

# Restoration Blueprint

An Effort to Restore Critical Marine Habitats in the Florida Keys

Consultation with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

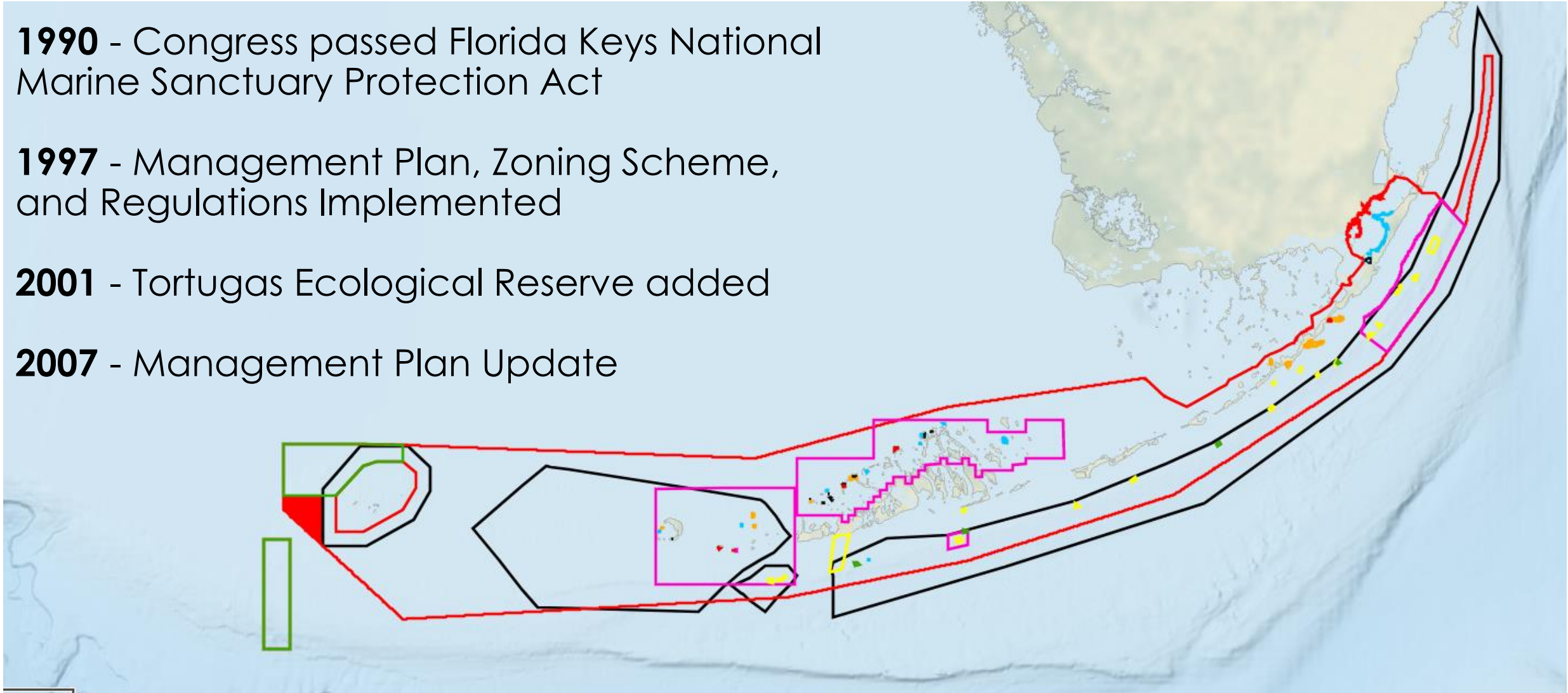
# Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

**1990** - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

**1997** - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

**2001** - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added

**2007** - Management Plan Update





# Why Create a Blueprint?



## Healthy Florida Keys

A healthy Florida Keys marine ecosystem is the foundation for a strong economy.

## Natural Resources

Numerous stressors are putting the future of the Florida Keys marine environment at risk.

## Planning for the Future

We need a plan that addresses the threats to our marine environment and helps us maintain the natural resources that are key to our economy.

# Blue Economy of Florida Keys NMS

## Tourism

5.1 million visitors in 2018

## Boating

4.5 million boaters per annum

## Diving and Snorkeling

1.62 million divers and snorkelers per annum

## Commercial Fishing

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

## Recreational Fishing

2.4 million people fish in FKNMS each year





# Economic Impact of Residents and Visitors



A Healthy Florida Keys Ecosystem Provides:

