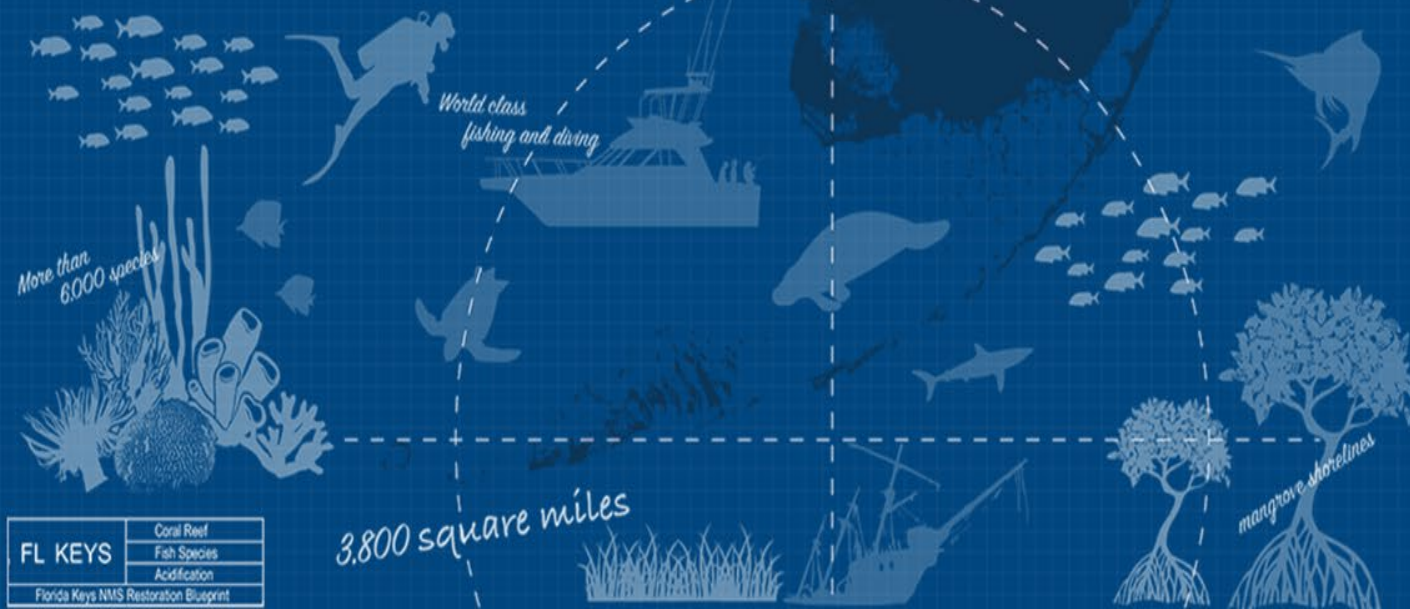




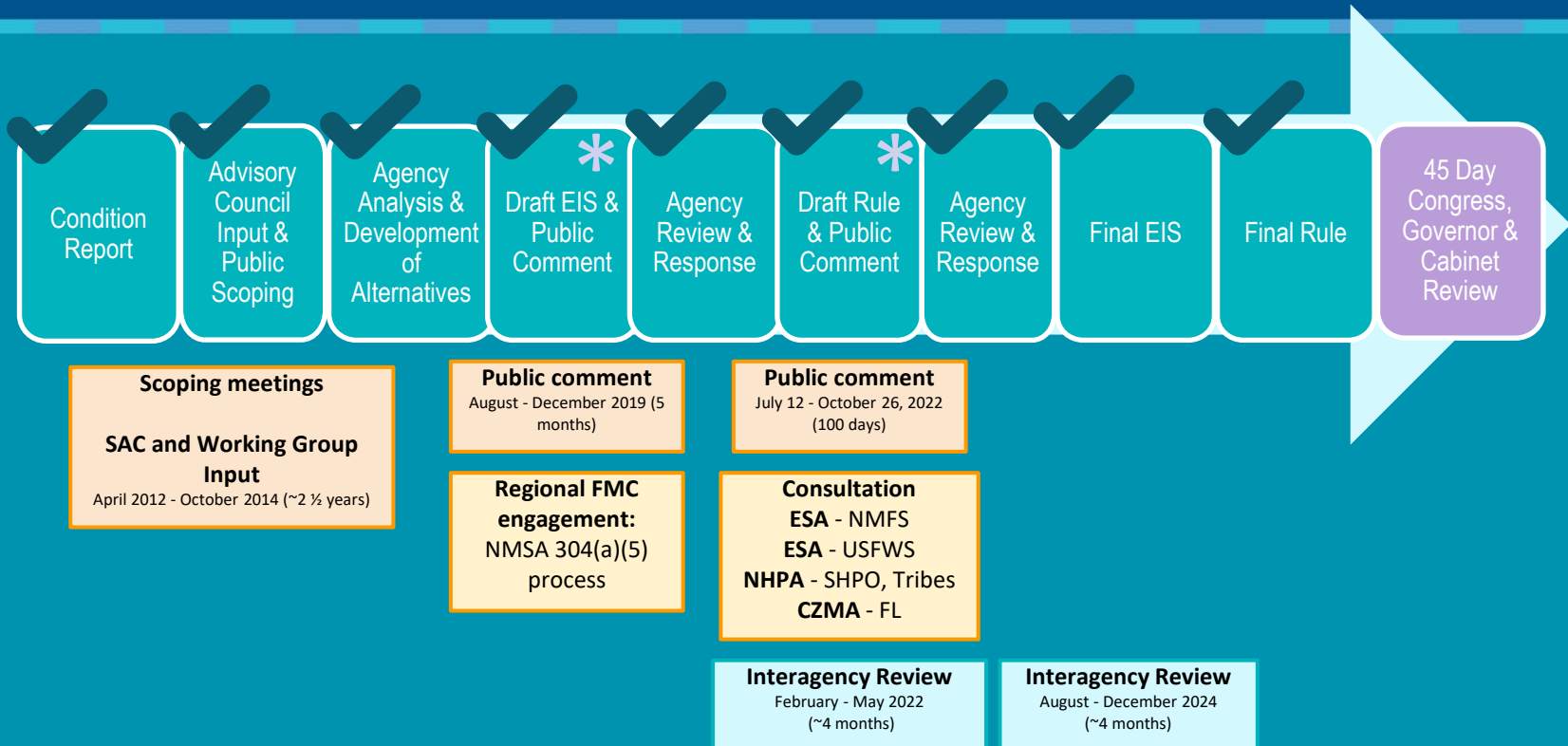
FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY RESTORATION BLUEPRINT



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



Restoration Blueprint Timeline and Status



Agency Coordination

NOAA Fisheries

Fishery Management Councils

- South Atlantic FMC
- Gulf of Mexico FMC



Agency Partners

- DOI (USFWS, BOEM, NPS, USGS)
- DOD-Navy
- EPA
- USCG



Florida State Agencies

- DEP
- FWC Commissioners
- SHPO
- Governor and Cabinet



Public Engagement Opportunities

Since the process began:

- 85 Advisory Council or Working Group Meetings
- 70 Public Meetings
- ~50 Community Presentations
- 16 Public scoping/comment sessions
- Agency Collaboration (46 state & federal briefings)
- Over 80,000 public comments





Florida Keys

National Marine Sanctuary

CONDITION REPORT 2011



September 2011



Draft Environmental Impact Statement for FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY:

A RESTORATION BLUEPRINT



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Restoration Blueprint

Final Environmental Impact Statement: Volume I



December 2024 | sanctuaries.noaa.gov



FEDERAL REGISTER
The Daily Journal of the United States Government



Proposed Rule

Proposed Rule for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Review: Blueprint for Restoration

A Proposed Rule by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on 07/18/2022

Regulations for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Management Review: Blueprint for Restoration

