



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Briefing

Beth Dieveney
Sanctuary Deputy
Superintendent for Science
and Policy

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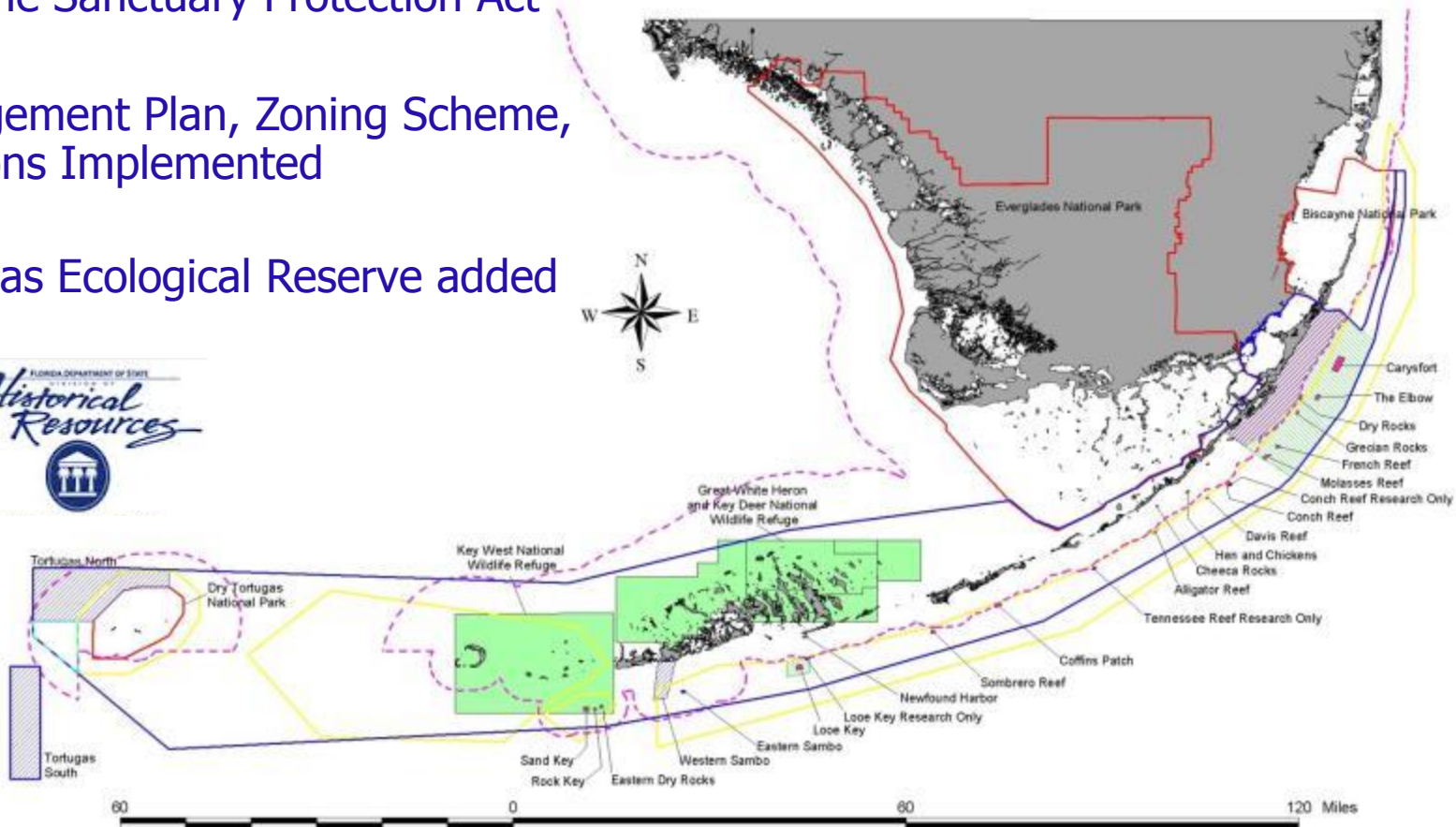
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



1990 - Congress passed Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Protection Act

1997 - Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations Implemented

2001 - Tortugas Ecological Reserve added



Working to Protect Florida Keys Marine Resources



Coral Reef Ecosystem: Coastal Mangroves, Seagrass Beds and Coral Reefs



Maritime Heritage and Submerged Cultural Resources



What types of things do the Sanctuary and Refuge regulate?



