



Summary of FKNMS alternatives; stakeholder comments and recommendations; and proposed comments for Council Letter



Presentation Outline

- FKNMS Expansion Proposal
 - Proposed Goals of Expansion and Deadlines
 - Overview Comparison of Alternatives 1-4
 - Sanctuary Boundary
 - Proposed Regulations
 - Sanctuary-wide
 - Specific to Sanctuary Preservation Area
 - General Comments from Stakeholders
 - General Items for Council Consideration and Comment



Presentation Outline Continued

- Gulf Council Jurisdiction
 - Marine Zones Boundaries
 - Fishing Effort Shrimp ELB and Reef Fish VMS
 - Recommendations from AP and SSC
 - Specific Items for Council Consideration and Comment



Presentation Outline Continued

- South Atlantic Council Jurisdiction
 - Marine Zones Boundaries
 - Comments and Recommendations from APs and SSCs
 - Fishing Effort Shrimp ELB, Reef Fish VMS, Spiny Lobster Closed Areas
 - South Atlantic Council's Comments and Process to Date
- Florida Fish and Wildlife Commissions Recommendations and Process



Background

August 20th: Release of DEIS

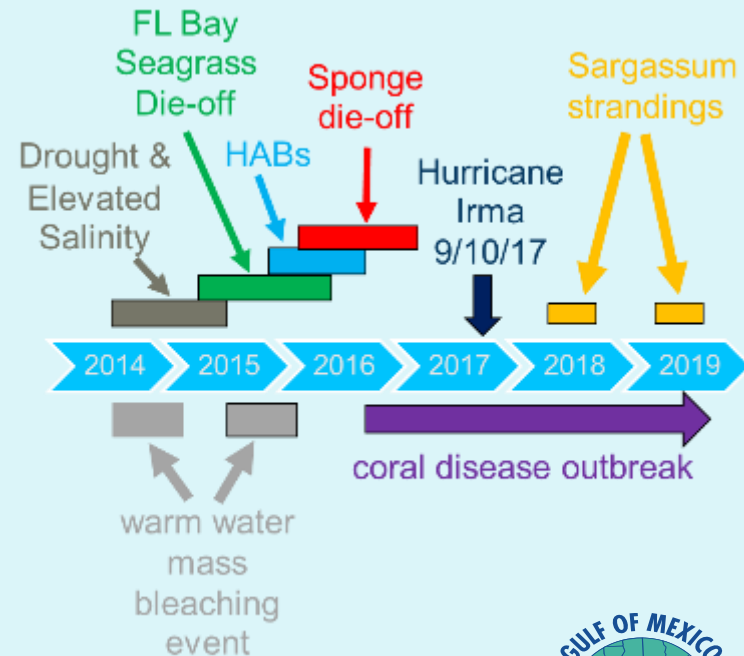
February 21st: Deadline Gulf Council comment

Purpose

- Identify and protect marine areas of special national significance
- Provide a management plan and implement actions for resource protection, while allowing public and private use

Need

- Based on widespread acute, chronic, and emerging threats to marine resources in the Florida Keys



Components	Alternatives			
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Sanctuary boundary	No action. (3,800 sq miles)	Existing boundary expanded to current ATAB and Tortugas Region (4,541 sq miles)	Same as 2	Same as 2 (and 3) plus Pulley Ridge (4,800 sq miles)
Sanctuary-wide regulations	No action.	Update 3 existing. Propose 4 new.	Update 4 existing. Propose 4 new.	Update 5 existing. Propose 4 new.
Marine zone boundaries	No action. 57 total zones 1,033 sq miles	96 total zones 1,129 sq miles	98 total zones 1,141 sq miles	98 total zones 1,433 sq miles
Additional marine zone regulations	No action.	Eliminate 2 exceptions. Update 2 existing. Apply more protective regulations than Alt. 1	Same as Alt. 2 or more protective (e.g., more “no entry” areas)	Same as Alt. 2 or 3, or more protective (e.g., more “transit only” areas)
Management plan	No action.	New proposed management plan	Same as Alt. 2	Same as Alt. 2

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary: Proposed Boundaries

Alternatives 2 and 3

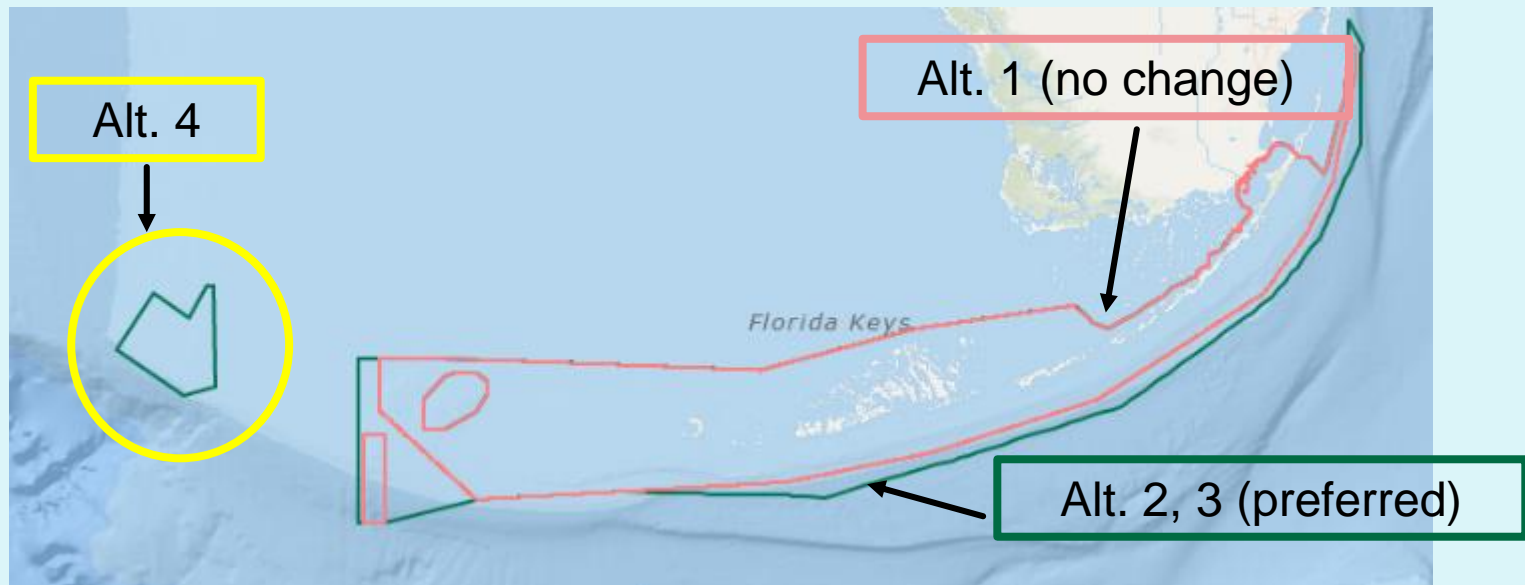
- Expand southward to align with current ATBA boundary
- Expand 1-mile westward around Tortugas Ecological Reserve South

Alternative 4

- Incorporate Pulley Ridge

Rationale

- Consistent regulations
- Connectivity
- Protection of benthic habitat
 - Reduce anchor damage and groundings
- Water quality
 - Discharge regulations



Sanctuary-wide Regulations

Components	Alternatives			
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Sanctuary-wide regulations	No action.	Update 3 existing. Propose 4 new.	Update 4 existing. Propose 4 new.	Update 5 existing. Propose 4 new.

1. Live rock aquaculture
2. Discharge regulation exception
3. Shoreline slow speed zone
4. Emergency regulation
5. Historical resources
6. Fish feeding (new)
7. Vessel grounding, deserted vessels, and abandoning gear (new)
8. Large vessel mooring buoy (new)
9. Overnight use of mooring buoys (new)



Sanctuary-wide Regulations

Live rock aquaculture

- Current: Prohibited except with a permit (NMFS, state of Florida)
- Proposed:
 - Alt 1 and 2: no change
 - Alt 3: to include FKNMS in conversation
 - Alt 4: existing and future activities will require FKNMS permit



Sanctuary-wide Regulations

Fish feeding

- Current: Not explicitly regulated unless destruction/loss to a sanctuary resource
- Proposed:
 - Alt 2, 3 and 4: Prohibit feeding of fish, sharks, or other species from any vessel and/or while diving.

* Proposed changes would not impact bait fishing (or chumming), or shore-based fish feeding.



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.



Bait fishing in Sanctuary Preservation Areas

- Current: allowed sanctuary-wide except within existing SPAs where permit is required
- Proposed:
 - Alt. 2, 3, and 4: Phase-out permits over a three-year period

Rationale

- Consistency in regulations within SPAs
- Reduce user conflicts and align with new management plan
- Permit requests not as frequent



List of AP and SSC Meetings Held

September 16: Joint Coral SSC, Coral AP, Shrimp AP

October 2: Reef Fish AP

October 21: FKNMS presentation to the Council

November 13: Joint Gulf and South Atlantic Spiny Lobster AP

January 9: Standing SSC and Coral SSC



General Comments from Stakeholders

- The complexity of the DEIS makes it difficult to provide detailed comments.
- Fishermen are concerned about future restrictions that may influence their ability to fish in Sanctuary waters.
- Stakeholders are concerned about enforceability of the regulations proposed.
- Stakeholders requested tables with the coordinates of all marine zones.
- Stakeholders requested clarification and guidance to determine what “idle/no wake”, “no motor”, “trolling” (speed?) refer to.



General Comments from Stakeholders

- Installation of navigational aids instead of closing areas.
- There is concern regarding water quality and nutrient load impacts on the ecosystem.
- There is recognition that the ecosystem has been in decline, but the data needs to support the closures (more background information).
- The FKNMS should increase outreach efforts with boat users (locals and tourists).
 - Education
 - Signaling
 - Direct collaboration with fishermen



General Items for Council Consideration and Comment



- Thoughts on Sanctuary boundary expansion
- Thoughts on regulations
 - Live rock aquaculture
 - Fish feeding
 - Is bycatch considered fish-feeding?
 - Bait fishing in Sanctuary Preservation Areas
- Thoughts on general stakeholder recommendations



Sanctuary-wide



Presentation Outline Continued

- Gulf Council Jurisdiction
 - Marine Zones Boundaries
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Existing sanctuary boundary
Transit Only
No Anchor Vessels Greater Than 50 m

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

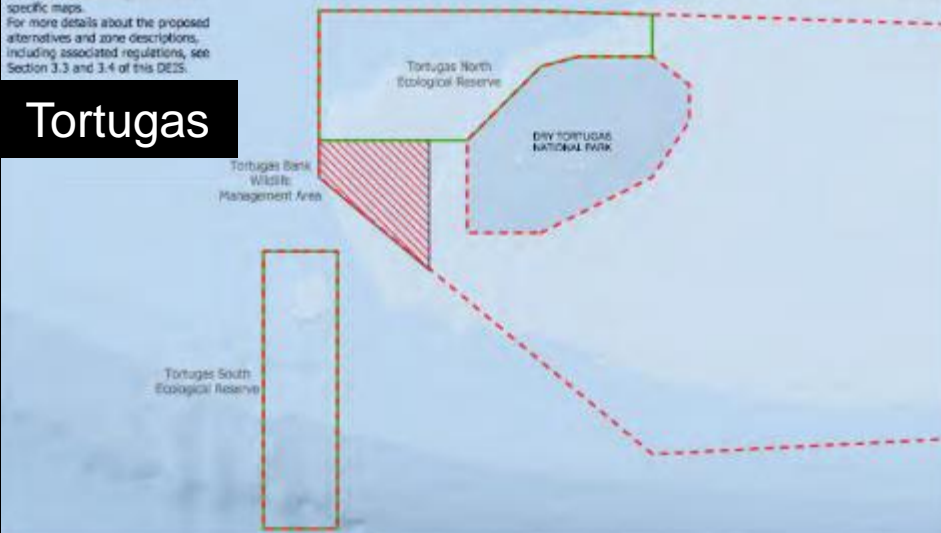
Tortugas Region

Alt. 1

Alternative 1: status quo

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. Note: To see more detail for each marine zone boundary, see the zone specific maps. For more details about the proposed alternatives and zone descriptions, including associated regulations, see Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this DEIS.

