

Restoration Blueprint

An Effort to Restore Critical Marine Habitats in the Florida Keys

Consultation with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils

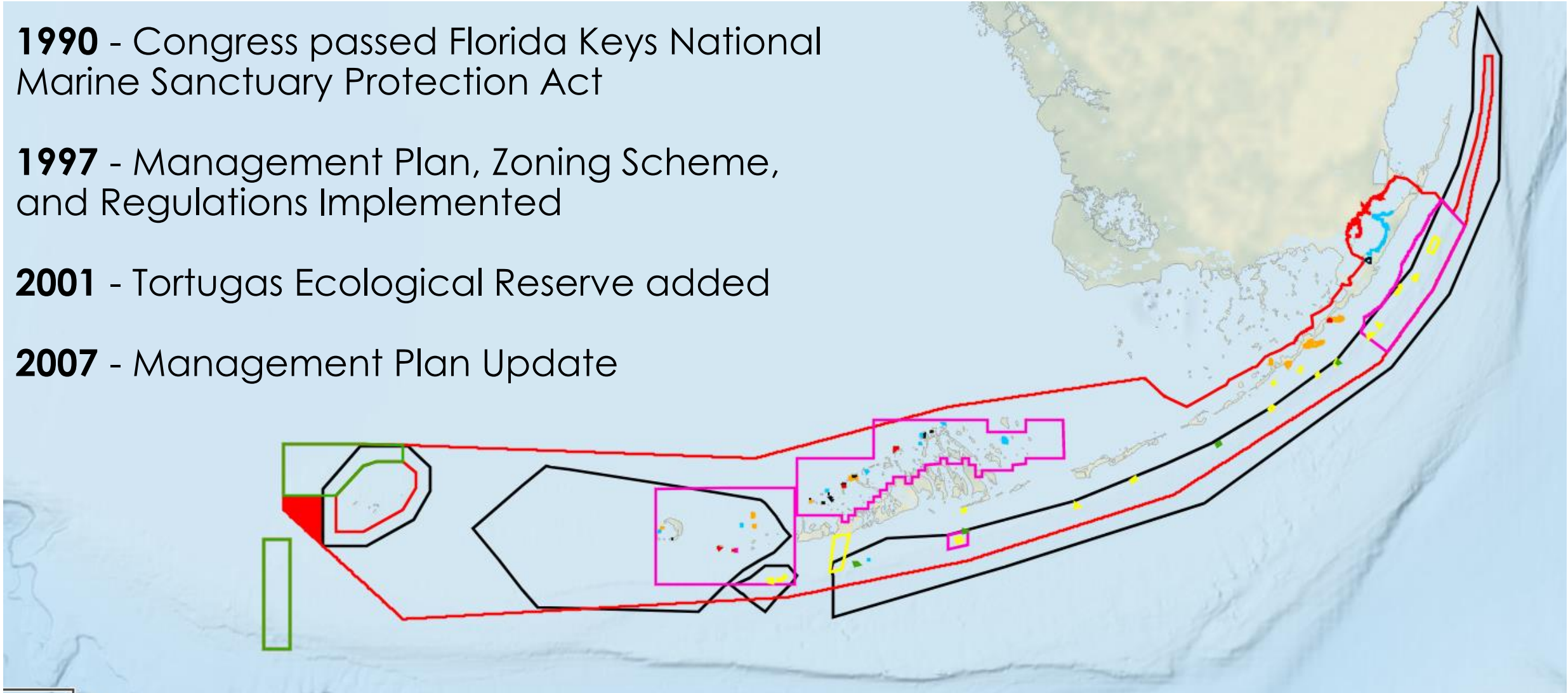
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