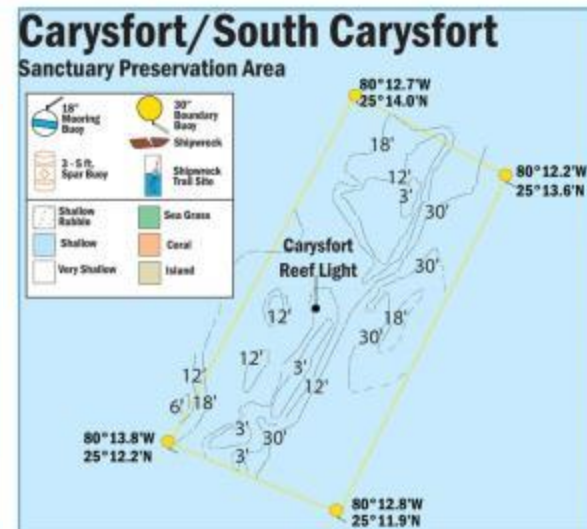
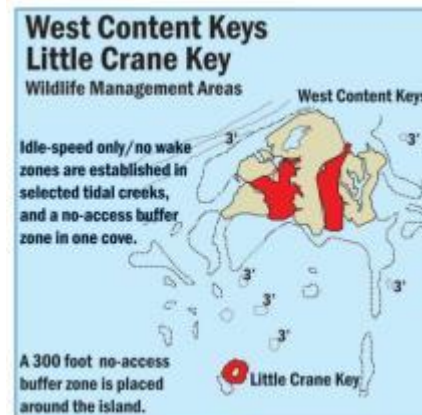
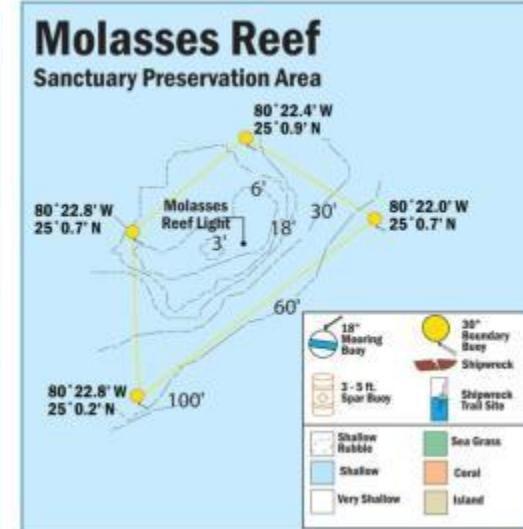
- Dumping / Discharges
- Spearfishing
- Fishing
- Vessel Speed
- Personal Watercraft
- Vessel Access
- Groundings
- Marine Construction & Dredging
- Oil and Gas Development
- Touching / Standing on Coral
- Diving / Snorkeling
- Marine Life / Aquarium Collection



Existing Marine Zoning Plan



- Sanctuary Wide Regulations
- Existing Management Areas (Looe Key/Key Largo NMS & Refuges)
- Sanctuary Preservation Areas
- Ecological Reserves
- Wildlife Management Areas
- Special Use Areas – Research Only
- Area To Be Avoided: Large Ships >50m