Tortugas



Existing sanctuary boundary
Alternative 3 Proposed Marine Zones
Alternative 3 boundary
Sanctuary Preservation Area
Transit Only
Idle Speed
No Anchor
No Anchor Vessels >50 m

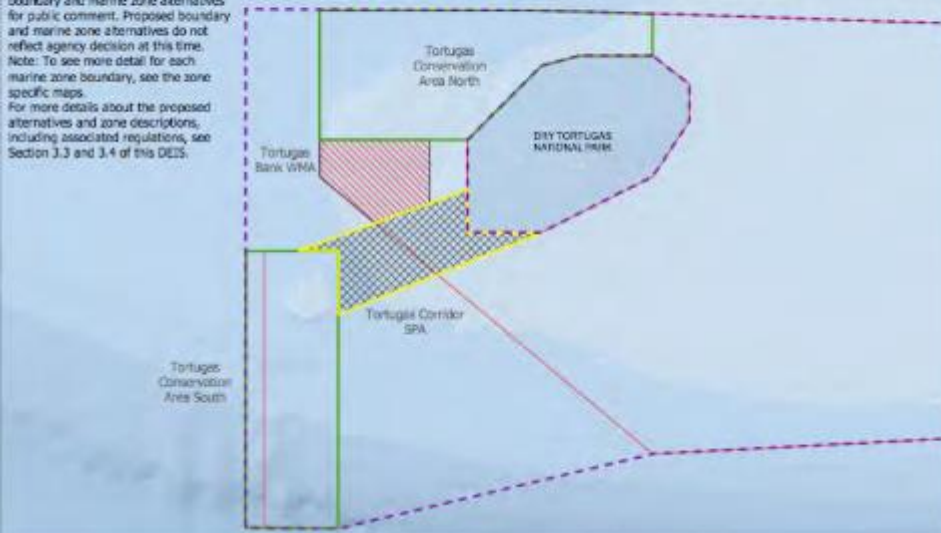
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Tortugas Region

Alt. 3

Alternative 3: preferred

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. Note: To see more detail for each marine zone boundary, see the zone specific maps. For more details about the proposed alternatives and zone descriptions, including associated regulations, see Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this DEIS.



Existing sanctuary boundary
Alternative 2 Proposed Marine Zones
Alternative 2 boundary
Sanctuary Preservation Area
Transit Only
Idle Speed
No Anchor
No Anchor Vessels >50 m

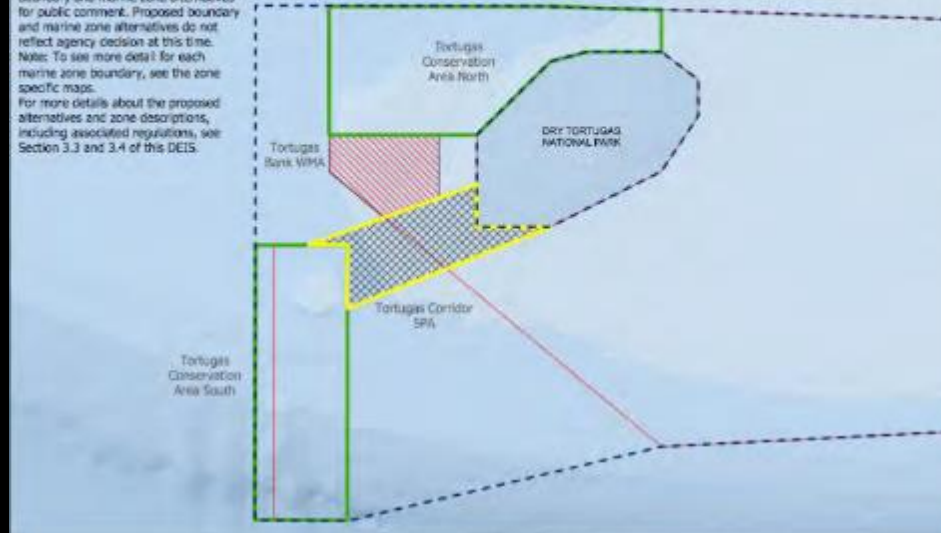
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Tortugas Region

Alt. 2

Alternative 2

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Existing sanctuary boundary
Alternative 4 Proposed Marine Zones
Alternative 4 boundary
Sanctuary Preservation Area
Transit Only
Idle Speed
No Anchor
No Anchor Vessels >50 m

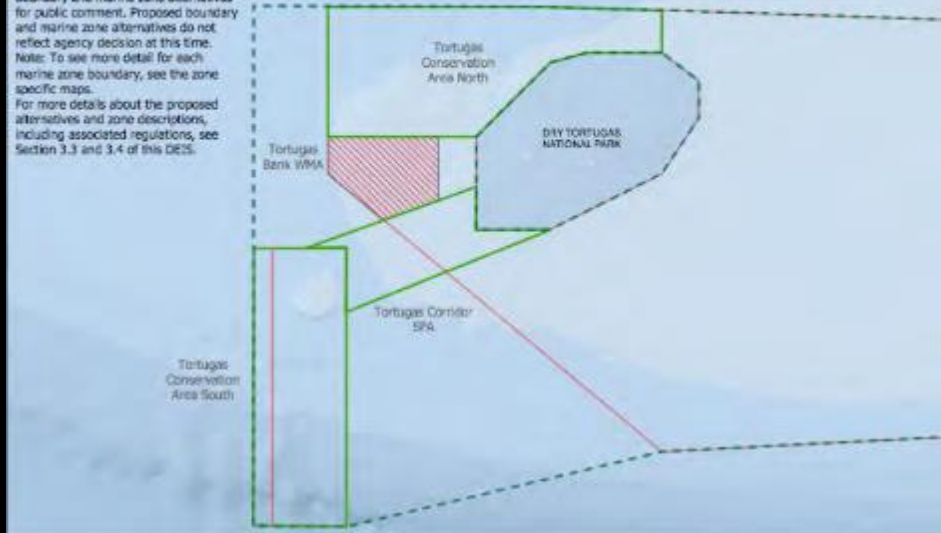
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Tortugas Region

Alt. 4

Alternative 4

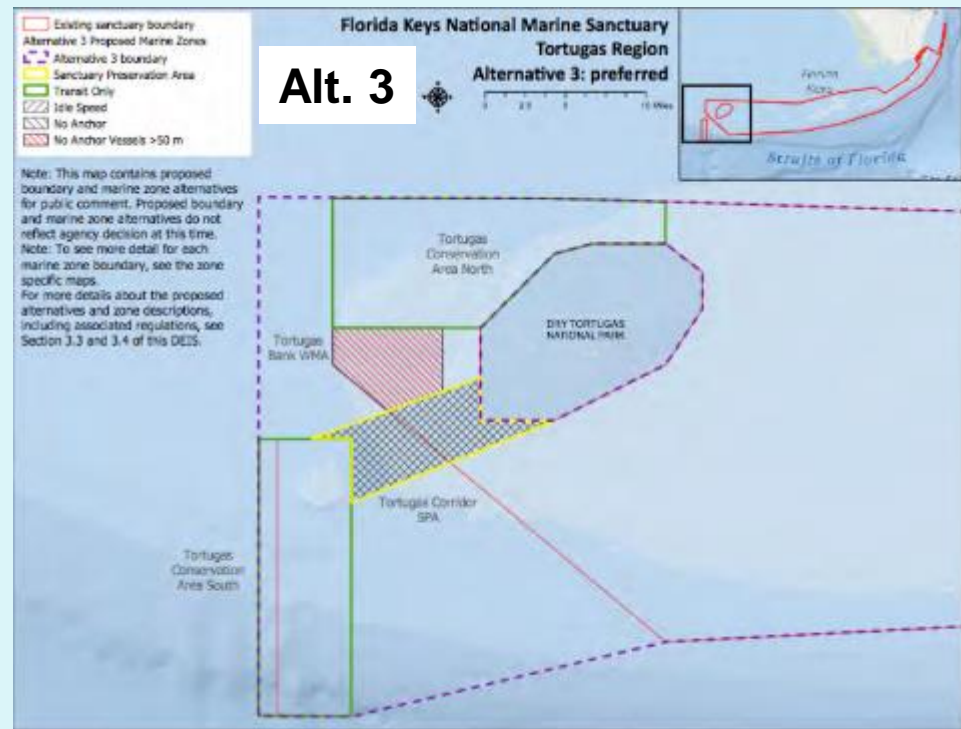
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Tortugas Corridor

Under Alternative 3

- No fishing
- No anchor
- Idle speed
 - Clarification on transiting with fishing gear through the Tortugas Corridor



Current transit language for Tortugas ER South: Vessels may only enter if they remain in continuous transit with fishing gear stowed (diving and snorkeling are prohibited).