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



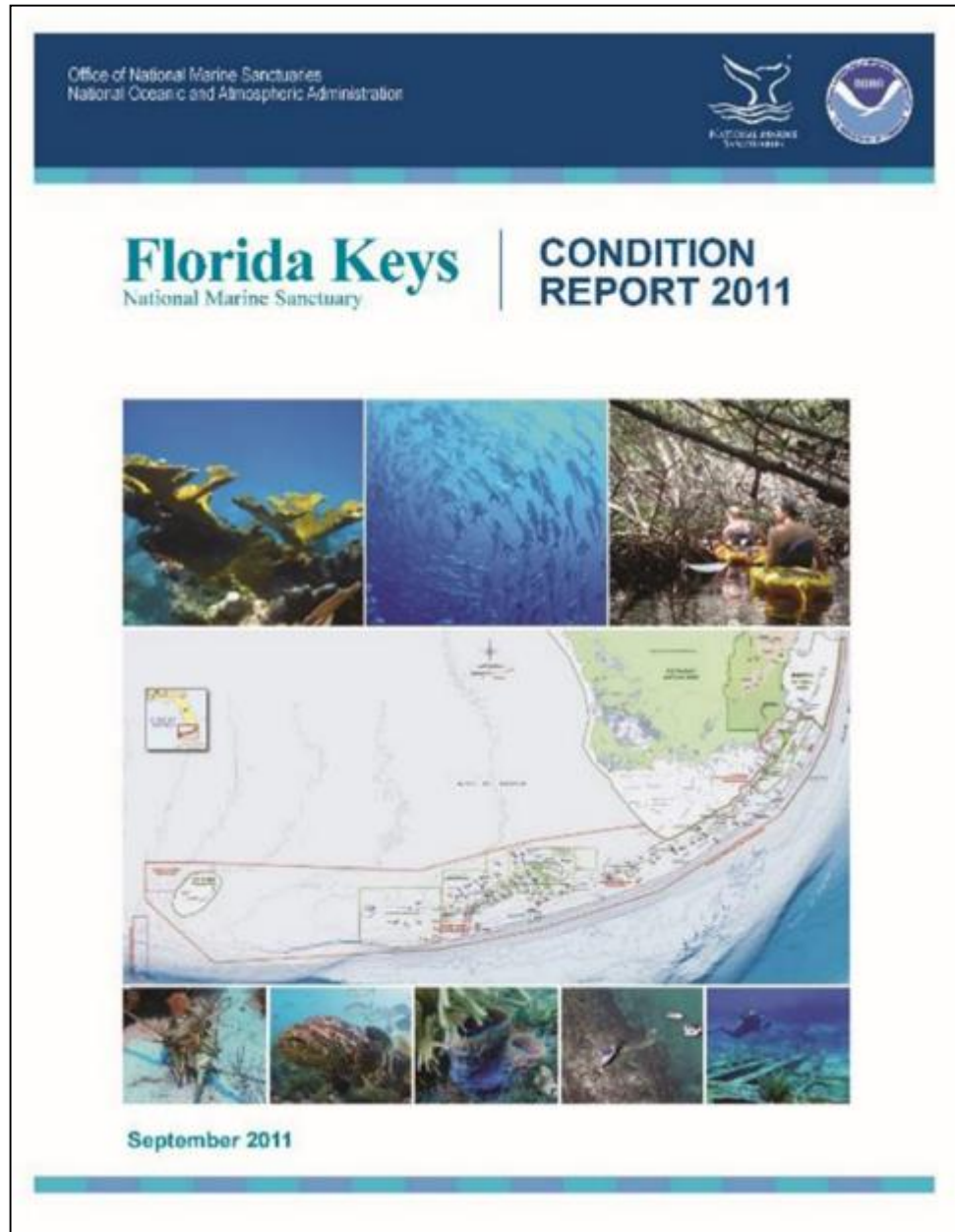
Resource Report Card

Brought attention to natural resource declines

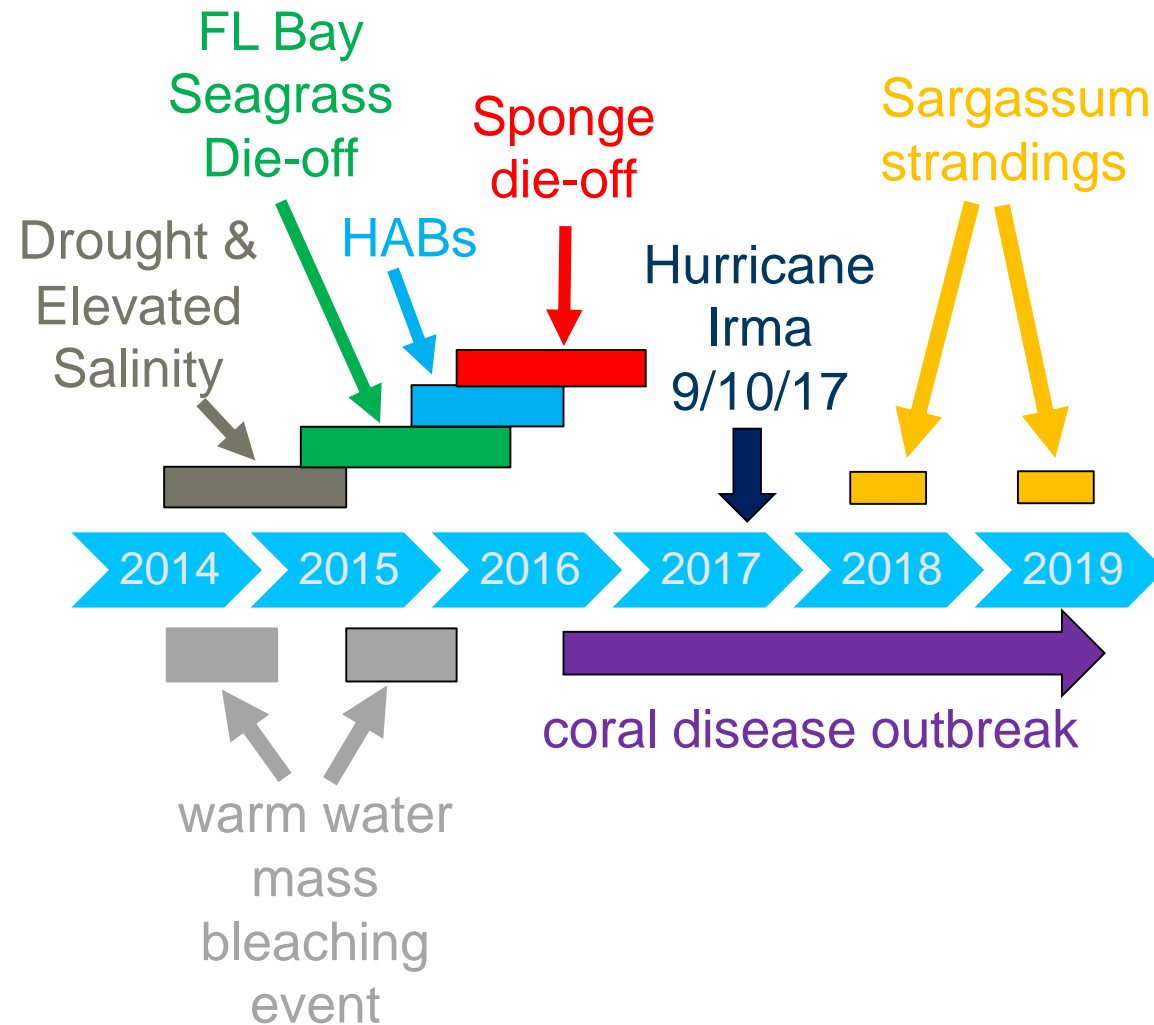
Good	Good/Fair	Fair	Fair/Poor	Poor	Undet.
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Trends:

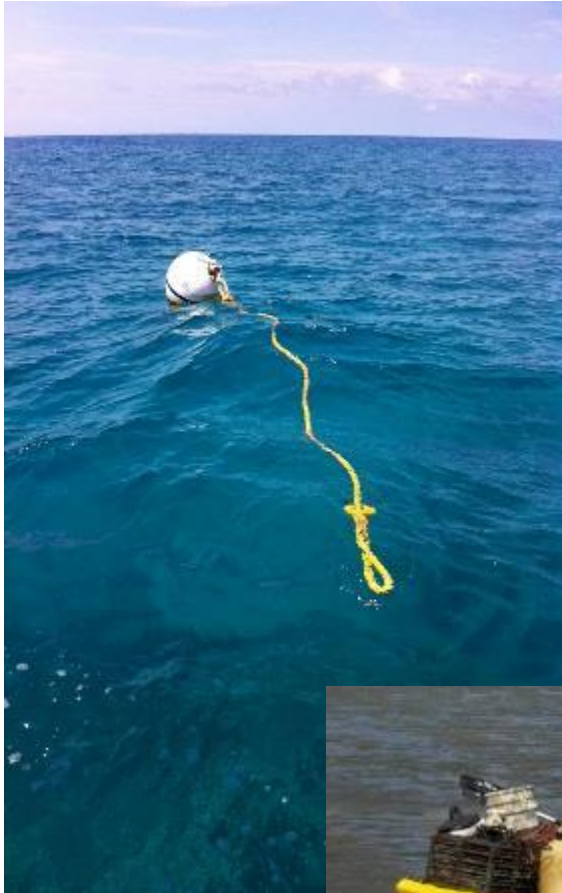
- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ▲ Conditions appear to be improving. | ? Undetermined trend. |
| — Conditions do not appear to be changing. | N/A Question not applicable. |
| ▼ Conditions appear to be declining. | |



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

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 South Atlantic and 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



