



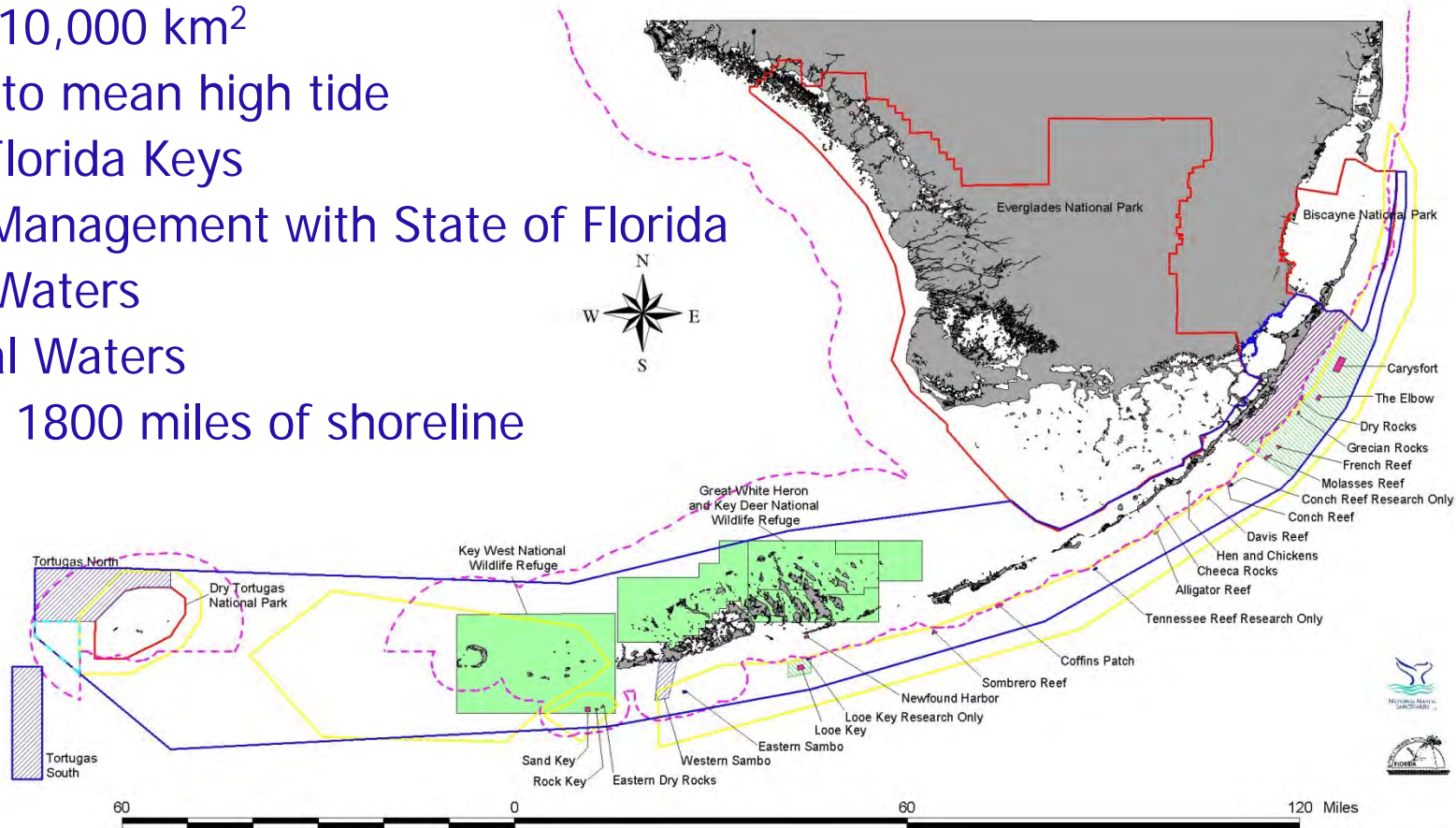
Planning for Different Uses of the Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary

A Presentation to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force

Sean Morton
Superintendent
NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
October 21, 2011

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

- 2900 nm² / 10,000 km²
- Jurisdiction to mean high tide
- Surrounds Florida Keys
- Co-trustee Management with State of Florida
- 60% State Waters
- 40% Federal Waters
- 1600 Keys / 1800 miles of shoreline