**\$4.7 Billion**

Monroe County  
economy

**5.1 million**

Visitors

**60%**

of Monroe County  
economy

# Natural Resources in the Florida Keys

The Future of the Florida Keys Marine Environment is at Risk



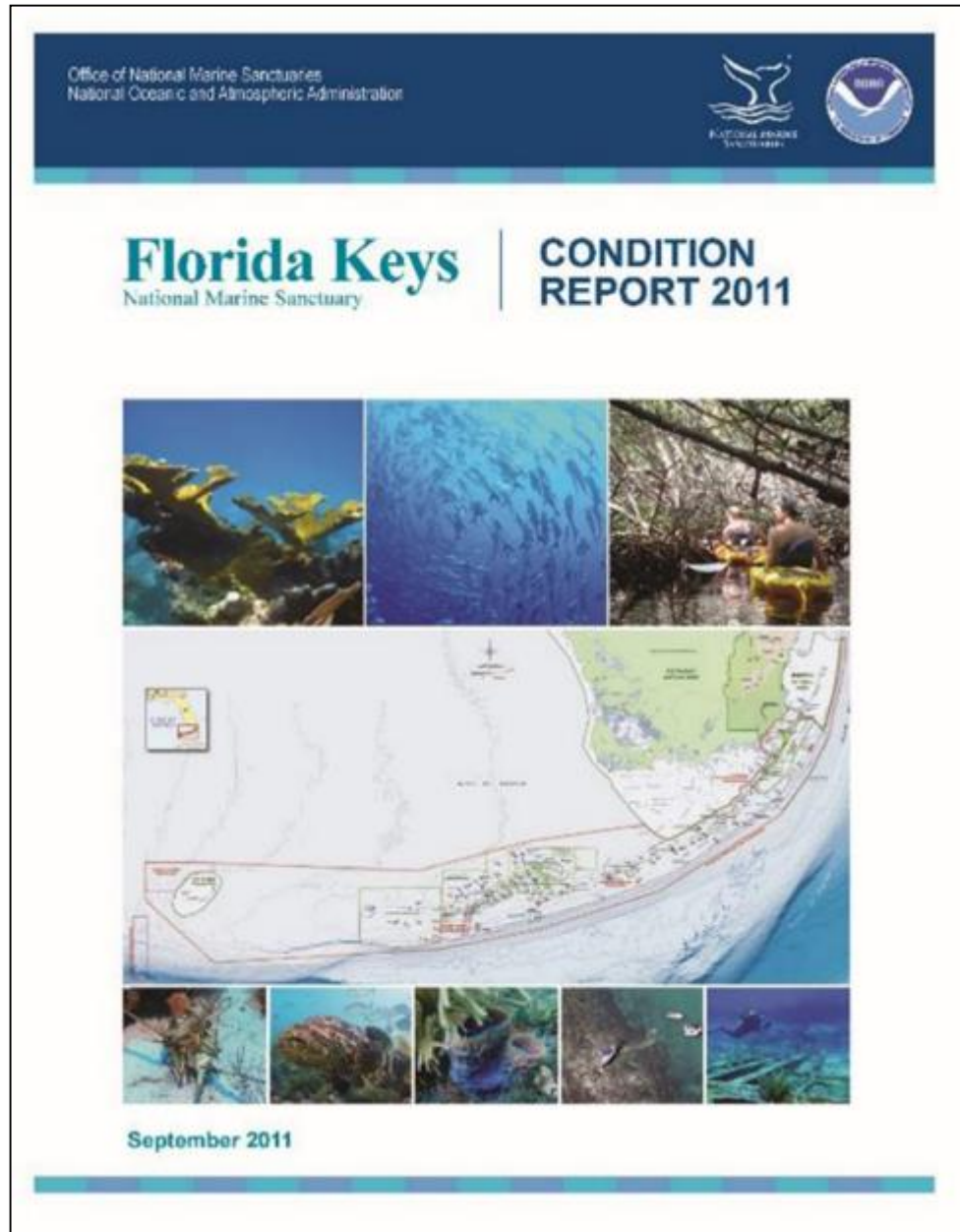
# Resource Report Card

Brought attention to natural resource declines

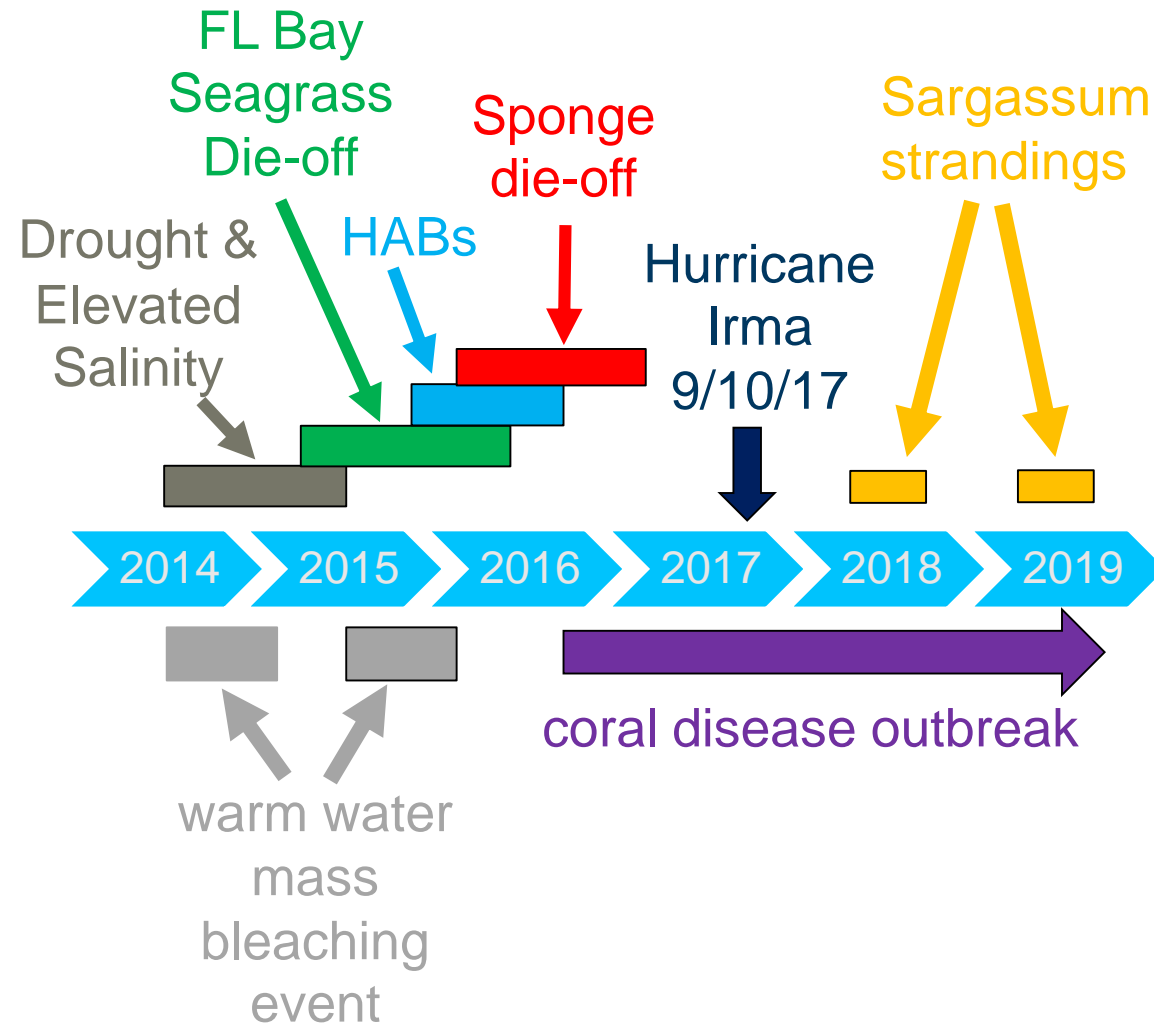
Good	Good/Fair	Fair	Fair/Poor	Poor	Undet.
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## Trends:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| ▲ Conditions appear to be improving.       | ? Undetermined trend.        |
| — Conditions do not appear to be changing. | N/A Question not applicable. |
| ▼ Conditions appear to be declining.       |                              |



## Significant events since 2011 Condition Report





# Local action to enhance resilience



# Community-led Effort

## Sanctuary Advisory Council



50 Council Members +  
35 Community Members



70 Public Meetings +  
> 1,500 Public Comments



200 Recommendations  
to Superintendent

Agency Coordination





# Sanctuary Advisory Council Goals:

Improve biological diversity; restore and enhance natural systems

Facilitate public and private resource use compatible with resource protection





# Fishery Management Council Consultation Opportunity

# The National Marine Sanctuaries Act – Procedures for Designation and Implementation

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## **NMSA** **Section** **304(a)(5) –** **Fishing** **Regulations**

- \* Provide appropriate Regional FMC opportunity to prepare draft regulations for fishing
  - \* 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
-

# Proposed Action

Applicable to Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council jurisdiction



# Proposed Action

## Alternatives

No Action

Range of Reasonable Alternatives (3)

