



CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

TITLE 36. CHAPTER I

**Compendium of Designations, Closures, Requests
Requirements and Other Restrictions imposed
under the discretionary authority of the
Superintendent,
Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks**

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of the portion of Dry Tortugas National Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. These discretionary regulations are in addition to the other regulations published in Title 36 CFR, Chapter I, Parts 2 through 7. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1.

Dave B. Kimball.

01-17-2012

Superintendent

Date

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36 CFR §1.5 Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures, and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity.

To prevent conflict and hardship, on a case by case basis, any of the visiting hours, public use limits and closures described in this section may be further reduced or extended by the Superintendent or his/her designee for circumstances involving:

1. Adverse weather conditions.
2. Mechanical failure.
3. Medical emergencies.
4. Other public safety matters.

VISITING HOURS:

Visitors may enter or leave the park 24 hours a day except for areas within the park otherwise closed throughout this document and as indicated below:

- The interior of Fort Jefferson on Garden Key is open from sunrise to sunset.
- The Garden Key Visitor Center is open from approximately 8:00am to 4:30pm.
- Park Headquarters on Garden Key is open from approximately 8:00am to 4:30pm.

PUBLIC USE LIMITS:

- With the exception of drinking water, possession of food and drink by visitors is prohibited within the interior of Fort Jefferson (all areas beyond the wood bridge).
- Glass containers are prohibited on all islands, except within designated campsites on Garden Key.
- All areas of the park are closed to possession of helium-filled latex or Mylar balloons.

What restrictions apply to swimming and diving?

- Diving between sunset and sunrise outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light is prohibited without a Special Use Permit (permit) obtained at Garden Key.
- Designated swim/snorkel areas are established at Garden Key and Loggerhead Key. (see Appendix C and E)
- Entering or exiting the water to swim, dive or snorkel off any shore of Garden Key, outside the designated swim area is prohibited.
- Entering or exiting the water to swim, dive or snorkel of any shore of Bush Key is prohibited. (see “What restrictions apply to the use of Bush Key?” below)

- Swimming, diving and snorkeling in the moat surrounding the Fort is prohibited.
- Entering or exiting the water from the moat wall is prohibited.

What restrictions apply to boating?

- Anchored vessels may not be left unattended for more than 4 hours unless the boat operator is within sight of the vessel and capable of responding to it for on board emergencies.
- Any vessel using the Garden Key dock in any manner is subject to the following restrictions:
 1. From 10:00AM to 3:00PM, the eastern half of the dock is reserved for the concession ferry.
 2. If required, use of the dock is for emergency use, government vessels, or vessels operating under permit. If not required, other recreational and commercial vessels may use the dock in accordance with this document.
 3. Total allowable dock use for one day is two hours (cumulative) per vessel.
 4. No overnight docking is permitted.
- Any vessel using any of the courtesy slips at Garden Key in any manner is subject to the following restrictions:
 1. Total allowable dock use for one day is two hours (cumulative) per vessel.
 2. No overnight docking is permitted.
 3. Campers may use the slips for loading and unloading only and then must use a designated dinghy beach area or anchor in the designated anchorage area.
- Vessels anchoring in Garden Key Harbor must be south, southeast of a line extending from southwest channel red marker #12 to the most northern keep out pencil buoy of Bush Key in order to keep the channel clear.
- Vessels larger than 50 meters (164 feet) are prohibited within the park without a permit obtained from the Superintendent prior to arrival.
- Vessels engaging in park-related activities between sunset and sunrise outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light require a permit which may be obtained at Garden Key. These vessels are not allowed to anchor outside 1 nautical mile at night in accordance with 36 CFR §7.27(e) (3).

What restrictions apply to the use of park mooring balls?

- All visitor use mooring balls in the Research Natural Area are limited to 2 hours per day per mooring, if there is a vessel waiting.
- Visitor use mooring balls may only be used from sunrise to sunset.
- Vessels over 110 feet are prohibited from using the visitor use mooring balls.

- Vessels are prohibited from attaching the mooring ball tag line directly to their vessel. Vessels must use a line from their vessel to connect to the mooring tag line.
- Vessels are prohibited from using the government mooring balls at Loggerhead Key and Garden Key Harbor.

What restrictions apply to the use of Bush Key?

- Bush Key is open from sunrise to sunset as designated by the Superintendent, from approximately October 15 to January 15 or when tern nesting season is complete. When closed, persons and boats must remain at least 100 feet from the mean low tide mark, unless otherwise indicated by demarcation buoys or signage.
- Prior to visitation, visitors must obtain a permit at Garden Key.
- A maximum of 25 visitors per day is allowed.
- Vessels may only access Bush key at the designated dinghy beach. (See Appendix F)
- All visitors must stay below the vegetation line and above the water line, unless on a designated trail or route (see Appendix F).
- Entering or exiting the water off the shore to swim, dive or snorkel is prohibited.

What restrictions apply to fishing?

- Fishing off Government slips at Garden Key is prohibited.
- Fishing off the docks at the courtesy slips at Garden Key is prohibited when the slips are occupied by vessels other than those belonging to the immediate party.
- Fishing off the Garden Key Dock is permitted except when the concession ferry is docked at the Garden Key Dock.
- Fishing off Bush Key is prohibited.
- Fishing into or in the Coral Special Protection Zone” and “Shark Special Protection Zone” is prohibited.

CLOSURES:

What areas are closed to the public?

