



Marquesas Region
















Marquesas Region: Marine Zones

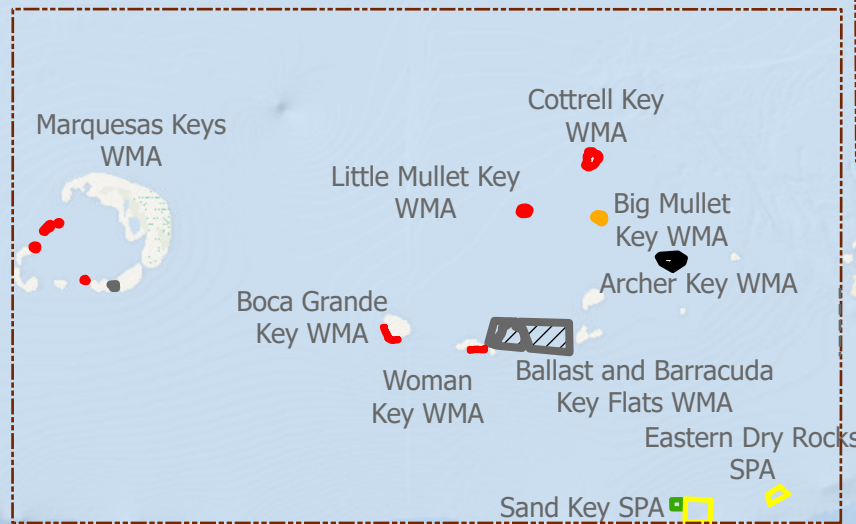
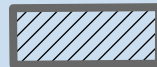
- Marquesas Regional Map
- Sand Key, Rock Key, and Eastern Dry Rocks Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and Sand Key Nursery Restoration Area
- Western Dry Rocks Wildlife Management Area
- Archer Key Wildlife Management Area
- Big Mullet Key, Little Mullet Key and Cottrell Key Wildlife Management Areas
- Ballast and Man Key Flats Wildlife Management Area
- Boca Grande Key and Woman Key Wildlife Management Areas
- Marquesas Keys Wildlife Management Area
- Marquesas Keys Turtle Wildlife Management Area

Cover photo: Boca Grande Key Wildlife Management Area in the Key West National Wildlife Refuge lies 14 miles west of Key West, Florida. Photo: USFWS

-  Existing sanctuary boundary
-  National Wildlife Refuges
- Proposed Rule Marine Zones
-  Sanctuary Preservation Area
-  No Entry
-  No Motor
-  Transit Only
-  Management Area
-  Idle Speed
-  No Anchor
-  Transit Only and No Anchor April 1 to July 31
-  Proposed Boundary

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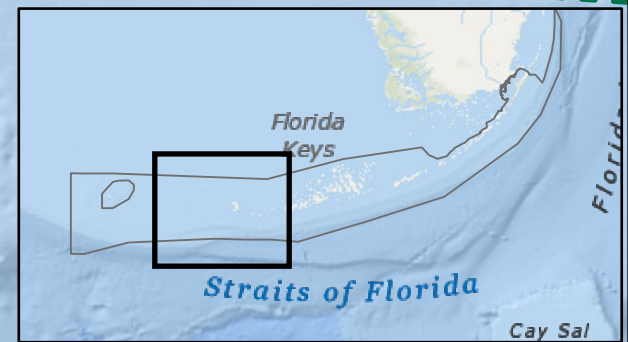
Marquesas Keys
Turtle WMA

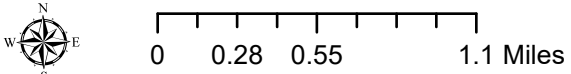
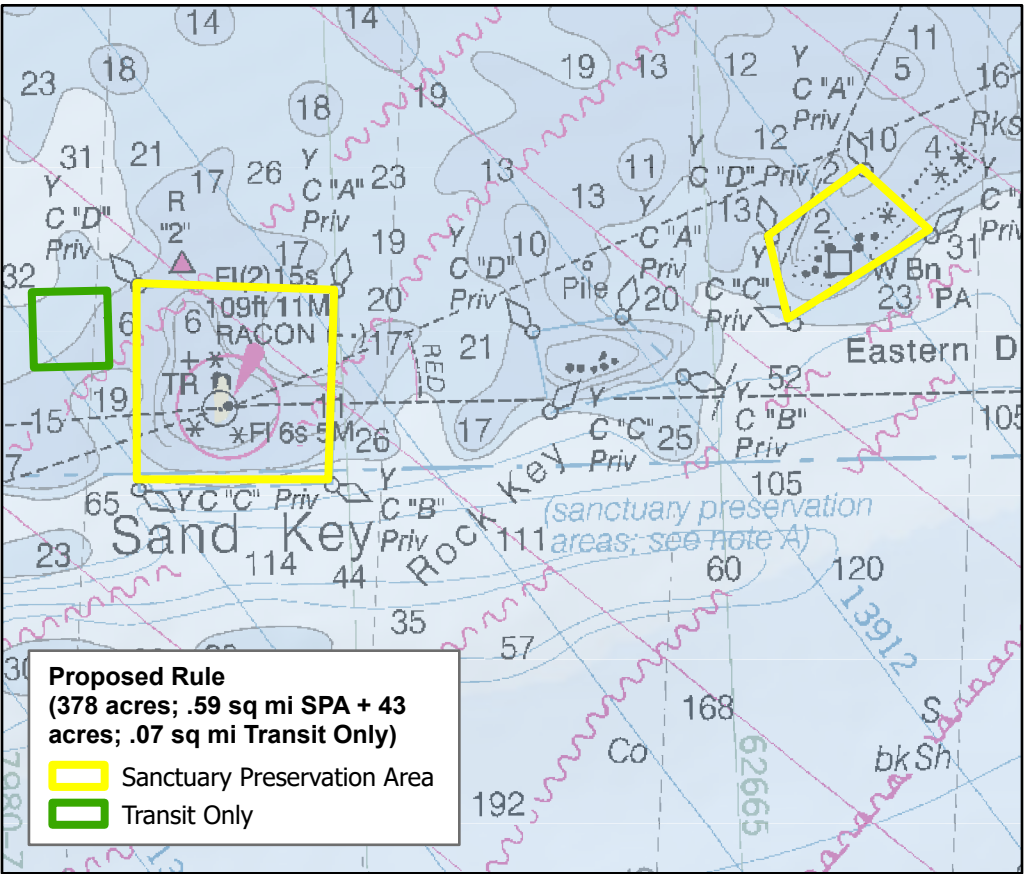
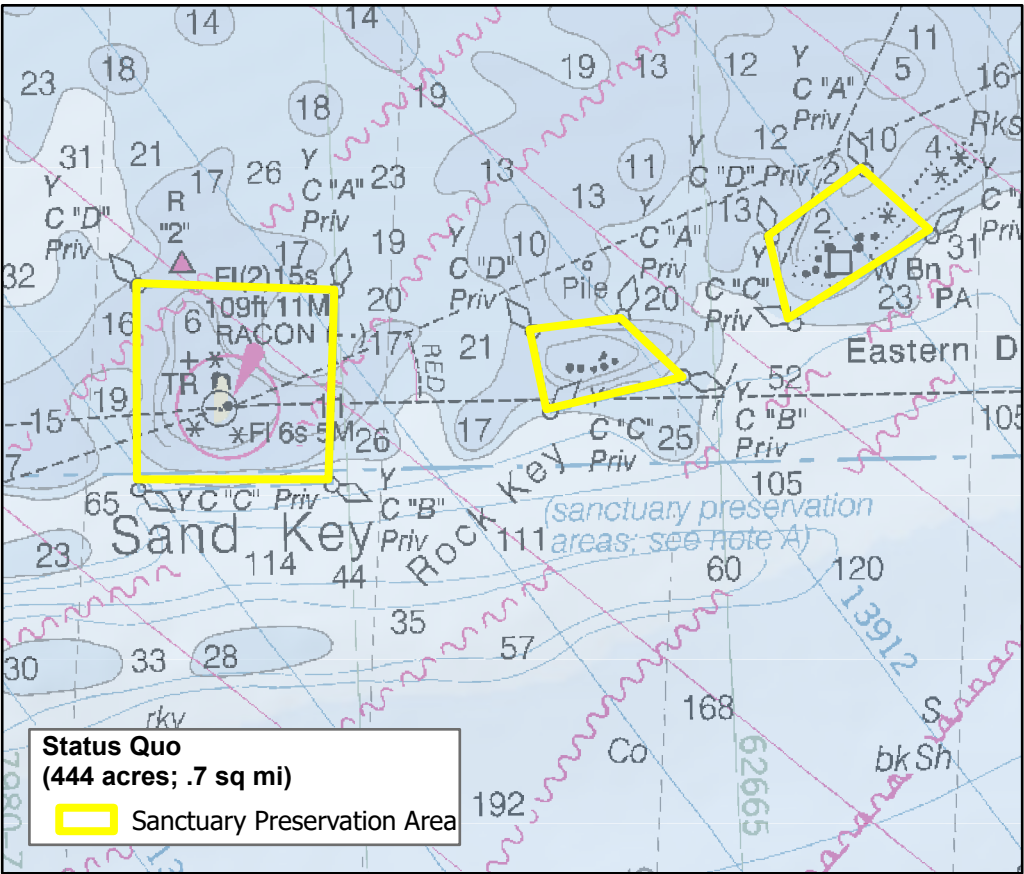


Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Marquesas Region Proposed Rule Marine Zones



0 2.48 4.95 9.9 Miles





Sand Key, Rock Key, and Eastern Dry Rocks Sanctuary Preservation Areas, and Sand Key Nursery Restoration Area

Eastern Dry Rocks SPA: Protects spur and groove as well as deeper bank reef habitats that historically supported thickets of ESA-listed elkhorn coral. Currently contains remnant populations of ESA-listed star corals and a diverse assemblage of other boulder and plating coral species. Important site for ongoing restoration of ESA-listed elkhorn and staghorn corals. This is one of the 7 Mission:Iconic Reef sites. This zone was originally designed to limit consumptive activities and separate users engaged in different activities.

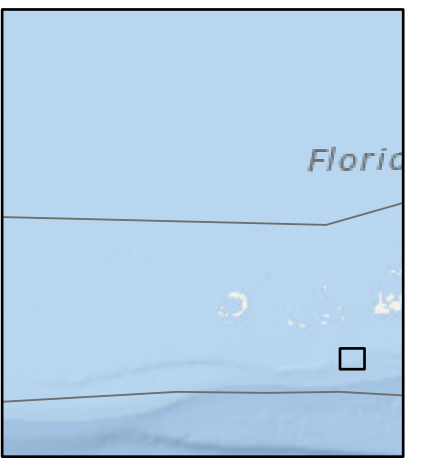
Sand Key SPA: Protects spur and groove as well as deeper bank reef habitats that historically supported thickets of ESA-listed elkhorn coral. Currently contains a high abundance of large ESA-listed star corals, a single remaining ESA-listed pillar coral and a diverse assemblage of other boulder and plating coral species. Important site for ongoing restoration of ESA-listed elkhorn and staghorn corals. This zone was originally designed to limit consumptive activities and separate users engaged in different activities.

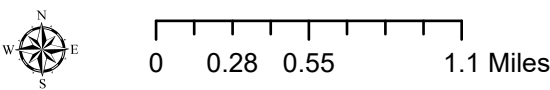
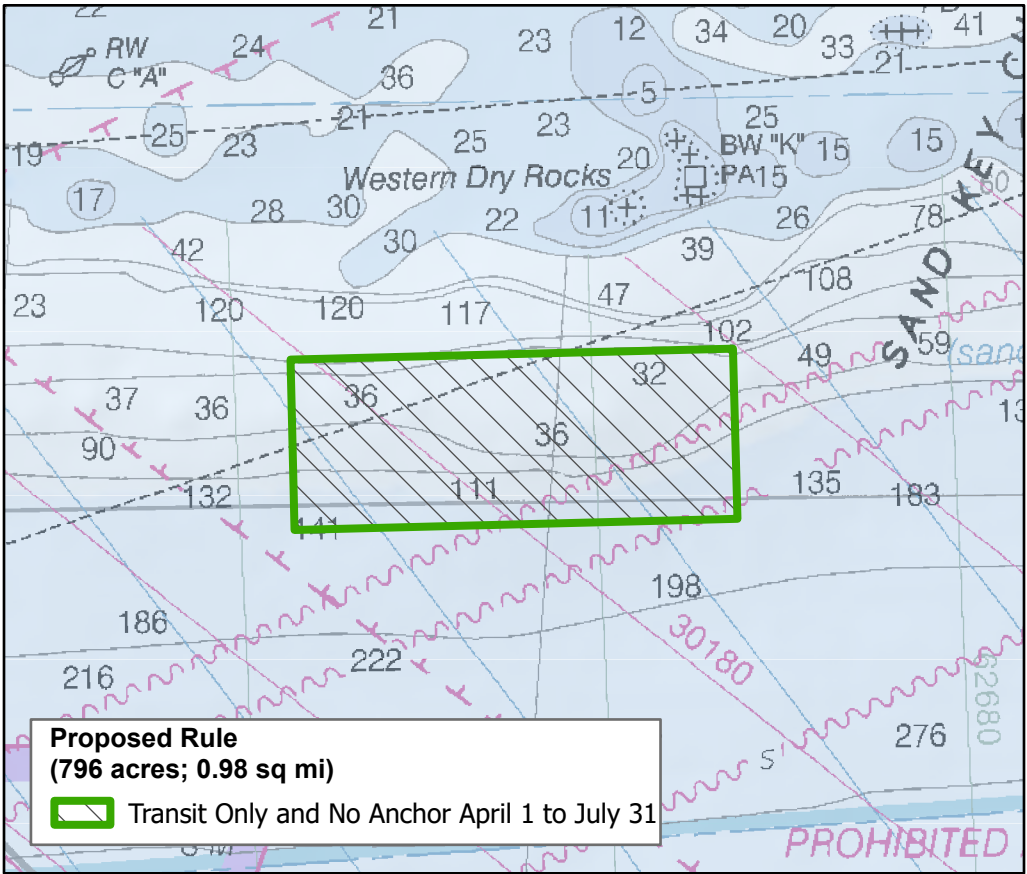
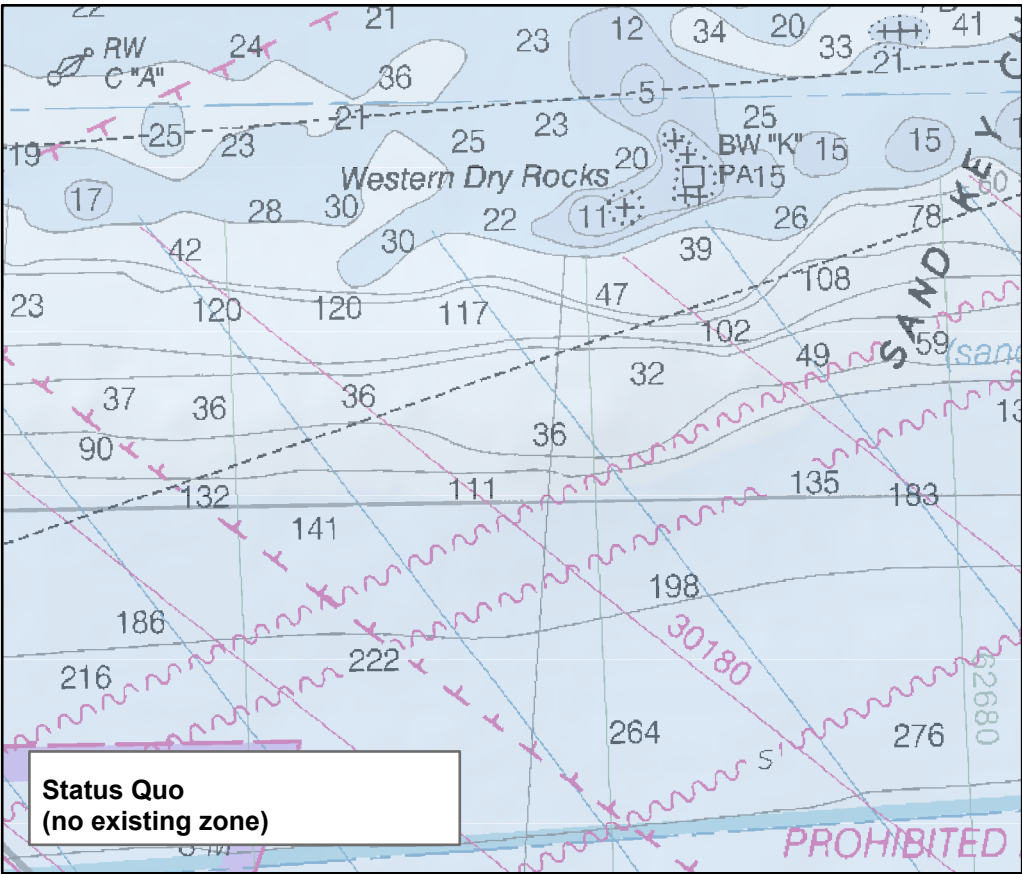
Sand Key RA: Provide additional protections to an existing, permitted coral nursery site.

