



General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Buck Island Reef National Monument

**Public Meetings
June, 2004**

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Buck Island Reef National Monument

- 176-acre tropical dry forest island
- Most significant coral barrier reef under U. S. jurisdiction
- Expanded 2001 adding 18,135 acres of submerged lands
- Only fully protected marine area in National Park System

Buck Island Reef NM Expansion



 **Original Boundary**
880 acres

 **Expanded Boundary**
19015 acres





Park Expansion Story

- Park Expansion by Presidential Proclamation
January 2001**
- Challenged U. S Government Ownership of
Submerged Lands March 2001**
- Review by Government Accounting Office
Findings November 2002**
- Interim Regulations
Published April 2003 / Implemented May 2003**

New Park Regulations

- All extractive uses eliminated
- Boat anchoring allowed only in designated areas
- General Management Plan & Vessel Management Plan in 2 years

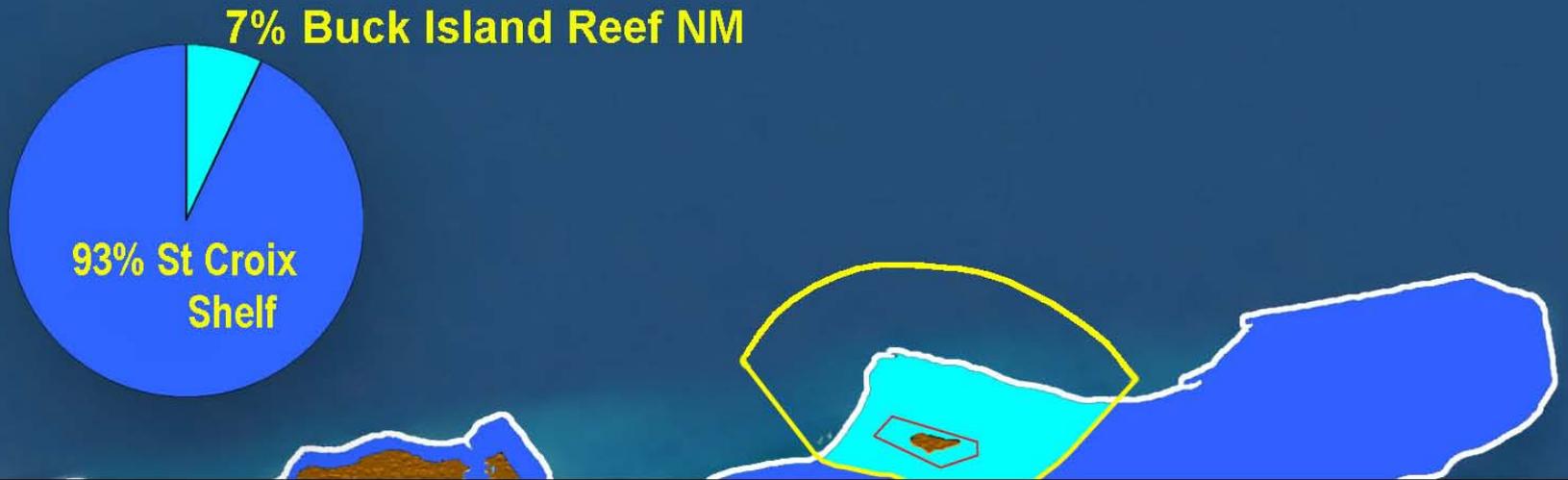


Benefits to Marine Resources

- **Large enough to be biologically relevant containing sufficient interrelated habitats for a healthy ecosystem.**
- **Improved habitat diversity providing healthy habitats for wildlife to forage, breed, nest, rest, and calve protected from extractive uses.**
- **Size does not significantly impact available fishing areas.**



Buck Island Reef National Monument Percent of St. Croix Shelf



Overtime, the Monument will improve adjacent fishing areas.



National Park Service Organic Act

”...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Stewardship

National Park Service has an obligation to develop a clear direction for the future stewardship of all parks under its care.



