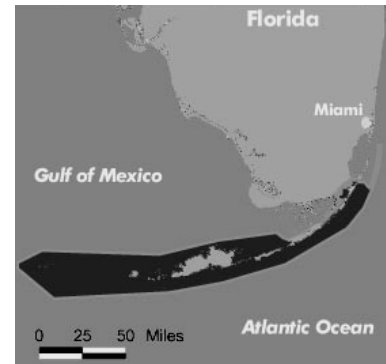


Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary



- **Year Designated:** 1990
- **Size (area):** 3,842 square miles
- **Location:** Extends 220 miles in a northeast to southwest arc between the southern tip of Key Biscayne, south of Miami, to beyond, but not including, the Dry Tortugas Islands, which are encompassed by the Dry Tortugas National Park
- **State Waters:** Approximately 2,497 square miles (65% of the NMS)
- **Purpose:** To protect and preserve this unique and fragile ecosystem.
- **Fully-Protected Areas:** Approximately 232 square miles
- **Date Management Plan Issued:** 1997
- **Date of Management Plan Review:** Draft Revised Management Plan completed in February 2005. The draft plan was open to public comment from February 15 through April 15, 2005. As of December 2005, the Final Revised Management Plan is still awaiting final approval.



Map credit: Florida Keys NMS

Sanctuary Website: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/>

Sanctuary Regulations: 15 C.F.R. § 922, Subpart P

Examples of Research and Monitoring Activities in the Sanctuary:

- Water Quality Protection Program began in 1994 and includes three monitoring projects: water quality, corals/hard bottoms, and seagrass.
- Monitoring changes within the Sanctuary as a result of the network of fully protected marine zones.
- Oceanographic monitoring.
- Numerous (approximately 50-100) research permits are issued each year to conduct research on a variety of topics, such as population genetics and ecology, community structure, microbial communities, biology of various plants and animals, physiology, and coral symbioses and bleaching.
- Socio-economic studies.

Examples of Endangered and Threatened Species in the Sanctuary:

Endangered	Threatened	Delisted
Blue Whale	Lower Keys Marsh Rabbit	Stock Island Tree Snail
Fin Whale	Bachman's Warbler	Bald Eagle
Humpback Whale	Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow	Piping Plover
Right Whale	Wood Stork	Roseate Tern
Sei Whale	Small's Milkpea	Garber's Spurge
Sperm Whale	Tree Cactus	
Florida Manatee	Schaus' Swallowtail Butterfly	
Key Deer		
Key Largo Cotton Mouse		
Silver Rice Rat		

Summary of Regulation of Activities and Uses in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
 (For full regulations, see 15 C.F.R. § 922 and contact the regulating agencies)



Type of Use	Regulated by the Sanctuary (NMS)				Examples of Other Regulating Agencies, States/Territories, or Laws (may not be comprehensive list)
	Zoned (areas closed to this type of use)	Restricted	Prohibited	Comments	
Commercial Fishing	√			Listed gears prohibited in some zones; other zones prohibit all fishing	State of Florida, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, South Atlantic and Gulf Fishery Management Councils
Recreational Fishing	√			Listed gears prohibited in some zones; other zones prohibit all fishing	State of Florida, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, South Atlantic and Gulf Fishery Management Councils
Bottom Trawling	√			Prohibited in some zones; other zones prohibit all fishing	State of Florida, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, South Atlantic and Gulf Fishery Management Councils
Collecting Aquarium Fish	√			Zones closed to take of any tropical fish	State of Florida, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, South Atlantic and Gulf Fishery Management Councils
Aquaculture				May be regulated under Discharges and Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	State of Florida, Army Corps, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Protection Agency, National Park Service
Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	√	√		Zones closed to all anchoring; Sanctuary-wide, listed activities are allowed, e.g., anchoring, traditional fishing, etc.	U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service
Seabed cables or devices				May be regulated under Alteration of or Construction on Seafloor	Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, Army Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, FCC
Exploring for, Developing, or Producing Oil and Gas			√		Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Exploring for, Developing or Producing Other Minerals			√		Minerals Management Service, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act
Removal/Damage of Natural Resources	√	√		Listed species are protected in all areas; some zones completely closed	U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service
Removal/Damage of Cultural or Historical Resources			√		U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, Abandoned Shipwreck Act of 1987
Overflights				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Use of motorized watercraft	√	√		Some zones closed to vessels, other areas have speed and size restrictions	U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service
Underwater Noise				Not regulated by NMS regulations	Marine Mammal Protection Act
Discharging or Depositing Material Within the NMS		√		Only listed types of discharge are allowed	U.S. Coast Guard
Discharging or Depositing Material Outside the NMS that Might Injure NMS Resources				Not regulated by NMS regulations	U.S. Coast Guard

Other Regulations: The NMS coordinates management with the State (for State waters within the NMS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (for Wildlife Refuges within the NMS). The National Park Service, however, maintains its own jurisdiction and no NMS regulations apply to the National Parks within the NMS. NMS regulations authorize permits for research, education, or salvage/recovery operations, even for otherwise prohibited or restricted activities. In addition to the uses regulated in the above table, the following are regulated: possession or use of explosives or electrical charges, release/introduction of exotic species, damage or removal of markers, diving/snorkeling without a dive flag, or release of exotic species.