- Residential and service areas on all keys as designated closed by barricades or signs.
- Areas on all keys as designated closed by barricades or signs.
- Government slips and associated docks on Garden Key.
- Garden Key is open 24 hours with the exception of the interior of Fort Jefferson (all areas beyond the wood bridge entering the Fort) which is closed from sunset to sunrise.
- All other Keys, when open, are closed from sunset to sunrise.
- Hospital Key and Long Key are closed year round in accordance with 36 CFR §7.27/and persons and boats must remain at least 100 feet from the mean low tide mark, unless otherwise indicated by demarcation buoys or signage.
- Bush Key is closed as designated by the Superintendent, from approximately February 1st to September 30th for protection of the terns during the nesting season, and persons and boats must remain at least 100 feet from the mean low tide mark, unless otherwise indicated by demarcation buoys or signage.
- Middle Key and East Key are closed to protect nesting birds and nesting sea turtles and persons and boats must remain at least 100 feet from the mean low tide mark, unless otherwise indicated by demarcation buoys or signage.
- The area designated as the “Shark Special Protection Zone” is closed to the public. (See Appendix D).
- The area designated as the “Coral Special Protection Zone” is closed in accordance with 36 CFR §7.27 (See Appendix D).

36 CFR §1.6-Activities that Require Special Use Permits

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a special use permit or filming permit is required. Permits which can be obtained at Garden Key at Dry Tortugas National Park are indicated by “(at Garden Key)” below. Unless indicated below by “(at Garden Key)”, permits must be obtained from the Superintendent at Everglades National Park, prior to arriving at Dry Tortugas National Park.

- §1.5(a)(1) Visiting Bush Key and Loggerhead Key (obtained at Garden Key)
- §1.5(a)(1) Vessels larger than 50 meters (164 feet)
- §1.5(a)(1) Vessels engaging in night activities outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light (obtained at Garden Key)
- §1.5(a)(1) Diving between sunset and sunrise outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light (obtained at Garden Key)
- §1.5(f) Entering closed areas
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)
- §2.17 Aircraft landing in designated areas
- §2.17(c)(3) Removal of downed aircraft or parts
- 2.22(a)(2) Property left unattended for more than 24 hours
- §2.50(a) Special Events: sporting, pageants, regattas, public spectator attractions, entertainment, ceremonies, or other similar events
 - Educational activities sponsored by educational institutions and having organized agendas
 - Boating or organized clubs
- §2.51(a) Public Assemblies, meeting, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views involving 25 or more people. (See Appendix G and map)
- §2.52 (c) Sale or distribution of printed matter
- §2.62 Memorialization (scattering ashes from human cremation)
- §3.19 Use of manned or unmanned submersibles
- §5.3 Business Operations (Commercial Use Authorizations)
- §5.5 Commercial Filming (still, video and movie)
- §5.7 Construction of buildings or other facilities
 - Construction of photographic/observation blinds
- §7.27(h)(1) Non-commercial vessels engaged in recreational Activities-Boat Permit (obtained at Garden Key)
- §7.27(h)(2) Research activities

36 CFR §2.1-Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

- (a)(5) Entering and walking in open areas of Fort Jefferson is allowed. Standing or sitting on the edges the fort parapet and fort openings are prohibited.

What park resources on Garden and Loggerhead Key are allowed for collection?

- (c)(2)(i) Up to one quart of sea grapes per person may be gathered for immediate personal consumption from trees located in public areas.
- (c)(2)(ii) Coconuts that have fallen to the ground in public areas may be gathered or removed for personal consumption.

36CFR §2.10-Camping

- (a) Designated sites or areas and conditions for camping.
- Camping and overnight visitor occupancy is allowed only in the designated campsites of the campground on Garden Key and aboard vessels in the designated anchorage area as defined in 36 CFR §7.27 (a) (3) (Appendix A).
 - Campers in the Garden Key Campground must register and pay the campsite fee within 1 hour on day of arrival.
 - Tents must be pitched on provided tent pads or within 10 feet of the site's designated picnic table if no tent pad is present.
 - Once taken, campsites must be occupied. Sites may not be reserved by placing tents/gear or fee stubs for persons who are not yet present.
 - Hanging of clothes, trash, towels, etc. on the trees or branches is prohibited.
 - Maximum number of persons per site is 6; maximum number of two person tents is 3.
 - Groups of 10 or more (with a maximum of 20) campers require a group site reservation in advance.
 - The campground maximum capacity is 68 total campers on a first come first serve basis with a maximum group camp capacity of 20 (by reservation).
 - Camping/overnight anchoring within the park is limited to 14 consecutive nights and to no more than 30 nights in a 12 month period.
 - Extensions of the stay limit for camping/overnight anchoring may be granted by the Superintendent or his/her designee under one of the following circumstances:
 1. Unsafe weather conditions.
 2. To facilitate an emergency repair.
 3. Medical emergencies.
 - Checkout time for the Garden Key Campground is 10:00 a.m.
- (d) Food items and trash must be stored in a hard sided container or hung on provided posts in a manner where wildlife cannot disturb it.

36 CFR §2.13-Fires

- (a)(1) Ground fires and wood fires are prohibited throughout the park.
- (a)(1) Charcoal fires and gas/propane camp stove fires are permitted only in the Garden Key campground area.

