



Gena Parsons

Communications & Outreach Manager

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



Credit: Shawn Verne



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

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

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



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

The only coral barrier reef in the continental United States



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

1.4 million acres of seagrass beds



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



1,800 miles of mangrove shoreline

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

6,000+
marine life
species

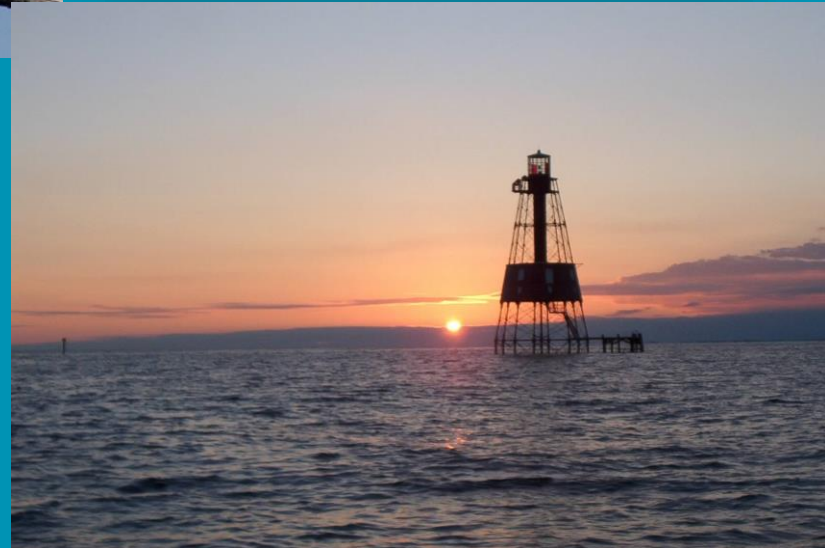


Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



800 underwater historical sites

The coral reef ecosystem drives the economy and the local way of life



ECONOMICS & EMPLOYMENT

60%
OF JOBS

A stylized icon of a hotel building with the word "HOTEL" on its roof. Three dollar signs are positioned above the roofline. Two palm trees are flanking the building.