*Alternative 3 is agency preferred*

## Alternative Components

Management Plan activities

Boundary expansion

Sanctuary-wide regulations

Marine zones & zone specific regulations



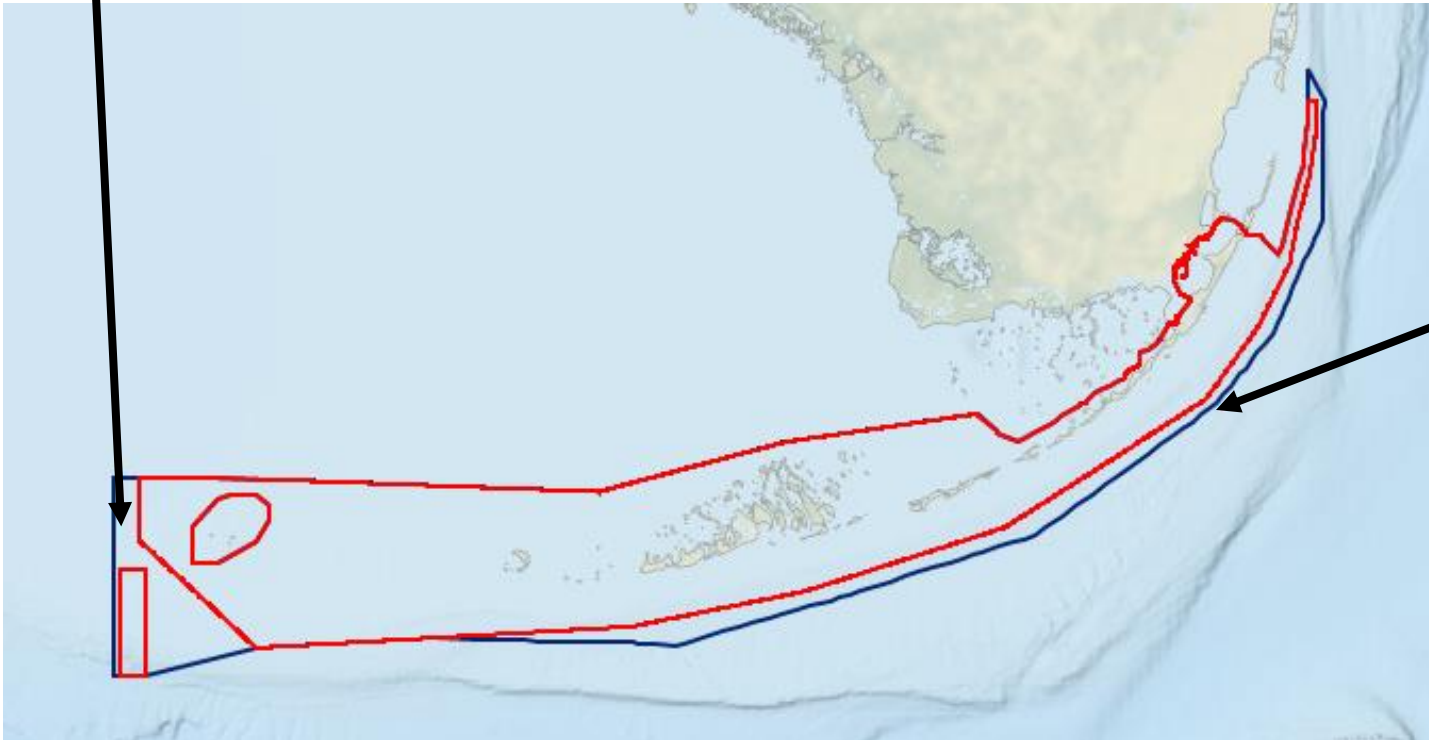
# Sanctuary Boundary



# Sanctuary Boundary Expansion

Alternatives 2 & 3 (preferred)

**Connectivity** - Tortugas



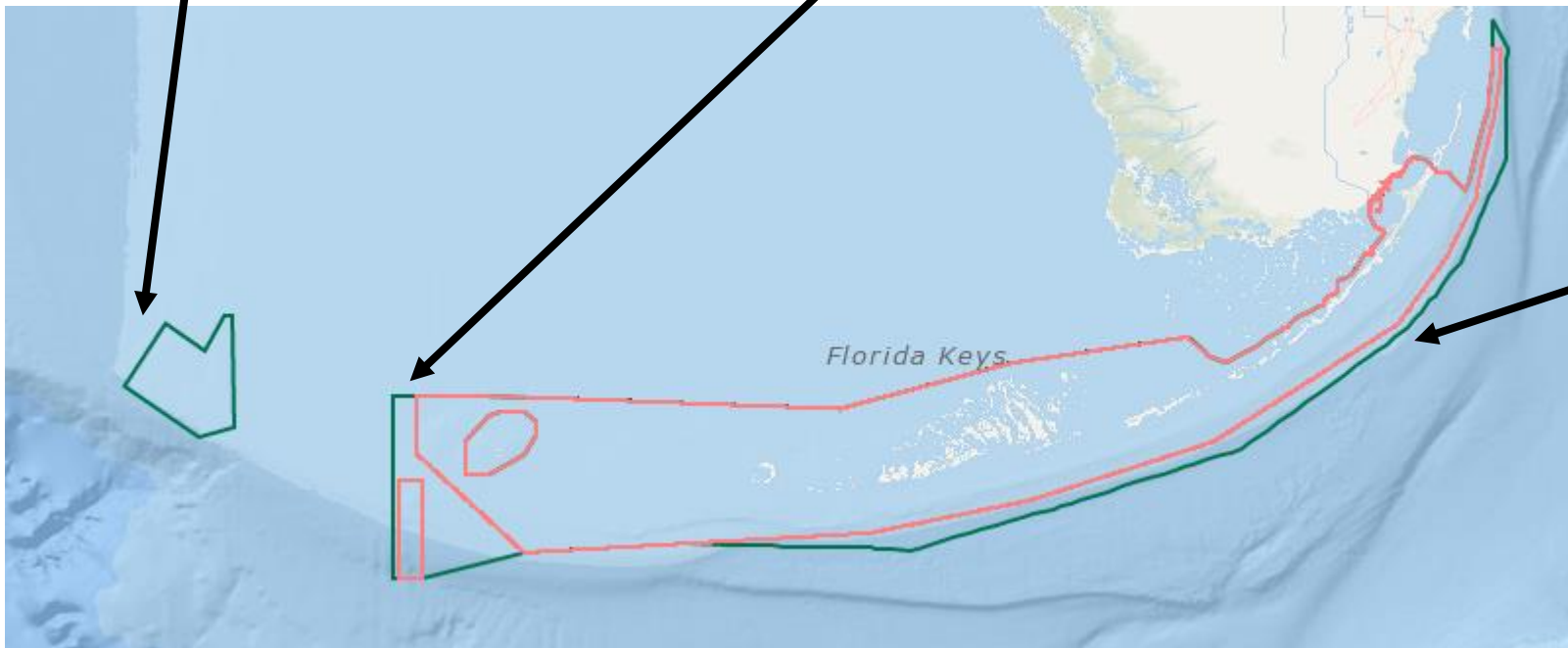
**Consistent regulation** -  
Expand boundary to include  
areas already closed to large  
vessel traffic



# Sanctuary Boundary Expansion: Alternative 4

**Significant Ecosystems-**  
Pulley Ridge

**Connectivity-** Tortugas



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

# Sanctuary-wide Regulations

# Sanctuary-wide Regulations

Status quo and proposed clarifications underlined

**Traditional** fishing means those commercial or recreational fishing activities that were customarily conducted within the sanctuary prior to its designation as identified in the environmental impact statement and management plan (EIS/MP) for this sanctuary, as managed by the appropriate federal (National Marine Fisheries Service in coordination with South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council) and state (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission) agencies.

Traditional fishing does not include use of novel or new gear types to catch species that were fished by other means as identified in the EIS/MP; does not include use of gear types (modified or not) identified in the EIS/MP to catch species those gear types were not originally intended to catch; or does not include use of gear or harvest of species outside of the seasons/time of year identified in the EIS/MP.