36 CFR §2.14-Sanitation

- (a)(2) Visitors are responsible for the collection and removal of all refuse they bring into or create while in the park. Public refuse receptacles are not available.
- (a)(7) Recreationally possessed fish remains produced from cleaning fish for consumption may be disposed of in waters immediately adjacent to the fish cleaning station at the Garden Key Dock or from vessels within the designated anchorage.
- (a)(7) Commercially possessed fish parts may not be discarded anywhere within Dry Tortugas National Park.

36 CFR §2.15-Pets

- (a)(1) Pets are allowed on Garden Key, but must remain outside Fort Jefferson (not beyond the wood bridge).
- (a)(1) Pets are allowed on open keys but must remain on established walkways and below the vegetation line on the beach.
- (a)(5) Visitors must remove pet-generated waste from the park.

36 CFR §2.21-Smoking

- (a) All maintained federal buildings, including Fort Jefferson (inside the wooden bridge), are closed to smoking in accordance with the Park Smoking Policy, which is hereby adopted and made part of these orders. (See Appendix H)

36 CFR §2.22 – Property

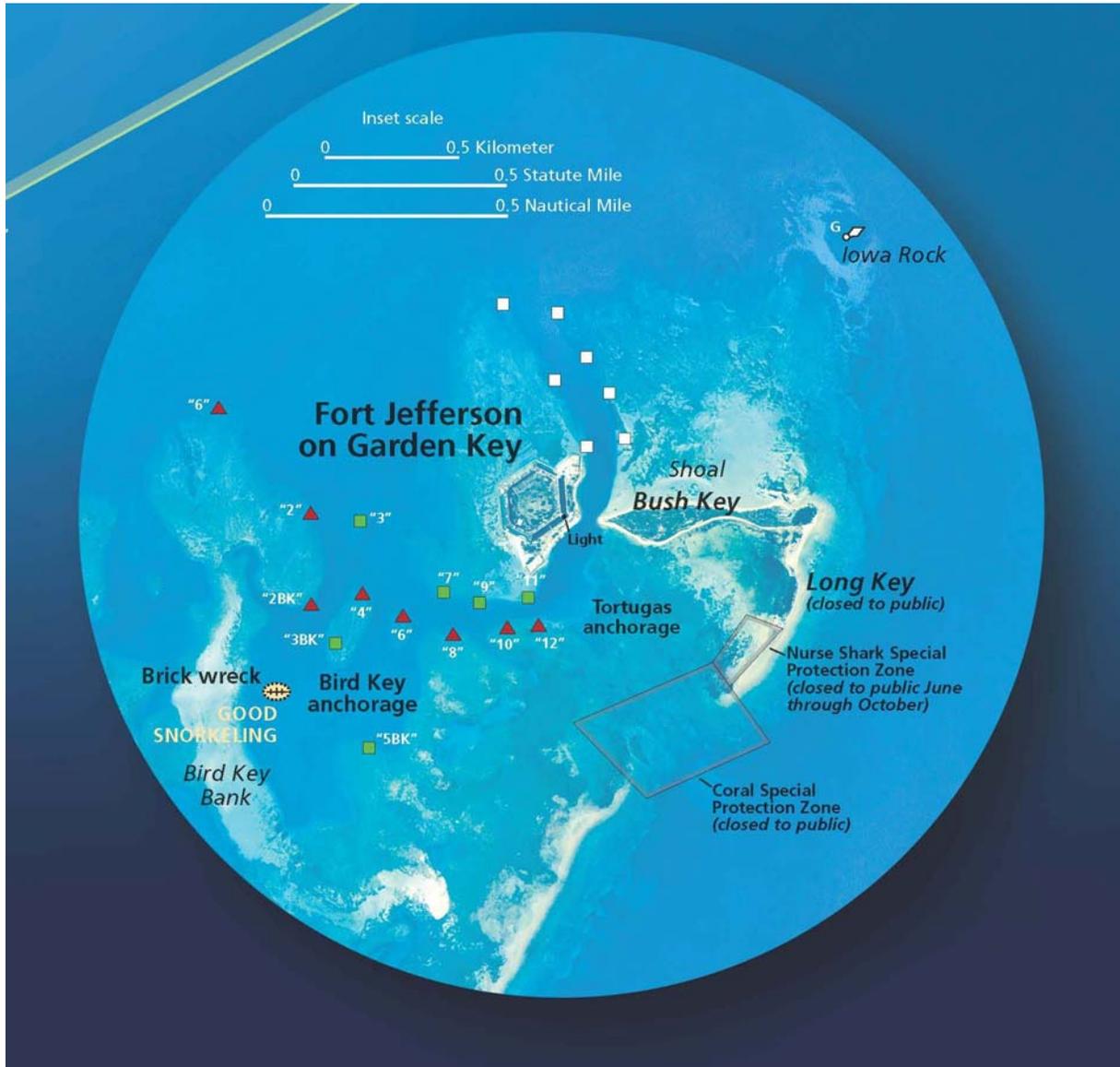
- (a)(2) Personal property may not be left unattended longer than 24 hours in the Park without a permit.