Comments on Tortugas Corridor

- The Reef Fish AP mentioned that fishing activities may be impacted with the proposed creation of a Tortugas Corridor.
- The SSC also expressed concern regarding idle speed regulations in such a large area.
 - Safety at sea
 - Limit the use of other areas without fishing restrictions



Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Tortugas and Pulley

- State Waters
- 35 Fathom
- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion
- FKNMS Boundary
- PulleyRidge South
- Coral 9 (Proposed)

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

No

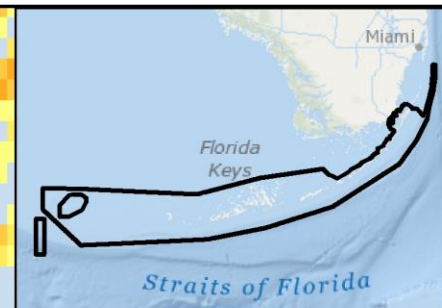
Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

No

ShrimpELB Ag (2004-2017)

Value

- 3 - 10
- 11 - 100
- 101 - 500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 5,000
- 5,001 - 10,000
- >10,000

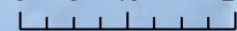


25°N

83°W

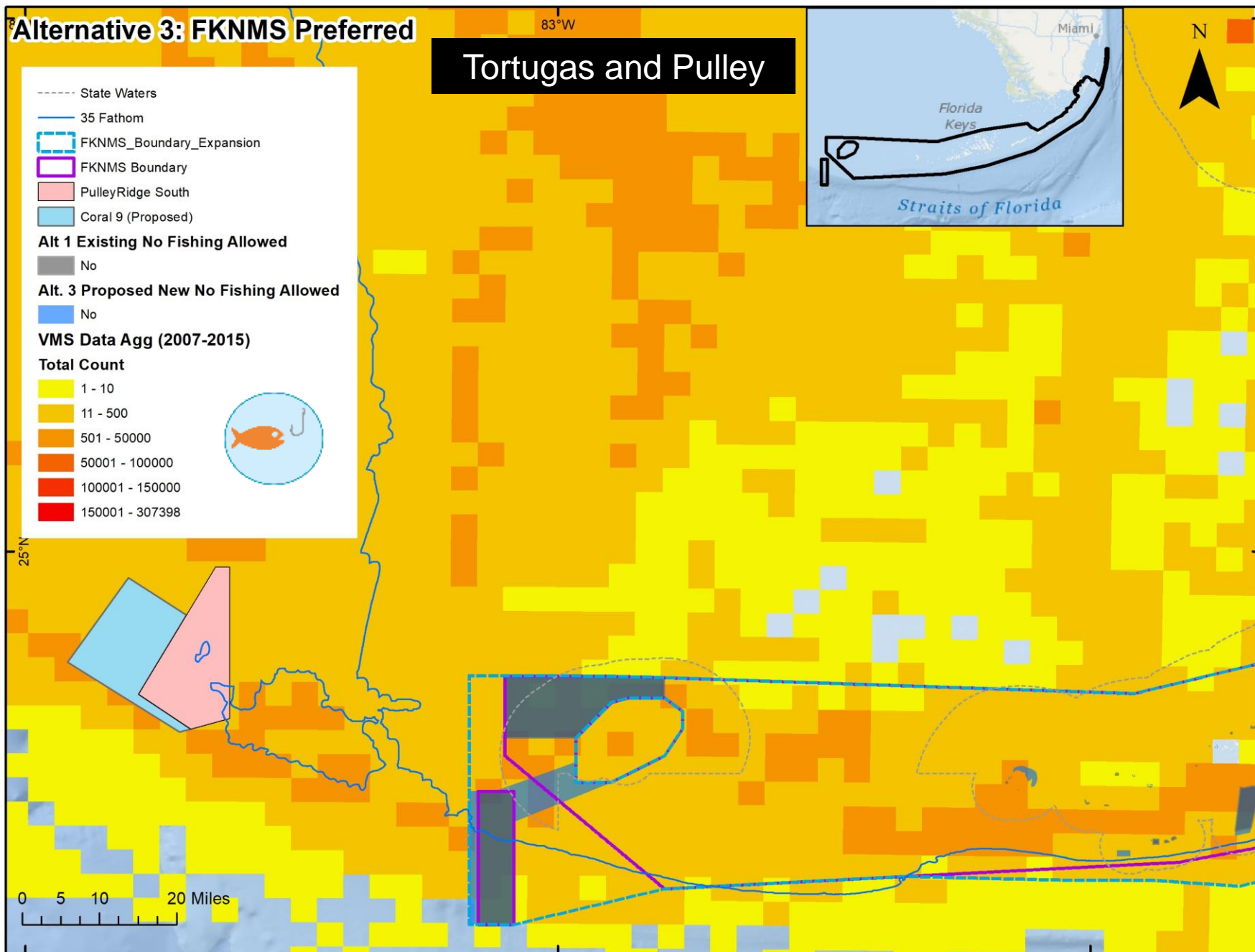
ten Thousand

0 5 10 20 Miles



Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Tortugas and Pulley





Motions from Shrimp AP

Motion 1: To oppose the proposed northwestern expansion of the FKNMS boundary.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion 2: The Shrimp AP is not in favor of the FKNMS southern boundary expansion.

Motion carried with no opposition.

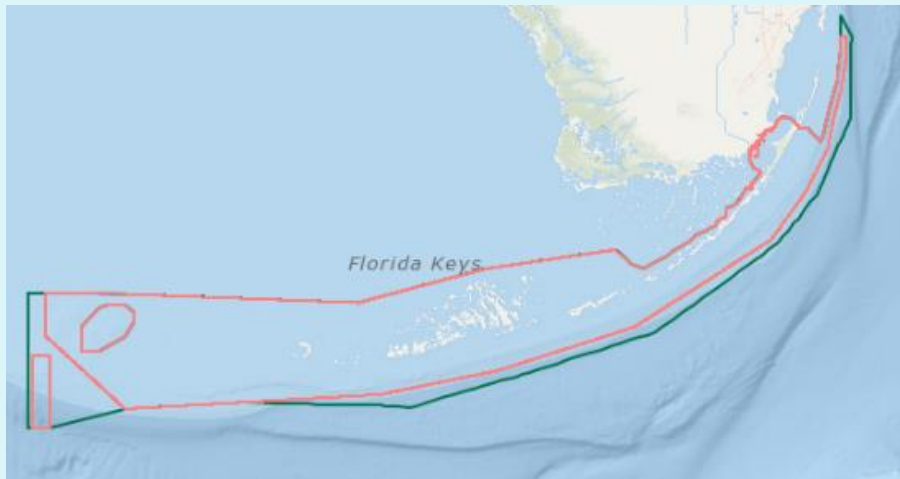


Thoughts on Proposed Changes to the Dry Tortugas Region



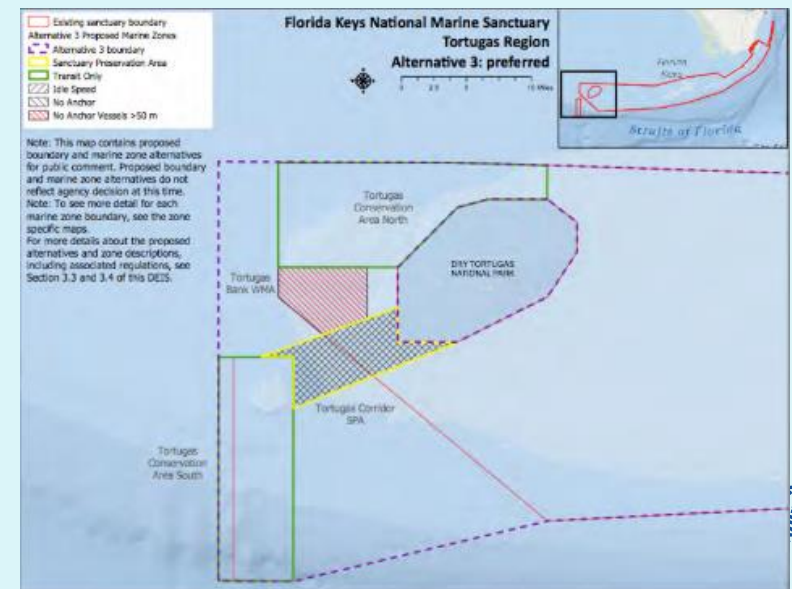
EXPANSION

1. New areas to become part of the Sanctuary
2. Expansion of Tortugas ER South 1-mile to the west.



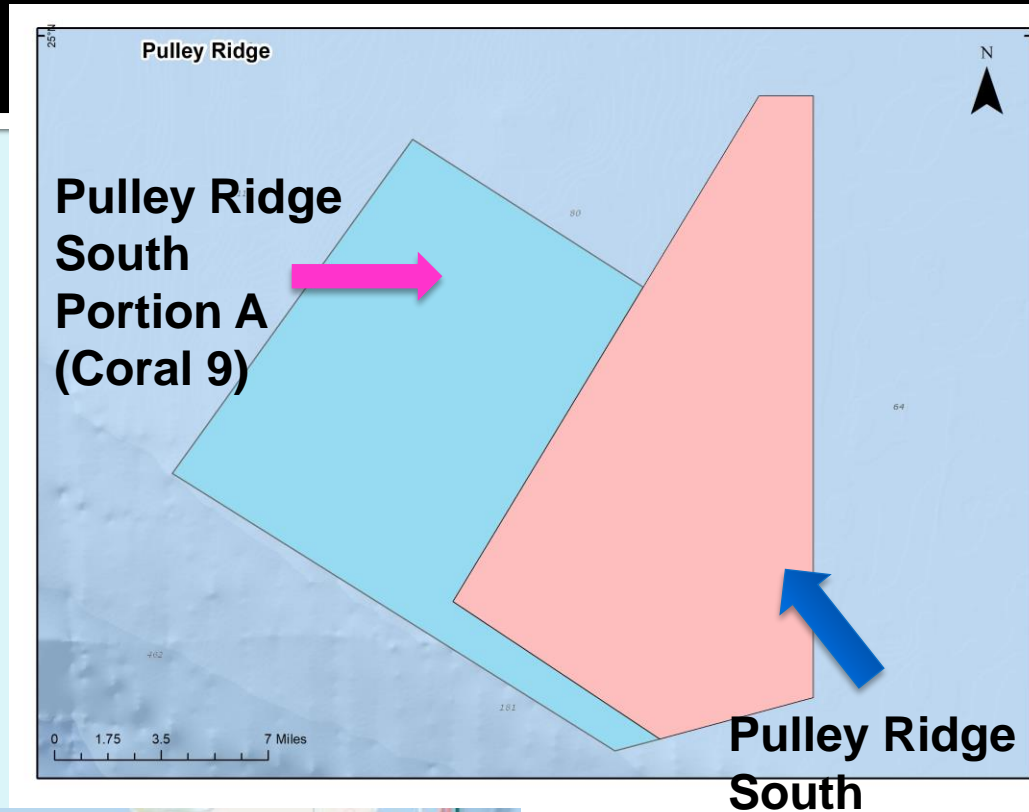
TORTUGAS CORRIDOR

1. No fishing, no anchor, idle speed



Pulley Ridge

- Only included in Alternative 4
 - No anchor
 - Sanctuary-wide regulations



Alt. 4



Pulley Ridge Region

Regulations	Current	Coral Amendment 9	FKNMS Alt. 4
Habitat of Particular Concern (HAPC)	Pulley Ridge South	Pulley Ridge South Portion A	Pulley Ridge and Pulley Ridge South Portion A HAPCs
Fishing regulations	Prohibit fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot or trap year-round.	Prohibit fishing with a bottom trawl, buoy gear, pot or trap are prohibited year-round	
Anchoring regulations	Prohibit bottom anchoring by fishing vessels year-round.	Prohibit bottom anchoring by fishing vessels year-round.	Prohibit bottom anchoring by ALL vessels year-round



Motions from Jt. Spiny Lobster AP

Motion 4: To recommend removal of Alternative 4 from the FKNMS proposed actions.

Motion carried with no opposition.



Motion from the SSC

Motion: The SSC recommends that the Gulf Council support a Sanctuary boundary expansion that includes Pulley Ridge with the associated regulations, including no anchoring, because it would afford increased protection to mesophotic corals and associated communities.