2011 FKNMS Condition Report: Foundation for Regulatory and Zoning Changes

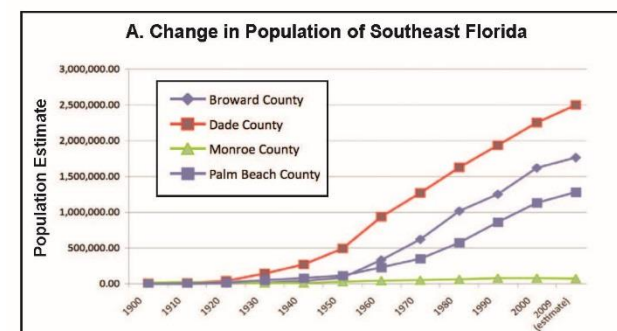


- Over 40 scientists provided input and underwent peer review for publication
- History of discharges, coastal development, habitat loss, and over exploitation of large fish and keystone species
- Poaching, vessel groundings and discharging of marine debris
- Can be improved with long term management efforts, regulatory compliance and community involvement



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.		

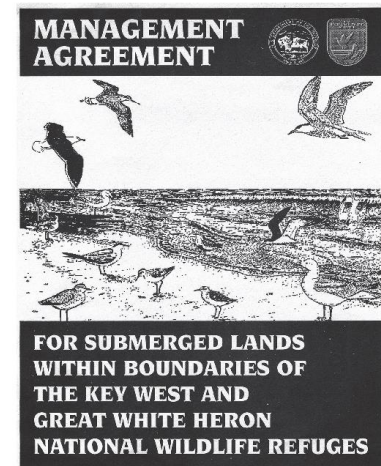
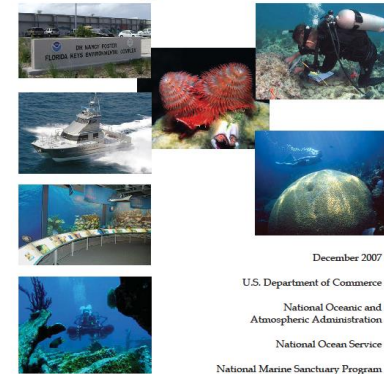


Why conduct the review?



- Community interest
- Periodic evaluation and public input is good management
- Science shows we can make improvements in management
- Emerging threats – climate change, invasive species, new marine uses
- Requirements – federal law and state resolutions, action plans adopted in 2007

