



PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public input and feedback is a key element of the environmental impact statement process. Public and agency review of this draft document for Biscayne National Park help ensure that relevant issues and alternatives are adequately considered and evaluated and that all pertinent implications of the alternatives have been analyzed. The purpose of this section is to describe the agency and public comments received during the initial scoping process, and those from comments on the preliminary management prescriptions and alternatives. The comments and agency responses allow interested parties (including the National Park Service) to review and assess how other agencies, organizations, and individuals view the park and have responded to the different alternatives.

The 2011 Draft GMP/EIS fully described the publication participation process on pages 285–292, including these topics:

- Public meetings and newsletters
- Consultation with Other Agencies/ Officials and Organizations
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Fisheries
 - Coastal Zone Management
 - National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation
 - American Indian Tribes
 - Miami-Dade Historic Preservation
 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
- Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals who received a copy of the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS

Copies of our consultation letters for the above topics are included in appendix D.

The National Park Service conducted public scoping meetings and workshops (in 2001, 2003, and 2009) and held three public meetings on the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS. During the public comment period in 2011, more than 300 people attended public meetings. The majority (17,597) of comments supported an alternative that contained a marine reserve zone, with 294 comments in opposition.

On September 14, 2011, the National Park Service received a letter from the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources (SHPO) that stated the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS adequately addresses cultural resources located within Biscayne National Park. A copy of the SHPO consultation letter is included in appendix D.

In January 2012, the National Park Service received a letter from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, including a letter from the Florida Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Commission, raising a number of significant concerns about the NPS preferred alternative (see appendix G). In particular, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Florida Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Commission identified a number of Florida statutes and policies of Florida's Coastal Management Program as the basis for their objections to the General Management Plan under the Coastal Zone Management Act. The State of Florida stated certain management actions and zones proposed in the General Management Plan, notably the marine reserve zone, are inconsistent with enforceable policies included in Florida Coastal Zone Management Program absent changes to the preferred alternative. In addition, the commission felt there were inconsistencies with the 2007 Memorandum of Understanding between Florida Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Commission and

the park. The position of the State of Florida was that any consideration of a marine reserve zone could only occur after measurable management objectives have been clearly defined and less restrictive management measures have been appropriately implemented and evaluated in close coordination with Florida Fish and Wildlife and Conservation Commission and stakeholders. The National Park Service maintains that the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS is consistent with the Coastal Zone Management Act and the memorandum of understanding.

In light of the concerns raised by the State of Florida and a number of other stakeholders, the National Park Service undertook an evaluative process to consider a number of management actions that could be deployed to achieve its objective of a diversified visitor use experience. All proposals were evaluated for protection of natural and cultural resources in the park. The National Park Service examined a wide range of management strategies that include varying

degrees of access for the diversity of visitor experiences. A number of additional meetings were held with federal and state authorities to discuss these proposals.

On September 19, 2012, the National Park Service received the biological opinion from the NOAA Fisheries that included section 7 determinations on the species that were listed at the time of the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS release. The cover letter is included in appendix D.

The National Park Service did not receive any official comments from any tribes on the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS.

For this SDEIS, the park will continue to consult with appropriate agencies and tribes to address the Endangered Species Act, section 7, and the National Historic Preservation Act, section 106 concerns as described on pages 287–290 of the 2011 Draft GMP/EIS.

AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
U.S. Department of Commerce
NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Service,
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary,
U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, South
Atlantic Fisheries Management Council
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Forest Service
Natural Resources Conservation
Service
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. National Park Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

U.S. SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Honorable, U.S. Senator from Florida
Junior U.S. Senator from Florida
Honorable U.S. Representative from Florida

STATE AGENCIES

State of Florida Clearinghouse, including but
not limited to Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission, Florida
Department of Environmental
Protection, South Florida Water
Management District, and State Historic
Preservation Office
Bill Baggs Cape Florida State Park
Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
John Pennekamp State Park

STATE OFFICIALS

Florida Governor
State Senators
State Representatives

AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES TRADITIONALLY ASSOCIATED WITH BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK LANDS

Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
Seminole Tribe of Florida
Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

CITY AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

Mayor of Miami-Dade County
Mayor of Florida City
Mayor of Homestead
Mayor of Cutler Bay
Mayor of Miami
Mayor of Palmetto Bay
Mayor of Pinecrest
Miami-Dade County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County Office of Historic and
Archeological Resources
Miami-Dade Planning and Zoning
Department
Miami-Dade Department of Environmental
Resource Management
Monroe County Commissioners
Public libraries of Miami-Dade County and
Monroe County (Key Largo)

LOCAL AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS

University of Miami Rosenstiel School of
Marine and Atmospheric Science
University of Florida
Florida International University
Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative

ORGANIZATIONS AND BUSINESSES

Active Divers Association
American Fisheries Society
American Whitewater Association
Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort
Associated Press
Atlantic Gamefish Foundation
Audubon Society of Florida

Austin's Dive Center
Biscayne Bay Foundation
Biscayne Bay Wingnet Association
Biscayne National Underwater Park
CCA Florida
Center for Marine Conservation
Citizens for a Better South Florida
Community Partners
The Conservation Fund
Defenders of Wildlife
Divers Direct Outlet Store
Environmental Defense Fund
Everglades Association, Inc.
Federation of Fly Fishermen
Fishin' Buddy
Fishing Rights Alliance
Florida Audubon Society
Florida Bay Outfitters
Florida Collector
Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Florida Keys Guide Association
Florida Power and Light
Florida Scuba News
Florida Sea Base High Adventure
Florida Skin Divers Association
Florida Sportsmen
Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau
History Miami
International Game Fish Association
Islamorada Dive Association
Izaak Walton League
Holiday Diver
Hook and Line Fishermen, Inc.
Keys Association of Dive Operators
The Miami Herald
National Association of Black Scuba Divers

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
National Hispanic Environmental Council
National Parks and Conservation Association
National Park Concessions, Inc.
Natural Resources Defense Council
The Nature Conservancy
The Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Divers
Organized Fishermen of Florida
Quiescence Diving Services, Inc
Reef Environmental Education Foundation
Reefkeeper International
Reef Relief
R/V Coral Reef II
Slate's Dive Center
Sierra Club
South Dade Anglers
South Florida Freedivers
South Florida National Parks Trust
South Florida Sports Fishermen Club
Tropical Anglers
Tropical Audubon Society
Trust for Public Land
Underwater Society of America
World Wildlife Fund
WPBT-TV Channel 2
Waterfront News
Wildlife Rescue of Dade County
World Wildlife Fund
Youth Fishing Foundation
Others on the park's mailing list

INDIVIDUALS

There were too many individuals to list here.
A full mailing list is available from the park.