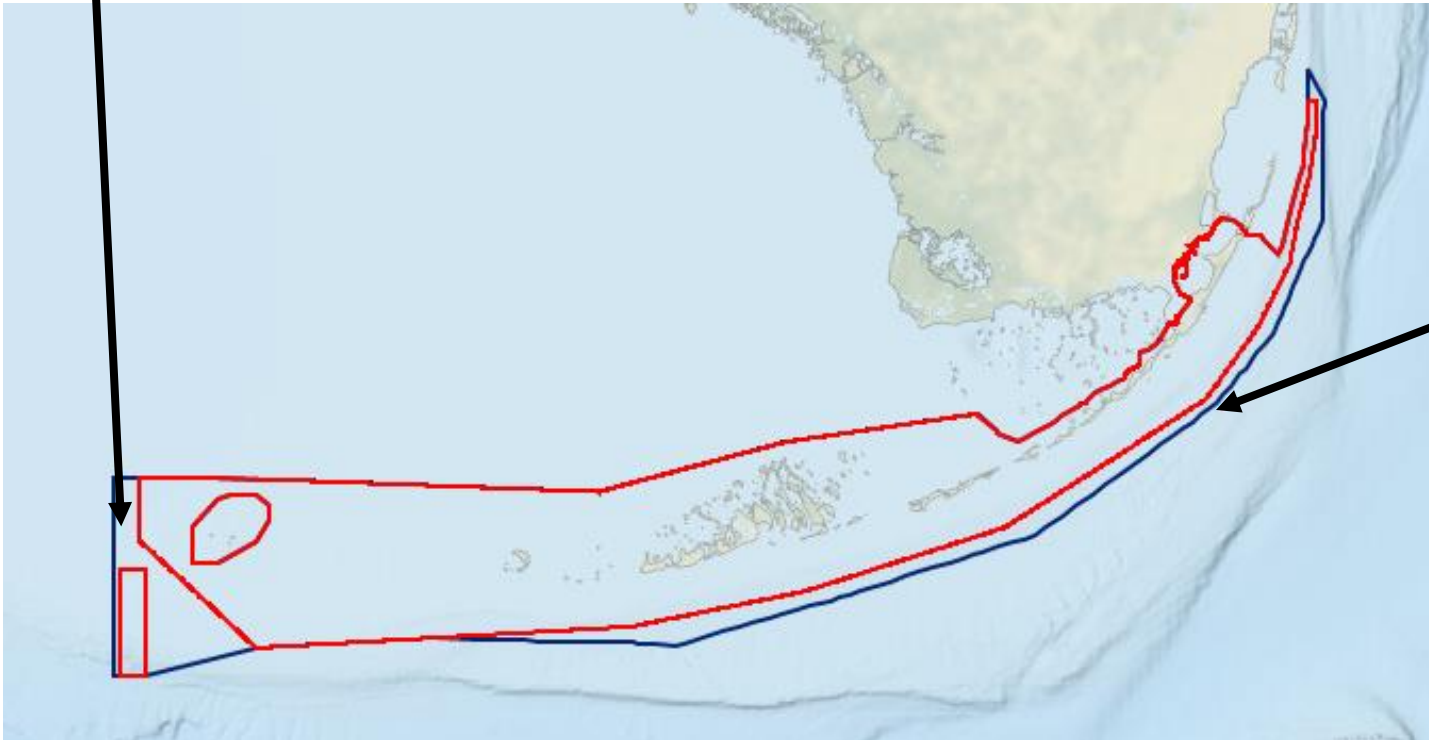
Sanctuary Boundary



Sanctuary Boundary Expansion

Alternatives 2 & 3 (preferred)

Connectivity- Tortugas



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

Sanctuary-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.