# Marine Zone Boundaries & Regulations

# Marine Zones

- Individual zone types provide different levels of protection
- Blueprint proposes new zones to address persistent threats to resource health, protect a range of habitat types, and facilitate restoration

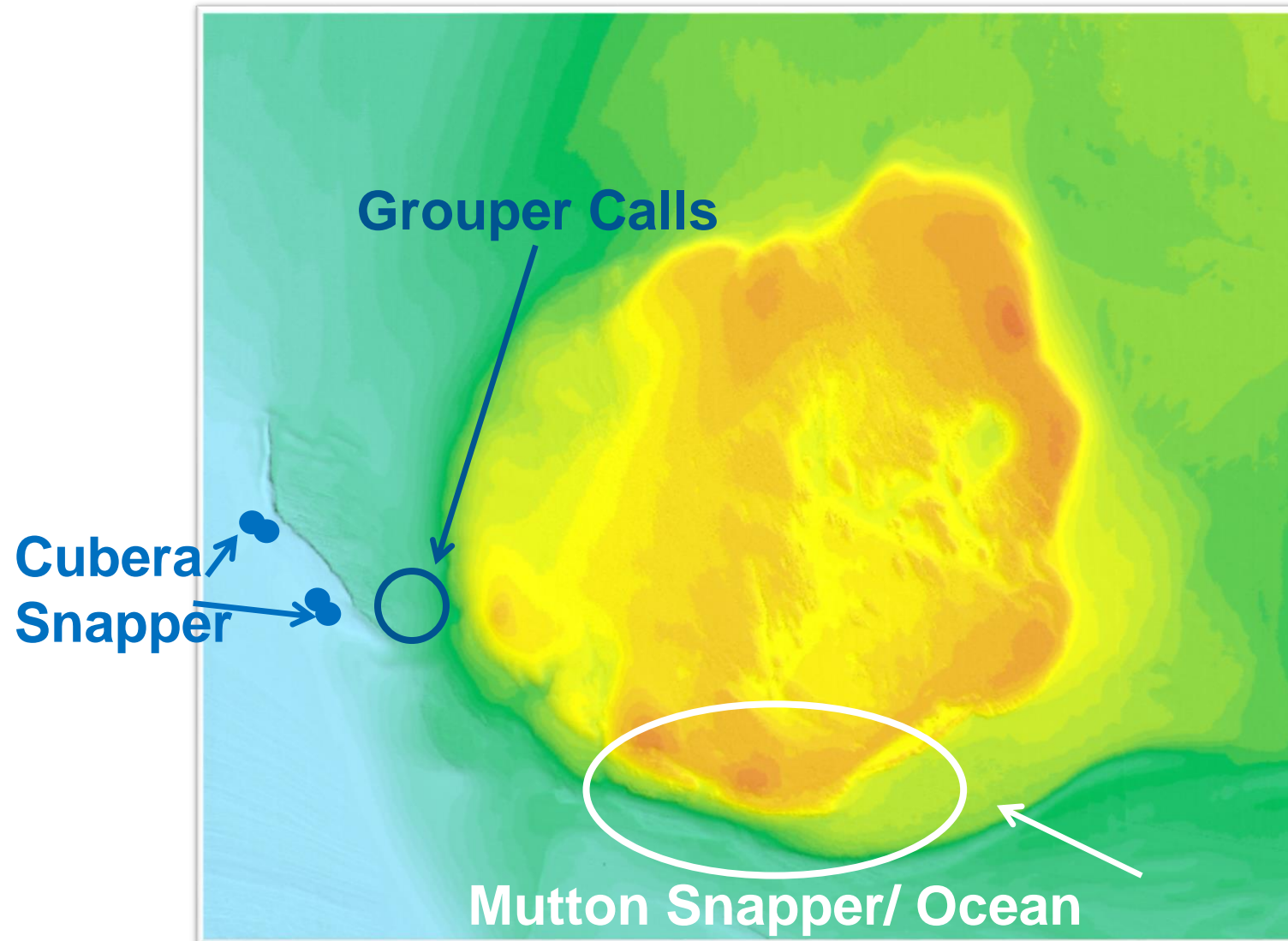


# Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred



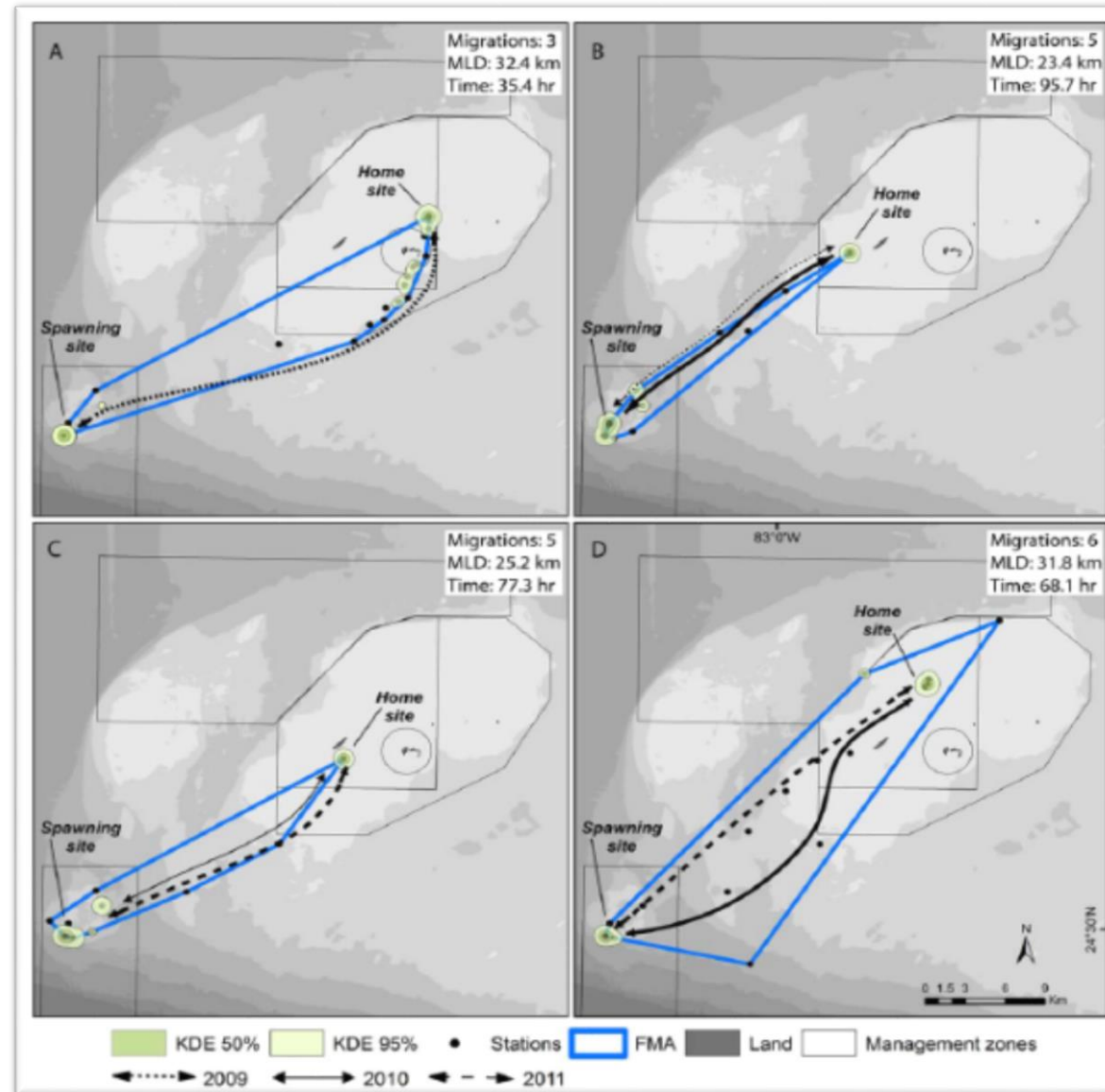


# Utilization of Riley's Hump



# Tagging of Mutton Snapper

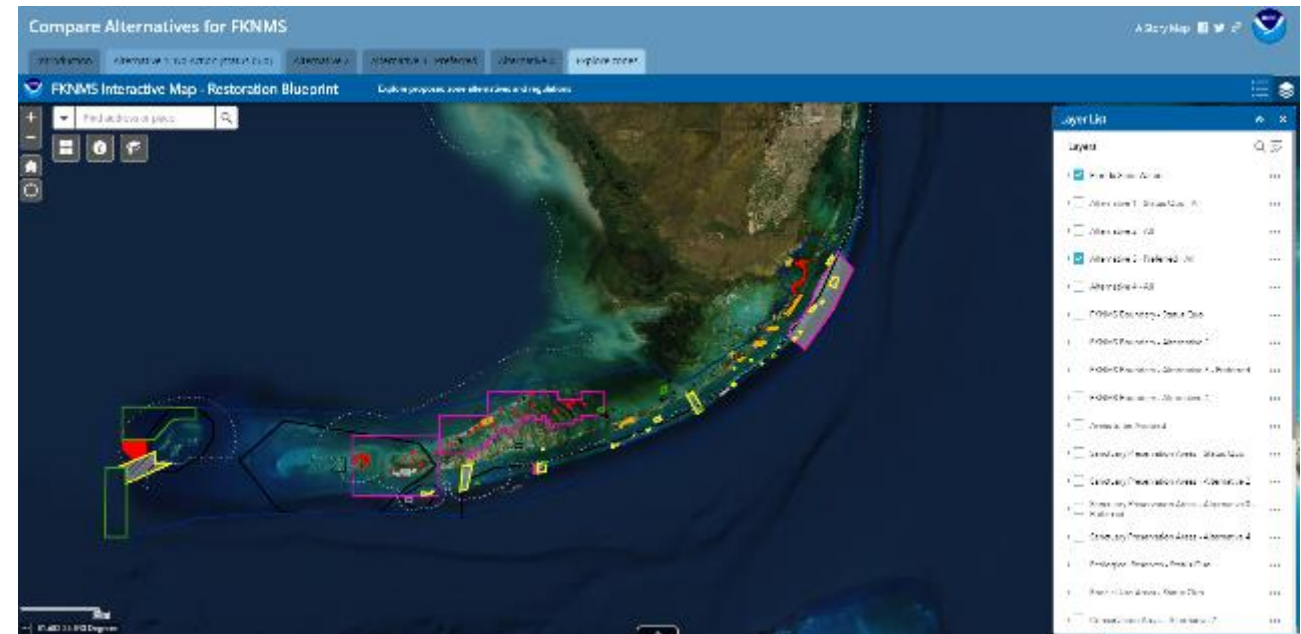
These movements show the complementary nature of the marine reserve network within Dry Tortugas



# Restoration Blueprint Information Tools

Dedicated webpage at [floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint](https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint)

[Interactive Map](#) will be available to explore alternatives





# Coordination/Consultation with FMCs and Florida FWC

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	SAFMC & GMFMC Spiny Lobster AP	Presentation, Q&A, Discussion	Marathon, FL
December 5	SAFMC Meeting	Presentation, Q&A	Wilmington, NC