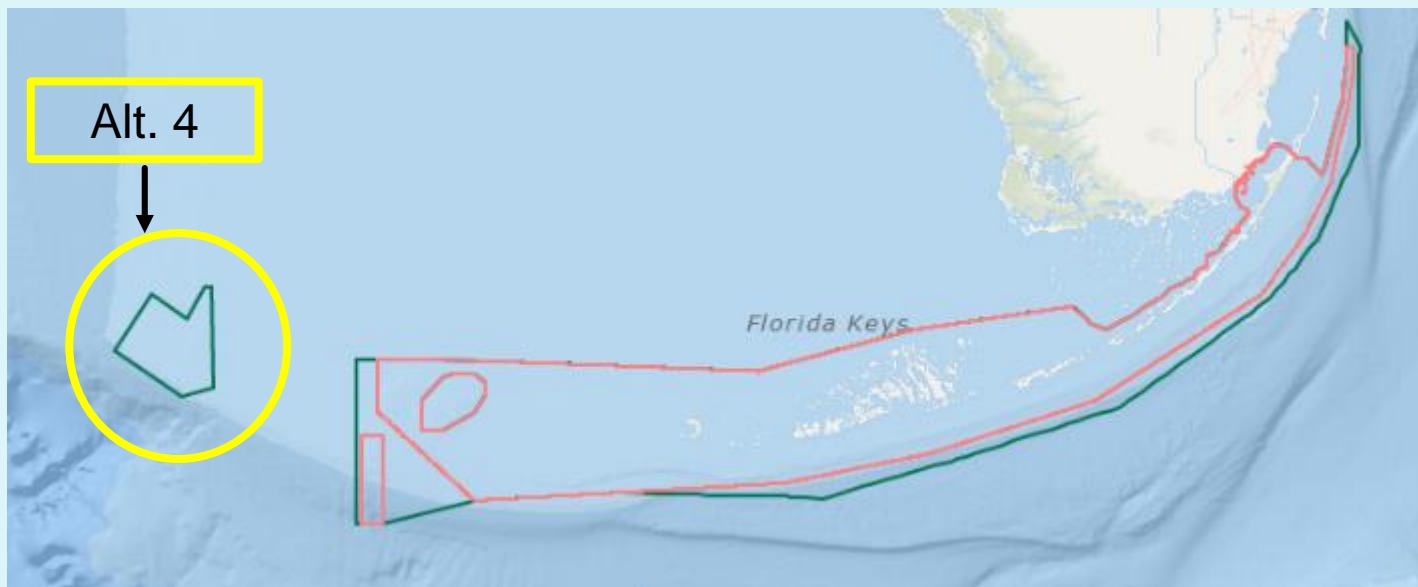
Motion carried 13 – 8 with 3 abstentions



Thoughts on Proposed Changes to Pulley Ridge



- Alternative 4: Pulley Ridge South and South Portion A to become part of FKNMS
 - No anchor for all vessels
 - Sanctuary-wide regulations



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Proposed changes in marine zone designation in Florida and SAFMC jurisdiction

Components	Alternatives			
	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Marine zone boundaries	No action. 57 total zones 1,033 sq miles	96 total zones 1,129 sq miles	98 total zones 1,141 sq miles	98 total zones 1,433 sq miles

Take home: Each alternative is increasingly more protective than the previous one.

Upper Keys

- Existing sanctuary boundary
- Alternative 1 proposed boundary
- Alternative 2 proposed boundary
- Alternative 3 proposed boundary
- Alternative 4 proposed boundary
- Sanctuary Preservation Area
- No Entry
- No Motor
- Transect Only
- Management Area
- 10 mph speed
- 15 mph speed
- 20 mph speed

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and management alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and management alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. Note: To see more detail for each management zone boundary, see the zone-specific maps. For more details about the proposed alternatives and management alternatives, including associated regulations, see Section 2.2 and 2.4 of this OCE.



Alt. 1

- Existing sanctuary boundary
- Alternative 2 proposed boundary
- Alternative 3 proposed boundary
- Alternative 4 proposed boundary
- Sanctuary Preservation Area
- No Entry
- No Motor
- Transect Only
- Management Area
- 10 mph speed
- 15 mph speed
- 20 mph speed

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and management alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and management alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. Note: To see more detail for each management zone boundary, see the zone-specific maps. For more details about the proposed alternatives and management alternatives, including associated regulations, see Section 2.2 and 2.4 of this OCE.



Alt. 2

- Existing sanctuary boundary
- Alternative 3 proposed boundary
- Alternative 4 proposed boundary
- Sanctuary Preservation Area
- No Entry
- No Motor
- Transect Only
- Management Area
- 10 mph speed
- 15 mph speed
- 20 mph speed

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and management alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and management alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. Note: To see more detail for each management zone boundary, see the zone-specific maps. For more details about the proposed alternatives and management alternatives, including associated regulations, see Section 2.2 and 2.4 of this OCE.



Alt. 3

- Existing sanctuary boundary
- Alternative 4 proposed boundary
- Sanctuary Preservation Area
- No Entry
- No Motor
- Transect Only
- Management Area
- 10 mph speed
- 15 mph speed
- 20 mph speed

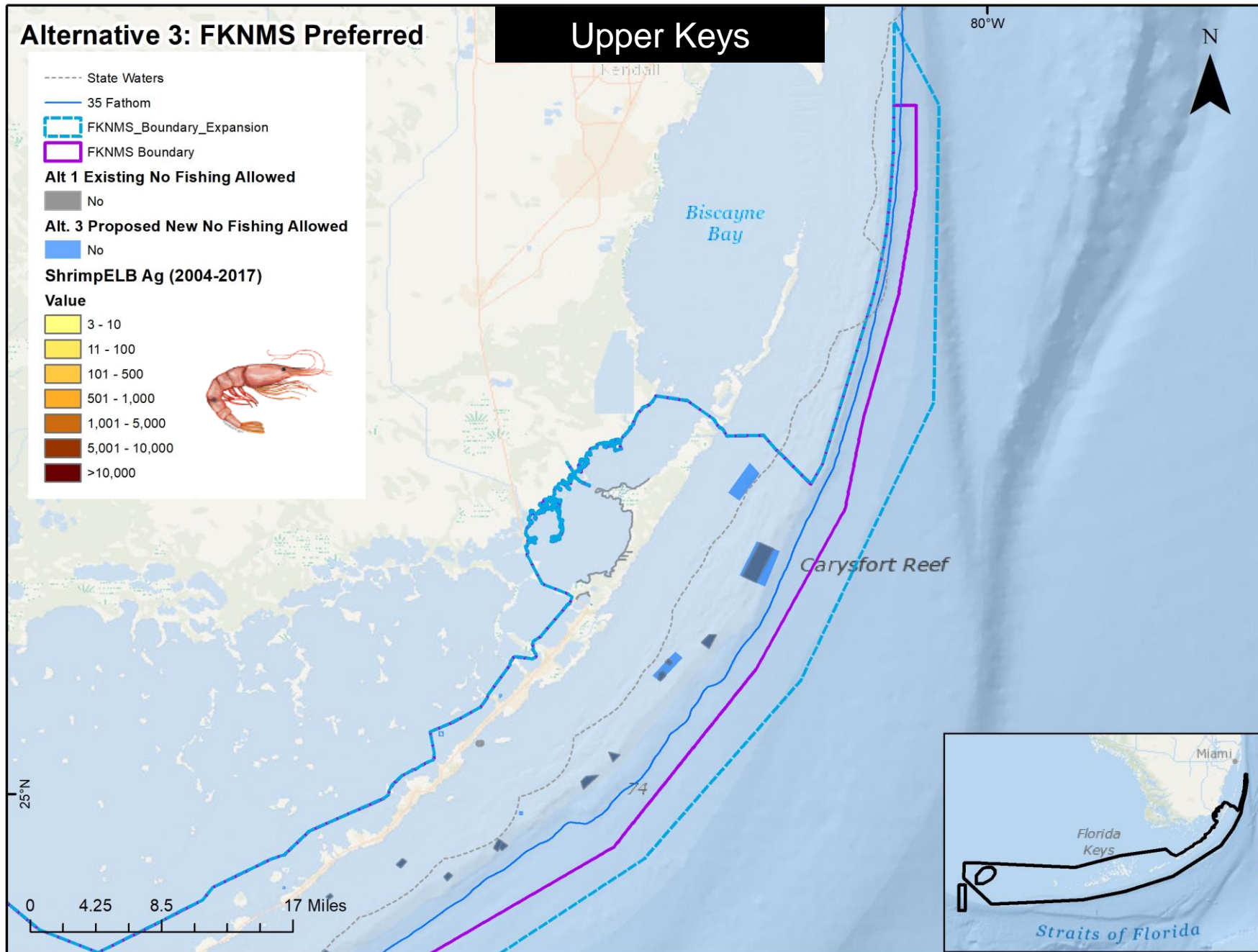
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Alt. 4

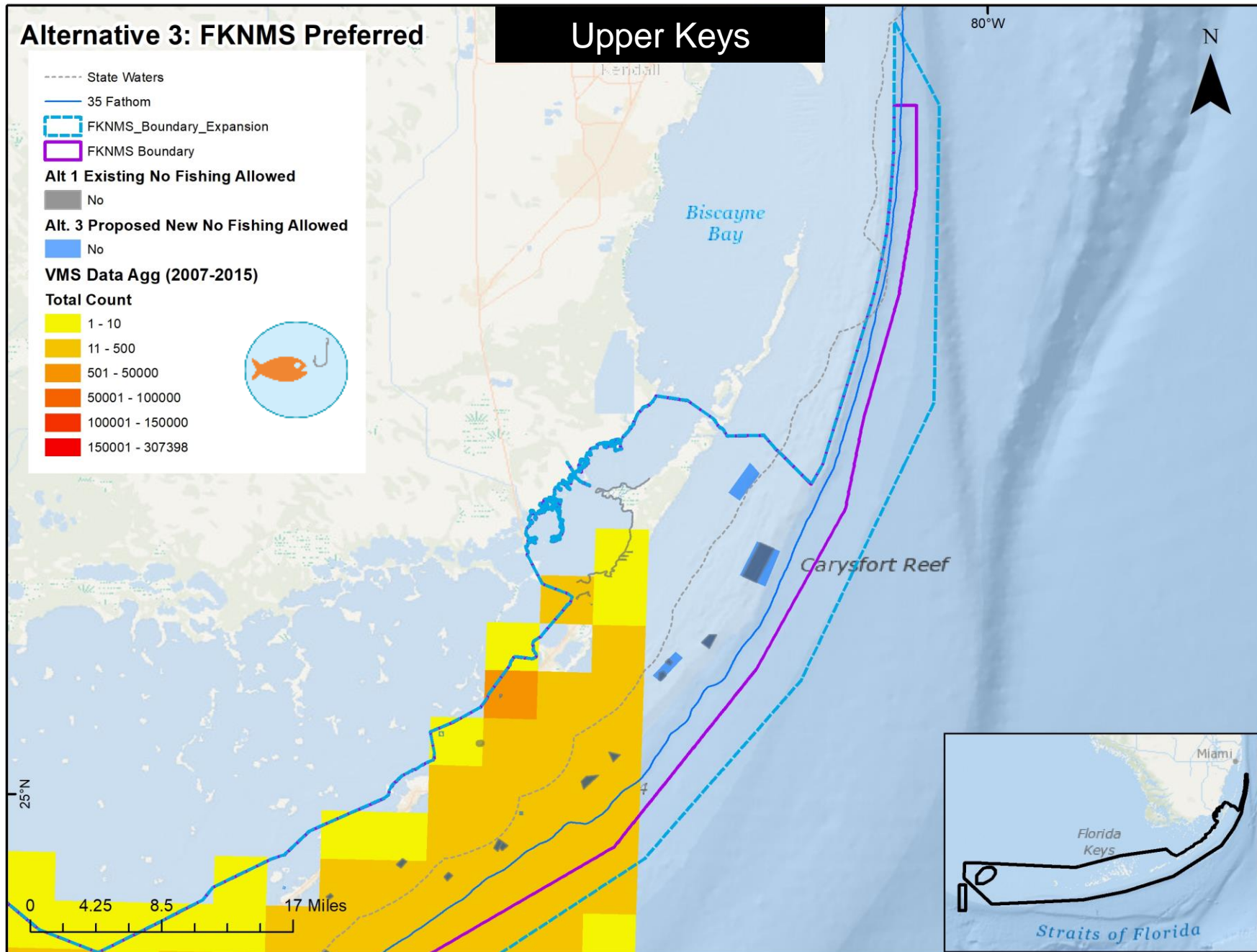
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Upper Keys