The General Management Plan

provides parks with a blueprint for stewardship.



St. Croix Ground Lizard



Flowering Agavi



Juvenile French Angelfish



Why Do We Plan?

Planning is required by the Law

Nat'l Historic Preservation Act 1966

Nat'l Environmental Policy Act 1970

Nat'l Parks & Recreation Act 1978

Gov't Performance & Results Act 1993

Benefits

Logical, trackable, and a rationale

Analysis

Public involvement

Accountability



What is a General Management Plan?

- **Creates a clear vision & direction for the future**
- **Broad, conceptual, & goal driven**
- **Defines types of resource conditions, visitor experiences, & management actions that will best preserve the resources**
- **Identifies management strategies, uses, & development that will achieve those conditions**



What the GMP does for the park ?

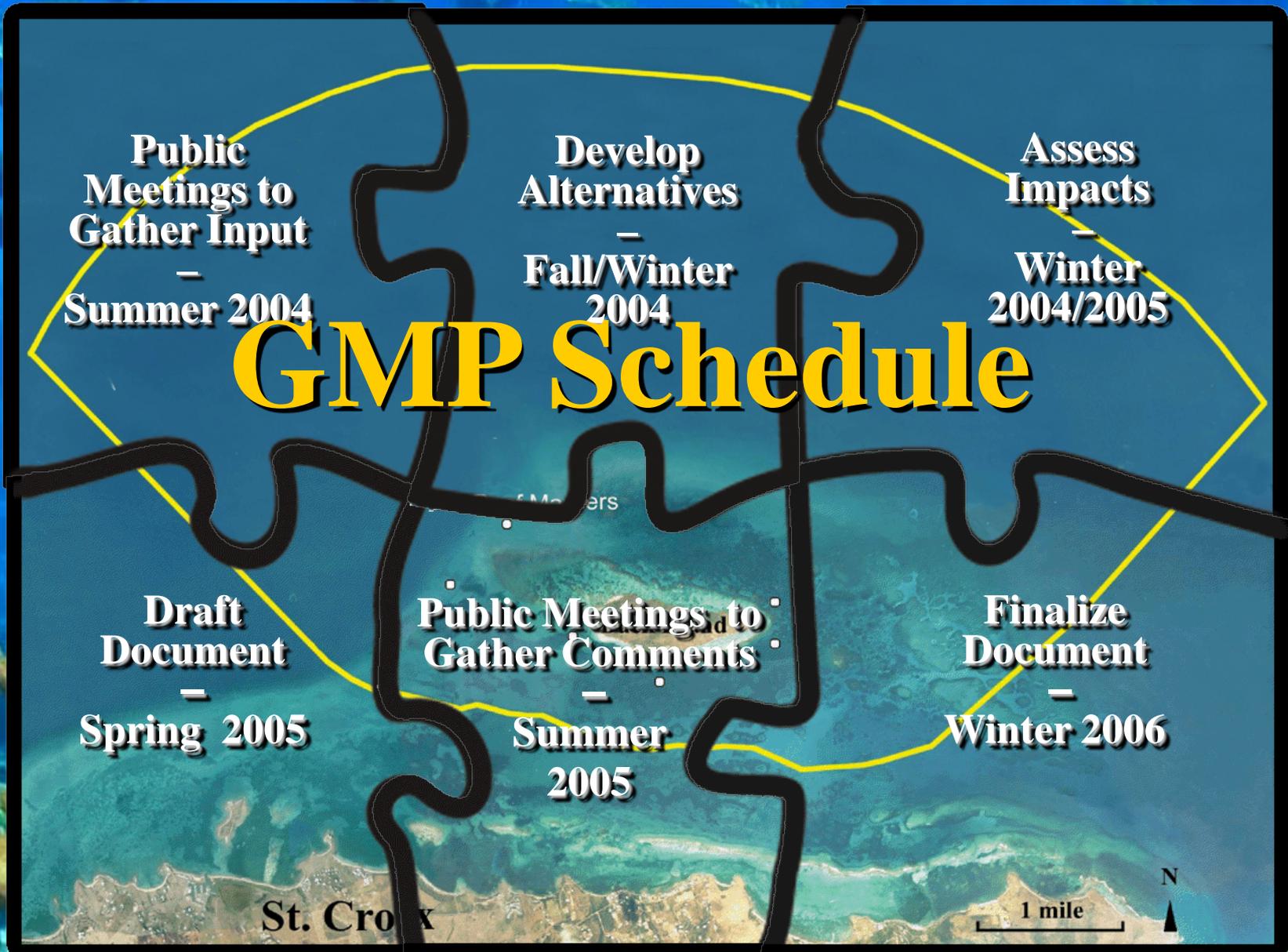
- Sets priorities for stewardship, visitor understanding, partnerships, facilities, & operations for the next 15 – 20 years**
- Guides park programs**
- Ensures decision making is developed in consultation with stakeholders and the public**
- GMP is adopted by NPS leadership after analysis of benefits, environmental impacts, & economic costs of alternative courses of action**