Existing zone proposed to be eliminated as this zone no longer contains reproductively viable populations of ESA listed coral reef.

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Marquesas Region





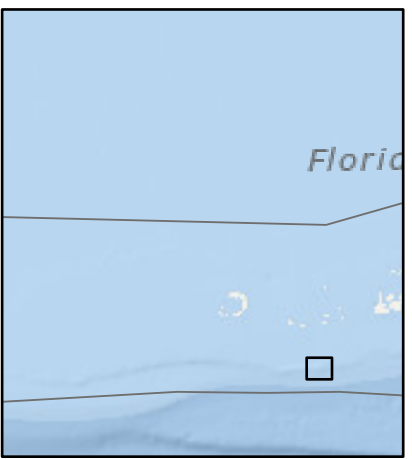
Western Dry Rocks Wildlife Management Area

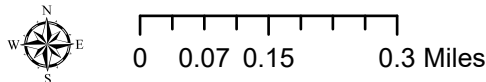
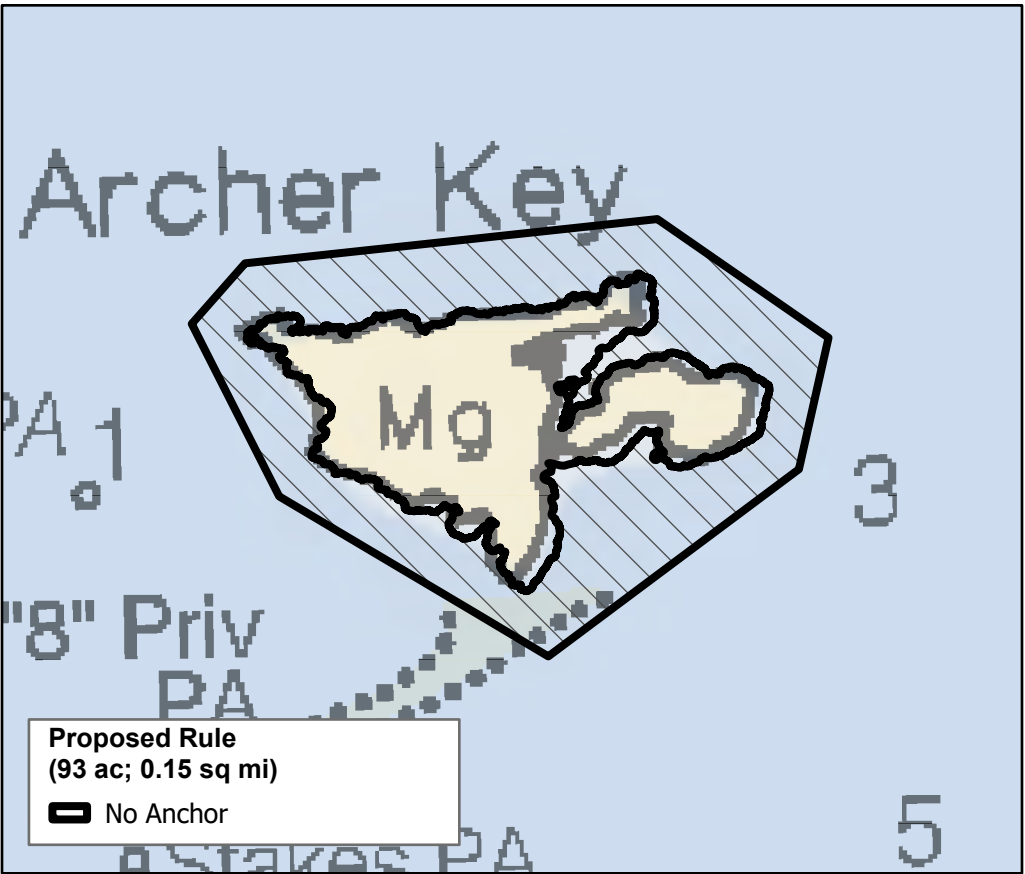
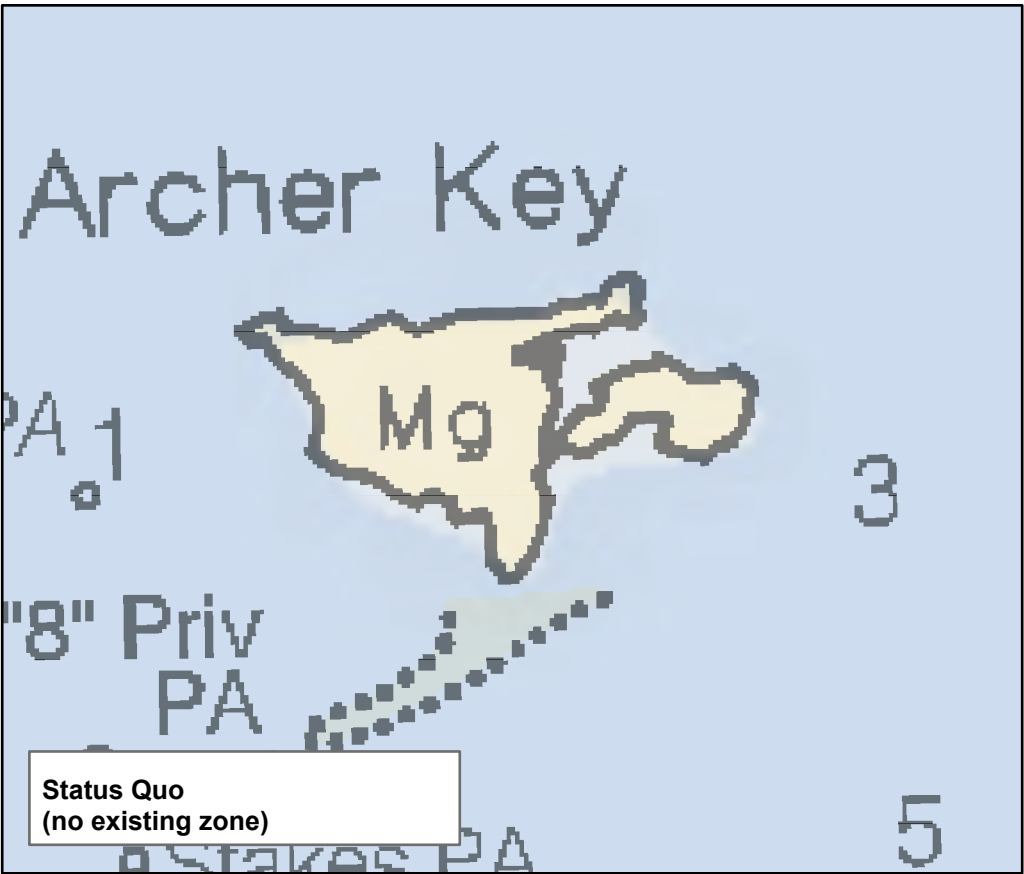
Protects an area of continuous reef with ecological significance for supporting multi-fish spawning aggregations. In 2021, FWC established a seasonal closure at Western Dry Rocks that prohibits fishing from April 1 through July 31 annually.