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Revised Management Plan



Sanctuary Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts

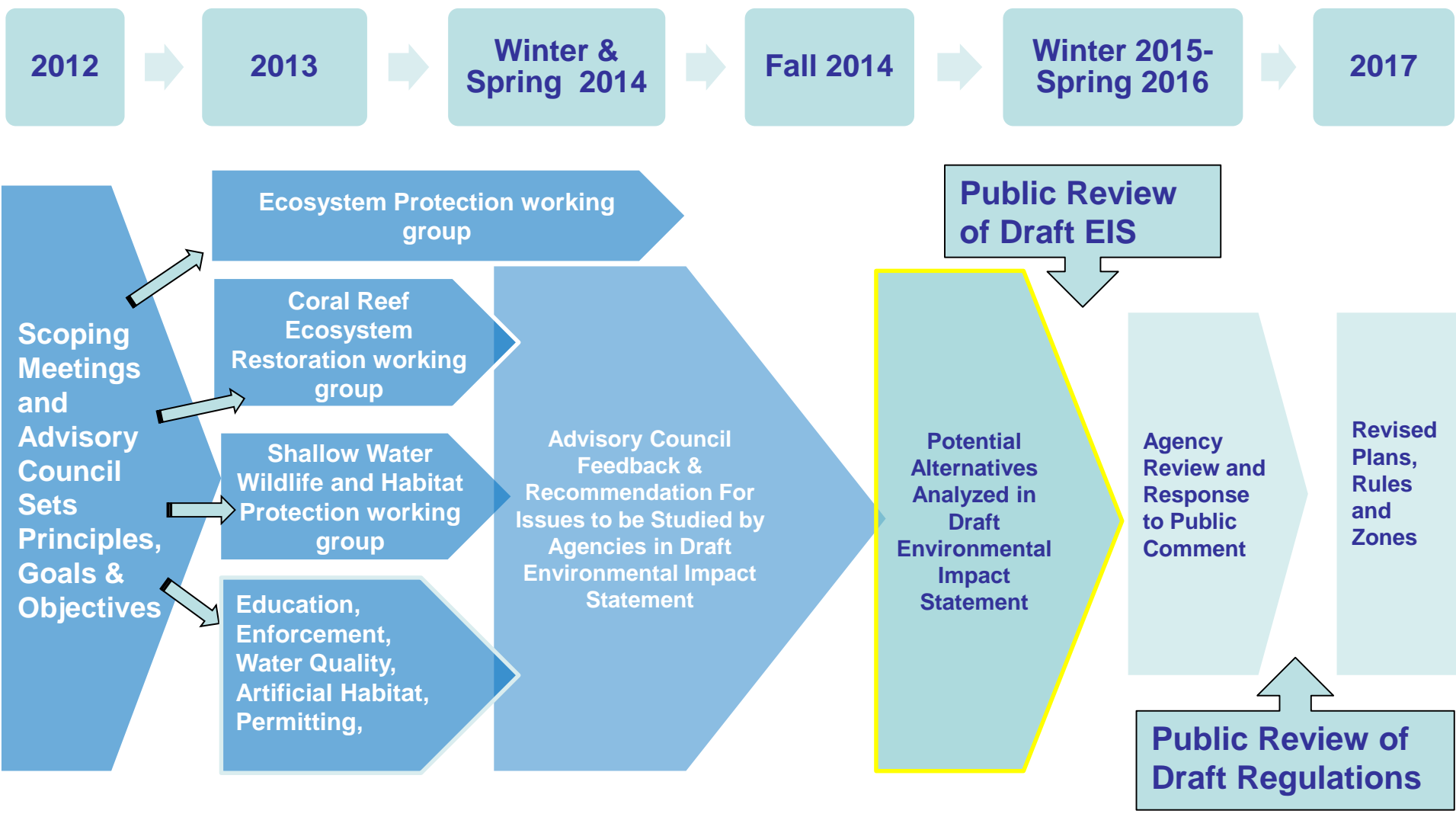


Community-based advisory group providing advice to Florida Keys NMS Management

- Boating Industry
- Elected County Official
- Citizens at Large (3)
- Conservation (2)
- Research
- Education
- Tourism (2)
- Diving (2)
- Charter Fishing (2)
- Commercial Fishing (2)
- Recreational Fishing
- Submerged Cultural Resources
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration
- 10 Non-Voting Local, State, and Federal Agency Representatives



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline



Advisory Council Issues and Management Priorities for Review



- 1. Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Protection**
2. Coral Reef Ecosystem Restoration
- 3. Ecosystem Protection: Ecological Reserves / Preservation Areas and Wildlife Protection**
4. Permit Procedures and Adaptive Management
5. Artificial Habitats
- 6. Study Area & Boundary Modification**
7. Personal Water Craft Tours / Fishing Conflicts
8. Water Quality
9. Coordination with Fishery Management Agencies

Sanctuary Advisory Council Establishes Working Groups for Recommendations on Specific Topics and Priority Issues



Ecosystem Protection and **Shallow Water Habitat** Working Groups Include Council Members and other Stakeholder Representatives from:

- Commercial Fishing
- Conservation
- Recreational Fishing
- Charter & Flats Guides
- Diving and Boating Industry
- Snorkel & Ecotourism
- Research & Monitoring
- Marine Life Collections
- Citizen at Large
- Tourism Industry



Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups: Specific Charges and Objectives



Ecosystem Protection Working Group Charge:

Review Zones addressing ecosystem level protection in no-take / limited take zones.

Shallow Water Wildlife and Habitat Working Group Charge:

Evaluate zones for habitat and wildlife protection;

Identify concentrated uses that may be harming resources;

Evaluate marine salvage issues and harm to seafloor – particularly seagrass habitats.