\$ 3,380,000,000

IN SALES AND INCOME, AS WELL AS \$2.1 BILLION IN SPENDING



Ecosystem Threats



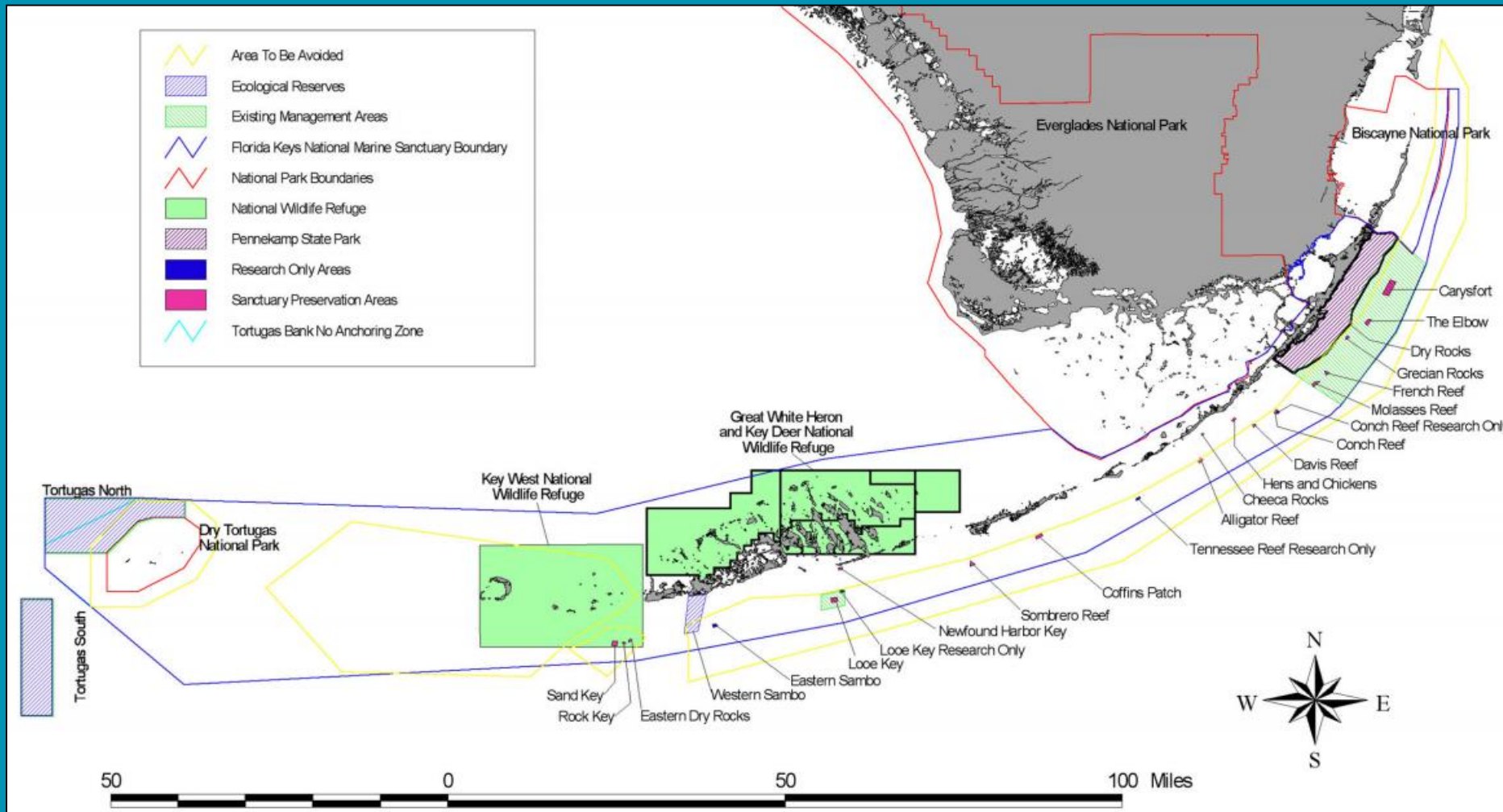
Ecosystem Threats

Scientists, policy makers, and the public are responding to an ecosystem-altering disease event



Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease

Protected Waters



Marine Zones by the Numbers

Existing Management Areas - Established prior to 1997.	4
Sanctuary Preservation Areas - Shallow reefs that sustain critical marine species and habitats.	18
Wildlife Management Areas - Sensitive or endangered wildlife and their habitats.	27
Ecological Reserves – Entire range of marine habitats.	2
Special-use Areas – Research, education, restoration, monitoring.	4

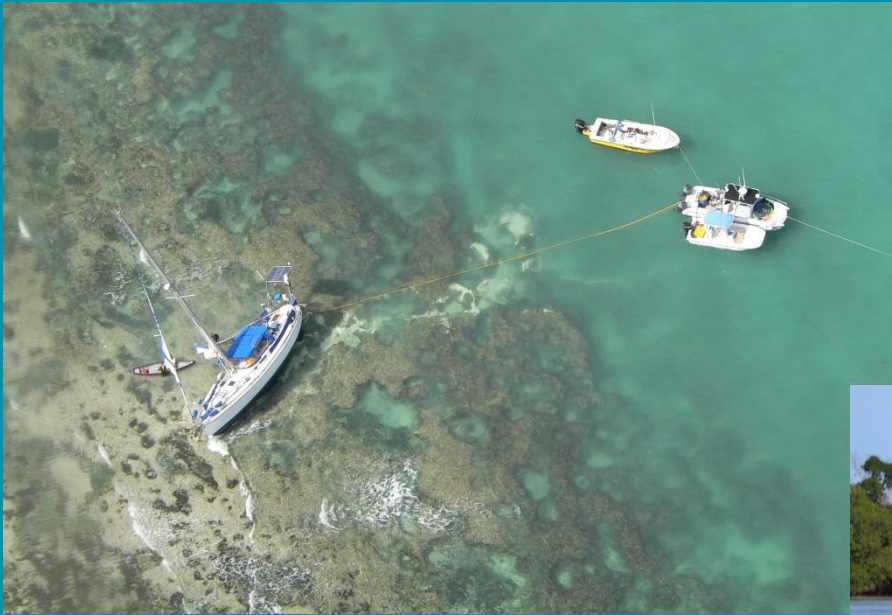
Passive Protections



800+ buoys



Sanctuary-specific Boater Education



Online course
available free online



Getting Out on the Water

What activities do you want to do?