36 CFR §7.27- Special Regulations

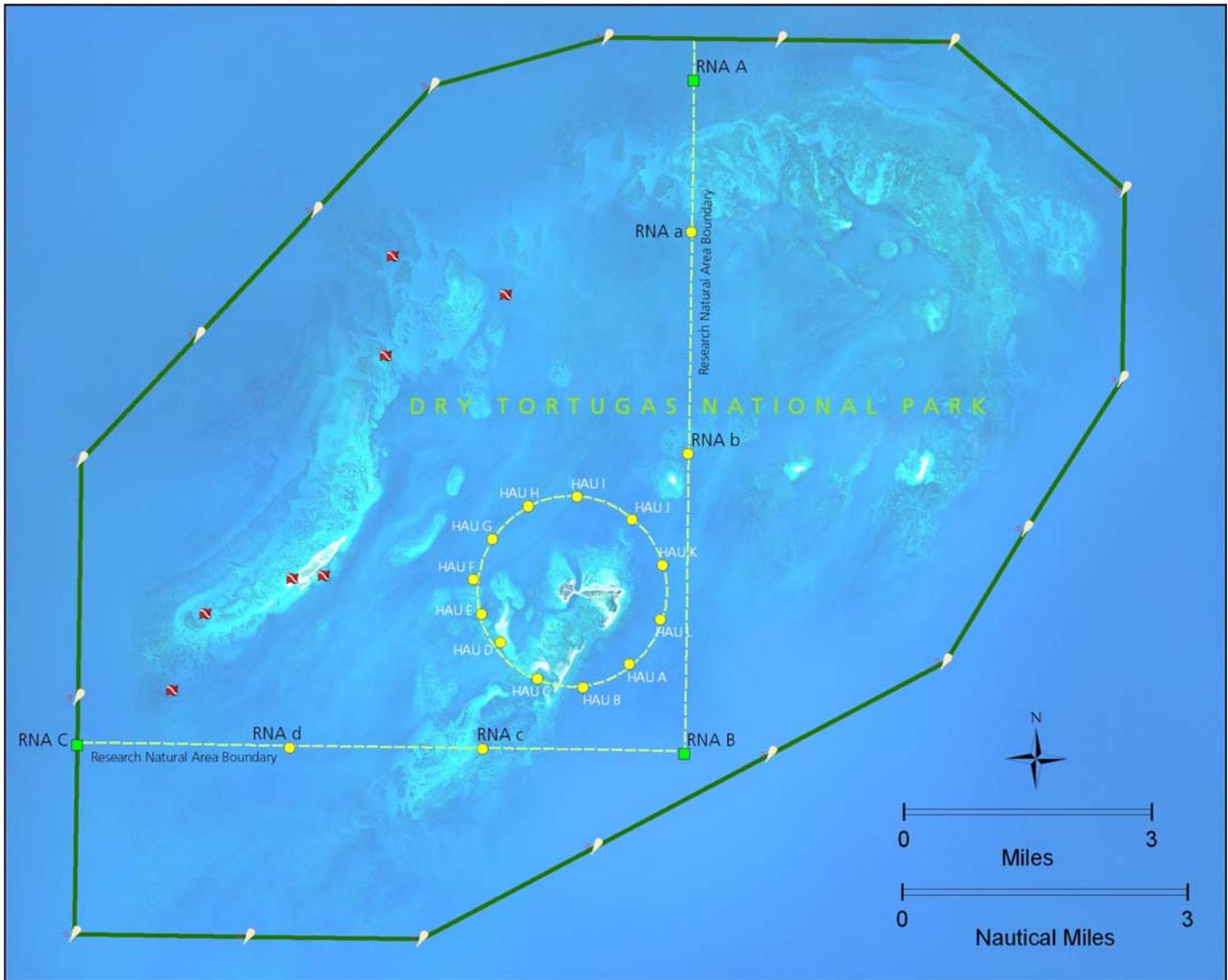
(d) What restrictions apply on Loggerhead?

- Loggerhead Key is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Prior to visitation, visitors must obtain a permit upon arrival at Garden Key.
- A maximum of 25 visitors per day is allowed.
- To access Loggerhead Key, visitors are allowed to land or beach their vessels in the area identified in Appendix C.
- Vessels are prohibited from using the Loggerhead dock. It is reserved for government vessels or vessels operating under park permit to use the dock.
- Visitors must stay on established walkways on the interior and below the vegetation line on the beach.
- All buildings and structures are closed to the public.