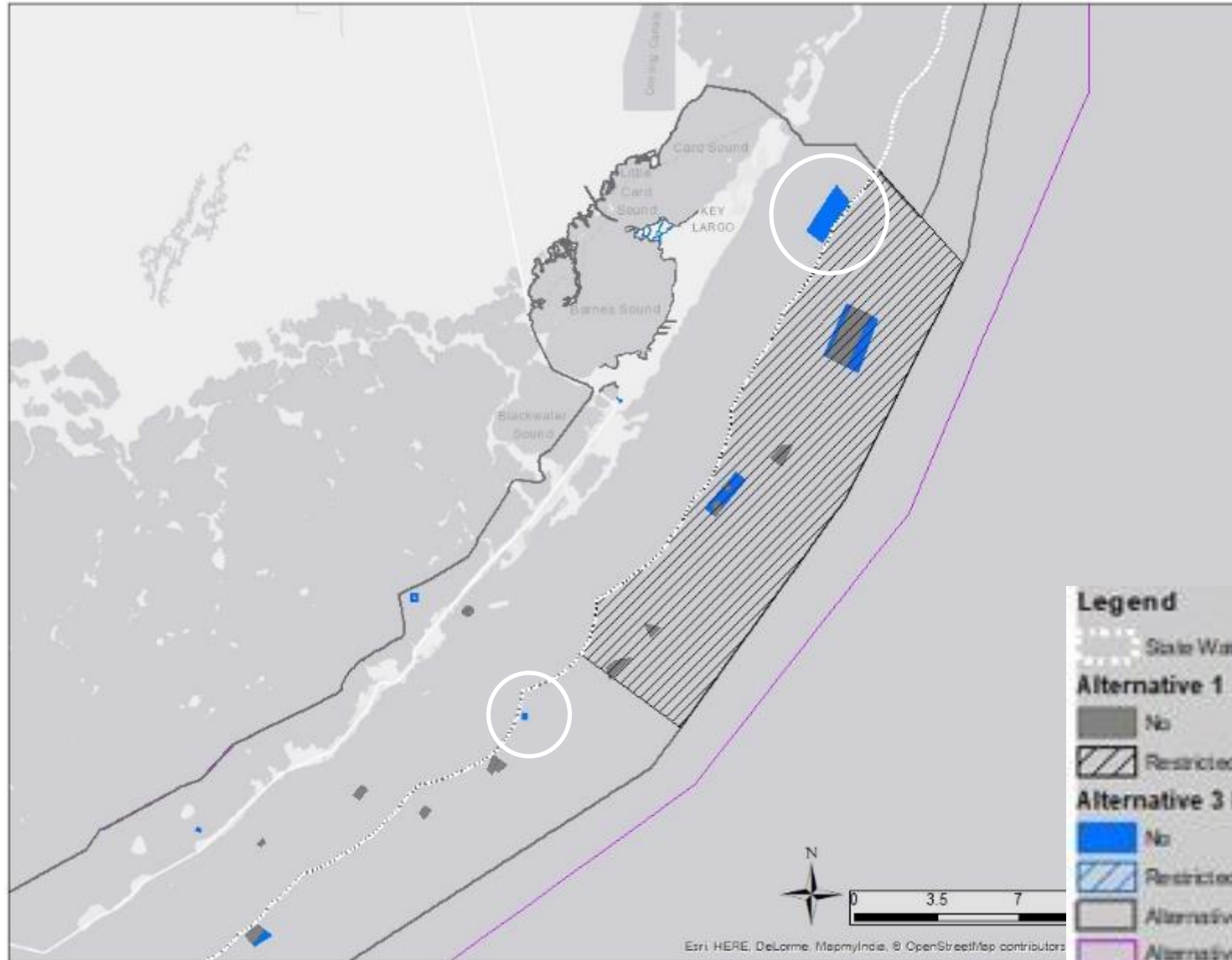
Marine Zone Boundaries & Regulations

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



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

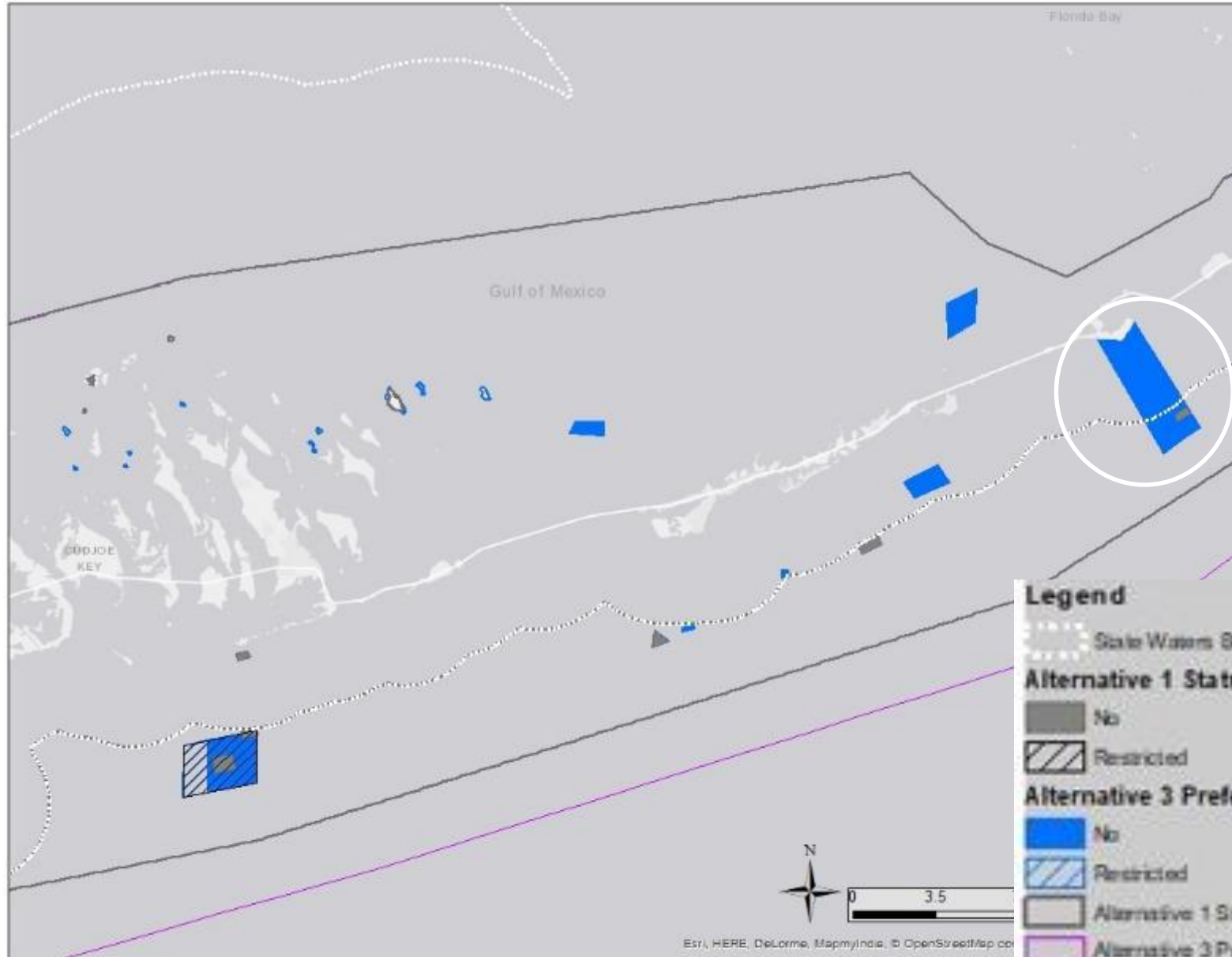


Two-year-old coral outplants; photo taken September 2019



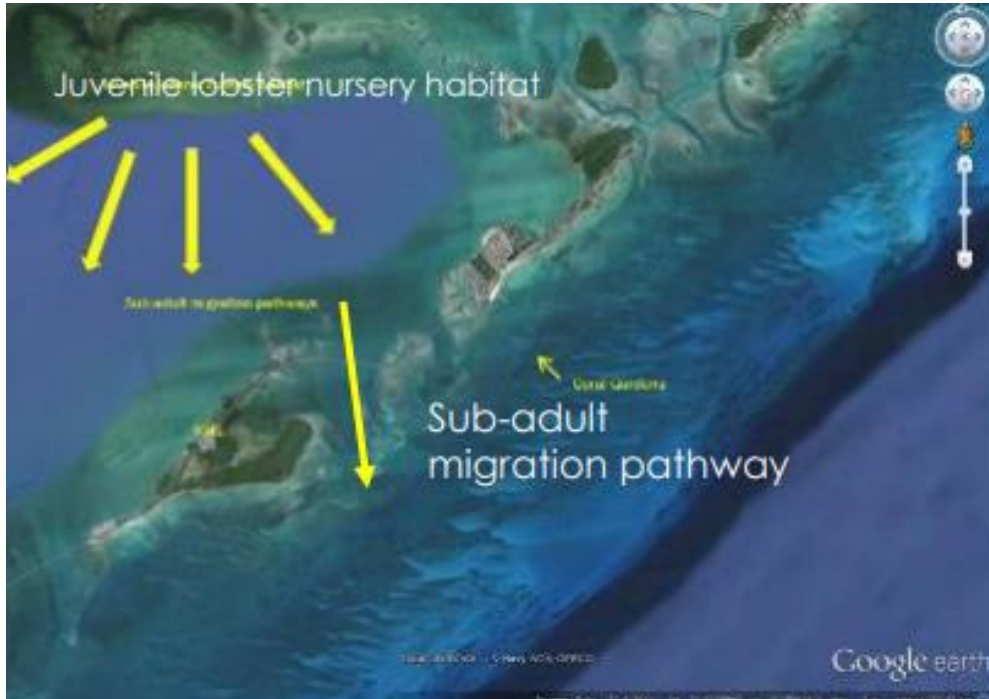
Outplant site showing anchor damage; photo taken September 2019

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

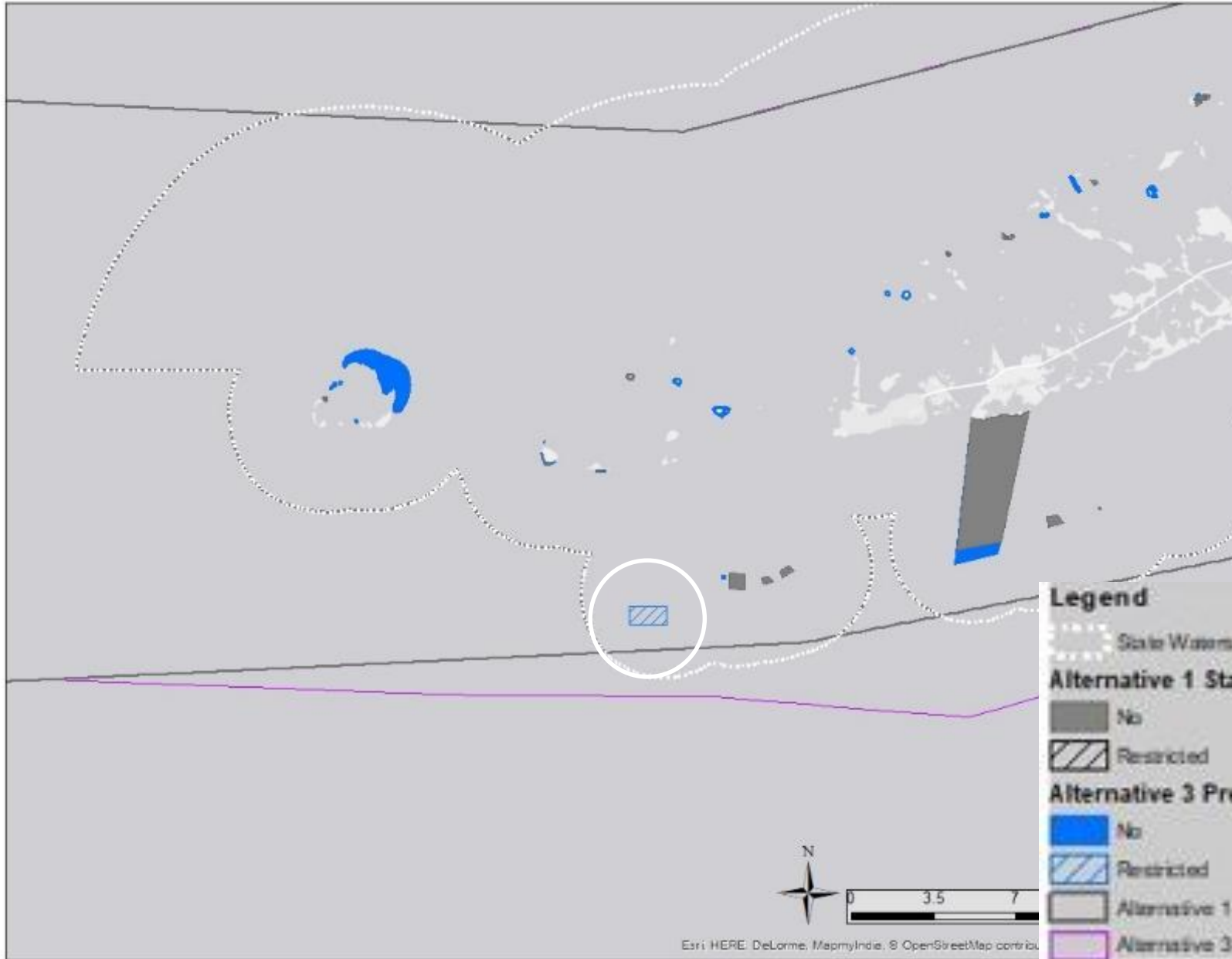


- Extends from shore to deep reef
- Multiple habitat types
- Connects Florida Bay habitats
- Protects multiple life stages
- Encompasses resilient reefs