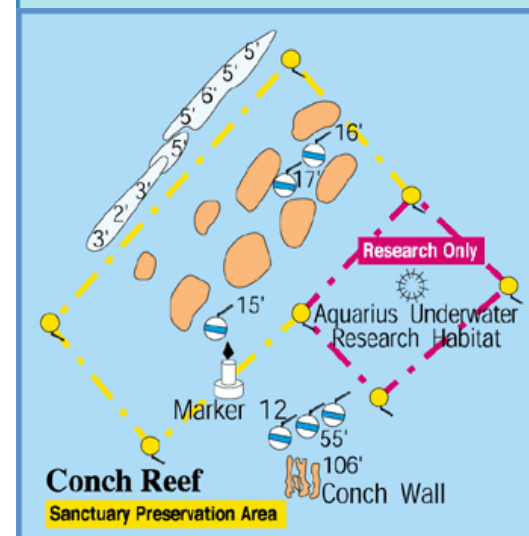


History and Milestones for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

- Key Largo (1975) and Looe Key (1981) National Marine Sanctuaries
- Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act (1990)
 - “Area to Be Avoided” moved large vessels away from reef tract
 - Called for development of management plan and advisory council
 - Use of temporal and geographic zoning
- Management Plan, Zoning Scheme, and Regulations (1997)
- Tortugas Ecological Reserve (2000)

Marine Zoning for User Conflicts and Resource Protection

- Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Ecological Reserves – No Take Areas
- Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) – Access and Boating Restrictions
- Existing Management Areas (EMA) – Previously Designated Zones / Regulations
- Special Use Areas – Research Only



FKNMS Condition Report Foundation for Regulatory and Zoning Changes

- More than a century of pressures
- History of discharges, coastal development, habitat loss, and over exploitation of large fish and keystone species.
- Poaching, vessel groundings and discharging of marine debris — continue to negatively affect the habitat and living resources of the sanctuary
- 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.	

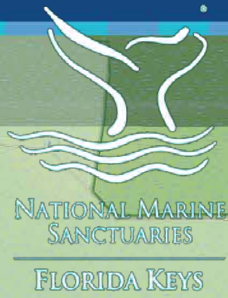
FKNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Leads Planning Efforts

"The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is a fine example of a government program that works in its intended form... for the people, by the people, specific to its unique region. It is a group that listens, speaks, and acts on input from all the various stakeholders of that region."

-Steve Leopold,
Charter/Sports Fishing Seat



Advisory Council Direction For Review of Regulations and Zones – August 2011



Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness

EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK

GULF OF MEXICO

- New / larger no-take areas are warranted.
- Designate zones for restoration and recovery.
- Temporal zoning – bleaching events, spawning aggregations
- Gulf/ Florida Bay to reef tract connectivity

Florida South Ecological Reserve

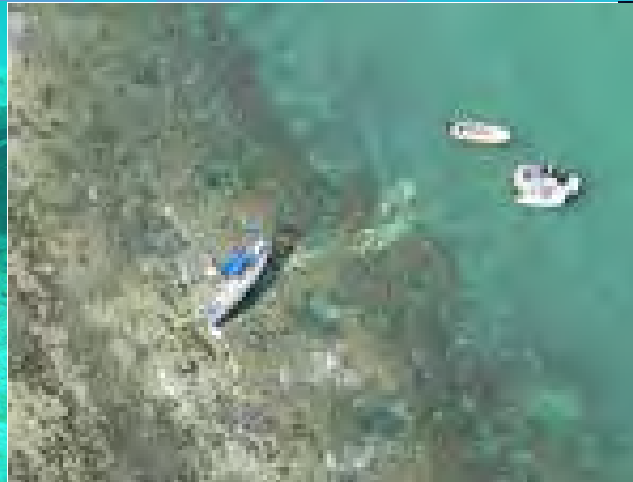
Tortugas North Ecological Reserve
Dry Tortugas National Park

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Headquarters and Lower Region Office

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marathon Office



Education, Enforcement, and Monitoring Must Continue...



FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Thank you to all
of our partners
in South Florida!