Where are those activities allowed?

Getting Out on the Water

There's a sediment trail behind your boat indicating you've run into a shallow seagrass flat.

What should you do?



1. Throttle up to quickly get on plane **X**
2. Stop, tilt your engine and wait for higher tide **✓**
3. Stop, tilt your engine and pole or push the boat backwards along the prop scars **✓**
4. Call for help on VHF channel 16 **✓**

Boat with a Local

Sanctuary-recognized operators are trained and committed to responsible use of marine resources.



Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys

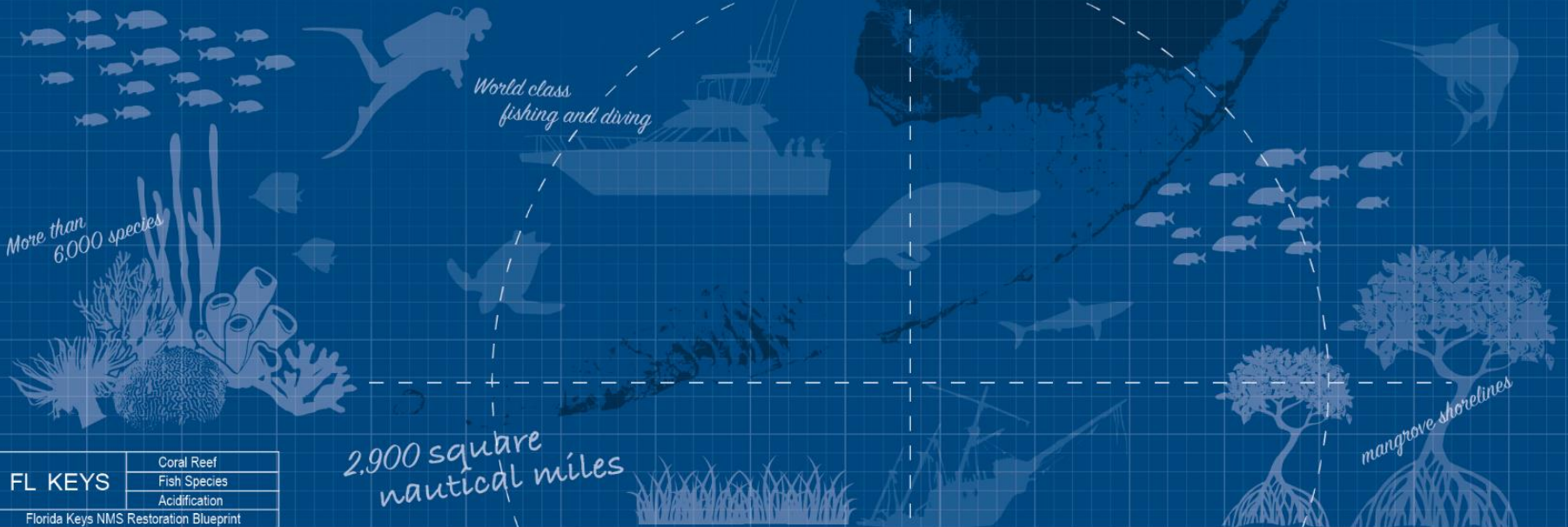
To date, participants have identified and removed more than 28,000 pounds.