December 12	FWC Commission Meeting	Presentation, Public Comment likely	Panama City, FL
<b>January 9</b>	<b>GMFMC Standing SSC Meeting</b>	<b>Presentation, Q&amp;A, Discussion</b>	<b>Webinar</b>
January 27	GMFMC Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	New Orleans, LA
February 19-20	FWC Commission Meeting	TBD, Public comment likely	Tallahassee, FL
March 2	SAFMC Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	Jekyll Island

# 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 (TBD)
December 10	Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting	Written and Oral Public Comment	Islamorada

**Public Comment Period:**  
**Submit public comments:**

August 20, 2019 through January 31, 2020  
[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

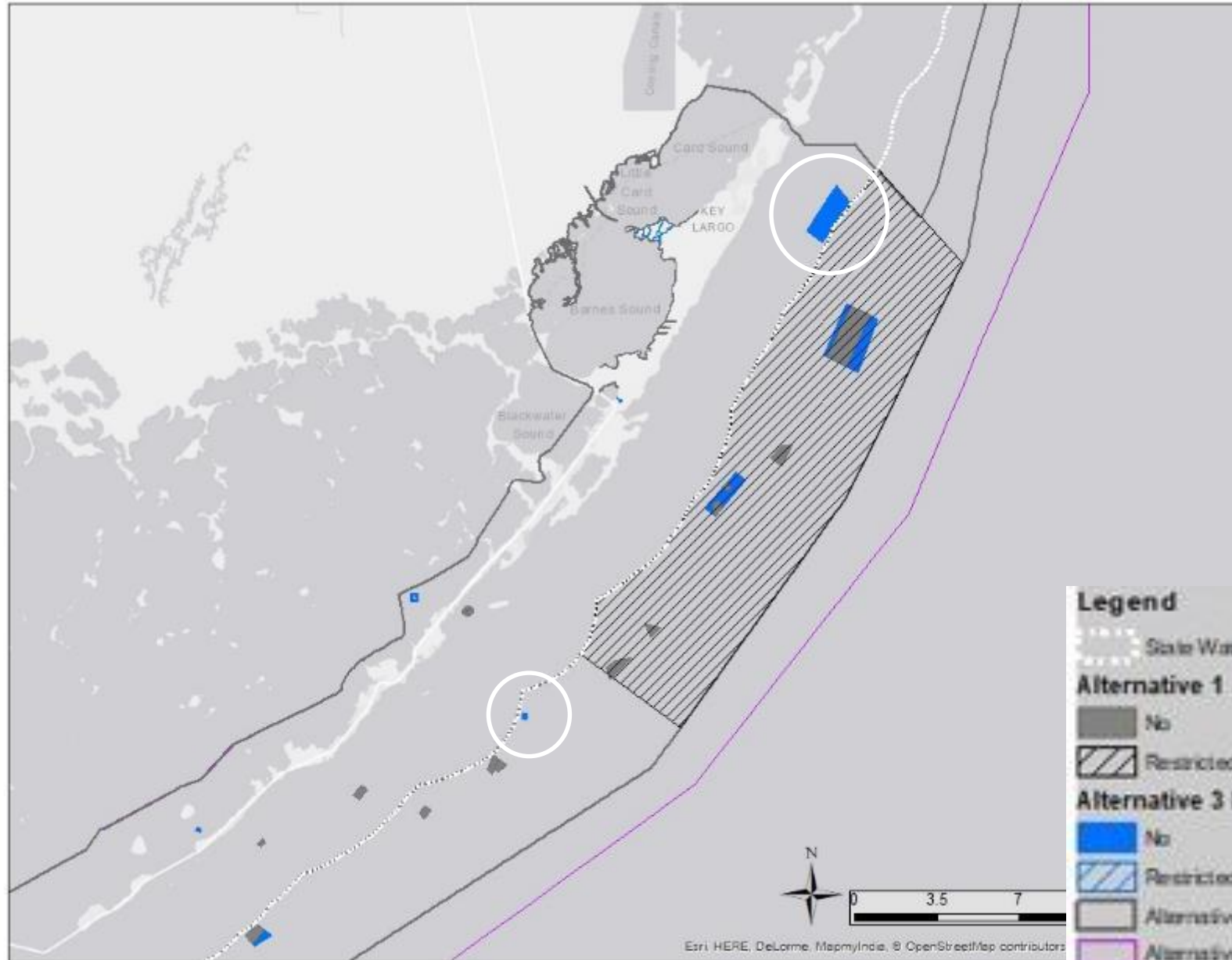


**THANK YOU**

Insert Image



# Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred



# Marine Zones: Proposed New Sanctuary Preservation Area

## Protect resilient mid channel sites: Turtle Rocks

- Multiple habitat types
- Existing lobster no-trap area
- Inshore stepping stone to Carysfort
- Resilient coral communities