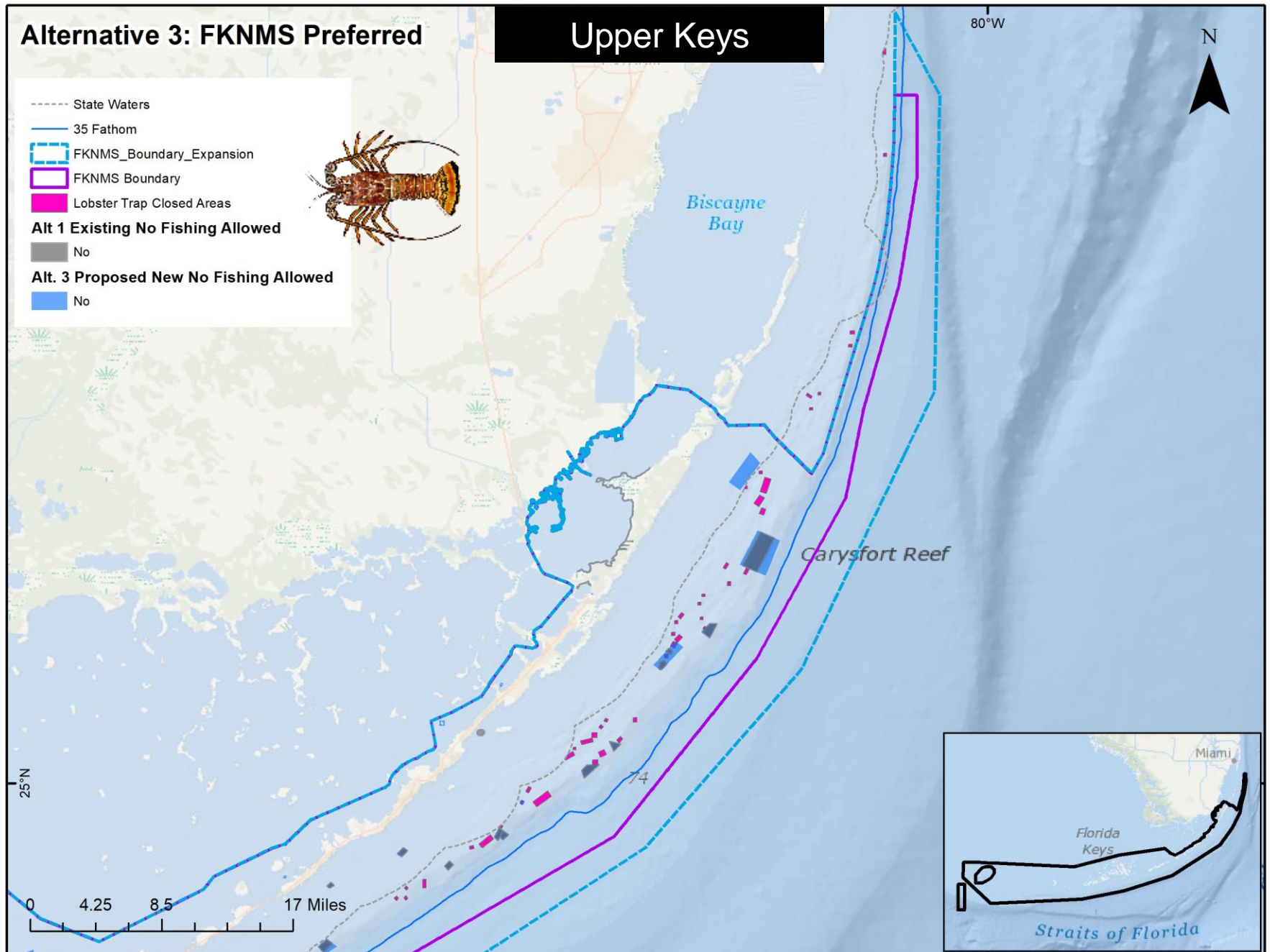
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

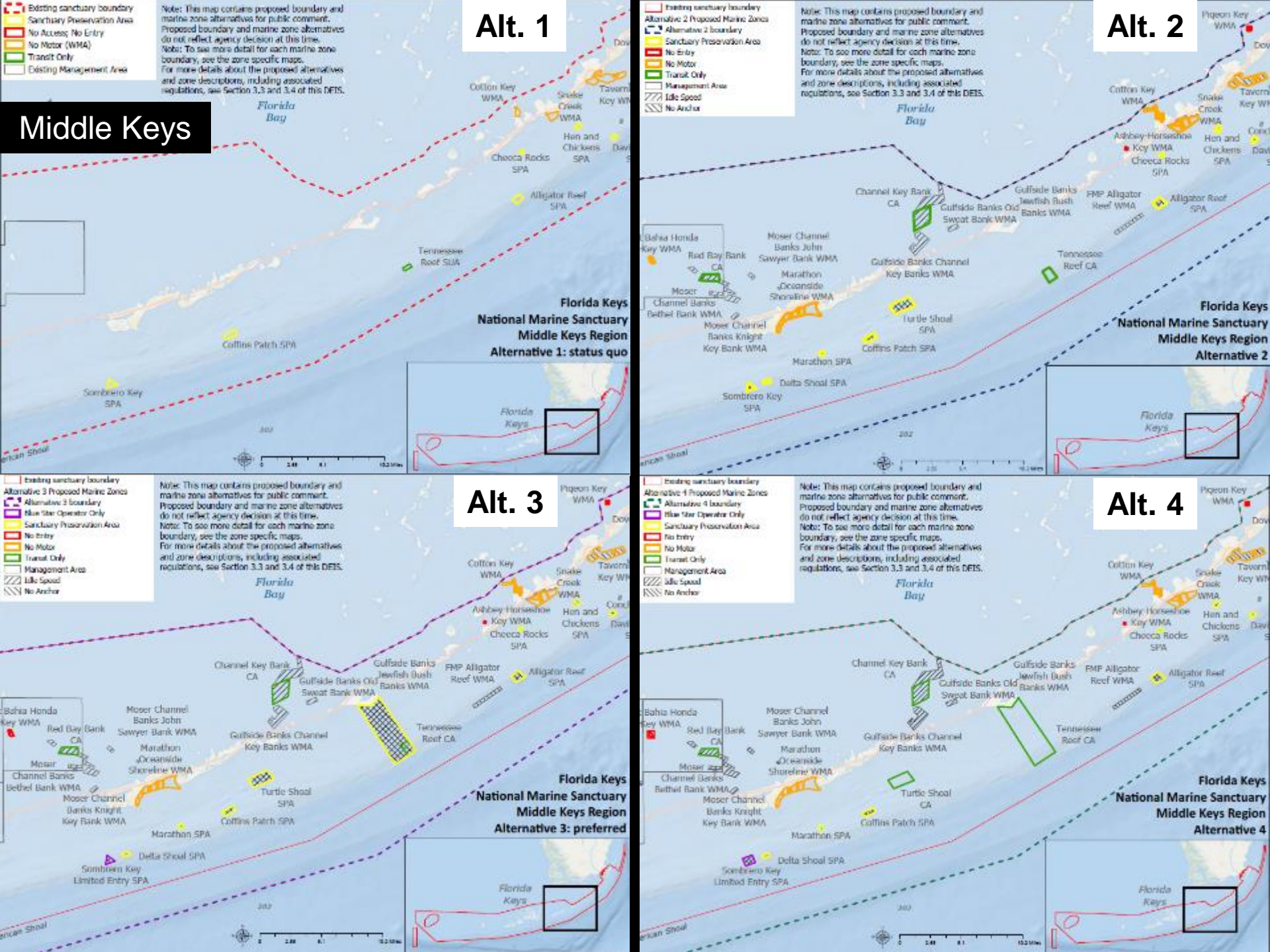
Upper Keys



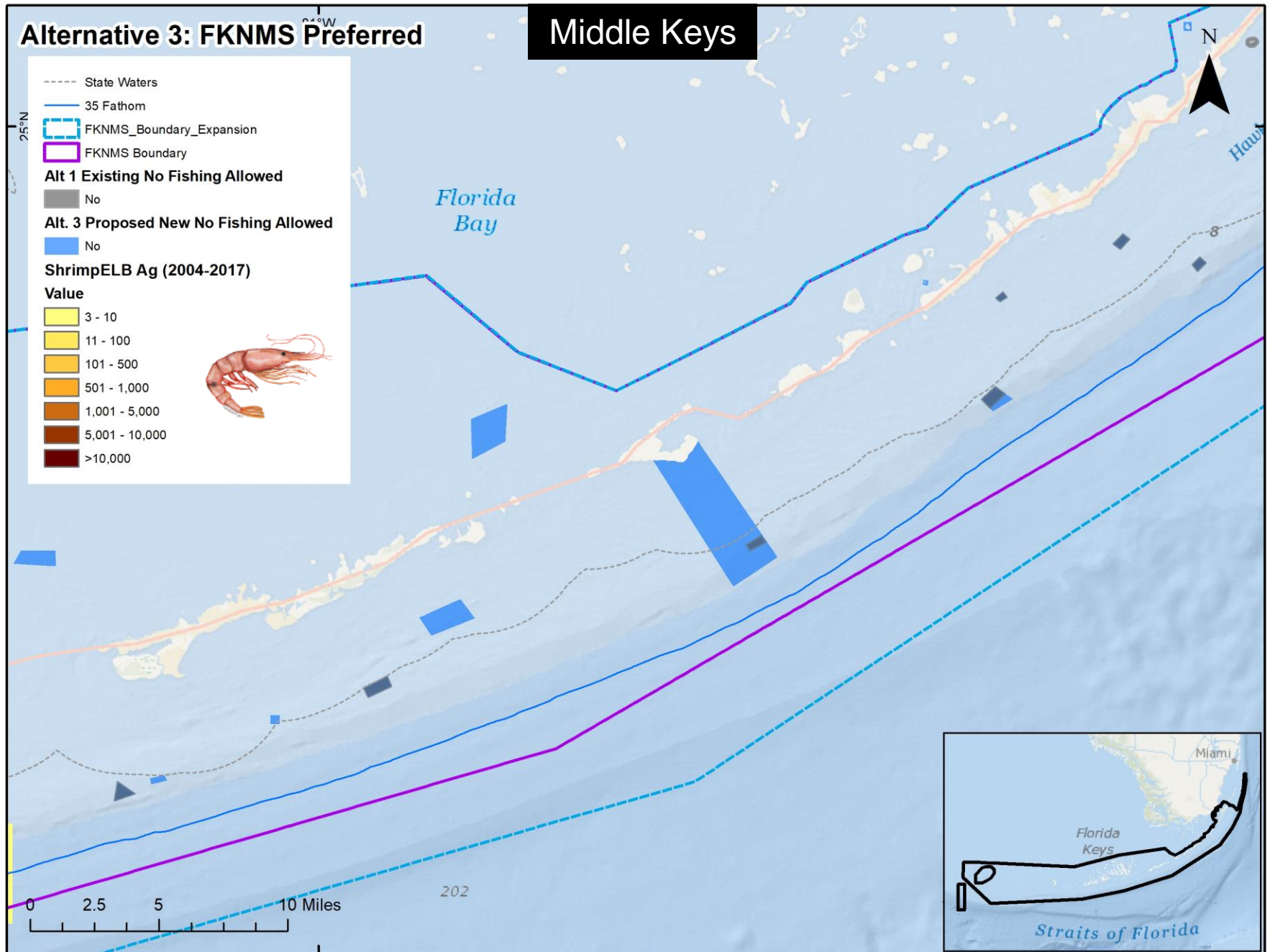
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Upper Keys