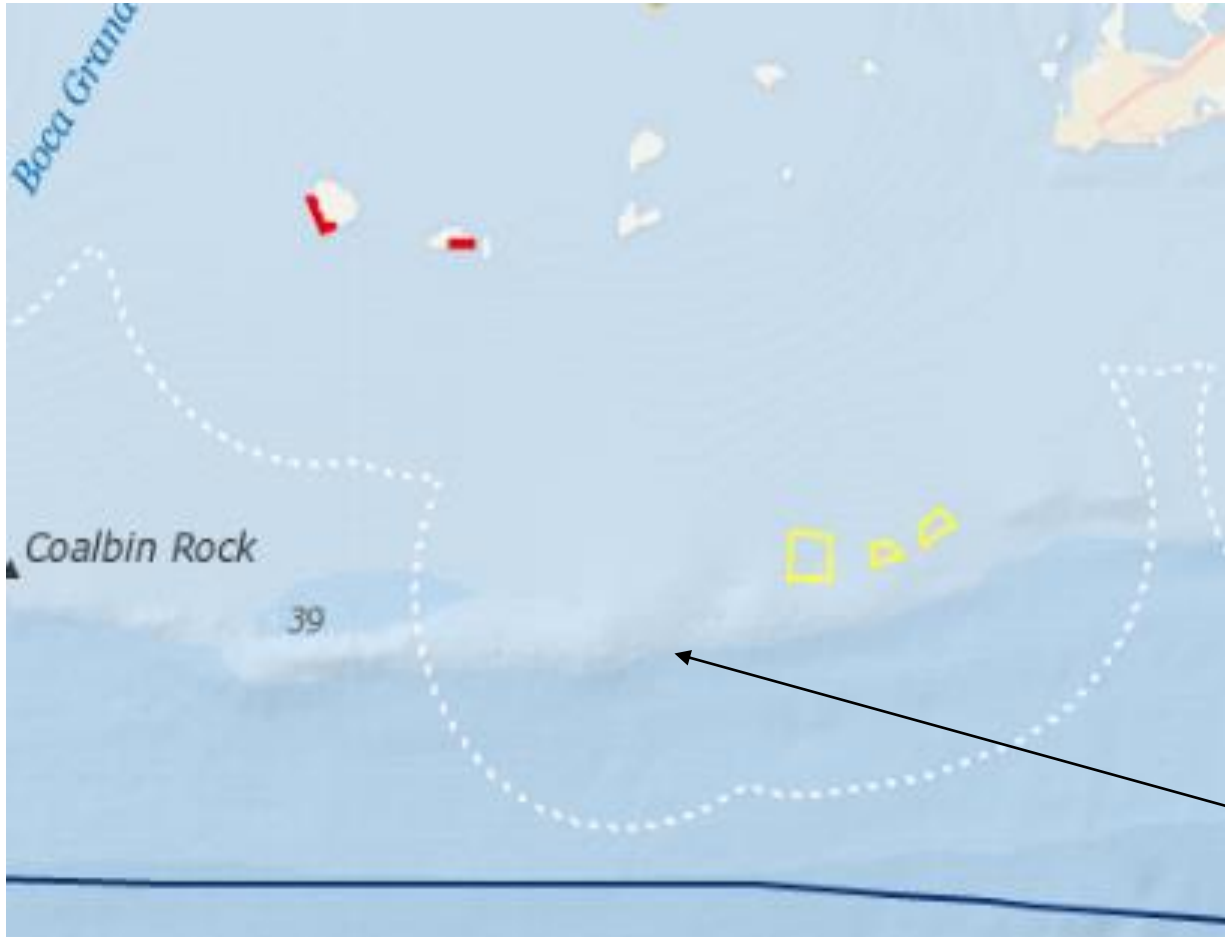
-  No Anchor
-  Idle Speed
-  Sanctuary Preservation Area
-  Transit Only

Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred



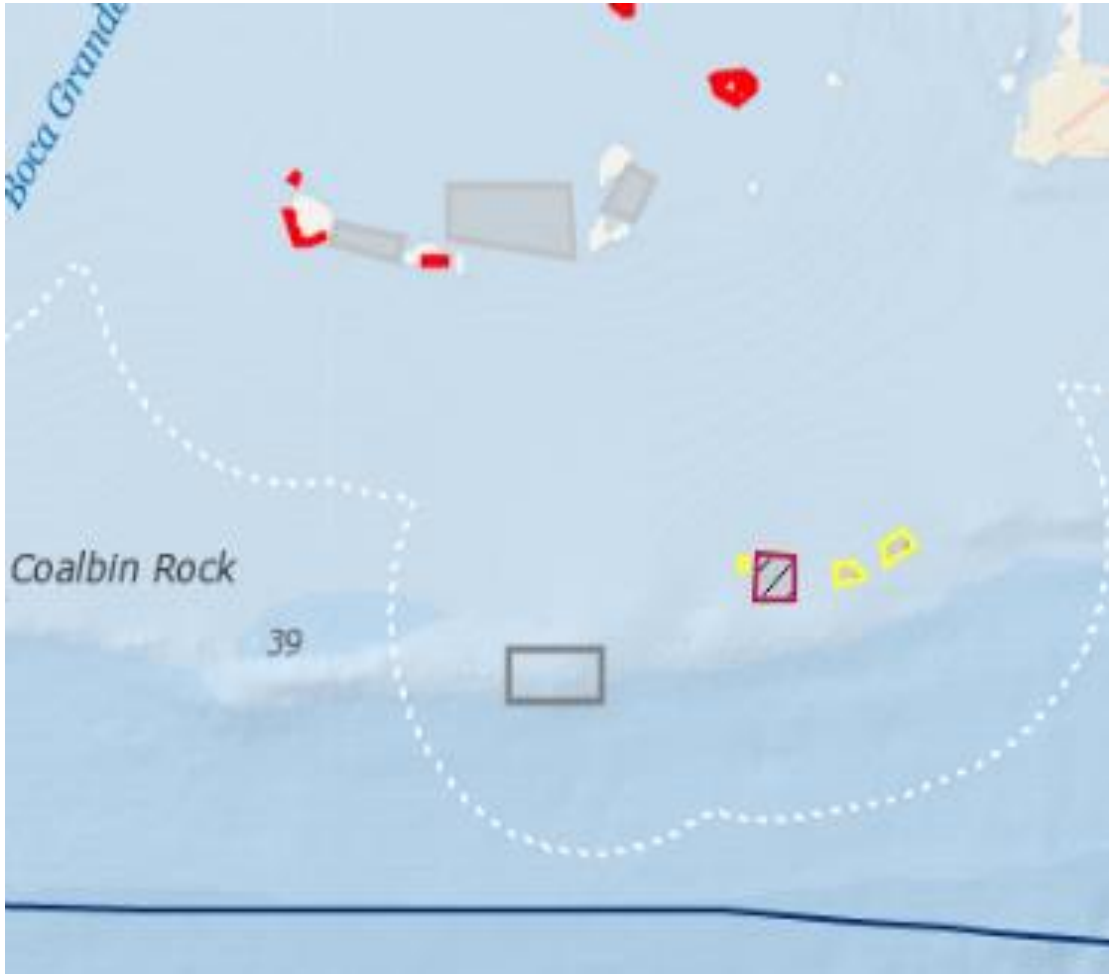
Marine Zones: Area currently not zoned

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

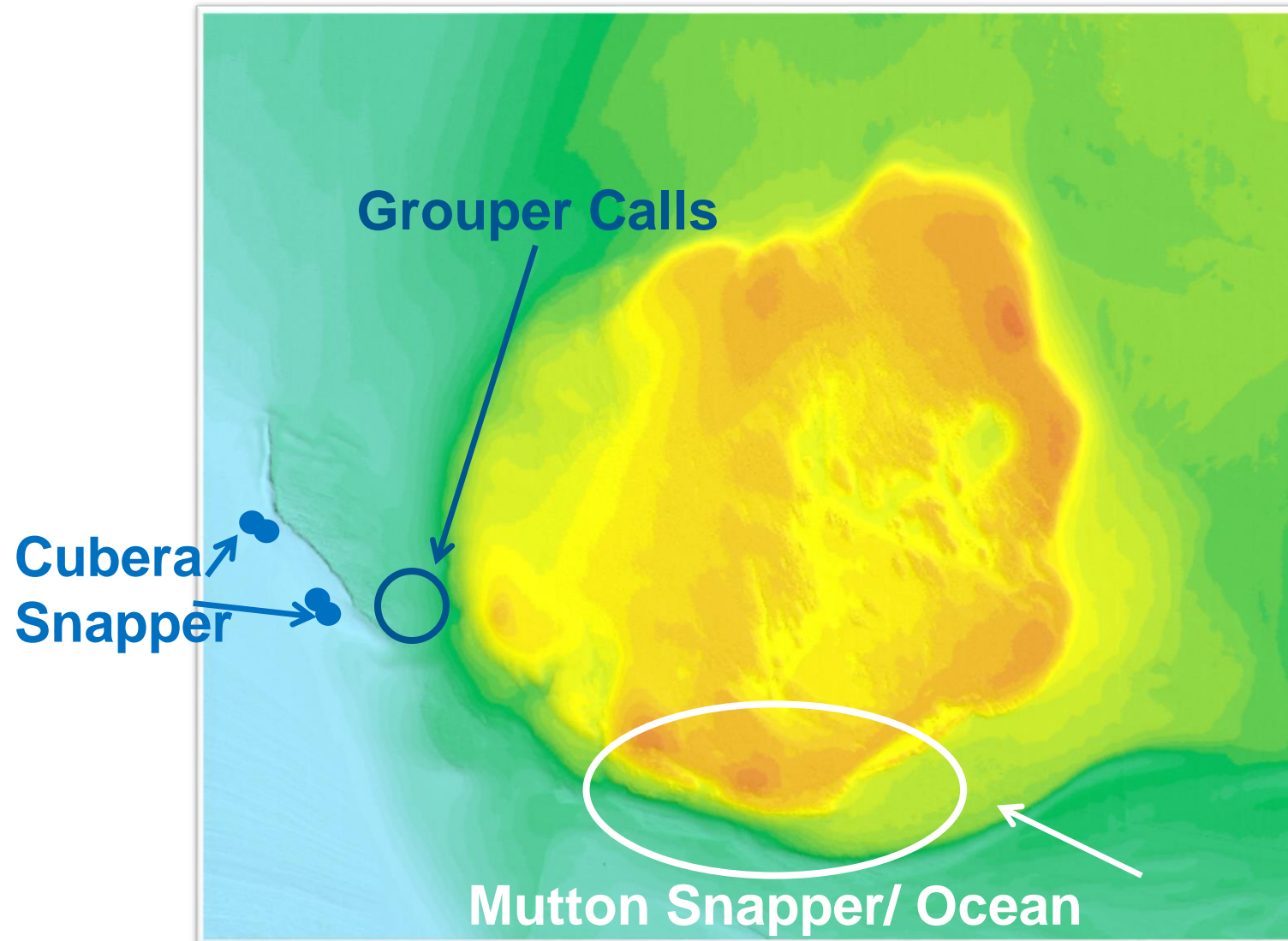


Meets Sanctuary Advisory Council Objective to protect fish species spawning aggregation sites.