Natural Resource Analysis



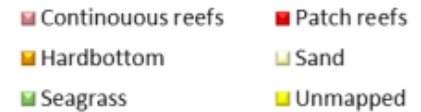
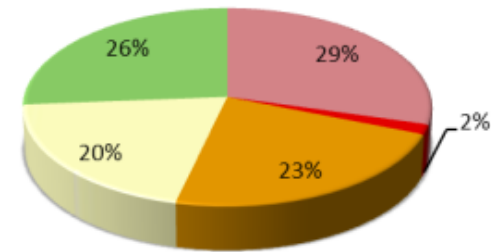
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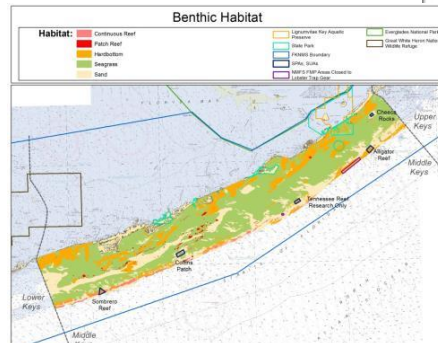
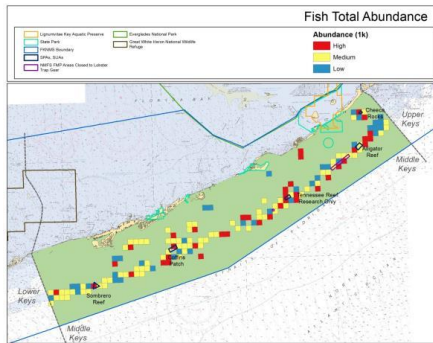
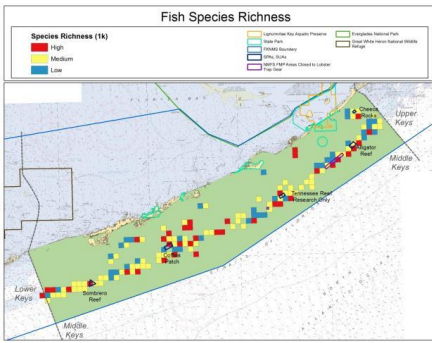
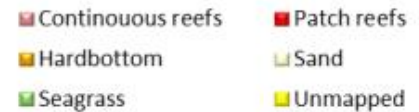
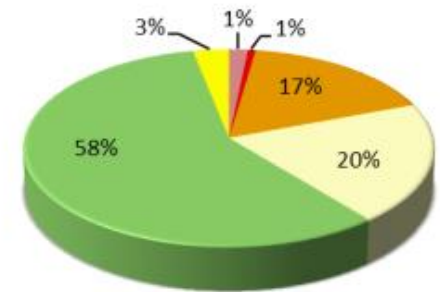


- Area is within current marine zoning scheme?
- Habitat types distributed within current marine zoning scheme
- High relief reefs
- Resilient reefs
- Federal and State threatened coral species
- Fish spawning aggregation areas
- Coral cover and diversity
- Fish abundance and diversity