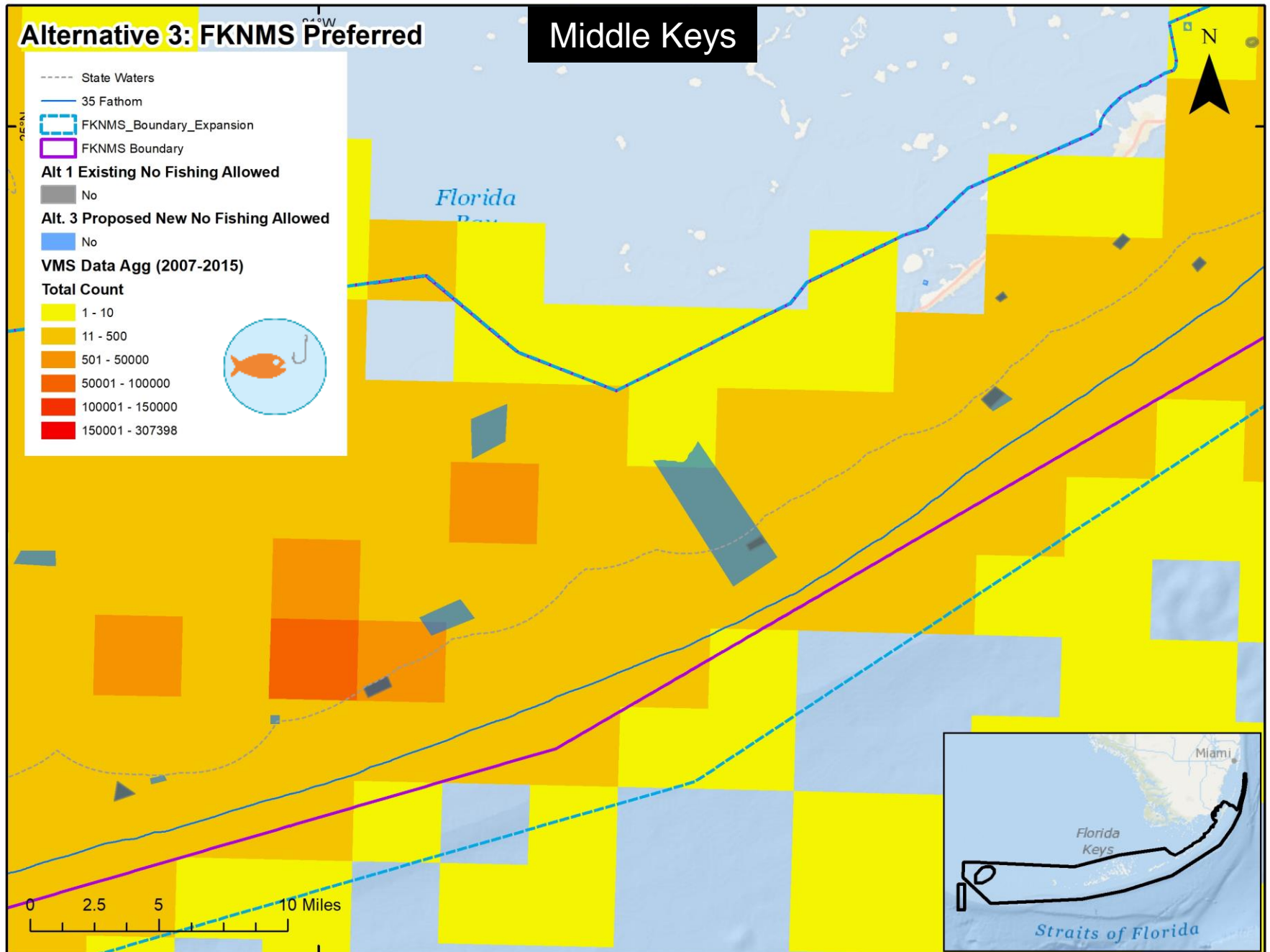


Middle Keys



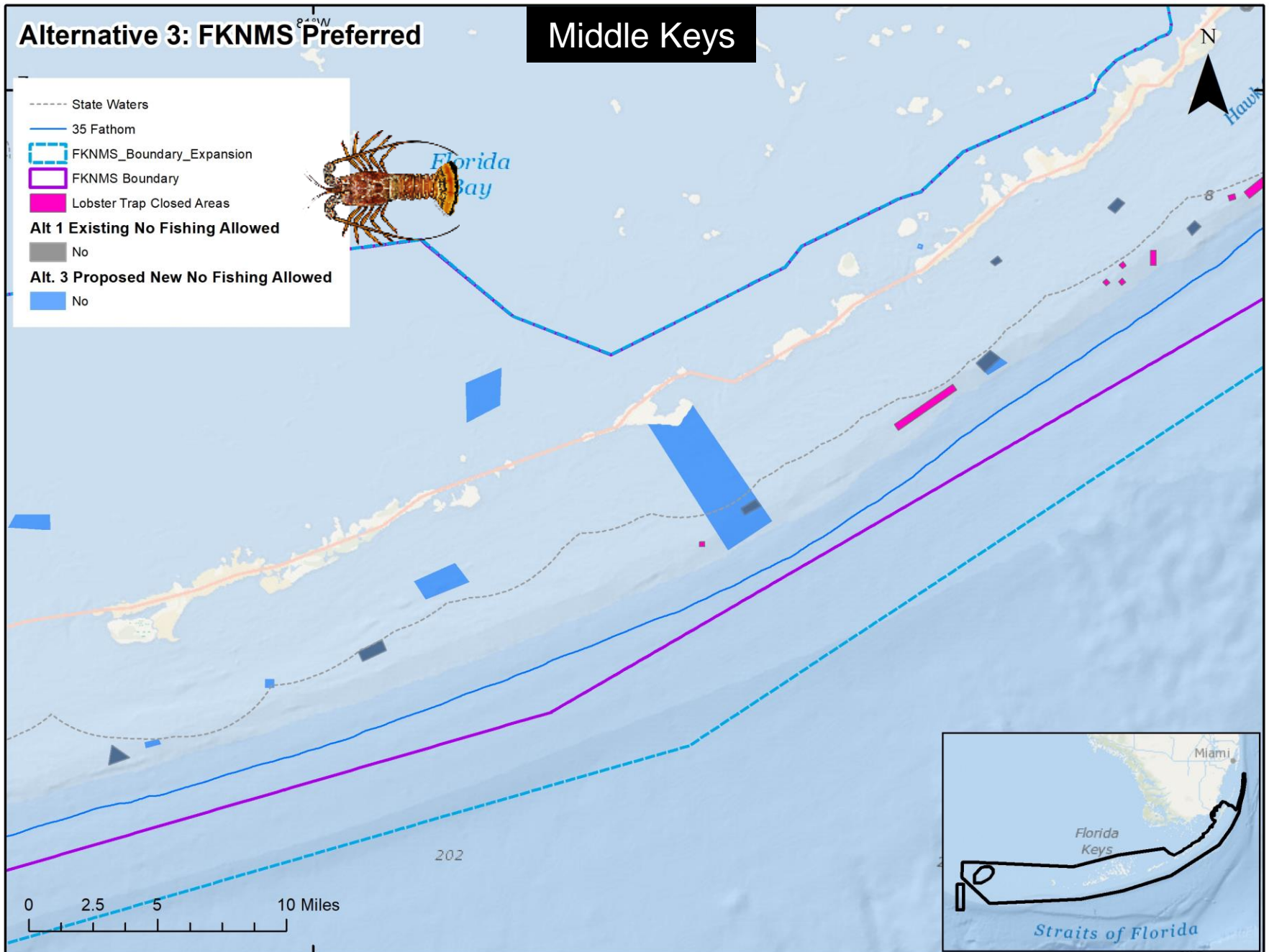
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Middle Keys



Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Middle Keys



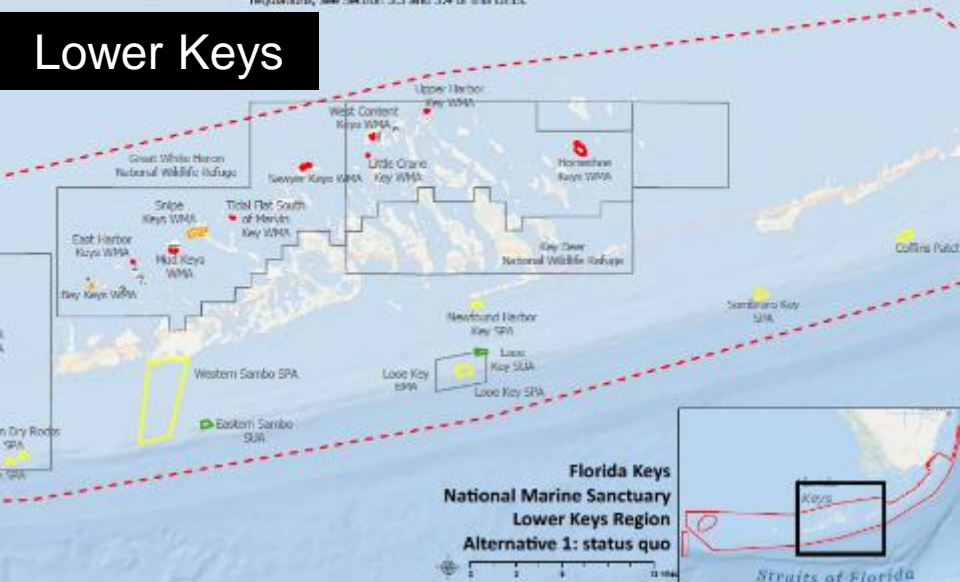
 Existing sanctuary boundary
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Access: No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Existing Management Area
 Idle Speed

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decisions at this time.

Note: To see more detail for each marine zone boundary, see the zone specific maps.

For more details about the proposed alternatives and zone descriptions, including associated regulations, see Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this DEIS.