Brenda Altmeier



# Marine Zones: Proposed New Sanctuary Preservation Area

## Pickles Reef



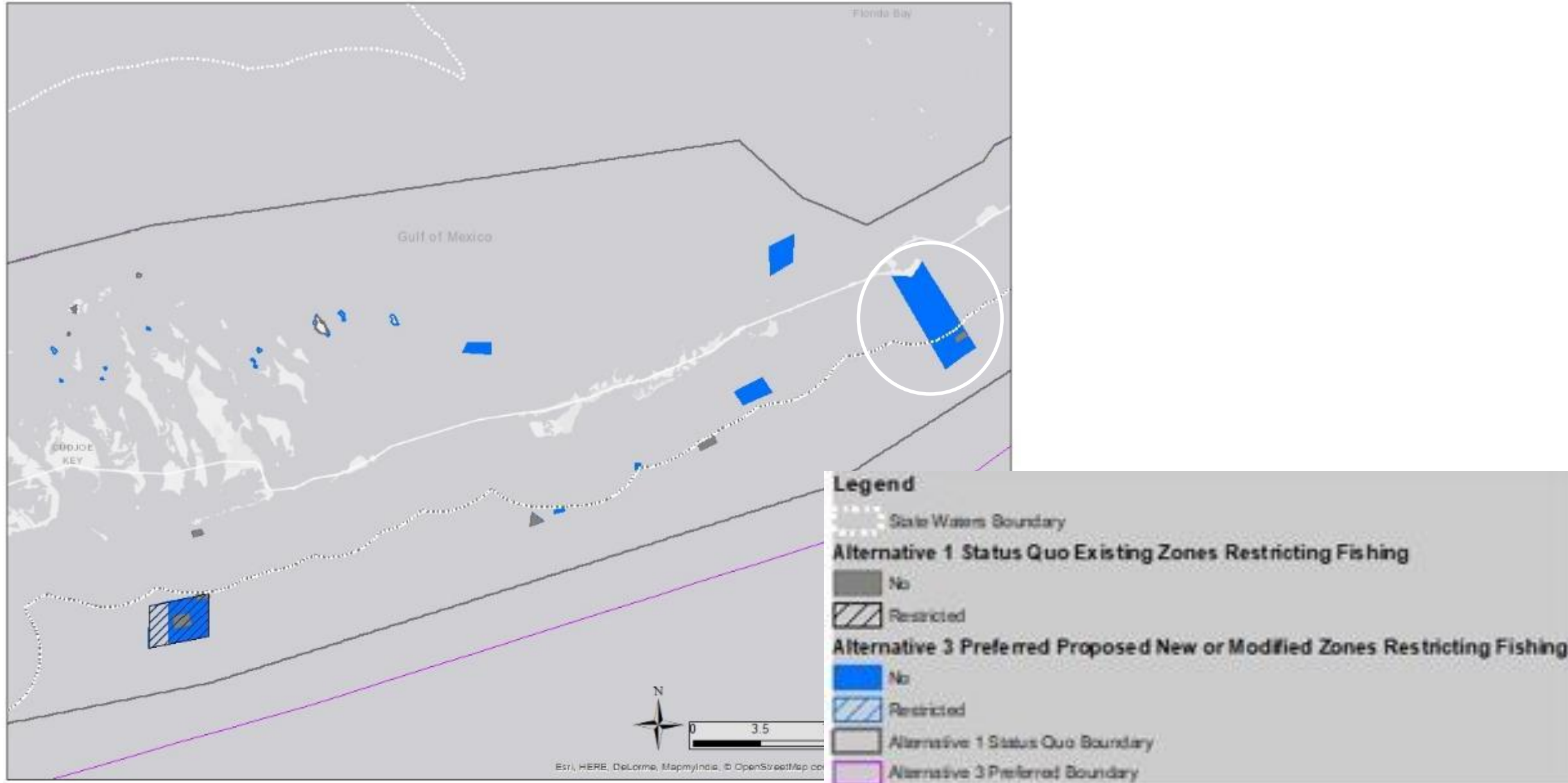
Two-year-old coral outplants; photo taken September 2019



Outplant site showing anchor damage; photo taken September 2019

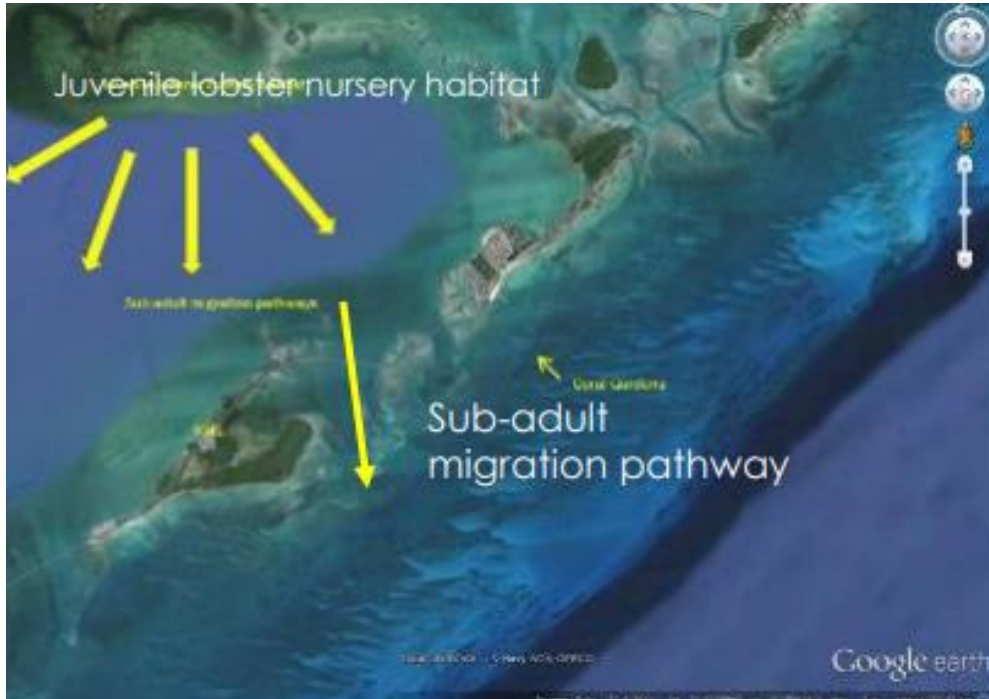


# Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred







# Marine Zones: Sanctuary Preservation Area (image shows preferred alternative) Alligator Reef and Long Key Tennessee Reef

Advisory Council Goal: Protect large and contiguous habitats to replenish and preserve habitats and full life cycle needs of species