SPAs, SUAs

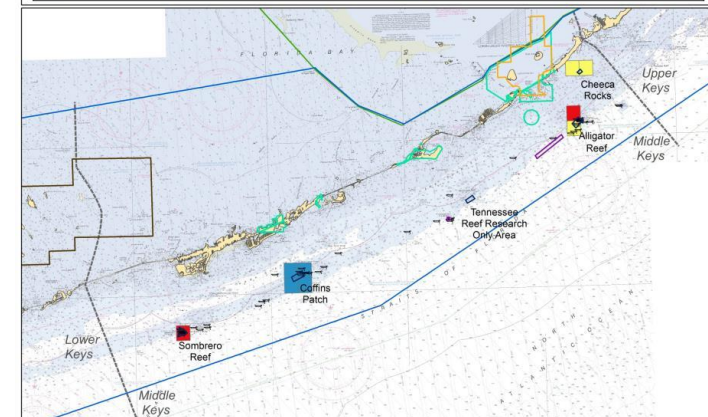
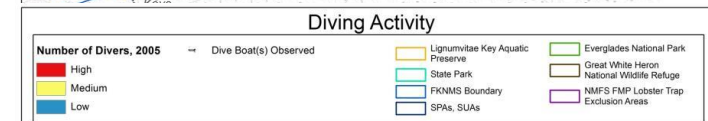
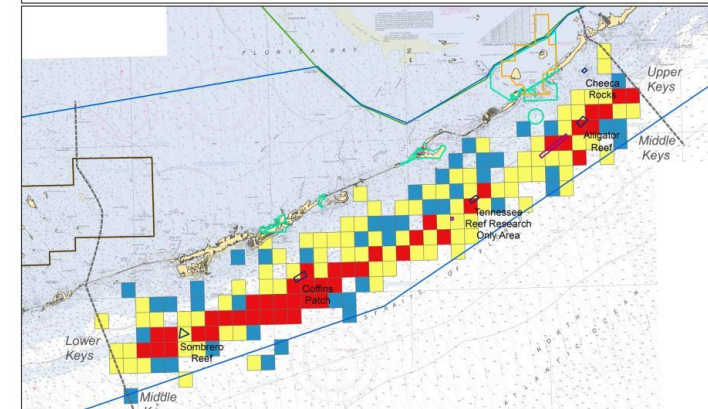


Remaining FKNMS, oceanside



Human Use Analysis

- Commercial Fishing
 - Distribution of **Commercial Fishers**
 - Distribution of Commercial Fishing Landings
- Recreational Fishing
 - Distribution of **Recreational and Charter Fishing Vessels**
- Recreational Diving
 - Distribution of **Diving Vessels**
 - Distribution of **Recreational Divers**
- Distribution of **Marine Debris**
- Location of **Vessel Groundings**



Sanctuary Advisory Council Working Groups: Proposing Alternatives to Analyze in Draft EIS



Ecosystem Protection WG (and Council) Recommend Analysis of:

- Modify 11 existing marine zones
- Modifications to the Sanctuary and ATBA boundary
- Proposing 7 new marine zones
- Removing certain exceptions in 4 existing marine zones
- Zone recommendations range from limited access or anchoring restrictions to no access (research only)

Shallow Water WG (and Council) Recommend Analysis of:

- Remove 2 existing zones (not needed)
- Modify 19 existing zones
- Proposed 24 new zones – mainly pole /troll or idle, some temporal access restrictions