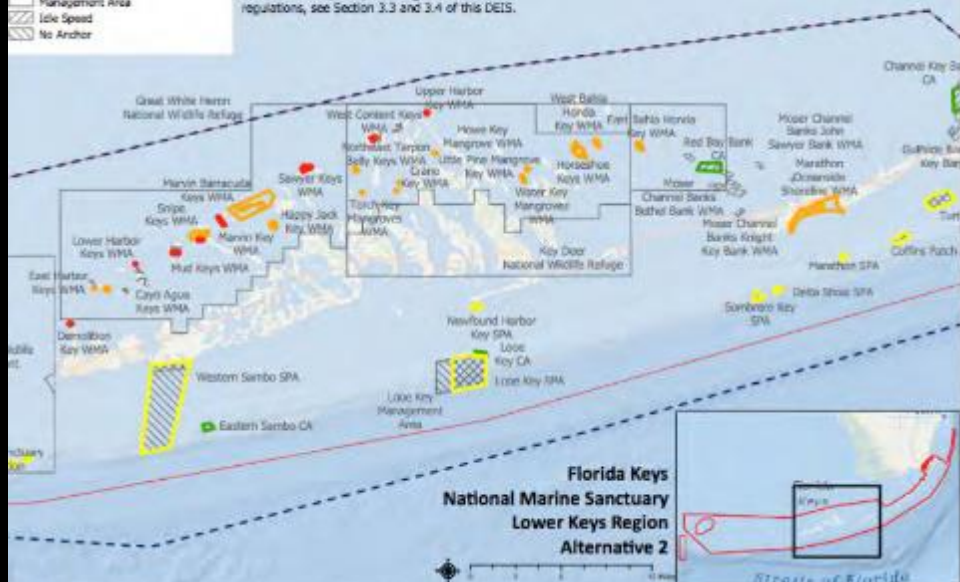
Lower Keys










Alt. 1

 Existing sanctuary boundary
 Alternative 2 Proposed Marine Zones
 Alternative 2 boundary
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Management Area
 Idle Speed
 No Boats

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time.
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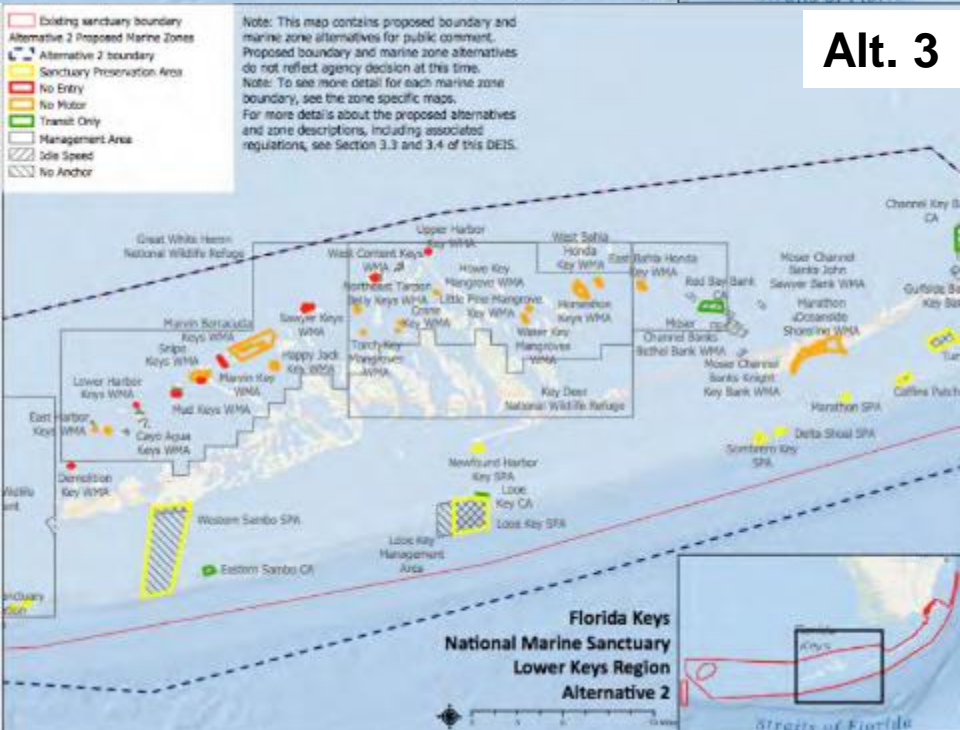


Alt. 2

 Existing sanctuary boundary
 Alternative 2 Proposed Marine Zones
 Alternative 2 boundary
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Management Area
 Slow Speed
 No Anchor

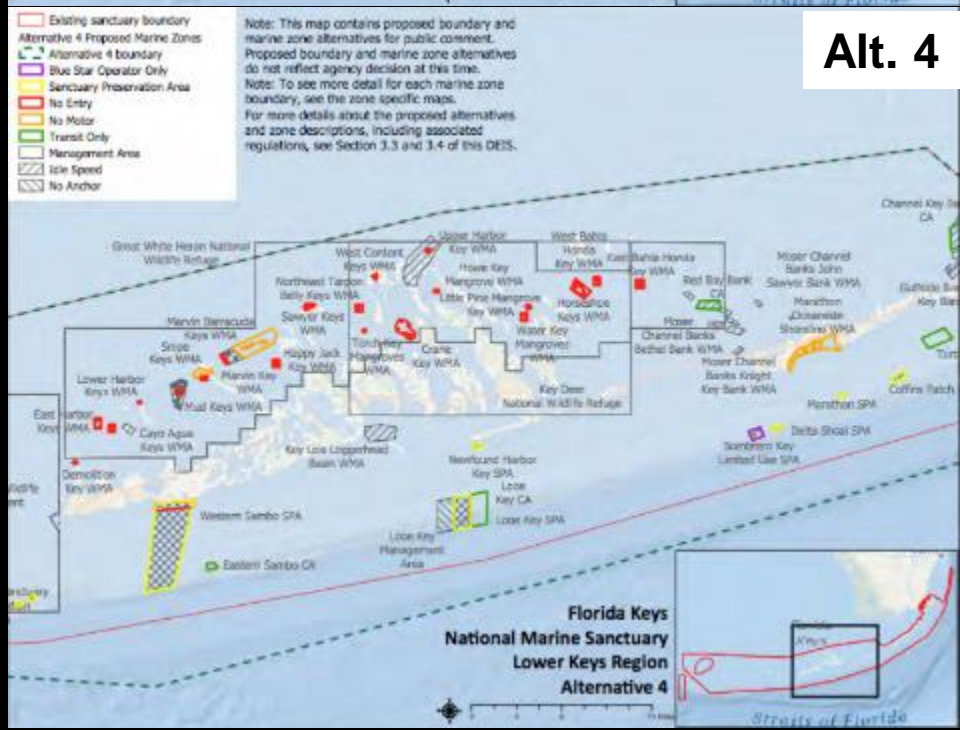
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Alt. 3



Existing sanctuary boundary
 Alternative 4 Proposed Marine Zone
 Alternative 4 boundary
 Blue Star Operator Only
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Management Area
 Ice Speed

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time.
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Alt. 4

Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Lower Keys

--- State Waters

— 35 Fathom

--- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion

--- FKNMS Boundary

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

■ No

Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

■ No

ShrimpELB Ag (2004-2017)

Value

■ 3 - 10

■ 11 - 100

■ 101 - 500

■ 501 - 1,000

■ 1,001 - 5,000

■ 5,001 - 10,000

■ >10,000

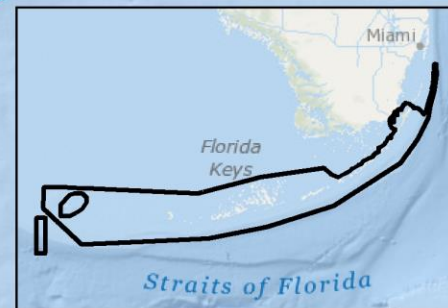


81°W



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

American Shoal



Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Lower Keys

----- State Waters

— 35 Fathom

--- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion

--- FKNMS Boundary

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

No

Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

No

VMS Data Agg (2007-2015)

Total Count

1 - 10

11 - 500

501 - 50000

50001 - 100000

100001 - 150000

150001 - 307398



0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles



Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Lower Keys

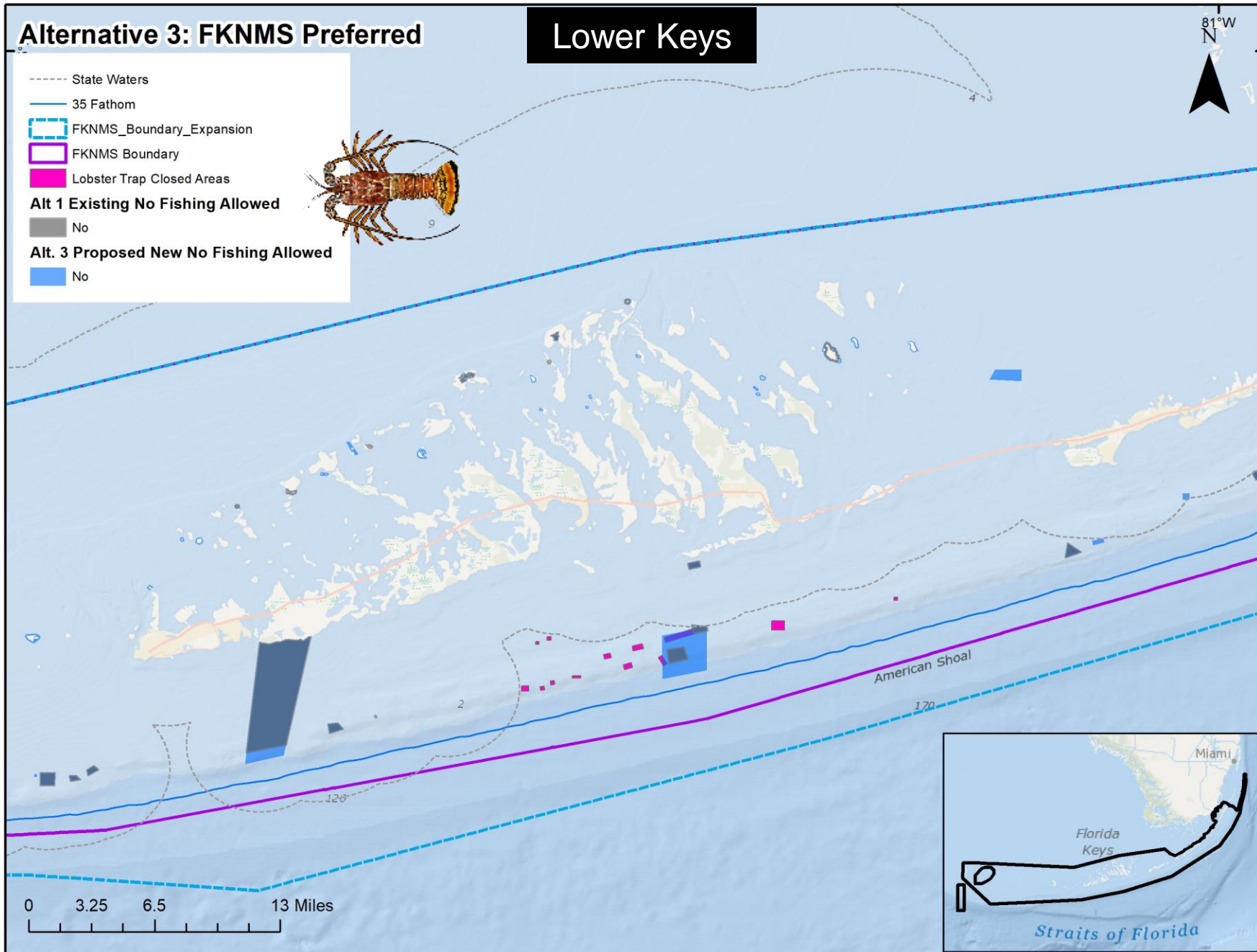
- State Waters
- 35 Fathom
- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion
- FKNMS Boundary
- Lobster Trap Closed Areas

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

■ No

Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

■ No



Marquesas

Alt. 1

Alt. 2

Note: This map contains proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed boundary and marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time.