APPENDIX A – MAP OF DESIGNATED ANCHORAGE



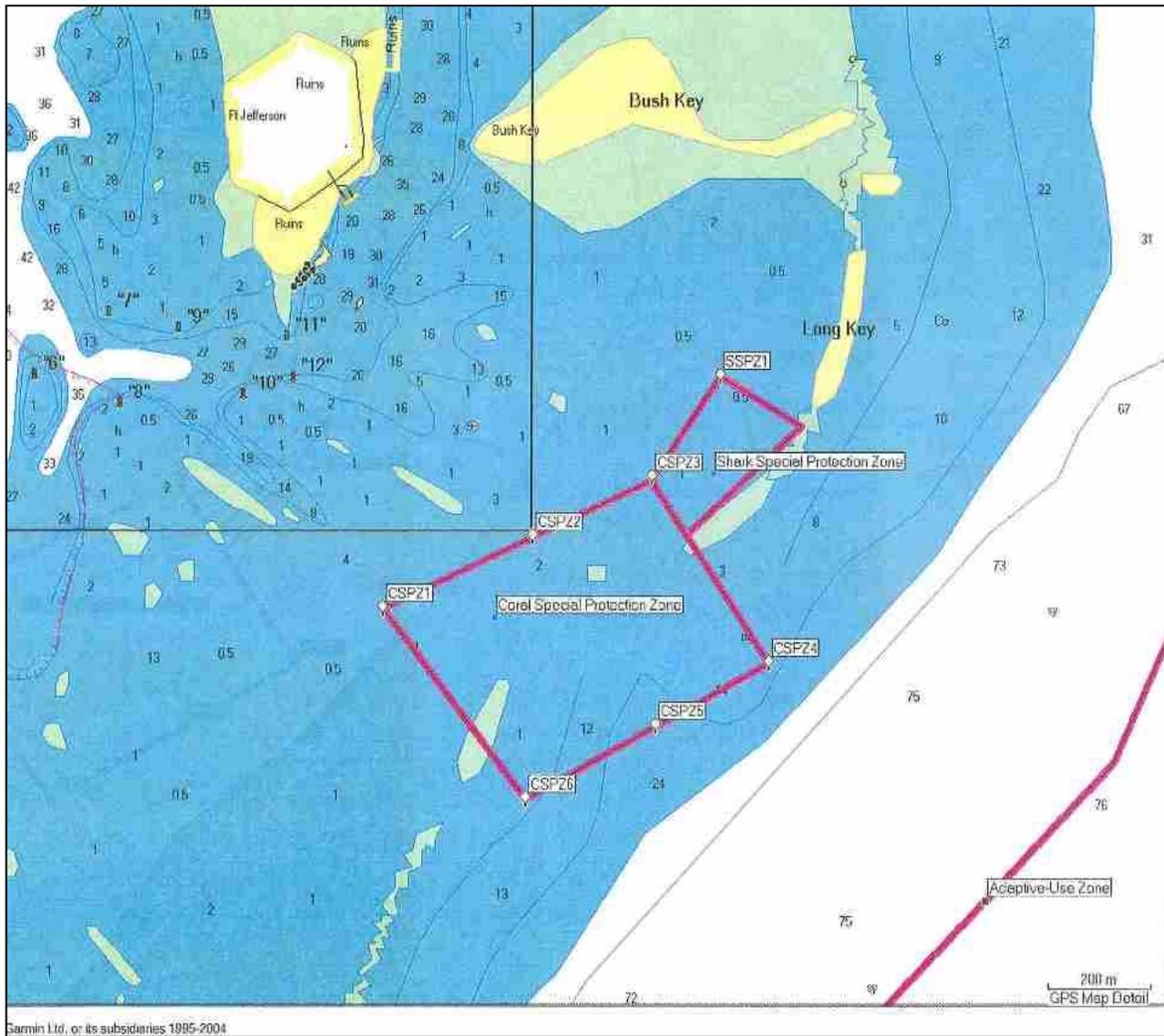
APPENDIX B – MAP OF RESEARCH NATURAL AREA



