



Biscayne National Park General Management Plan Alternatives Information

New information about Alternative 4 (Marine Reserve Zone):

- The recent *Research Natural Area 5-Year Report* on Dry Tortugas showed improvement in previously exploited fish stocks (mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, red grouper, black grouper, and hogfish).
- The Dry Tortugas marine reserve detected a “spillover effect”, that is, surrounding open areas experience larger fish sizes and greater numbers of fish.

New information about Alternative 6 (Special Recreation Zone - Permits):

- Recent park mapping projects have concluded that there is substantially less patch reef habitat than originally thought. Less reef habitat means fewer fish.
- This information served as the basis for calculating the number of Special Activity License (SAL) permits within this zone.
- The number of SAL permits would need to be adjusted.
- A fee structure for the SALs is not supported.

New information about Alternative 7 (Special Recreation Zone - Seasonal Closure):

- Seasonal closures offer protection to highly migratory or mobile fish species.
- Since seasonal closures are species-specific, they can leave out other valuable members of the ecosystem including important reproductive periods.
- Fishing pressure can increase once the closure is over, resulting in a “derby effect,” or race to fish, that can erase any gains in fish size or numbers in a matter of days.
- Seasonal closures alone are not enough to revive coral reef ecosystems.