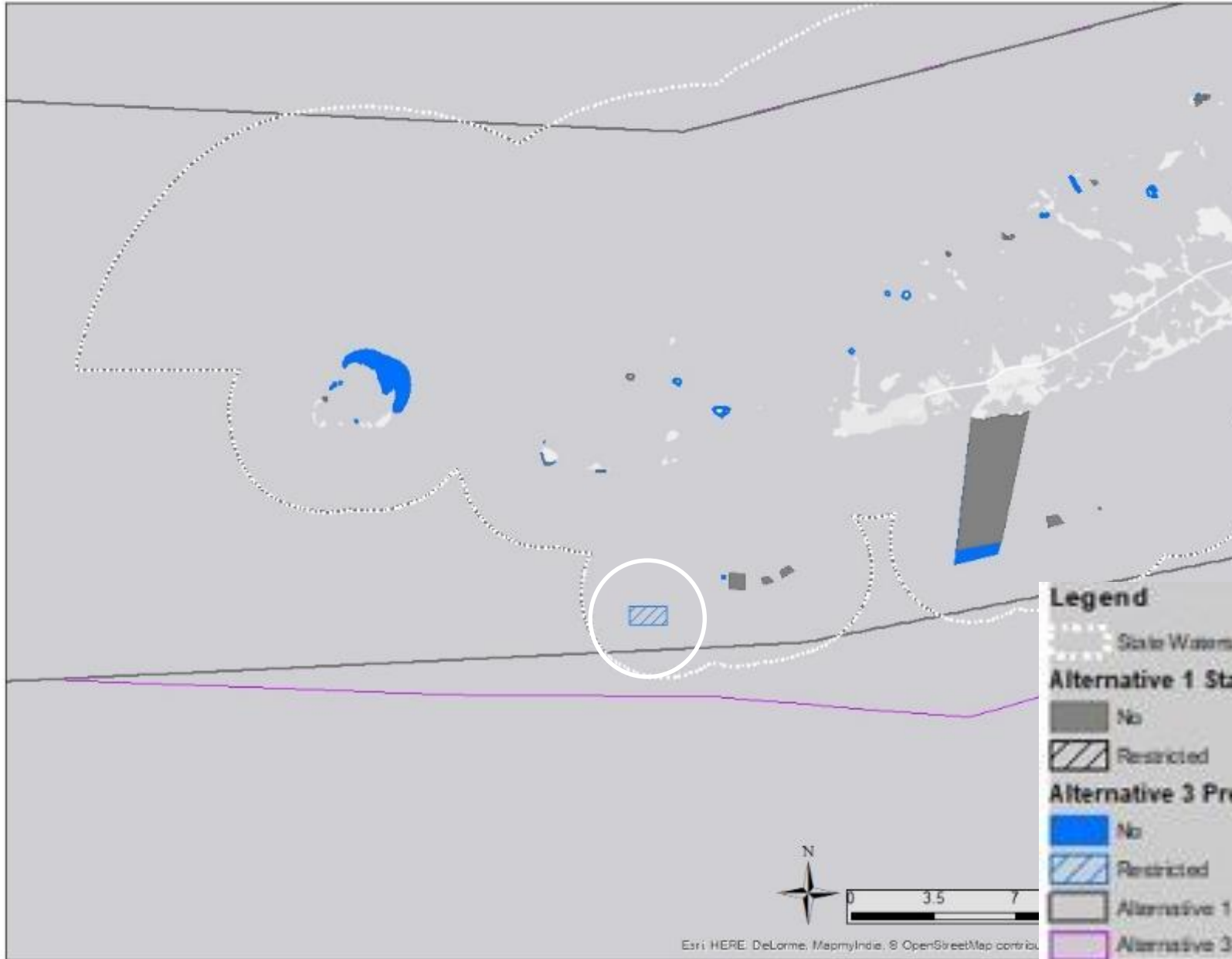


- Extends from shore to deep reef
- Multiple habitat types
- Connects Florida Bay habitats
- Protects multiple life stages
- Encompasses resilient reefs



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

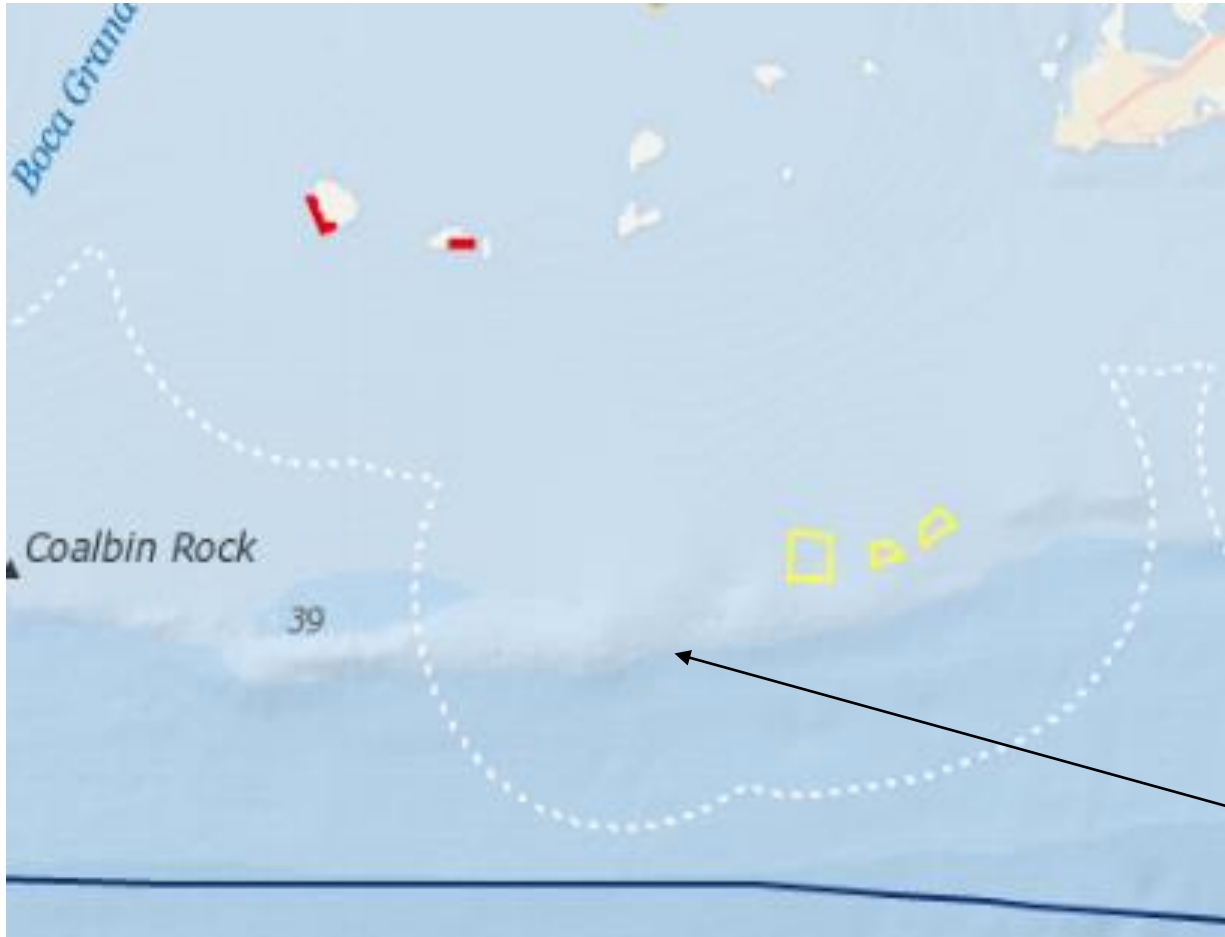
# Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred





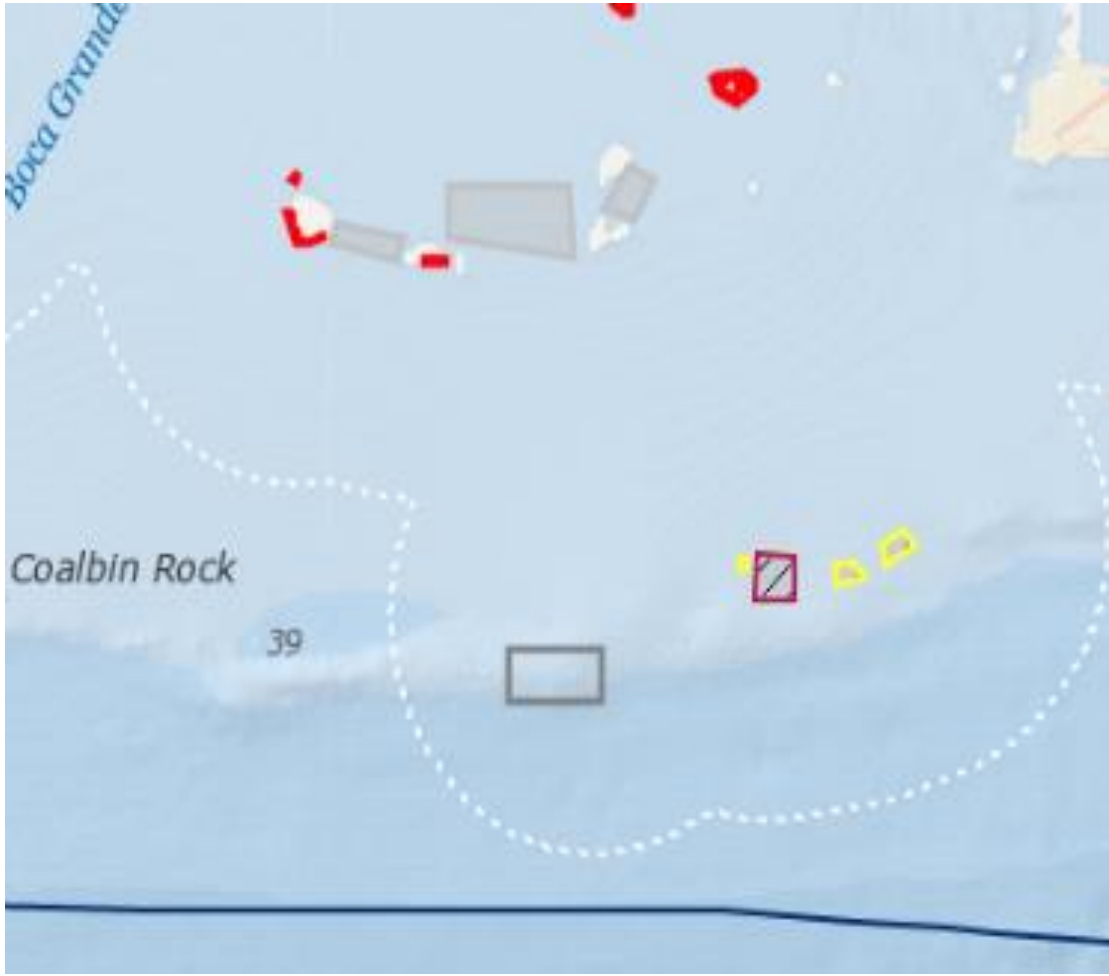
# Marine Zones: Area currently not zoned

## Western Dry Rocks



# Marine Zones: Wildlife Management Area (alternatives 2 &3)

## Western Dry Rocks



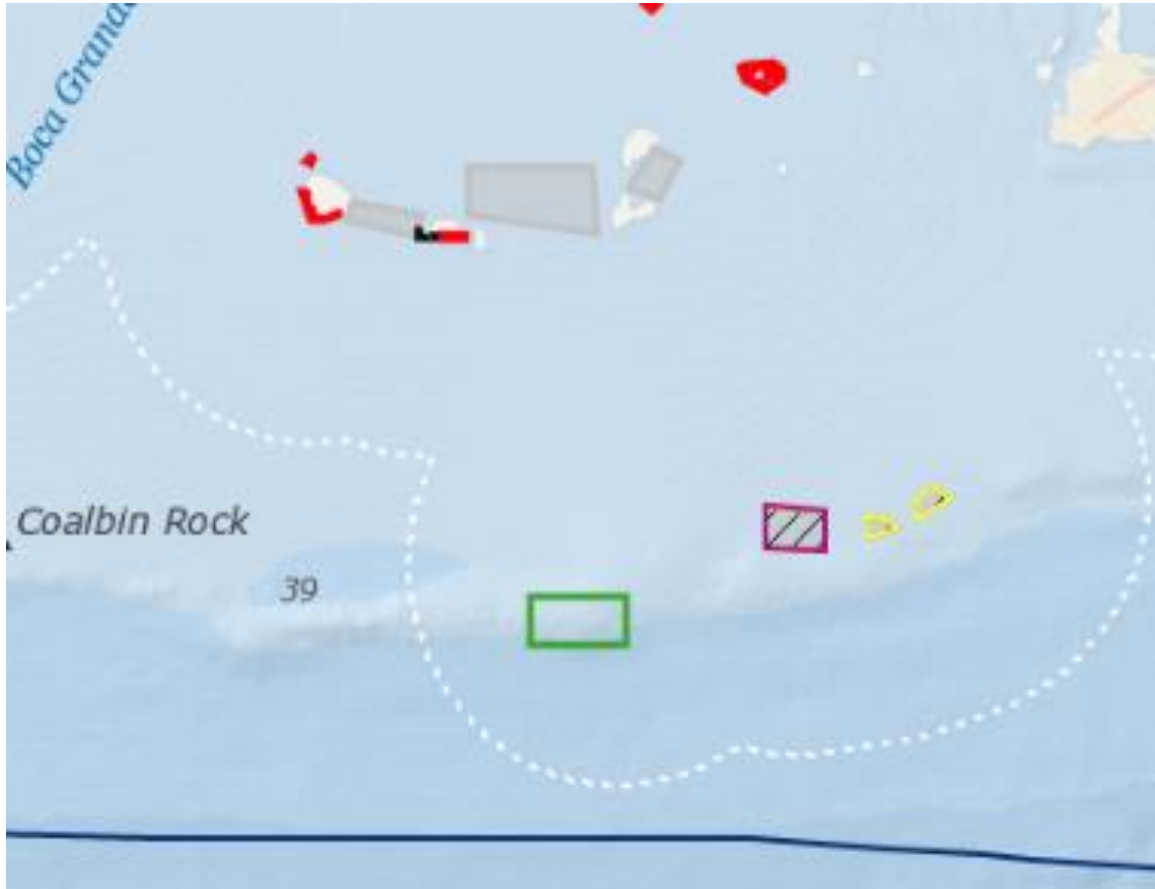
 Trolling Only



Meets Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Objective to protect fish species  
spawning aggregation sites.

# Marine Zones: Conservation Area (alternative 4)

## Western Dry Rocks



 Transit Only



Meets Sanctuary Advisory Council Objective to protect fish species spawning aggregation sites.



# Marine Zone Area Summary Statistics

Area (sq miles) Percentage of total area	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Total	377.24	474.07	485.57	777.46
	6.25%	10.44%	10.69%	16.64%
State Waters	143.77	198.49	207.25	231.85
	3.78%	4.37%	4.56%	4.83%
Federal Waters	94.02	275.58	278.33	566.93
	2.47%	6.07%	6.13%	11.81%