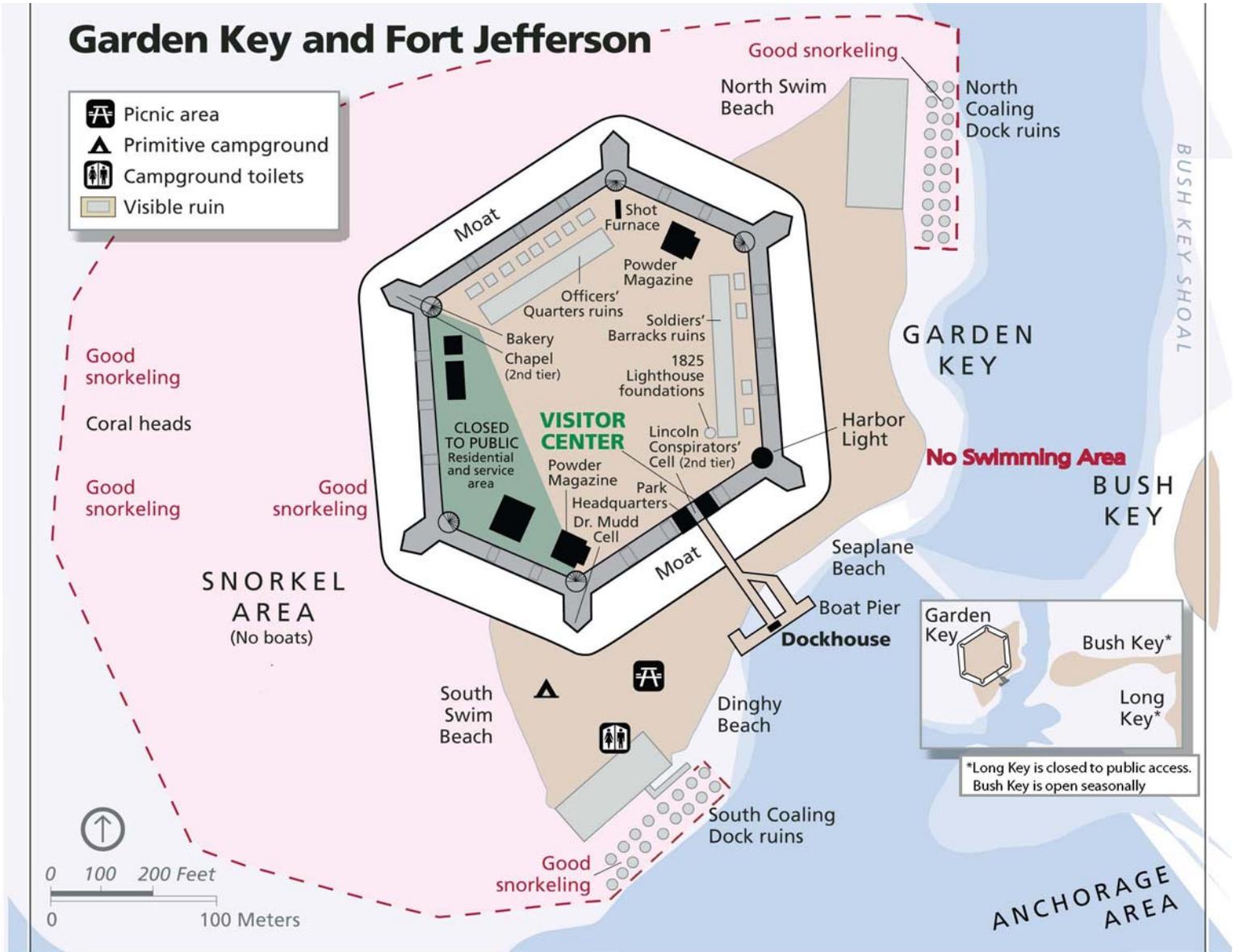
APPENDIX C-MAP OF LOGGERHEAD KEY



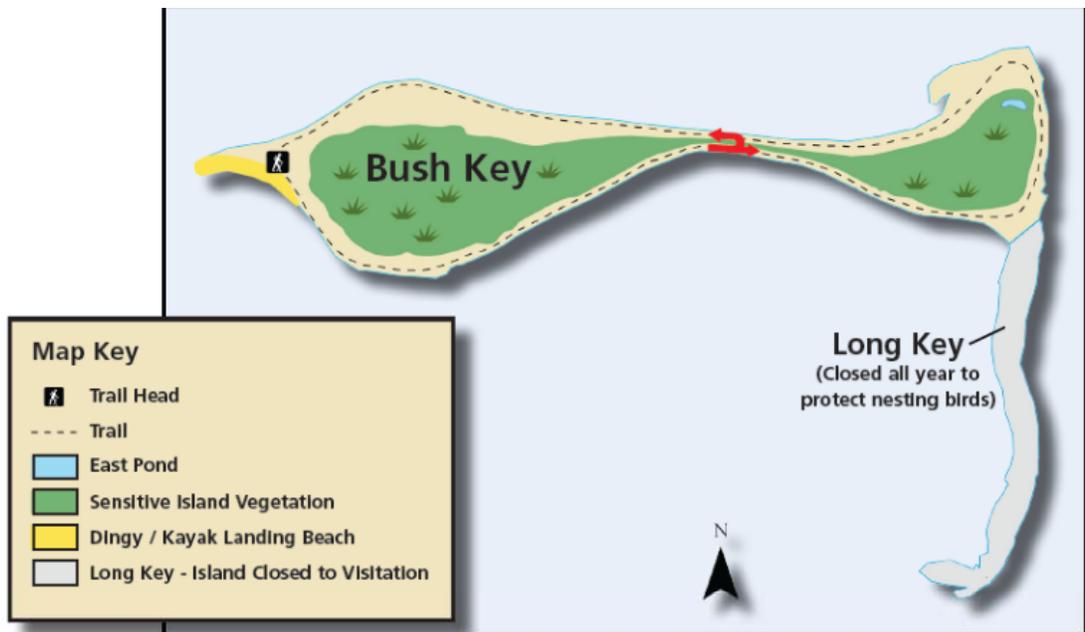
APPENDIX D – MAP OF SHARK and CORAL SPECIAL PROTECTION ZONE



APPENDIX E – MAP OF GARDEN KEY SWIM/SNORKEL AREA



APPENDIX F- BUSH KEY MAP



APPENDIX G – MAP OF DESIGNATED AREA FOR PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES AND SALE/DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER



DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES/MEETINGS AND SALE/DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

In compliance with 36 CFR 2.51 and 2.52, a location approved for public assemblies/meetings and the sale/distribution of printed matter is identified in the above map. The following areas are designated as inappropriate for these uses based on the criteria set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations.

1. All undeveloped areas of the park are closed to these activities, as these activities would unreasonably impair the atmosphere of peace and tranquility maintained in wilderness, natural, historic or commemorative zones. 36 CFR 2.51(e) (2) and 2.52(e) (3).
2. All offices, exhibit rooms, maintenance areas, natural trails, boat docks, campgrounds, and historic structures are closed as these activities would unreasonably interfere with interpretive, visitor service,

or other program activities, or with the administrative activities of the National Park Service. 36 CFR 2.51(e) (2) and 2.52(e) (3).

Public use areas not specifically mentioned above are open as follows:

Garden Key: the land area of Garden Key bounded on the east by the walkway to the public docks, the north by the moat wall, the west by the campground, and the south by the shoreline, as shown on the accompanying map.

APPENDIX H – SMOKING POLICY

This policy identifies locations and guidelines for smoking pertaining to all public buildings, government administrative buildings, employee work space, and shared employee living space within Dry Tortugas National Park implementing 41 CFR Part 101.20, 36 CFR 2.21, and 310 DM 11. This policy applies to all NPS, contractor, and concessionaire employees and visitors.

Smoking is defined as the use of any lighted tobacco product.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Employees will not be allowed to walk through non-smoking areas while smoking or carrying lighted tobacco products.

All park buildings, vehicles and vessels (with the exception of open boats) are closed to smoking with the only exception being private residential quarters. Shared quarters are closed to smoking.

The interior of Fort Jefferson (inside the wooden bridge) is closed to smoking with the exception of private residential quarters.

Smoking receptacles should be used in all “Smoking” areas.