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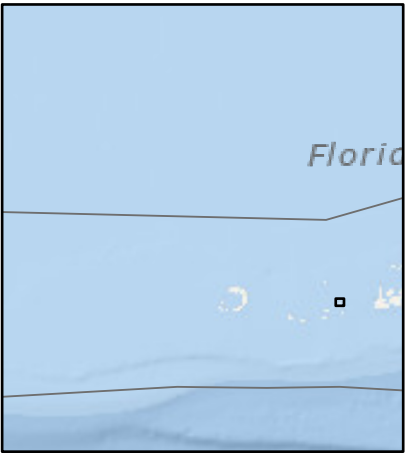




Archer Key Wildlife Management Area

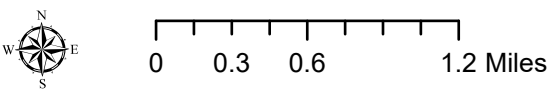
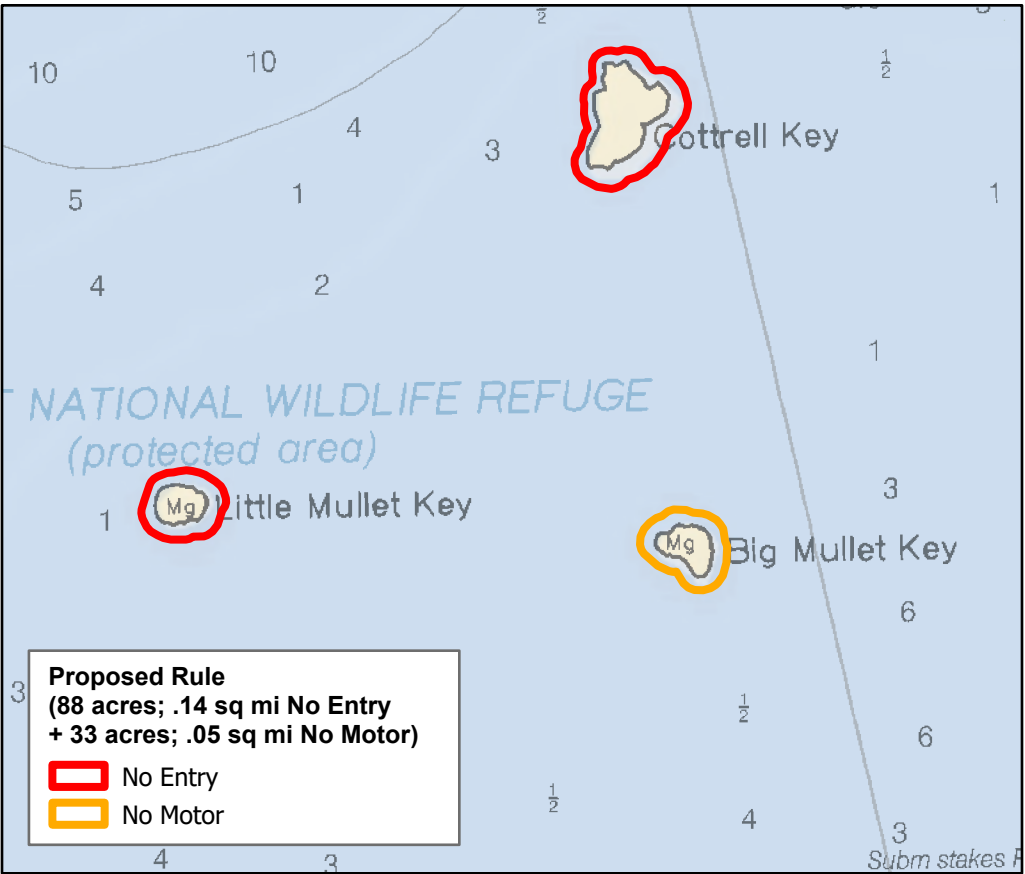
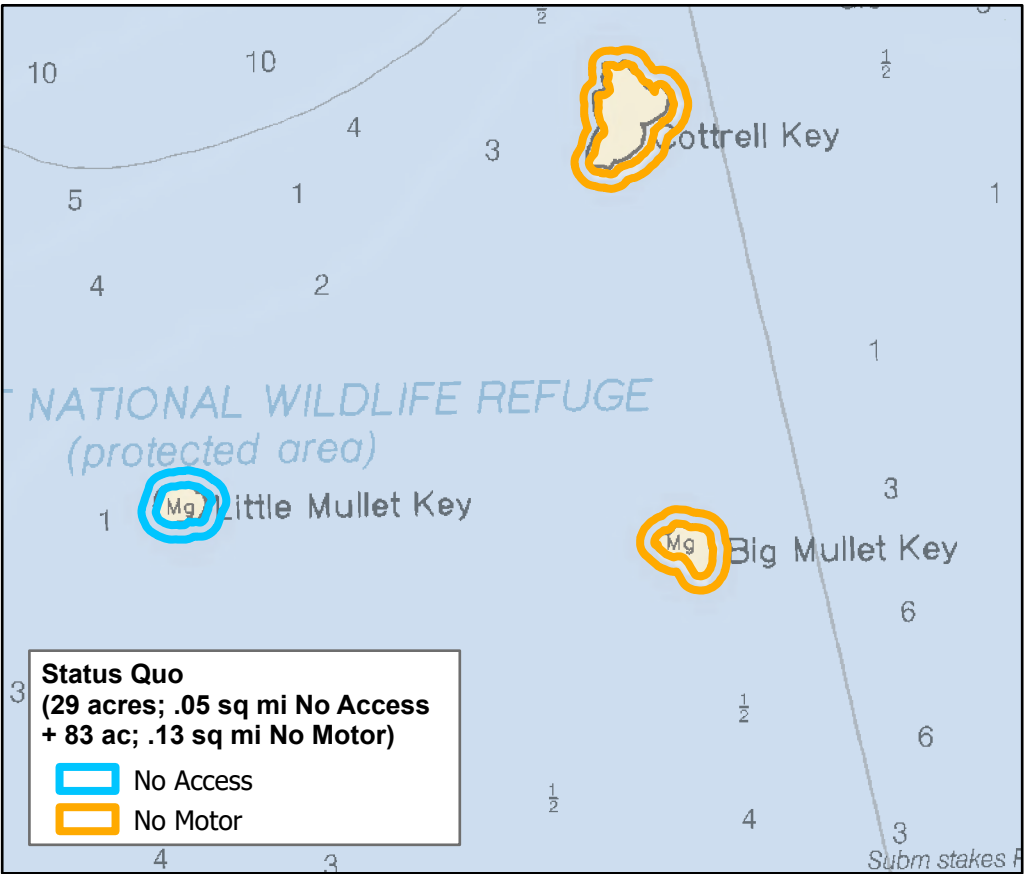
Decreases disturbance of nesting and roosting birds and protects seagrass habitat, soft corals, and sponges. Shallow seagrass flats around the island exhibit light-to-moderate prop scarring.

