

2011 Plan ALTERNATIVE 4 Marine Reserve Zone

- Provide memorable visitor experience while maintaining a healthier reef
- Protect aquatic community and reef ecosystem
- Improve fishing opportunities outside of zone from spillover



Public Input on the 2011 Plan

Draft Plan released in August 2011 for public comment on alternatives 1-5.

- Over 18,000 comments on the draft plan
- Most comments were related to the proposed Marine Reserve Zone



Why Consider a New Approach?

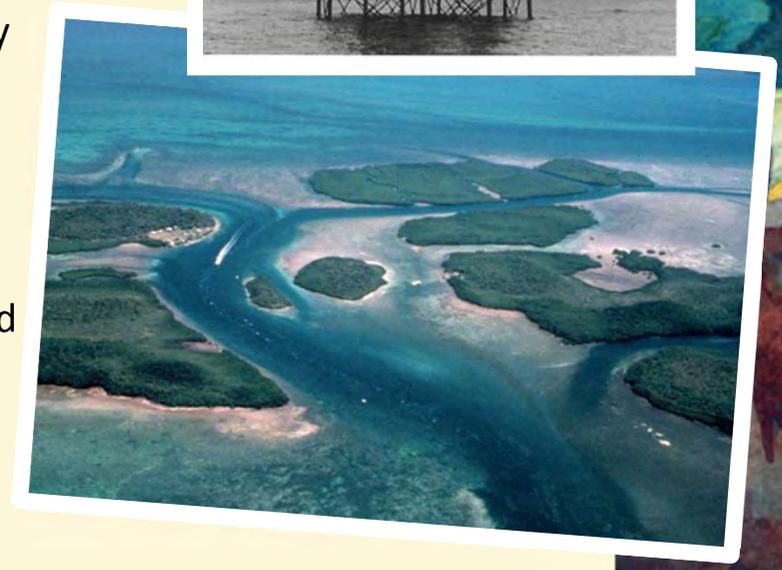
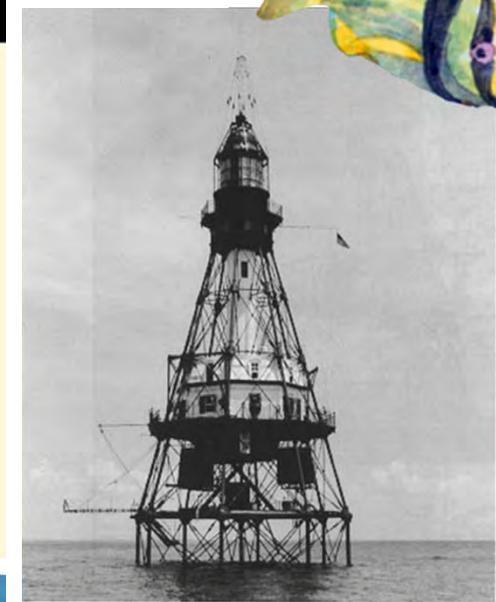
- Comments included substantive comments on negative impacts from marine reserves
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
 - Fishing stakeholders
- NPS considering a different approach:
 - Allow continued fishing
 - Still achieve many original MRZ goals
 - Healthier reef, memorable visitor experience, enhanced marine resource protection
 - Review progress over time with potential for future management changes
 - Process known as “Adaptive Management”

Development of Supplemental Plan



Overview Alternatives 6 (*preferred*) & 7

- Common to both alternatives
 - Implement Fishery Management Plan
 - Pursue acquisition of Ragged Keys 2, 3, and 5 from willing sellers
 - Maintain Fowey Rocks Lighthouse
 - Increased protection in a smaller area for Legare
- Mainland
 - Add platform and boardwalk
 - Install informational kiosks outside park boundary
- Keys
 - Porgy: Add canoe dock
 - Adams/Elliott: Add new kayak/canoe staging area
 - Arsenicker, West Arsenicker, and Swan: closed as natural resource protection zone primarily for bird nesting and protected plant species
- Reef tract
 - **NEW! Special Recreation Zone**



ALTERNATIVES 6 & 7

- Alternatives were based on Alternative 4
- Changes based on public comments
- Location of new zone similar to Alt 4
- Special Recreation Zone 39% larger
- Protect 70% of park's reefs
- Reduced Legare Anchorage



Marine Resource Protection in the SRZ

Special recreation zone larger than marine reserve zone while providing similar goals of healthier coral reef system.

- Balances visitor use and resource protection: less restrictive than a marine reserve zone
- Enhanced range of opportunities for visitor experiences
- Many protections retained: no anchoring, no traps, no commercial fishing except ballyhoo
- Mooring buoys



Fishing Access in the SRZ

- Dual state and federal permit system (Alternative 6 only)
- Spearfishing, lobstering, and grouper harvest prohibited
- Lionfish harvest encouraged (spearfishing allowed for exotics)
- Commercial fishing prohibited, except ballyhoo lampara net fishery



Commercial Fishing

- GMP **ALTERNATIVE 6** and **ALTERNATIVE 7** eliminate commercial fishing in the SRZ
 - Exception for lampara net ballyhoo fishery
- Final Fishery Management Plan is anticipated for release early 2014 and would phase out commercial fishing in the entire park
- Special state and federal regulations would be required to phase out commercial fishing
 - Ballyhoo commercial fishery would be phased out in Fishery Management Plan