ENFORCEMENT OF POLICY

Employees must not attempt to personally enforce the regulations by confronting other employees. Employees who believe that smoking regulations are being violated should report such violations to their immediate supervisor or, if he/she is violating the policy, to the next supervisory level or union representative.

Disputes should be resolved through informal discussions at the lowest level possible.

Supervisors must exercise sound and reasonable judgment in enforcing the smoking policy.

APPENDIX I

STATEMENTS OF FINDING IN SUPPORT OF CLOSURES DRTO SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM – 2011

On January 19, 2007, special regulations for Dry Tortugas National Park (DRTO) went into effect. They are codified in 36 CFR §7.27. These regulations replaced the special regulations for the abolished Fort Jefferson National Monument. They also implemented provisions for visitor use and resource protection identified in the 2001 General Management Plan Amendment (GMPA).

Many of the regulations previously in effect at DRTO via the Superintendent's Compendium are now found in the special regulations. The compendium identifies specific restrictions, conditions, public use limits and closures using the discretionary authority of the Superintendent granted by Chapter 1, Part 1 of 36 CFR §1.5(a). They are actions deemed necessary for the administration of the park in concert with its enabling legislation and NPS management policies for the benefit of the resource and the visitor. Articulations of the reasons for closures are set forth in this justification as required by 36 CFR §1.5 (c).

§1.5(a) (1) Public Use Limits

Possession of food and drink by visitors is prohibited inside the Fort, except water. This restriction will prevent clutter of the historic scene by litter, and attraction of insects, birds and Norway rats.

Food and drink in glass containers are not permitted on any of the islands. The purpose of this regulation is to prevent visitor injuries by keeping glass off the beaches and other areas where people walk barefooted. An exception to this restriction is made to allow employees, their guests, and VIP's to possess glass containers in the designated residence area of the park and campers using the Garden Key Campground.

Balloons are prohibited because they present a threat to scenic and environmental values, are non-biodegradable and when entering the water are a threat to endangered sea turtles as they resemble jellyfish which are a primary dietary item for sea turtles.

What restrictions apply to swimming and diving?

Diving from sunrise to sunset outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light requires a permit to enable monitoring of activities and enhance safety in a remote ocean location.

Several areas where vessel transiting is frequent, such as areas near channels, seaplane beaches and dinghy beaches are closed to entering and exiting the water for safety. The moat is closed to swimming, snorkeling and diving due to poor water quality and to protect resources in shallow water. Accessing the Garden Key swim area from the moat wall is prohibited for safety reasons to protect cultural resources and to protect marine and resources which are abundant along the wall.

What restrictions apply to boating?

Vessel operators are responsible for assuring the vessel's anchor is holding and no emergencies occur. It is prudent to require operators to check on their vessels at least every 4 hours.

Due to space limitations on the Garden Key dock and visitor slips, restrictions have been identified to assure availability by the commercial ferry boats, the National Park Service's vessel and the public.

Vessels are not permitted to anchor in the channel due to unpredictable vessel traffic in a narrow channel.

Due to draft and anchoring constraints, vessels over 50 meters (164 feet) must obtain a permit prior to arrival at the Park.

Vessels engaged in park-related activities outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light from sunset to sunrise must have a permit (inside of 1 mile a regular boat permit suffices). The permit requirement will assure visitors are oriented and familiar with navigating in the park at night and help minimize any activities such as illegal fishing, lobster harvesting, and spearfishing and enhances park safety.

What restrictions apply to the use of park mooring balls?

All visitor use mooring balls in the Research Natural Area are limited to 2 hours per day, if there are vessels waiting, to allow others use of the mooring. Visitor use mooring balls may only be used from sunrise to sunset as anchoring outside 1 nautical mile of the Garden Key Light between sunset and sunrise is prohibited and the moorings replace the act of anchoring. Vessels over 110 feet are prohibited from using the visitor use mooring balls as the moorings are not designed to hold larger vessels. Vessels must follow procedures for attaching to balls to not damage the system and cause failure. Vessels are prohibited from using the government mooring balls in Garden Key Harbor and at Loggerhead Key to assure access for park vessels and emergencies.

What restrictions apply to the use of Bush Key?

Bush Key is open as designated by the Superintendent when tern nesting season is complete. To monitor the resource as it relates to visitation and to provide orientation, visitors must obtain a permit. A maximum of 25 visitors per day is allowed to evaluate and minimize visitor impact on the newly opened resource which was previously closed to allow re-vegetation for nesting birds following storm damage. For safety reasons, with uneven and slippery areas, it is open from sunrise to sunset. To reduce damage to shallow marine areas and island vegetation, vessels may only access Bush key at the designated dinghy beach, visitors must stay below the vegetation line and above the low water line (unless on a designated trail or route) and entering or exiting the water off the shore to swim, dive or snorkel is prohibited.

What restrictions apply to fishing?

Fishing off Government slips at Garden Key is prohibited to provide security and quick access to park vessels for emergencies and safety to visitors in an area where lines and equipment may be on the dock.

Fishing off the docks at the courtesy slips at Garden Key is prohibited when the slips are occupied by vessels other than those belonging to the immediate party to reduce congestion and enhance safety.

Fishing off the Garden Key Dock when the concession ferry is docked is prohibited due to a high concentration of visitation on the dock.

What areas are closed to the public?

To protect government and personal property, all residential and administrative areas, as well as areas marked by barricades or signs are off-limits to the public.

Government slips and associated docks on Garden Key are closed to public access to provide security and quick access to park vessels for emergencies and safety to visitors in an area where lines and equipment may be on the dock.