Marquesas Region



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Big Mullet Key, Little Mullet Key, and Cottrell Key Wildlife Management Areas

Little Mullet Key WMA: Decrease disturbance of nesting, roosting, and foraging birds. Shallow seagrass flats around the island exhibit light-to-severe prop scarring.

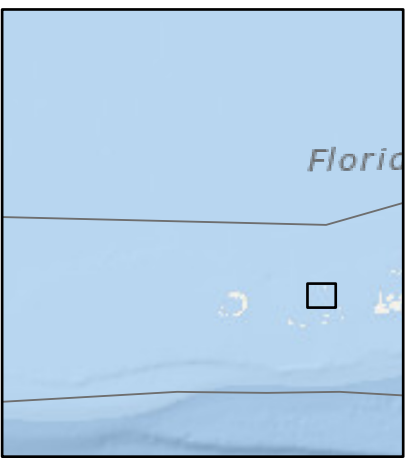
Big Mullet Key WMA: Decrease disturbance of nesting birds, a variety of wading birds, and mangrove terrapins. Some of the shallow seagrass flats around the island exhibit light prop scarring.

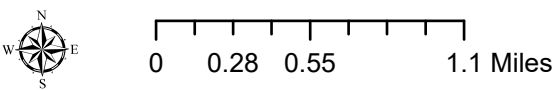
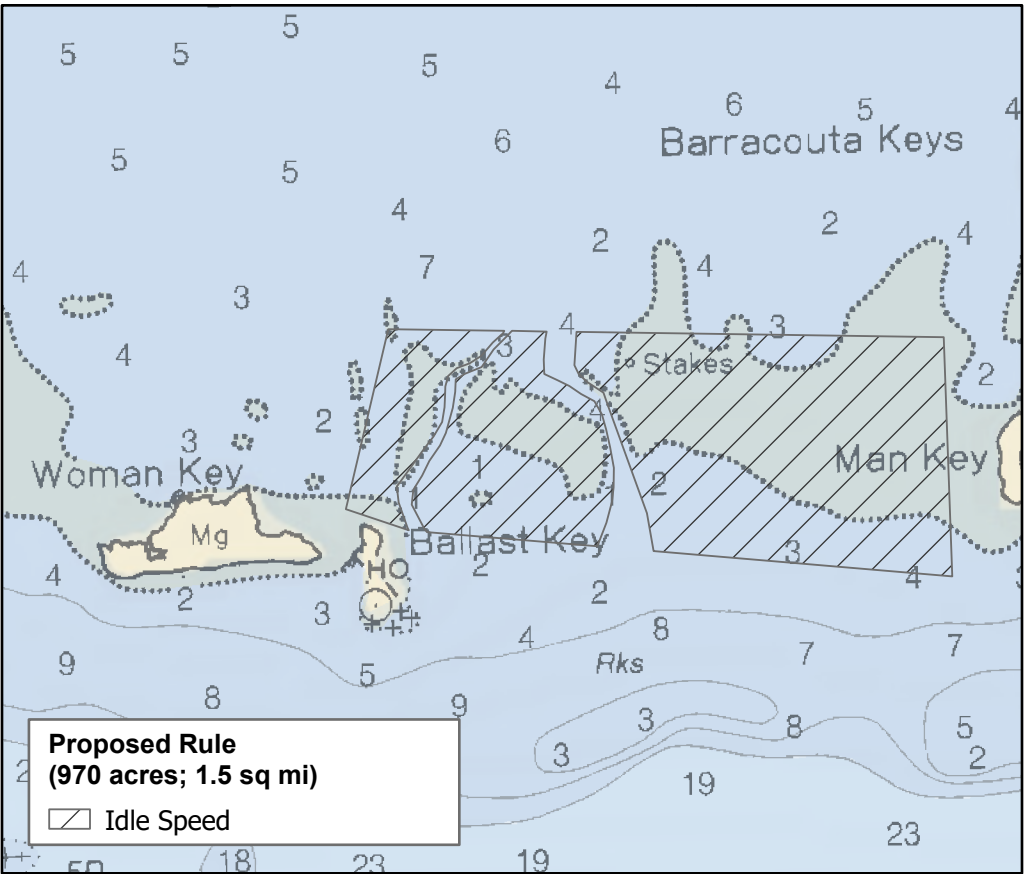
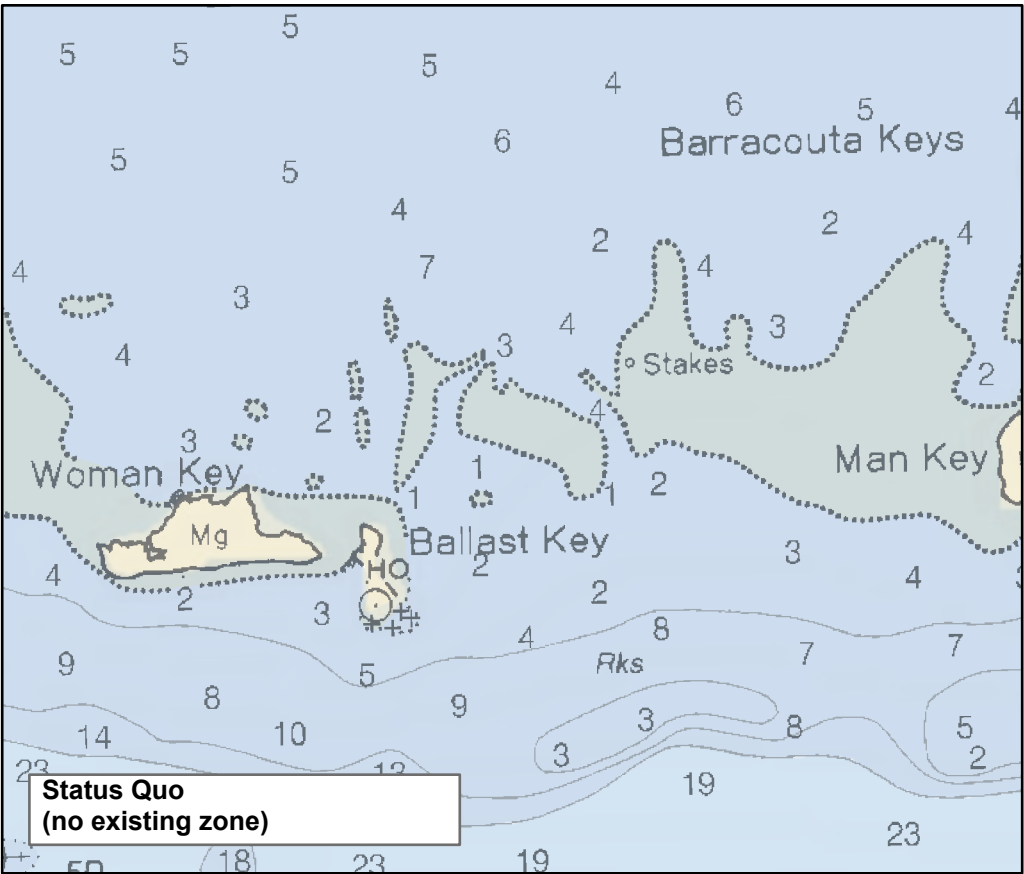
Cottrell Key WMA: Decrease disturbance of wading birds and mangrove terrapins. Cottrell Key has one of the highest annual counts of nesting great white herons in the lower Florida Keys, and serves as an important island for other nesting, roosting and foraging birds. Shallow seagrass flats around the island exhibit light prop scarring.