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marquesas Region
Alternative 1: status quo



Existing sanctuary boundary
 Alternative 3 Proposed Marine Zones
 Alternative 3 boundary
 Blue Star Operator Only
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Management Area
 Idle Speed
 No Anchor
 Trailing Only

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marquesas Region
Alternative 3: preferred



☒ Idle Speed
☒ No Anchor
☐ Trailing Only

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marquesas Region
Alternative 2



 Existing sanctuary boundary
 Alternative 4 Proposed Marine Zone
 Alternative 4 boundary
 Blue Star Operator Only
 Sanctuary Preservation Area
 No Entry
 No Motor
 Transit Only
 Management Area
 Idle Speed
 No Anchor

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Note: To see more detail for each marine zone boundary, see the zone-specific maps.

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Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
Marquesas Region
Alternative 4



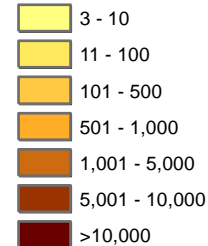
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Marquesas

82°W

ShrimpELB Ag (2004-2017)

Value



----- State Waters

— 35 Fathom

--- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion

— FKNMS Boundary

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

— No

Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

— No

Rebecca Shoal

Boca Grande Channel

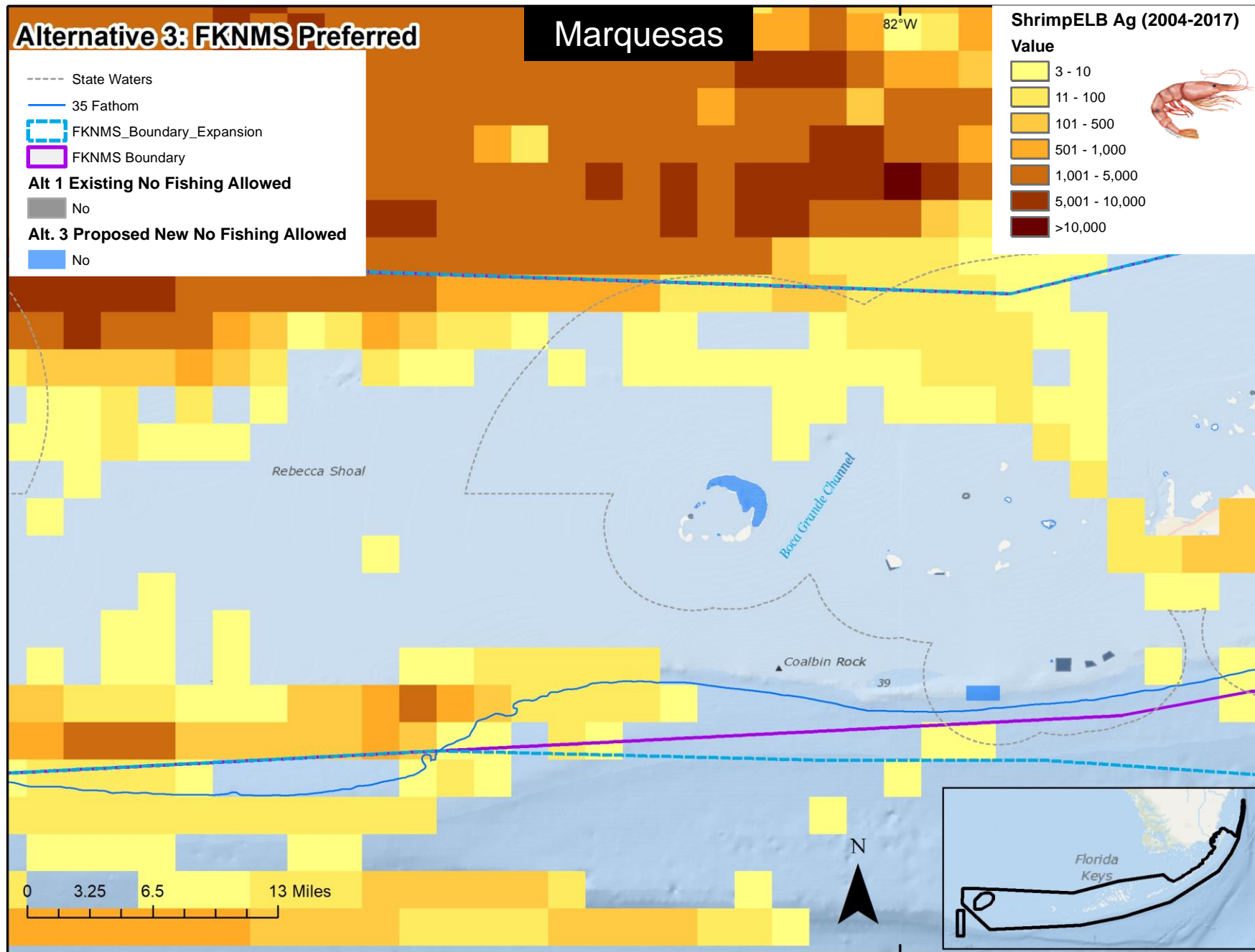
Coalbin Rock

39

N

0 3.25 6.5 13 Miles

Florida
Keys



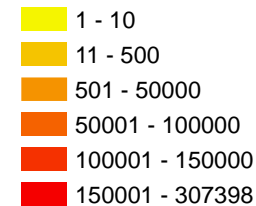
Alternative 3: FKNMS Preferred

Marquesas

82°W

VMS Data Agg (2007-2015)

Total Count



World_Ocean_Reference

World_Ocean_Base

----- State Waters

— 35 Fathom

--- FKNMS_Boundary_Expansion

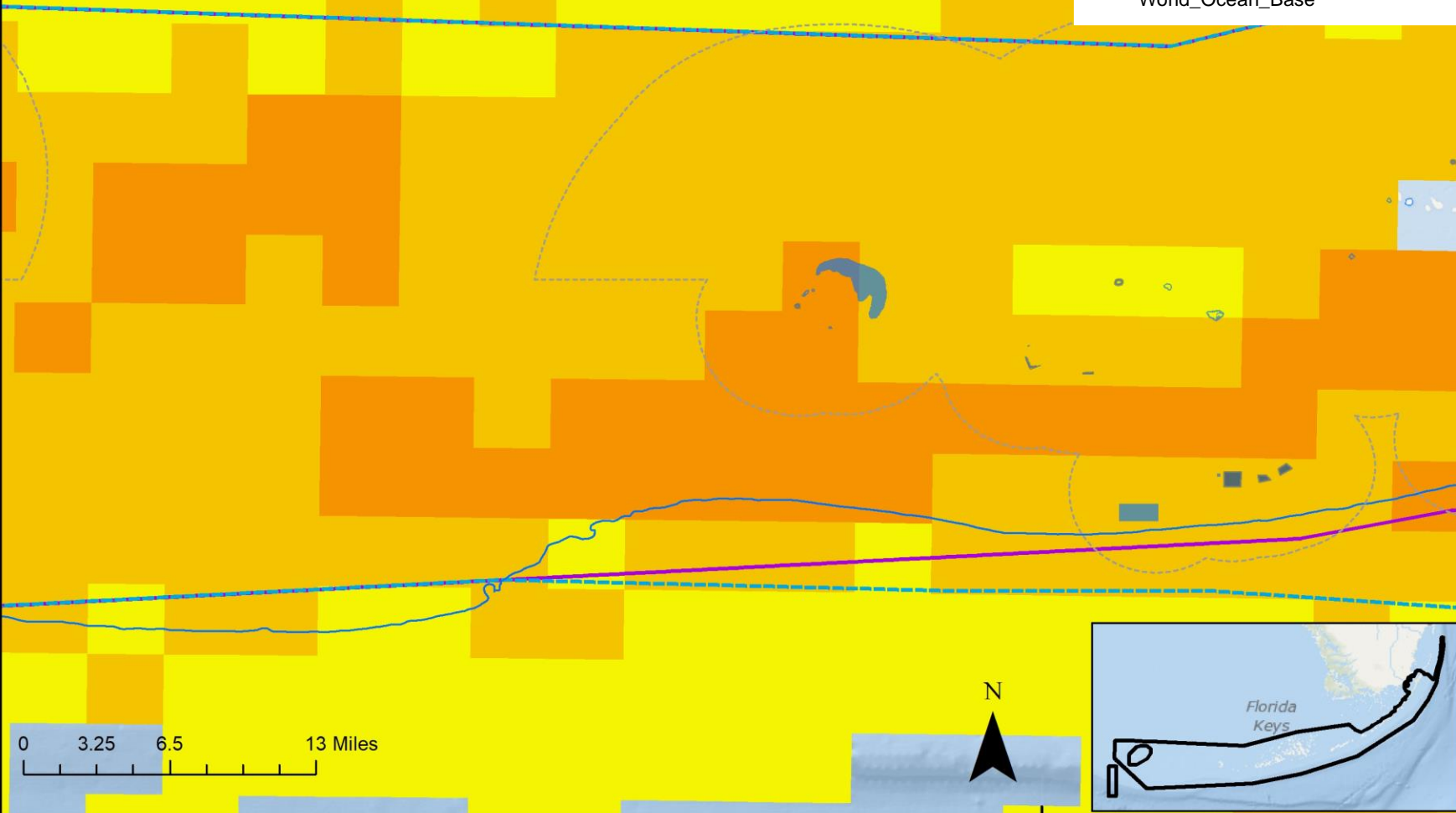
--- FKNMS Boundary

Alt 1 Existing No Fishing Allowed

■ No

Alt. 3 Proposed New No Fishing Allowed

■ No





Motions from Jt. Spiny Lobster AP

Motion 1: To consider adding additional regulations, specifically no anchoring and no harvest of lobster by all user groups, to the areas identified in Spiny Lobster Amendment 11.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion 2: To recommend the Council oppose the closure of any new areas to lobster trap fishing as proposed in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint.

Motion carried with no opposition.





Motions from Jt. Spiny Lobster AP

Motion 3: To recommend the Council oppose the use of idle speed or navigational restrictions in the Hawk Channel area.

Motion carried with no opposition.

Motion 4: To recommend removal of Alternative 4 from the FKNMS proposed actions.

Motion carried with no opposition.



South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

- Recommended an update of the cooperative fisheries management agreement between FWC, Gulf and South Atlantic Councils (1998)
- Discussed rulemaking for South Atlantic federal waters via the SAFMC process
- Submit comments to FKNMS in March 2020



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

- FWC to lead rulemaking in state waters
- Recommended updating cooperative fisheries management agreement
- Commission will review FKNMS plan in February 2020
- FWC to submit comments in April 2020



Any Other Recommendations?



- Questions?