Study Area & Boundary Modifications

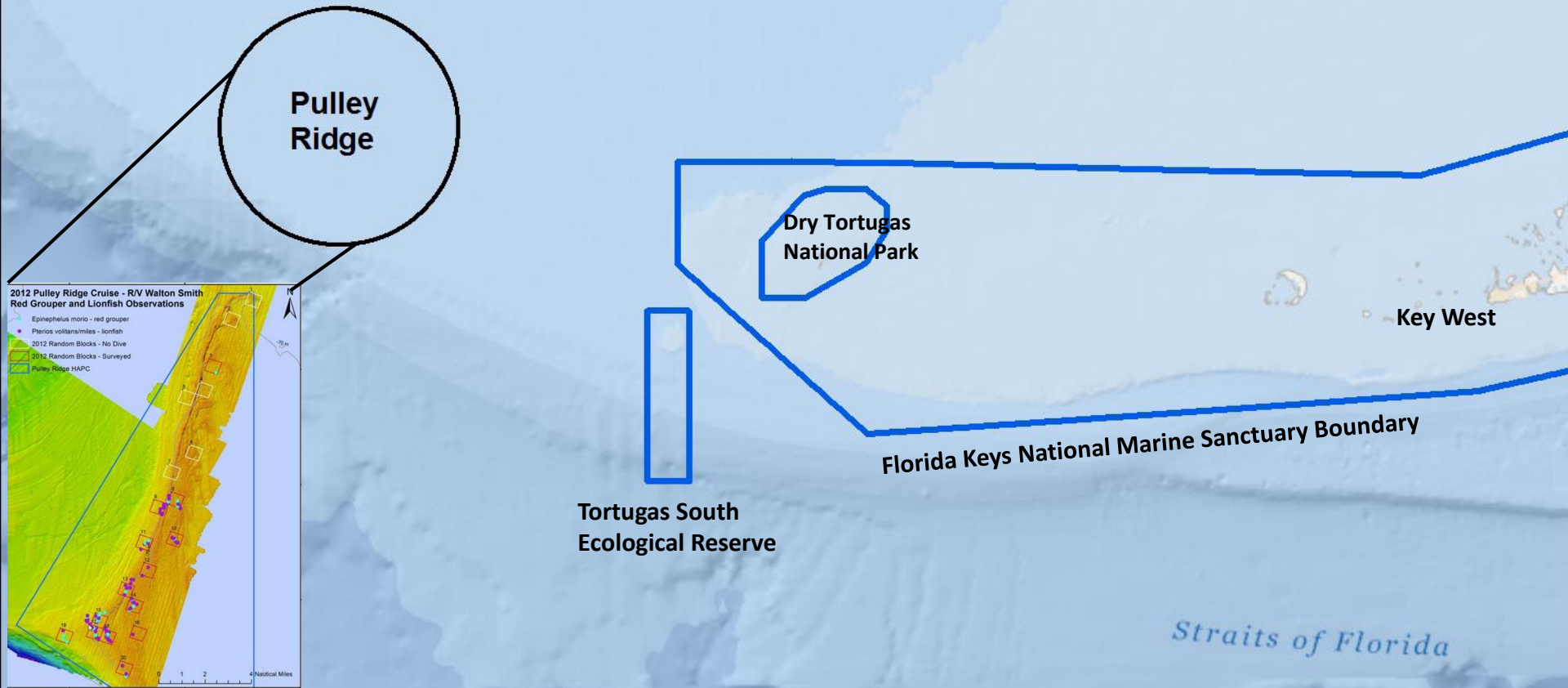


Value of identifying a Study Area:

