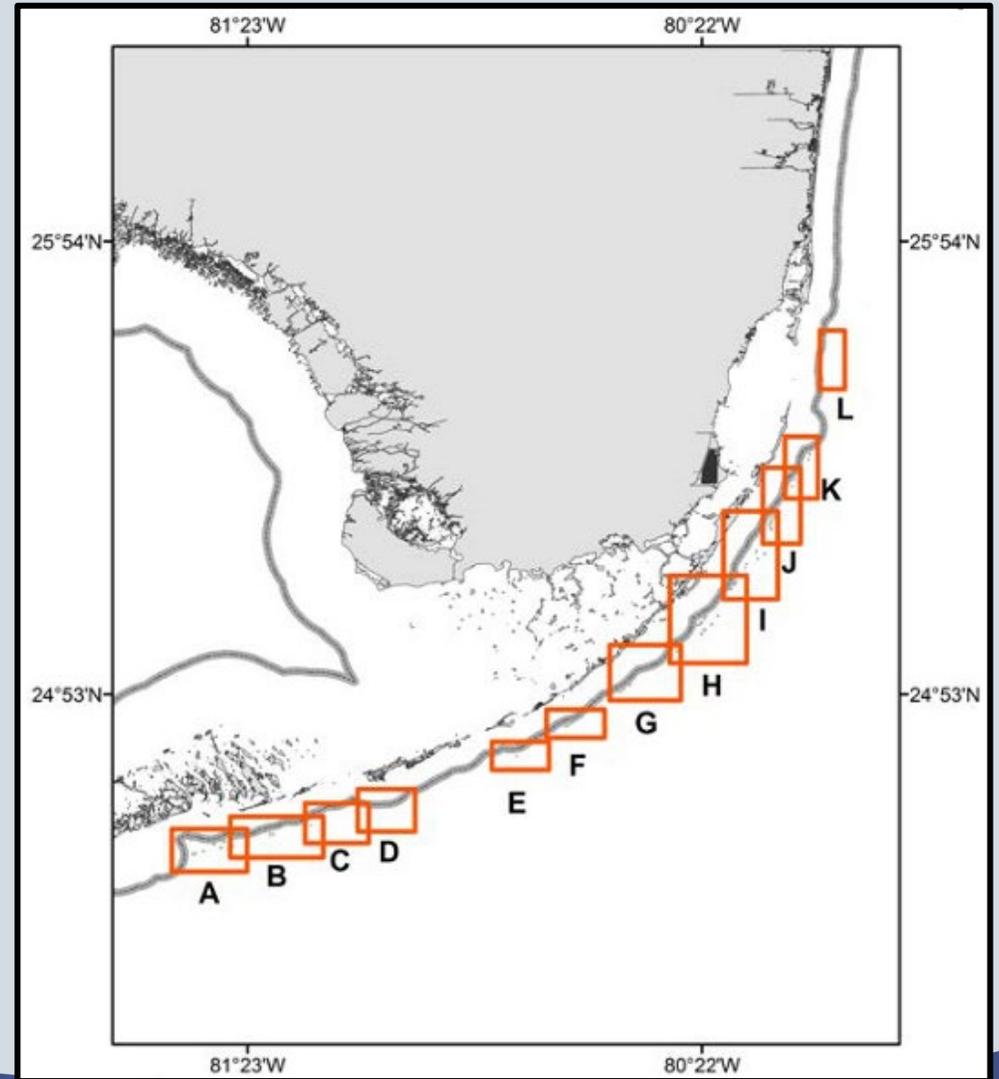
FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Coral restoration and nursery protection
 - 9 Nursery Restoration Areas
 - 4 Habitat Restoration Areas



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Closed Areas for Spiny Lobster Commercial Trap Fishing
 - Spiny Lobster Amendment 11
 - Consider process to coordinate with relevant agencies and evaluate if these closed areas are in the appropriate location.



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Traditional fishing definition
 - “In coordination with NMFS, FWC and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, and through updated agreement(s), clarify what traditional fishing activities consist of and develop a transparent process by which new or modified fishing activities, such as those that reduce impacts to sanctuary resources, and other relevant changes to fisheries management, will be evaluated prior to implementation within the sanctuary.”



FKNMS Topics for SAFMC to Consider

- Protocol for Cooperative Fisheries Management in the FKNMS
 - Previous agreement outdated (1997)
 - Describes protocol and procedure for rulemaking that relates to the management of fisheries resources and fishing activities in state and federal waters of the FKNMS
 - FWC, Councils, NMFS, and FKNMS have coordinated in updating the Protocol



FWC Timeline

- **Fall 2022**
 - Coordinate with FKNMS and Councils on Restoration Blueprint and update agreements
 - FKNMS public information sessions
 - Continued engagement with FKNMS, state partners, and stakeholders throughout the federal process
 - FWC internal evaluation meetings of Restoration Blueprint
- **Next Commission meeting** – Commission direction on Restoration Blueprint
- **Feb. 2023** – Provide FWC Restoration Blueprint comments



The following slides are considered backup material and are not anticipated to be part of the actual presentation