Marine Zones: Status Quo & Preferred

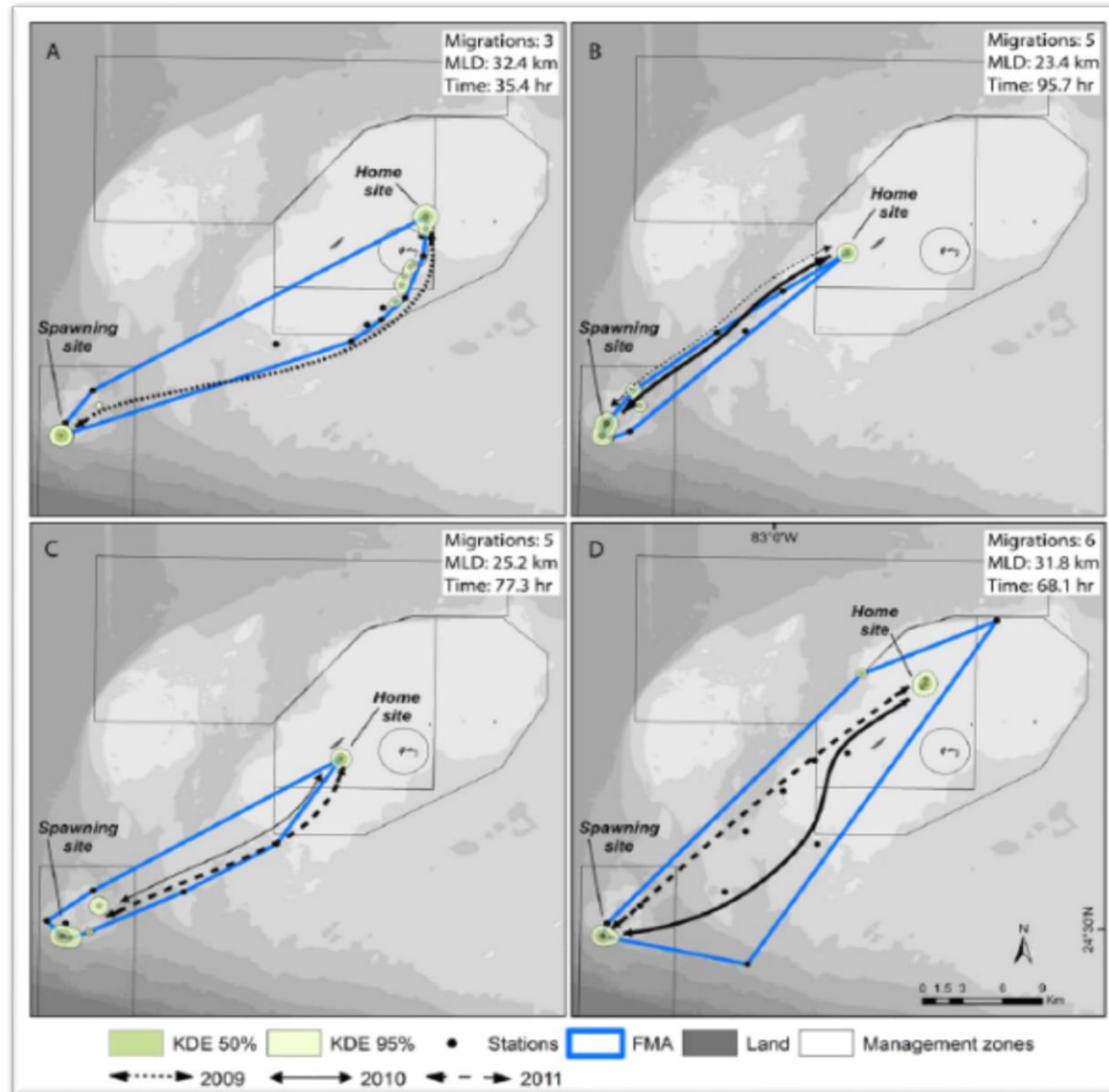


Utilization of Riley's Hump



Tagging of Mutton Snapper

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

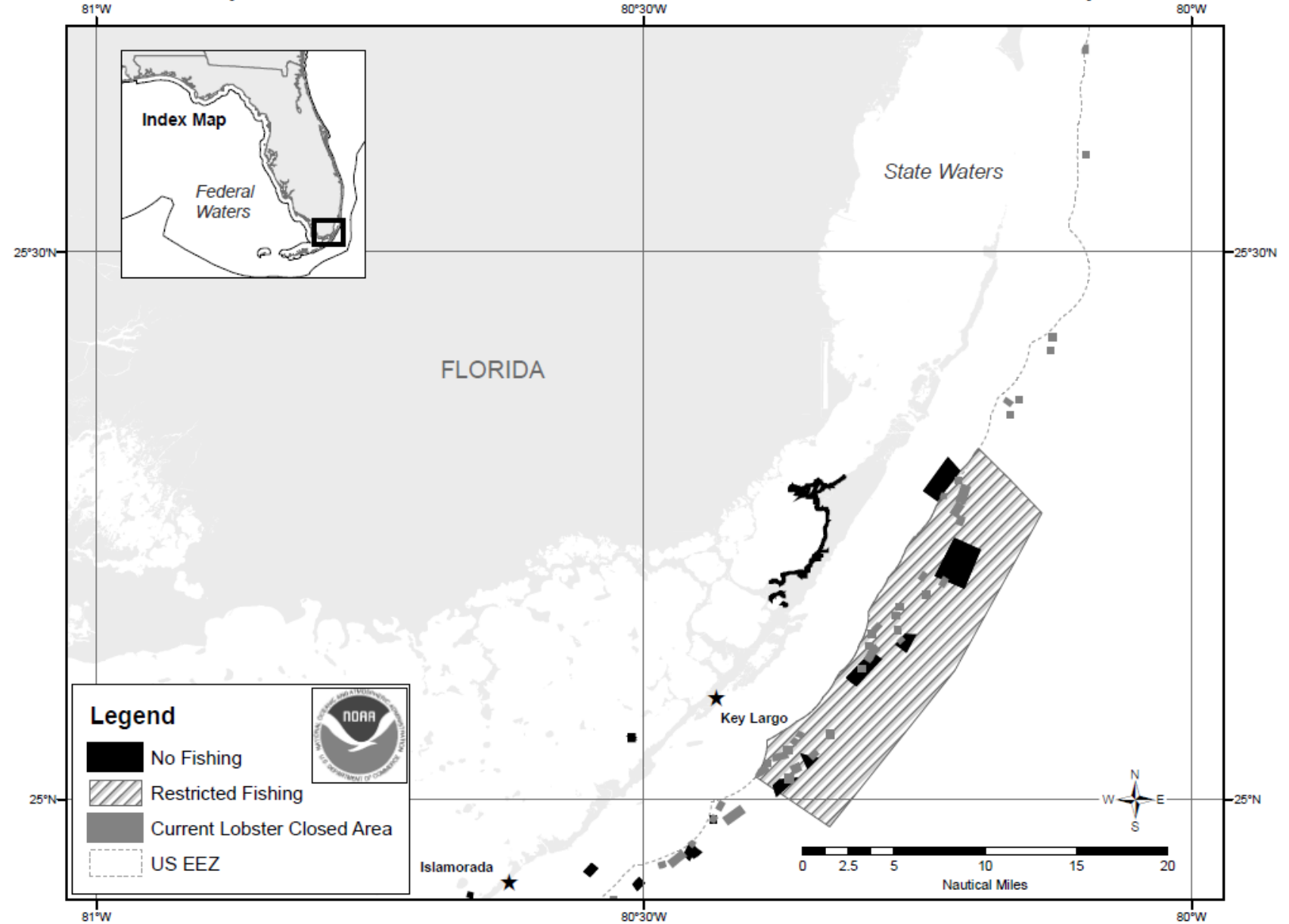


Marine Zone Area Summary Statistics

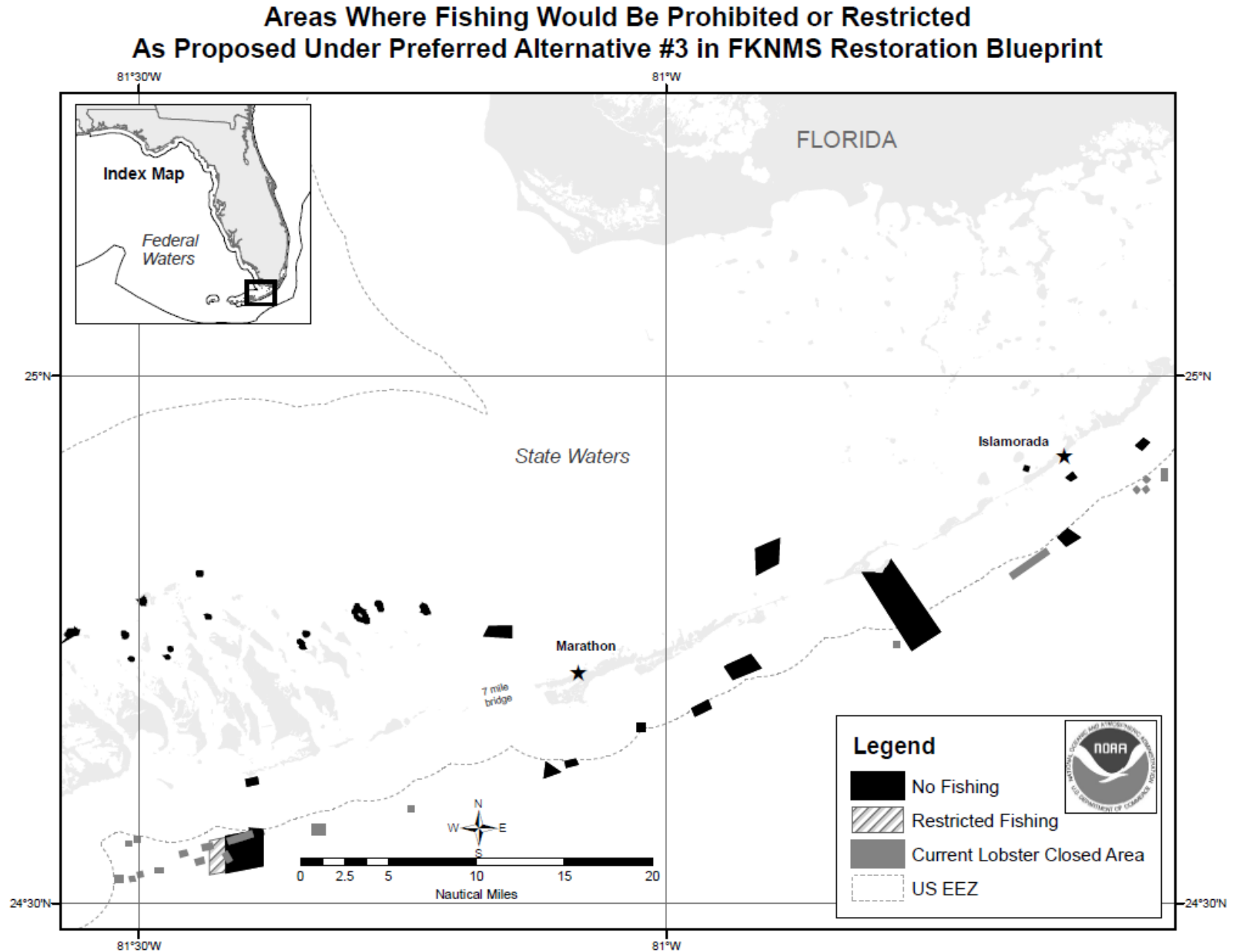
Area (sq miles) Percentage of total area	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4
Total	377.24	474.07	485.57	777.46
	6.25%	10.44%	10.69%	16.64%
State Waters	143.77	198.49	207.25	231.85
	3.78%	4.37%	4.56%	4.83%
Federal Waters	94.02	275.58	278.33	566.93
	2.47%	6.07%	6.13%	11.81%