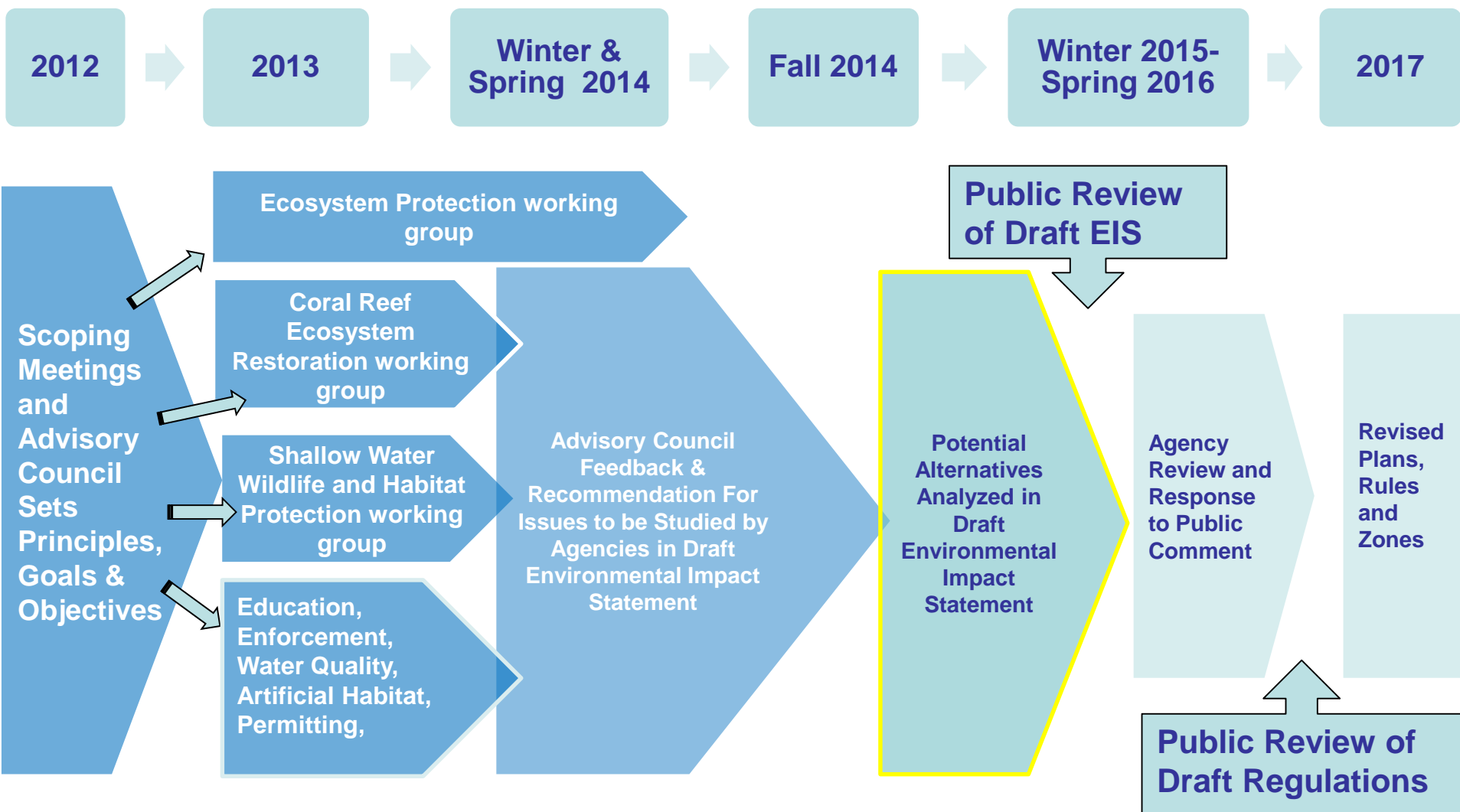
- Locations within the study area – but outside present FKNMS boundaries – can be considered in the zoning and review process
- Evaluate economic and environmental impacts of applying Sanctuary-wide regulations in study area
- Apply Sanctuary-wide regulations to the study area should those new boundaries be adopted

Pulley Ridge Area

- Portion of Pulley Ridge presently a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC)
- Strong ecological connectivity to the Florida Keys



Marine Zoning and Regulatory Review Timeline



Looking Ahead – Next Steps



✓ Advisory Council Feedback & Recommendation for Agencies

- Agency staff develops range of regulatory and zoning alternatives based on scoping comments, Advisory Council recommendations and input, and agency input.
- Potential Alternatives and Analysis released in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Initiate NMSA § 304(a)(5) consultation if necessary
- Agency Review and Response to Public Comments
- Proposed Actions and Alternatives released in a Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Revised Rules and Marine Zones

For more information:



florida keys national marine sanctuary

[dive in]

Websites:

floridakeys.noaa.gov

facebook.com/floridakeysnoaa.gov

Email:

Beth.dieveney@noaa.gov

Phone:

Key West: 305-809-4700

Sanctuary Advisory Council:

<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/>



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Back-Up Slide

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ACT (16 U.S.C. 1431) SECTION 304 (a) (5):



FISHING REGULATIONS - “The Secretary shall provide the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council with the opportunity to prepare draft regulations for fishing within the Exclusive Economic Zone as the Council may deem necessary to implement the proposed designation.”

In preparing the draft regulations, a Regional Fishery Management Council shall use as guidance the national standards of section 301(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act (16 U.S.C. 1851) to the extent that the standards are consistent and compatible with the proposed designation.