Planning Process

- **Scoping Meetings with Stakeholders**
- **Public Scoping Meetings**
- **Set Goals and Objectives**
- **Analyze Resources**
- **Develop Alternatives**
- **Draft GMP/EIS**
- **Final GMP/EIS**



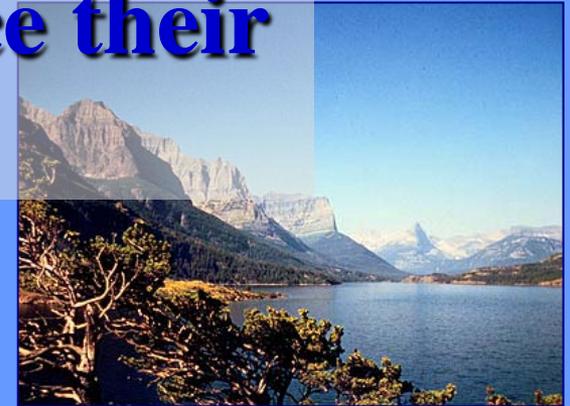
BUIS Concessionaires Meeting



GMP Schedule



**The National Park Service
cares for special places saved
by the American people so
that all may experience their
heritage**





Park Mission Statement

Buck Island Reef National Monument's mission is to protect, preserve, manage, and interpret the monument's seascapes, scenic views, and unique natural and cultural resources unimpaired for the education, enjoyment and inspiration of present and future generations.

