

Issue: Protect critical and sensitive habitats



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)



NCCOS Program Goals & Objectives

NCCOS Strategic Goal 1.1, 1.3
All NOAA-protected areas will have baseline assessments of ecological resources
Determine the effectiveness of coastal managers' decisions in NOAA-protected areas

Issues & Problems

NCCOS Societal Stressor 2.2
Determine the social, economic, and biologic effects of human activities on specific coastal ecosystems

Research Response

NCCOS Project Title
"Ecological Characterization of Seagrass-Porites Coral Banks in the Florida Keys NMS"
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NMSP Management Need

Establish a baseline of human impacts and develop an integrated assessment to forecast the consequence of the current level of human impact on channel bank systems

Adaptive Management & Research Refinement



Performance Measures

Characterization

Variation in seagrass and coral cover, injury recovery rate, fish size, abundance, and diversity

Comparing geographically distinct channel banks systems and surrounding habitat

Achievement of outcome: Predict consequences of no management action to the channel bank systems of FKNMS