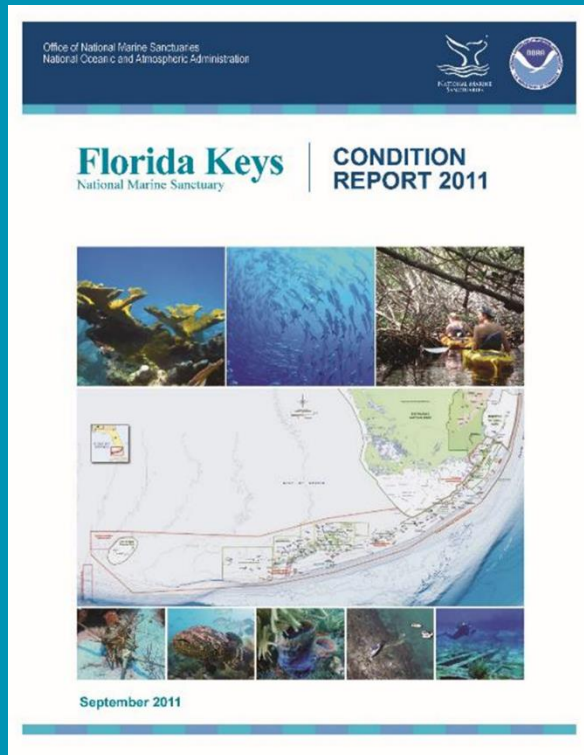
Coming in 2019

Restoration Blueprint

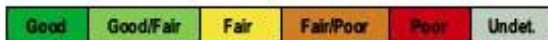
In an effort to protect and restore critical marine habitats in the Florida Keys, the sanctuary is proposing a Restoration Blueprint that embodies what we have learned through more than 20 years of cutting-edge science, technical experience, and local community involvement.



2011 FKNMS Condition Report



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

'State' of Living Resources

STATUS:	GOOD	GOOD/ FAIR	FAIR	FAIR/ POOR	POOR	UNDETERMINED
TRENDS:	Improving ▲ Not Changing — Declining ▼					
				Undetermined ? Not applicable N/A		

Question	Status and Trends	Basis for Judgment
Biodiversity	▼	Relative abundance across a spectrum of species has been substantially altered, with the most significant being large reef-building corals, large-bodied fish, sea turtles, and many invertebrates, including, the long-spined sea urchin. Recovery is questionable.
Environmentally Sustainable Fishing	?	Historical effects of recreational and commercial fishing and collection of both targeted and non-targeted species; it is too early to determine ecosystem effects of new fishery regulations and new ecosystem approaches to fishery management.
Non-indigenous species	▼	Several species are known to exist; lionfish have already invaded and will likely cause ecosystem level impacts; impacts of other non-indigenous species have not been studied.
Key species	—	Reduced abundance of selected key species including corals (many species), queen conch, long-spined sea urchin, groupers and sea turtles.

Community-led Effort

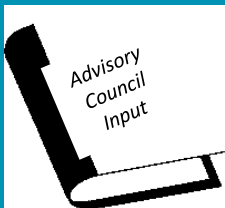
Sanctuary Advisory Council



50 Council Members +
35 Community Members



70 Public Meetings +
> 1,500 Public
Comments



200 Recommendations
submitted to
Superintendent

Priority Issues

1. Shallow water wildlife and habitat protection
2. Coral reef ecosystem restoration
3. Ecosystem protection
4. Artificial habitats
5. Permit procedures and adaptive management
6. Study areas and boundary modifications
7. Personal watercraft / fishing conflicts
8. Water quality
9. Fishery management coordination

Regulatory Review Process

Have your voice heard...



Condition
Report



Advisory
Council Input
& Public
Scoping

Agency
Analysis &
Development
of Alternatives



**Draft EIS
& Public
Comment**

Agency
Review &
Response



**Final EIS
& Public
Comment**

Revised
Rules &
Zones

Regulatory Review Process

Alternatives:

1. Status Quo
2. NOAA Preferred
3. More Conservative
4. Less Conservative



At least 90 days of public comment

Informational Sessions:

Key West, Marathon, Key Largo, Miami, Fort Myers

RESTORATION BLUEPRINT

Draft Environmental Impact Statement



floridakeys.noaa.gov/blueprint



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