

Goals and Objectives for Marine Zoning Review

- A. To improve the diversity of natural biological communities in the Florida Keys to protect, and, where appropriate restore and enhance natural habitats, populations and ecological processes overall and in each of these sub regions Tortugas, Marquesas, Lower, Middle, and Upper Keys.**
 - 1. Reduce stresses from human activities by establishing areas that restrict access to sensitive wildlife populations and habitats.**
 - 2. Protect large, contiguous, diverse and interconnected habitats that provide natural spawning, nursery, and permanent residence areas for the replenishment and genetic protection of marine life and protect and preserve all habitats and species.**
 - 3. Improve/maintain the condition of the biologically structured habitats including**
 - a. Coral Reef**
 - i. Inshore Patch Reef**
 - ii. Mid-Channel Patch Reef**
 - iii. Offshore Patch Reef**
 - iv. Reef Margin**
 - v. Fore Reef**
 - vi. Deep Reef**
 - b. Seagrass Bed**
 - c. Hardbottom**
 - d. Coastal Mangrove**
 - 4. Increase abundance and condition of selected key species including corals, queen conch, long spined sea urchin, groupers, birds and seaturtles.**

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- B. To facilitate to the extent compatible with the primary objective of resource protection, all public and private uses of the resources of these marine areas not prohibited pursuant to other authorities.**
- 1. Minimize conflicts among uses compatible with the NMS.**
 - 2. Prevent heavy concentrations of uses that degrade Sanctuary resources.**
 - 3. Provide undisturbed monitoring sites for research and control sites to help determine the effects of human activities.**
 - 4. Achieve a vibrant ecologically sustainable ecosystem and economy.**
 - a. Apply the best available science and balanced, conservation based management.**

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Principles for Marine Zoning Review

- 1. The FKNMS regulation/zoning review should be conducted with the recognition that there are bordering and overlapping marine management regimes in place, and that these regimes must be considered when contemplating changes to the FKNMS regulation/marine zoning structure.**
- 2. All areas of the FKNMS should be classified as part of a specific zone, therefore the current “unzoned” area should be classified as a recognized zone type such as “general use area” or “multiple use area”.**
- 3. Each habitat type (5) should be represented in a non-extractive marine zone in each of the biogeographically distinct sub regions of the FKNMS to achieve replication. The sub regions identified were the Tortugas, Marquesas, and Lower, Middle, and Upper Keys.**
- 4. Information on resilient reef areas that can serve as refugia should be taken into account in zoning changes.**
- 5. Temporal zoning should be considered as a tool for protecting spawning aggregations and nesting seasons.**
- 6. The size of individual non-extractive zoned areas, the cumulative total area included in non-extractive zones, and their spatial relationship with one another matter greatly in achieving the resource protection purposes of the FKNMS.**