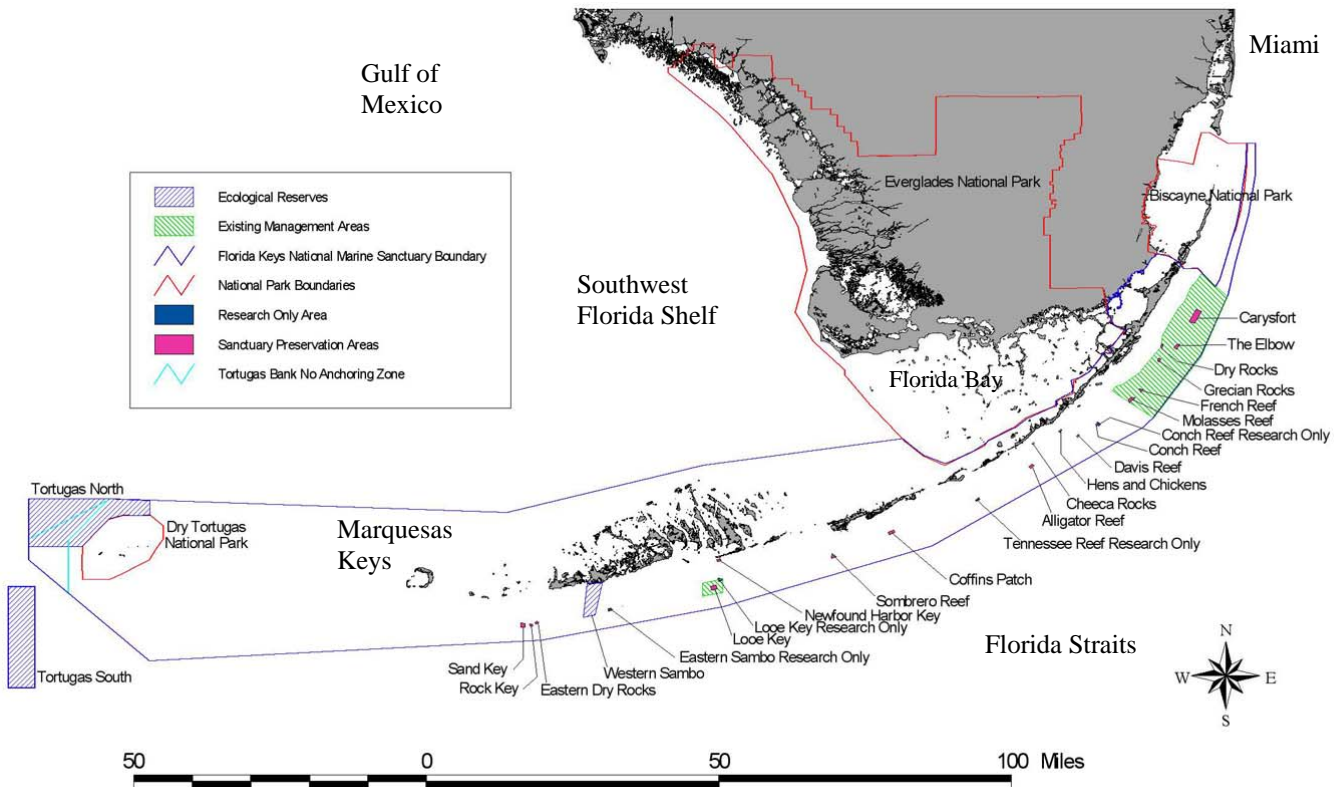


National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

State of Florida

*2002-03 Sanctuary Science Report:  
An Ecosystem Report Card  
After Five Years of Marine Zoning*



[http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/research\\_monitoring/welcome.html](http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/research_monitoring/welcome.html)

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## Preface

In this *2002-03 Sanctuary Science Report* we include updates on the three long-term, status-and-trends monitoring projects of the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) and on the projects that comprise the Marine Zone Monitoring Program. These two monitoring programs are inextricably related; population and community changes that result from the Sanctuary's network of fully protected marine zones occur in the context of large-scale environmental characteristics measured by the water quality, seagrass, and coral reef evaluation and monitoring projects of the WQPP. This year we have added a set of summary reports on socioeconomic research projects, and continue to present findings of partnership projects with NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science. After presenting reports on two long-spined urchin (*Diadema antillarum*) restoration projects, we conclude with lists of permitted research projects for the years 2002 and 2003.

We thank the large group of investigators working in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for designing projects and collecting the ecological and socioeconomic data we need to evaluate the condition of the Sanctuary's resources and how the ecosystem as well as human uses and perceptions respond to management actions.

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