A Rule by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on 01/17/2025



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Restoration Blueprint

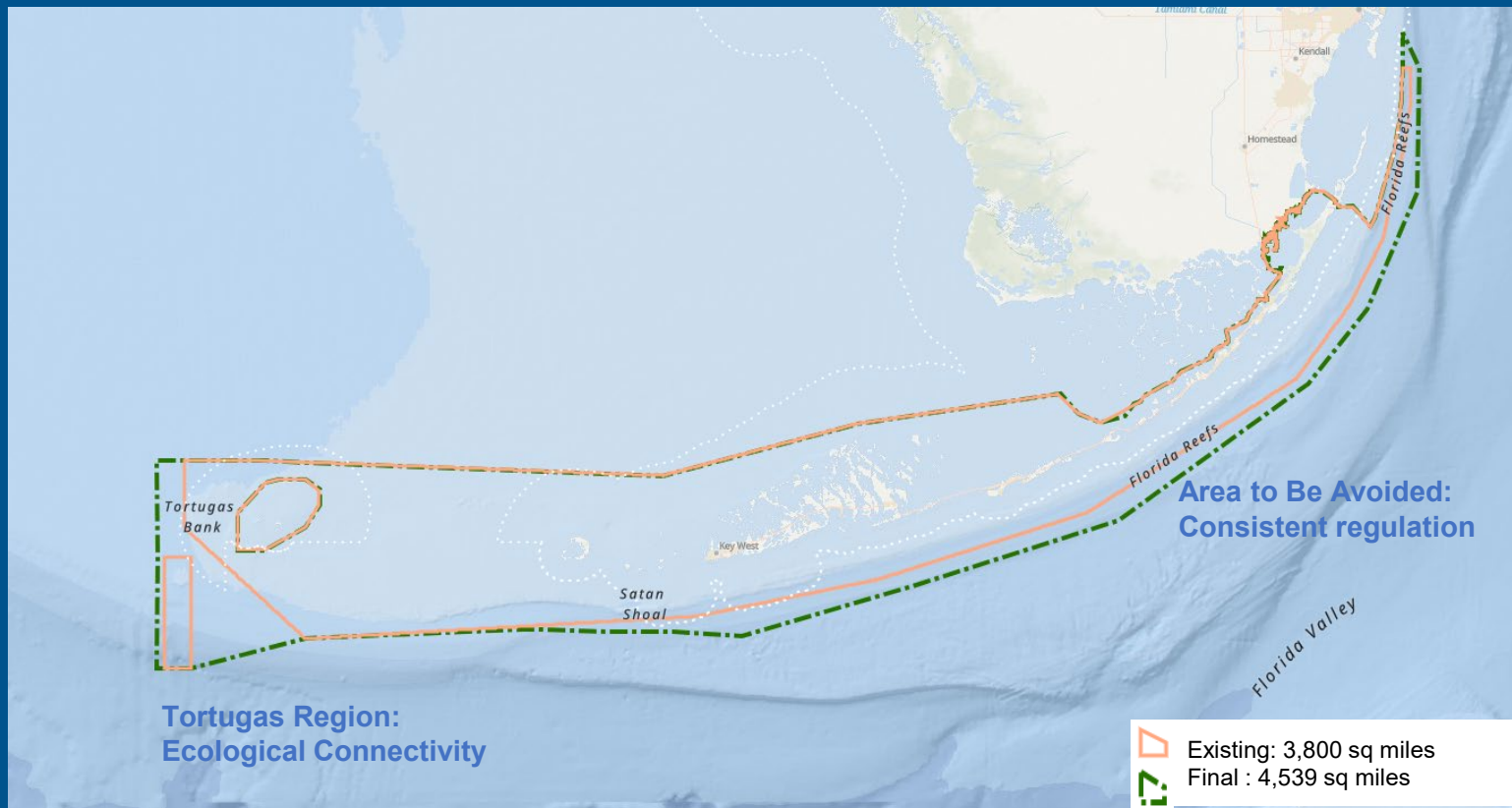
Final Environmental Impact Statement: Volume I



Final Environmental Impact Statement:

- Informed by public and agency comment
- Incorporates elements of the draft EIS and draft rule
- Updated environmental and economic analysis
- Outlines the final preferred alternative
- Includes five components:
 - Sanctuary boundary
 - Sanctuary wide regulations
 - Additional marine zone regulations
 - Marine zones
 - Management Plan

Sanctuary Boundary





FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY

TEMPORARY REGULATION EMERGENCY & ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Act Quickly to Respond & Protect

Final Regulation:

180-day action + optional 186-day extension

3 Categories:

Minimize
resources
impacts

Initiate
restoration

Facilitate
timely
research



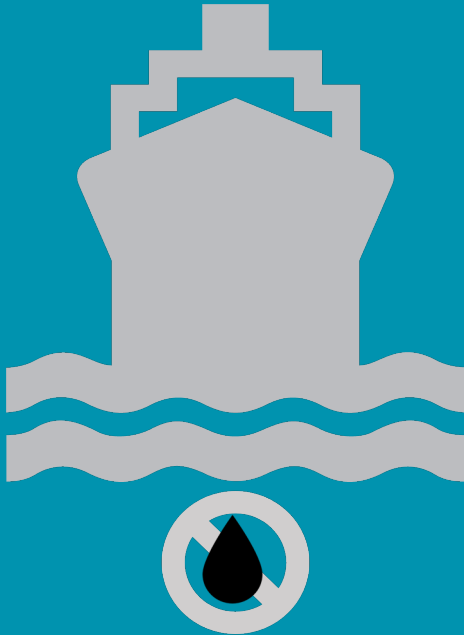
Sets process for implementation



FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARY

DISCHARGE

Protect Water Quality



Final Regulation:

Prohibit all discharges except cooling water from cruise ships



Traditional Fishing

Traditional fishing means those commercial or recreational fishing activities customarily conducted within the sanctuary as of the effective date of the updated regulations (March 4, 2025).

NOAA regulations for FKNMS provides exemptions from the following regulatory prohibitions:

- Alteration of, or construction on, the seabed (15 CFR § 922.163(a)(3));
- Discharge or deposit of materials or other matter (15 CFR § 922.163(a)(4)); and
- Attracting or feeding fish, including sharks, or other marine species from any vessel and/or while diving.(15 CFR § 922.163(a)(14))

Marine Zones & Associated Regulations:

- Protect sensitive habitats and ecological functions
- Facilitate ecosystem restoration
- Apply regulations for zone specific management goals



Photo Credit: Shawn Verne



FLORIDA KEYS
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Final Regulations: Marine Zones



Sanctuary Preservation Areas:
Separate conflicting uses,
Create consistent regulations



Conservation Areas:
Protect large, contiguous and
interconnected habitats,
facilitate research, most
restrictive zone type



Restoration Areas:
Facilitate habitat
restoration; protect
nursery corals



Wildlife Management Areas:
Protect shallow-water, near-
shore habitats and dependent
species



Goals:

Improve
Understanding

Improve
Conditions

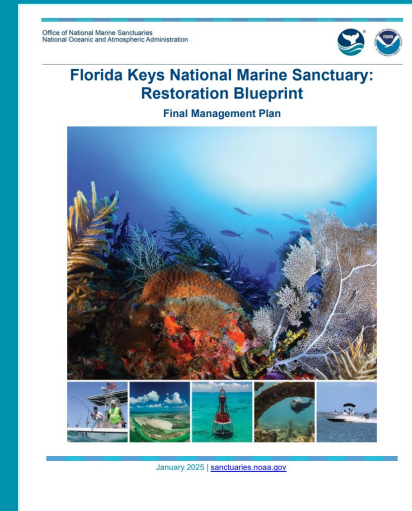
Reduce
Threats

Increase
Stewardship

Collaborative
Management

Priority Themes:

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



Restoration Blueprint

- Increased protection
- Expanded and new marine zones to protect habitats, species, and ecological function
- Simplifying, streamlining, and creating consistent regulations
- Identify priority management themes
- Using the best available and updated environmental and economic data
- Responsive to public and agency comment



How to Access the Final Documents

1. floridakeys.noaa.gov
2. Restoration Blueprint Thumbnail
3. Phase V Button
 - a. Final Management Plan
 - b. Final Rule
 - c. FEIS Volume I (chapters)
 - d. FEIS Volume II (appendices)
 - e. Consultation Correspondence
 - f. Final marine zone maps by region