The interior of the Fort is closed sunset to sunrise to protect residential quarters, government equipment, and historical resources. It also prohibits visitors from climbing on the walls and damaging resources or injuring themselves in the dark. The interior of the Fort, including stairwells, is unlit and the top of the Fort wall and the interior edges of the casemates have no safety rails.

Bush Key is closed as designated for protection of the Sooty and Brown Noddy during nesting season. This island is the site of the largest nesting colonies of these two species in the continental United States.

Middle Key and East Key are closed to protect nesting birds and nesting sea turtles. The Masked Booby colony can change nesting locations yearly and facilitates closing both these keys in addition to Hospital Key. East and Middle Keys have been identified as critical nesting beaches for sea turtles. All sea turtles are listed on the Endangered Species List. To provide enhanced protection of the nests, these keys are closed from April 1st to October 15th.

The area designated as the “Shark Special Protection Zone” is closed to the public. The area has been designated a “special protection zone” critical to nurse sharks during mating season and protection year round.

36 CFR §2.1- Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

Standing or sitting on the edges of the fort parapet and fort openings is prohibited to ensure visitor safety from falling off and falling bricks from above and to maintain a historic appearance to the scenery.

The previous regulations that allowed the taking of one quart of unoccupied shells above the high-tide line is rescinded. This regulation was confusing to the public and resulted in noncompliance. Many visitors wanted a “souvenir” to take home with them which at times included large amounts of shells or queen conch shells. The General Management Plan Amendment identifies a mission goal of the park as having the type and level of public use which does not negatively impact natural resources. In keeping with this mission, the park will no longer allow the taking of unoccupied shells. The gathering of sea grapes and coconuts for personal consumption does not have the same negative impacts as the taking of shells and therefore will still be allowed on Garden Key.

36 CFR §2.10 – Camping

Garden Key is the only island in the park with adequate space and restroom accommodations for camping. Closure of camping on the other small islands in the park protects native vegetation from trampling. Campers are restricted in several cases such as of placement of tent, hanging items on branches and number of campers due to space limitations, to protect shade and stability vegetation and to enhance the visitor experience. Camping stay is limited and reserving sites for others is prohibited to assure availability. Food items and trash must be stored in a hard sided container or hung on provided posts in a manner where wildlife cannot disturb it so wildlife does not become habituated to obtaining food and thereby changing natural behavior and migration behavior.

36 CFR §2.13 – Fires

Ground fires and wood fires are prohibited throughout the park to protect the limited resource of vegetation and for visitor safety in areas of transit. Charcoal fires and gas or propane camp stove fires are permitted only in the Garden Key campground area to concentrate the area where the activity occurs and not trample additional beach areas and vegetation and reduce the likelihood of burning items being in areas of transit.

36 CFR §2.14 – Sanitation

Visitors are responsible for the collection and removal of all refuse they bring into or create while in the park as disposal by burning or burying is not environmentally sound and transport on the NPS vessel is not physically possible or cost effective.

Recreationally possessed fish remains produced from cleaning fish for consumption may be disposed of in waters immediately adjacent to the fish cleaning station at the Garden Key Dock or from vessels within the designated anchorage to avoid disposal near designated swim/snorkel areas and dinghy beaches.

Commercial fishing is prohibited within Dry Tortugas National Park. Due to the popularity of commercial fishing that occurs outside park boundaries, numerous commercial fishing vessels seek safe harbor within the park. The commercial fishing process is not merely catching fish, but a series of actions that begins with the catch and ends with the sale of the fish to the wholesaler. Cleaning fish for transport and sale is part of the commercial fishing process. The biological effects of discharging large amounts of fish remains are not favorable in an environment where the type of process does not naturally occur and it creates a negative experience for visitors. The mission of Dry Tortugas National Park is to preserve a pristine marine coral reef resource and provide present and future visitors the opportunity to enjoy it. Allowing the dumping of fish wastes, a byproduct of commercial fishing activity, can hinder fulfillment of that mission.

36 CFR §2.15 – Pets

Pets are allowed on Garden Key, but must remain outside Fort Jefferson (not beyond the wood bridge) to assure a sanitary visitor experience. Pets are allowed on open keys but must remain on established walkways and below the vegetation line on the beach in the same location where visitors are allowed. Visitors must

remove pet-generated waste from the park as burying is impractical and unsanitary and there is no public refuse disposal.

36 CFR §2.22 – Property

Personal property may not be left unattended longer than 24 hours in the park without a permit as travel time to and from the park is significant and park staff cannot be expected to guarantee safety and security of items while the owner is absent.

37 CFR §7.27- Special Regulations

(d) What restrictions apply on Loggerhead?

A permit is required to monitor use and assure knowledge of regulations. A maximum of 25 visitors per day is allowed to assure protection of the resource on a small island. Because the shore of Loggerhead Key is within the boundaries of the RNA, fishing is prohibited.

To access Loggerhead Key, visitors are allowed to land or beach their vessels in the area identified in Appendix C. The Superintendent has identified one location on Loggerhead Key where small vessels can be beached. Since the dock on Loggerhead Key is closed to private and commercial vessels, this area is the only location that boaters can secure their boats to access Loggerhead Key. Two visitor use mooring balls near shore are also available.

Visitors must stay on established walkways on the interior and below the vegetation line on the beach to protect vegetation. The buildings on Loggerhead Key are for administrative use only and therefore closed to the public.