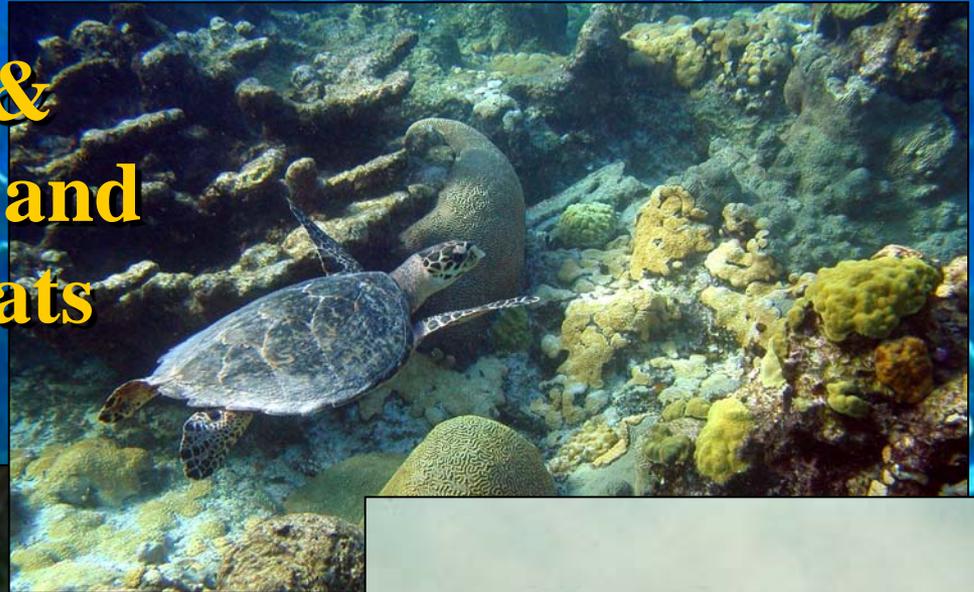
Park Purpose

Preserve and protect the island and tropical marine ecosystem including coral reefs, sea grass beds, octocoral hardbottom, sand communities, algal plains, shelf edge, and oceanic habitats



Park Purpose

Protect threatened & endangered species and enhance their habitats and survivability



Park Purpose

**Enhance the health
and diversity of
fisheries resources
through their protection**

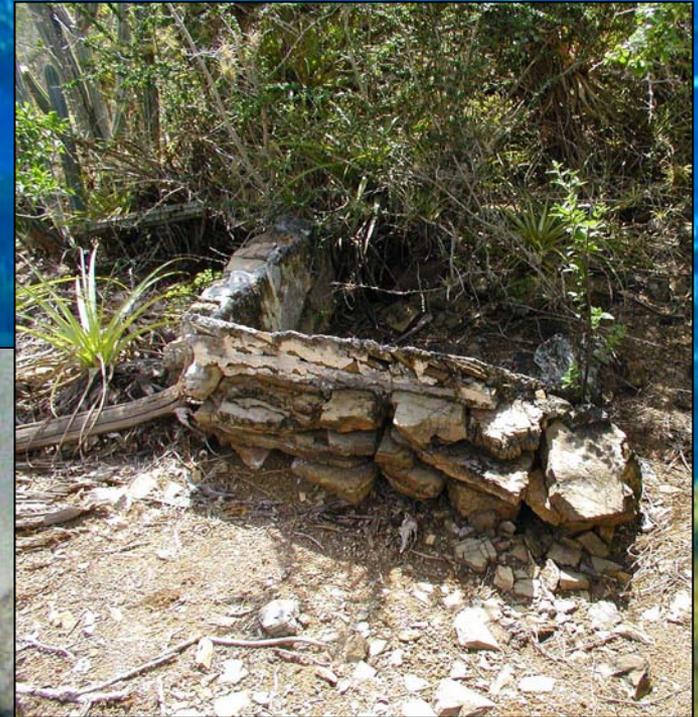


Park Purpose

**Protect and manage
terrestrial and submerged
cultural resources**



1800's Shipwreck Materials



Historic Danish Ruins

Park Purpose

Preserve this area of outstanding scientific, aesthetic, and educational importance for the benefit and enjoyment of the people now and for the future.





Your Input Counts

- **NPS needs your comments by July 26**
- **Please include your name and address**
- **E-mails, letters, comment cards may be used**



The National Park Service will use your input to prepare the General Management Plan



The Buck Island Reef GMP Review Team

- **NPS Park Staff**

Superintendent Joel Tutein

Chief Resources Zandy Hillis-Starr

Chief Interpretation William Cissel

- **NPS Regional Staff**

Planning John Barrett

- **Contractor Parsons**

Team Leader Alyse Getty

Steve Bach, Angie Cook

A collage of images related to Buck Island Reef National Monument. The background features an underwater scene with coral reefs and fish. Overlaid on this are several scenes: a white boat docked at a pier, two women in swimwear walking on a sandy beach, a person in a white shirt and dark pants looking at a map, a diver swimming underwater, and a sailboat on a beach. The text "Help Us Plan for the Future of Buck Island Reef NM" is centered over the collage in a yellow, serif font.

Help Us Plan for the Future of Buck Island Reef NM