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Lower Keys Region





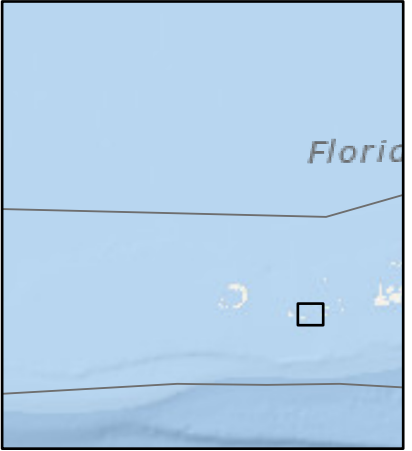
Ballast and Man Key Flats Wildlife Management Area

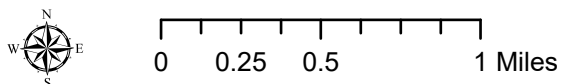
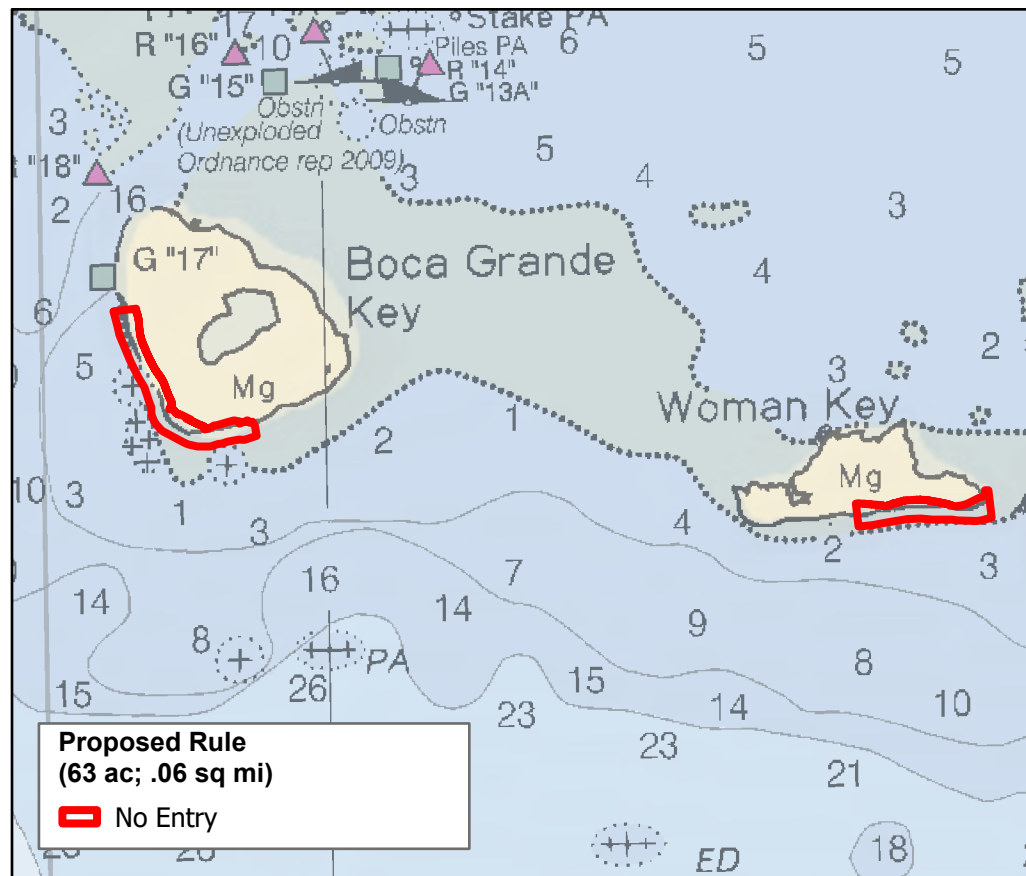
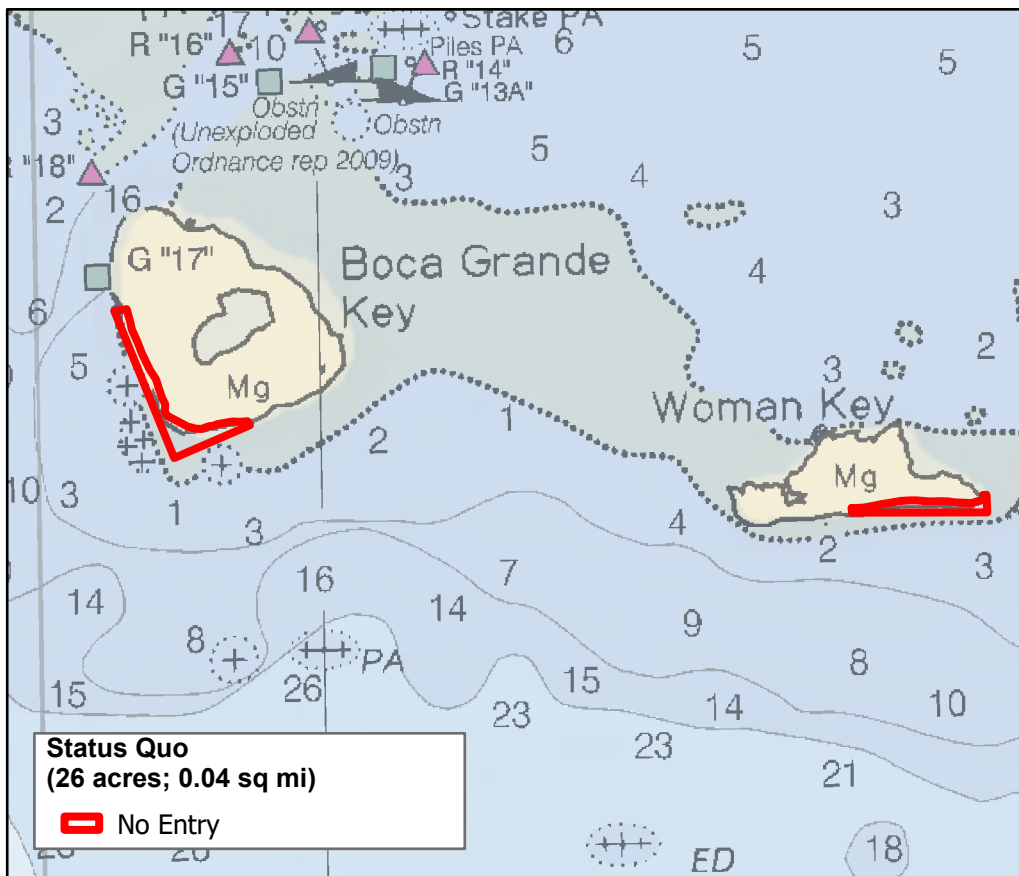
Decreases disturbance to ESA-listed sea turtles and protects important hardbottom habitat. Shallow seagrass flats in the area exhibit light-to-severe prop scarring. Additional regulation in this area would better protect sensitive benthic habitat and reduce user conflict between flats fishers and recreational boaters. Maintain use of channels.