Fishery Management Plan: No Lobster Trap Zones (Upper Keys)

Areas Where Fishing Would Be Prohibited or Restricted
As Proposed Under Preferred Alternative #3 in FKNMS Restoration Blueprint



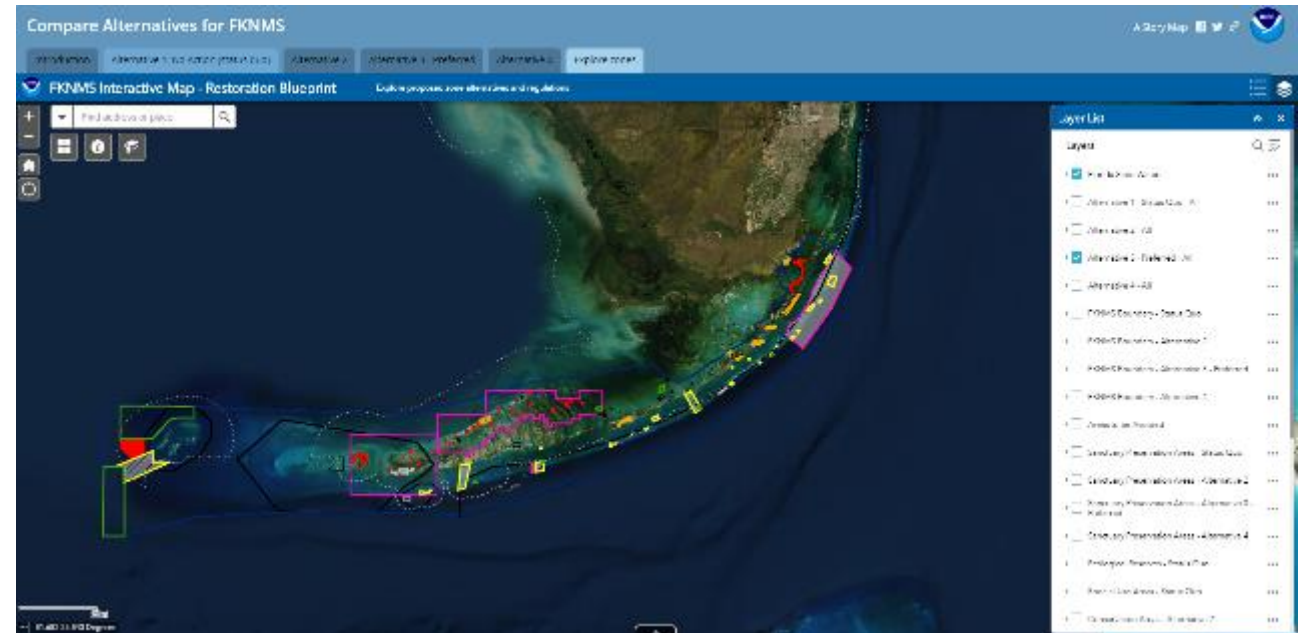
Fishery Management Plan: No Lobster Trap Zones (Middle Keys)



Restoration Blueprint Information Tools

Dedicated webpage at floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint

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



Fishery Management Council and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Sessions

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	TBD, Public Comment likely	Panama City, FL
January 27	GMFMC Meeting	Discussion/recommendation	New Orleans, LA

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



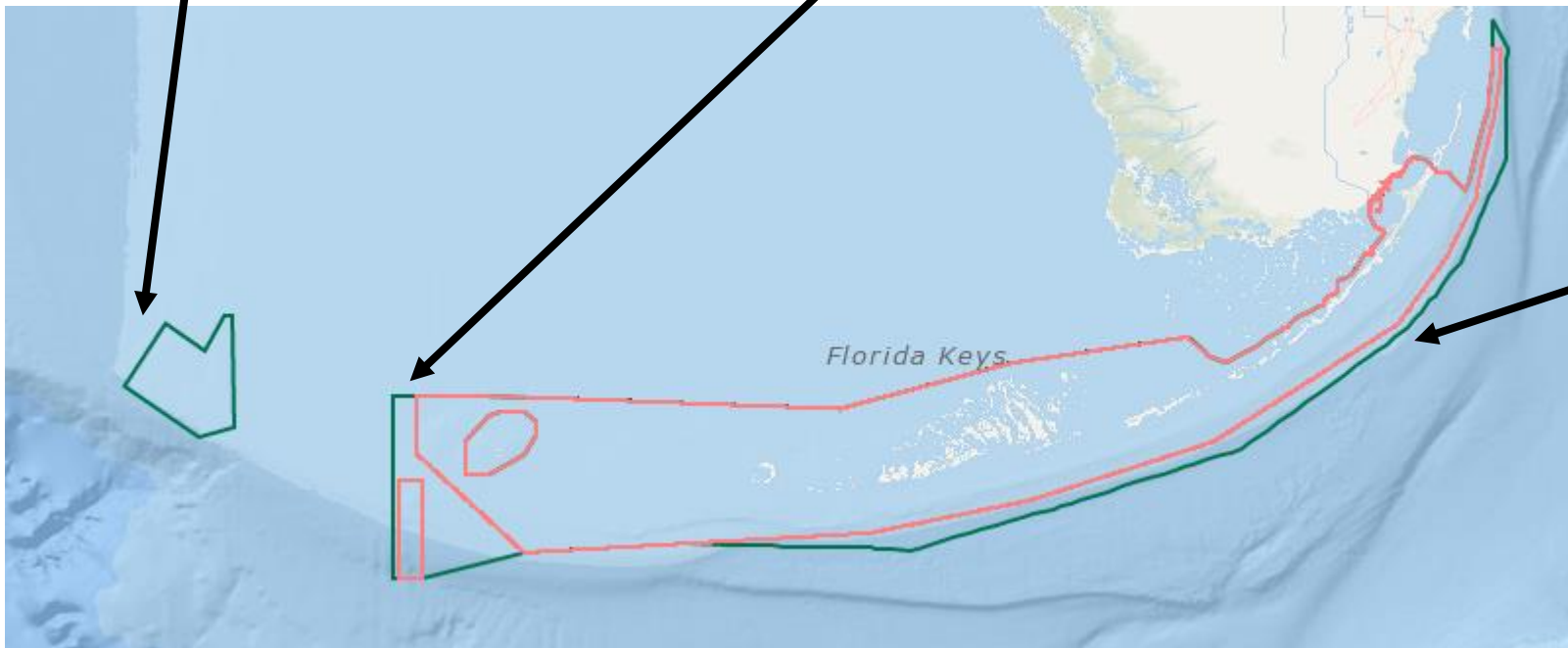
THANK YOU

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Sanctuary Boundary Expansion: Alternative 4

Significant Ecosystems-
Pulley Ridge

Connectivity- Tortugas



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