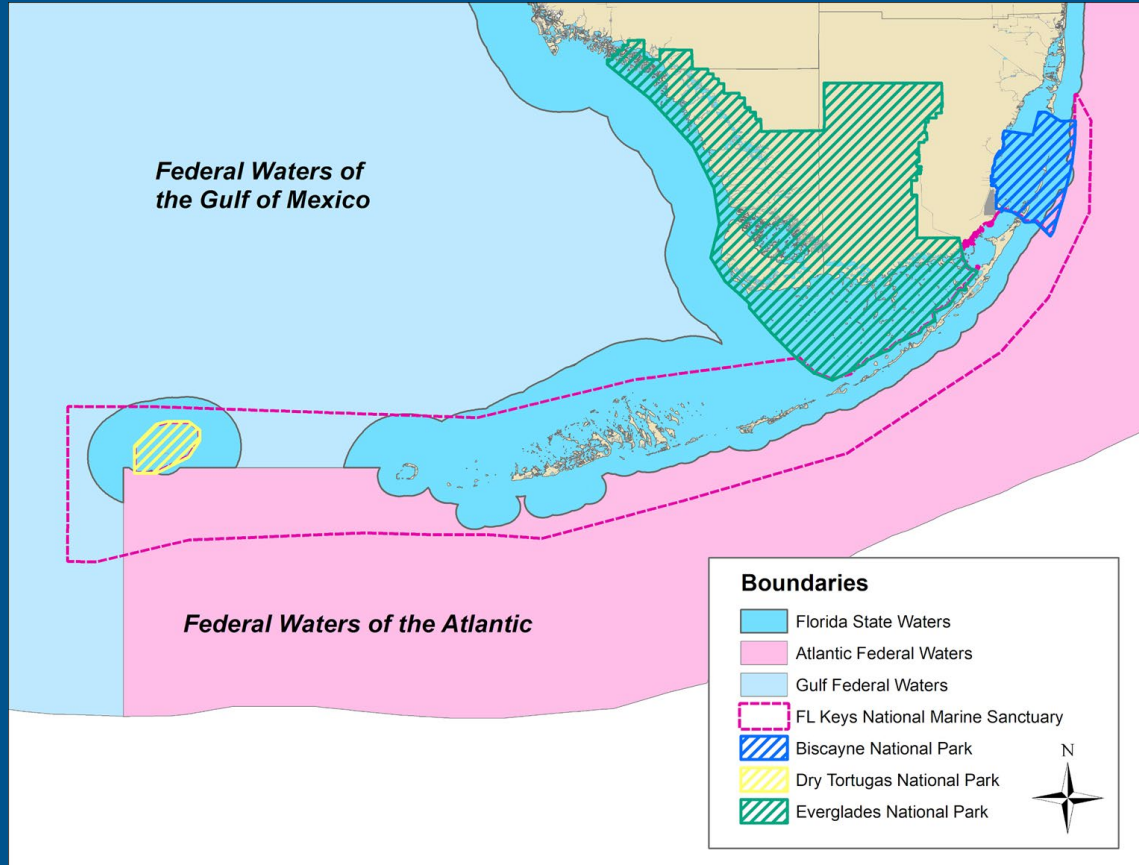
Restoration Blueprint

In response to public concerns about threats to the marine environment, NOAA is conducting the first major **review of regulations** in the Florida Keys since 1997.

Coordinating Fishing Regulations within FKNMS



Multiple Management Authorities in South Florida



MOA for coordination of fishing regulations within FKNMS

Need for Updates

- Current 1997 version is outdated
- Signed in 1997 by Florida Marine Fisheries Commission

Agency/Party Signatories

- NMFS, NOS (ONMS), FWC, and Gulf and South Atlantic Councils
- Describes respective authorities and jurisdictions for each party

Purpose

- Strive for consistent regulations
- Develop a process for notice, comment, and coordination among parties for fishery regulations in FKNMS
- Minimize regulatory delays and retain agency and public engagement

MOA for coordination of fishing regulations within FKNMS

Definitions and Scope

- Applies within FKNMS
- Only used for “pertinent fishing regulations”
- Defines and includes new section specific to updating “traditional fishing”

Process and Procedures

- Emphasis on communication among parties
- Outlines a process for coordinated rulemaking for each agency and among signatories
 - Initial coordination will determine the lead agency for rulemaking
 - Subsections outline process for Federal, State, and Combined federal/state rulemaking
- Federal process: ONMS and NMFS/FMC
 - Follow NMSA 304(a)(5) process and applicable NOAA guidance

Status and Next Steps

- Current draft reflects FWC and NOAA discussions
- Consider direction from FWC Commissioners
- Consider direction from SAFMC and GMFMC
- Staff finalize for formal agency clearance and signature (FWC, NOAA, FMCs)
- Execute and evaluate implementation



Questions?