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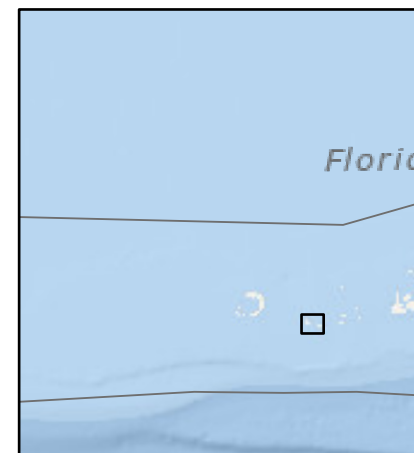
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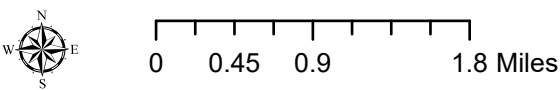
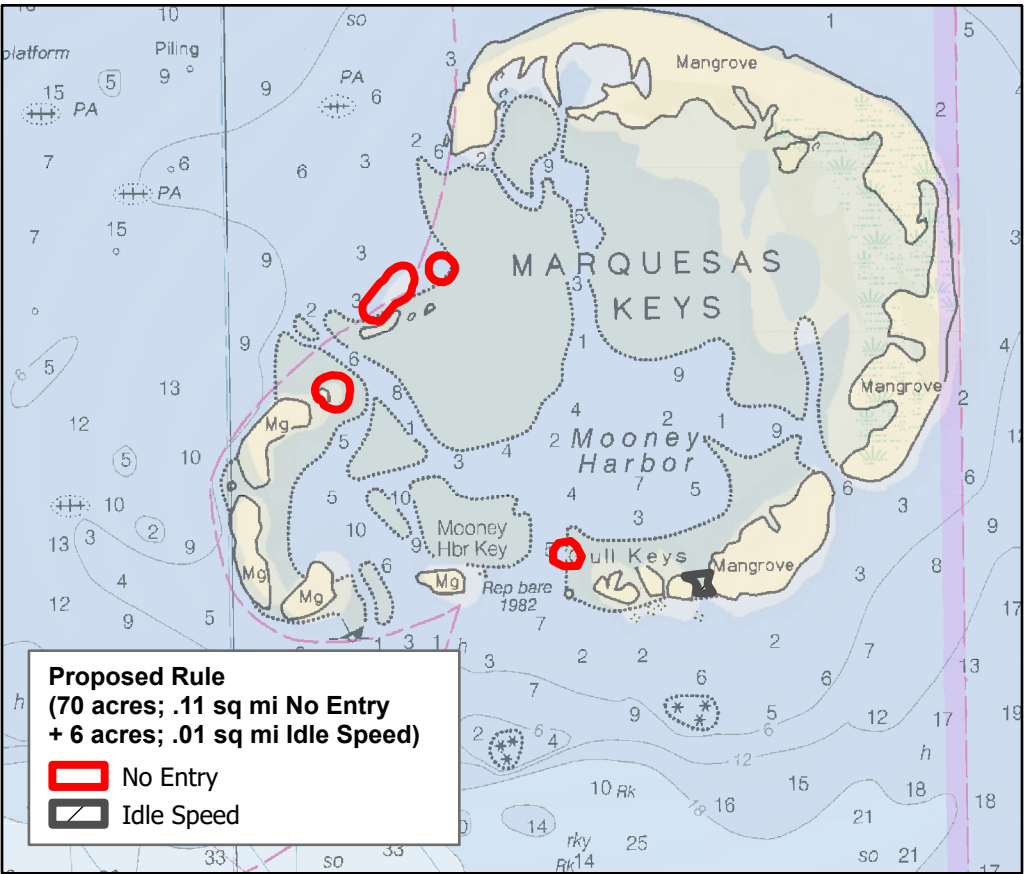
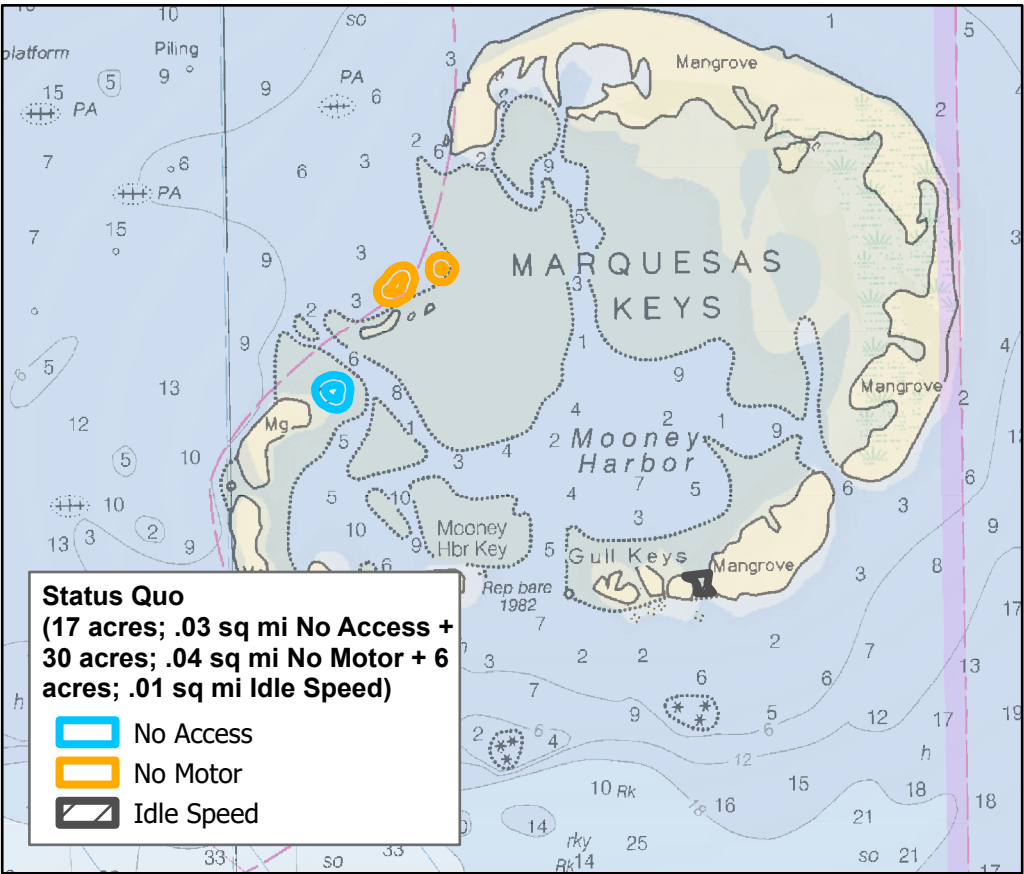
Boca Grande Key and Woman Key Wildlife Management Areas

Boca Grande Key WMA: Decrease disturbance of nesting and roosting birds. The island closure protects ESA-listed nesting sea turtle beaches and sensitive habitat including for the ESA-listed Miami blue butterfly. Sea turtle nesting beaches may be impacted by high concentrations of visitors.

Woman Key WMA: Decrease disturbance of nesting and roosting birds. Decrease disturbance of ESA-listed nesting turtles, which may be impacted by high concentrations of visitors.

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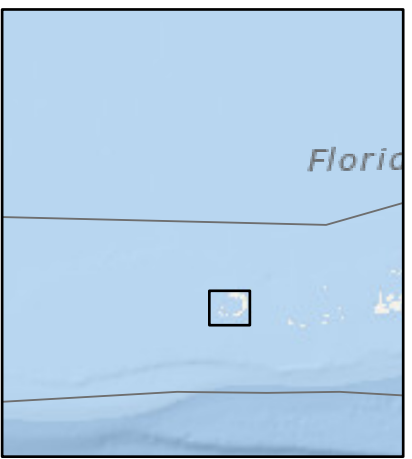
Marquesas Keys Wildlife Management Area

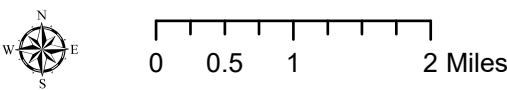
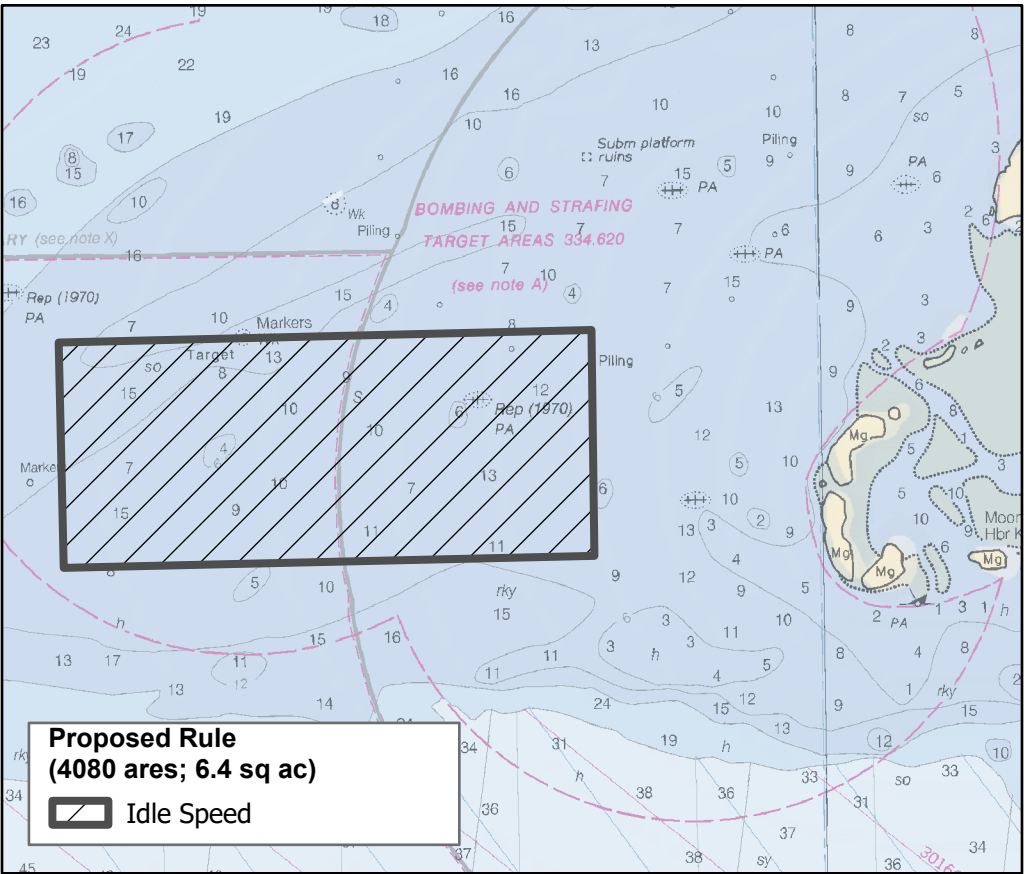
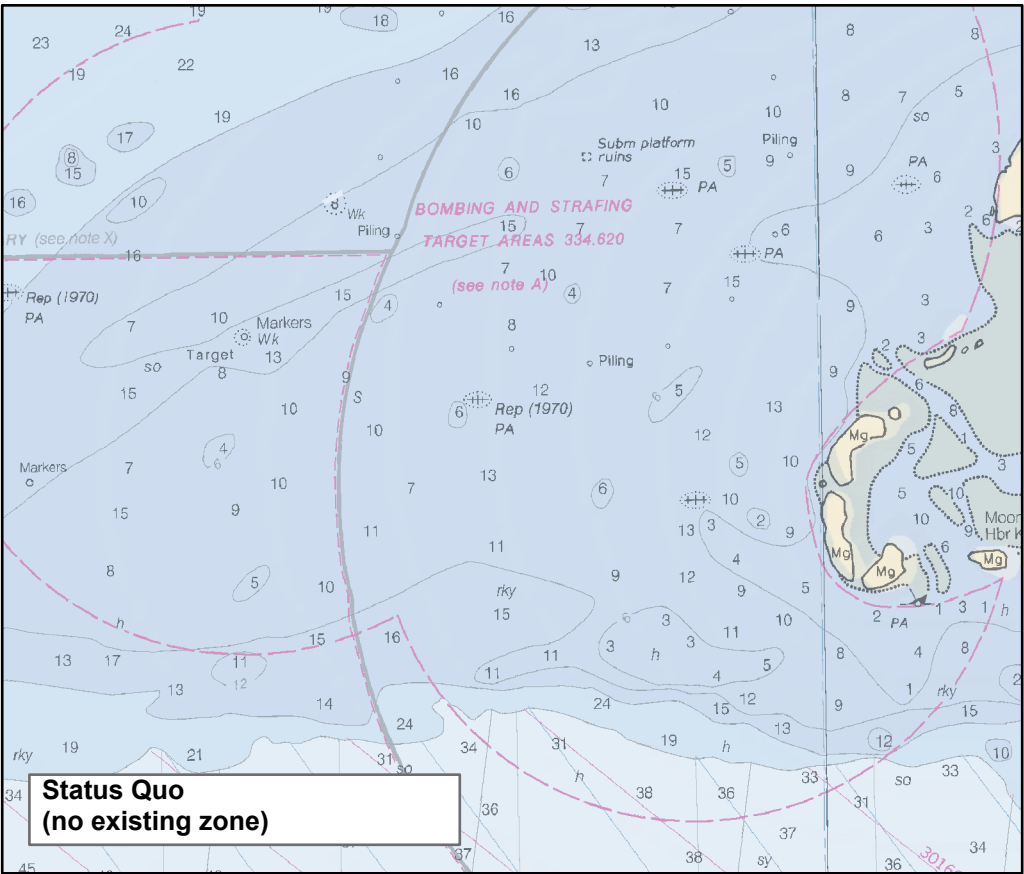
Decrease disturbance of nesting, feeding, and roosting birds and ESA-listed sea turtles. Shallow seagrass flats around the islands exhibit light-to-moderate prop scarring.

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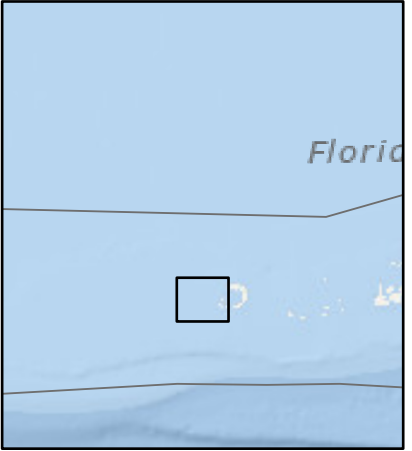
Marquesas Keys Turtle Wildlife Management Area

Decrease disturbance to ESA-listed green sea turtles on a rare, internationally-important foraging ground and decrease disturbance to the benthic habitat of this internationally important foraging ground.

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NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES

AMERICA'S UNDERWATER TREASURES