

Dry Tortugas

National Park



2000 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM
THE
SUPERINTENDENT

I am pleased to submit this annual report for Dry Tortugas National Park. The year 2000 continued to be an active year of challenges and accomplishments; the *challenges* of restoring, protecting, and managing the superlative natural and cultural resources of a near pristine marine and island environment located more than 70 miles from Key West and the *accomplishments* of gaining increased public support for its preservation, as well as maintaining effective day-to-day operations.

Over the past 6 years, the park has experienced a quadrupling of visitation, from 24,000 to more than 95,000 a year. This increase is predominantly due to the initiation of high-speed ferries. Affected issues as a result of this increased visitation include impacts on park facilities, the structural integrity of Fort Jefferson, submerged cultural resources, marine resources management, visitor safety, and quality of the visitor experience.



Superintendent Maureen Finnerty

In order to address these and other park management concerns, a General Management Planning effort was started in 1998 to examine visitor uses and commercial services at the park. Alternatives for visitor use and resource protection were developed through a series of public meetings in late 1998 and continued planning in 1999. In 2000, we developed a preferred alternative and held a series of public meetings throughout the south Florida region and in Washington, D.C. Out of over 5,000 comments received, the majority supported the preferred alternative. Public input has been overwhelmingly positive that actions should be considered to address the impacts of increasing visitation. With continued public support, we will work together to assure the preservation of this unique resource for the benefit and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Sadly, in January 2000, Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks lost a true friend with the passing of Dr. William B. Robertson, Jr. Affectionately known to successive generations of park employees as “Dr. Bill”, the experiences he gained and shared through almost almost fifty years of work at both parks helped to educate the present generation of scientists and managers who are carrying on his fight to stop and reverse the continued degradation of the South Florida ecosystem. This annual report is dedicated to his memory.

Maureen Finnerty

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Dr. Bill Robertson
August 22, 1924 - January 28, 2000

Dr. Bill Robertson dedicated fifty years to researching and understanding the ecology of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks. The National Park Service hired him as a scientist in 1951. For many years, Dr. Bill was the agency's only field scientist east of the Mississippi. He studied the ecology of the entire Everglades ecosystem and was a pioneer in the field of fire ecology. However, Dr. Bill is best known for his ornithological expertise; his knowledge of South Florida's birds is legendary. He and his wife, Betty, tagged over half a million sooty terns in the Dry Tortugas. Their work led to a greater understanding of this bird's life history and migratory patterns. Though he formally retired from the National Park Service in 1997, Dr. Bill remained active in field research until the end of his life.



Dr. Bill and Betty Robertson studied sooty terns in the Dry Tortugas for 40 years.

Dry Tortugas National Park was established for the following purposes:

- to protect and interpret a pristine subtropical marine ecosystem, including an intact coral reef community;
- to proactively manage populations of fish and wildlife, including loggerhead and green sea turtles, sooty terns, frigate birds, numerous migratory bird species, and other sensitive species;
- to safeguard the pristine natural environment of the Dry Tortugas group of islands;
- to protect, stabilize, restore, and interpret Fort Jefferson, an outstanding example of 19th century masonry fortification;
- to preserve and protect submerged cultural resources;
- to provide opportunities for public enjoyment and scientific research in ways consistent with the park purpose.

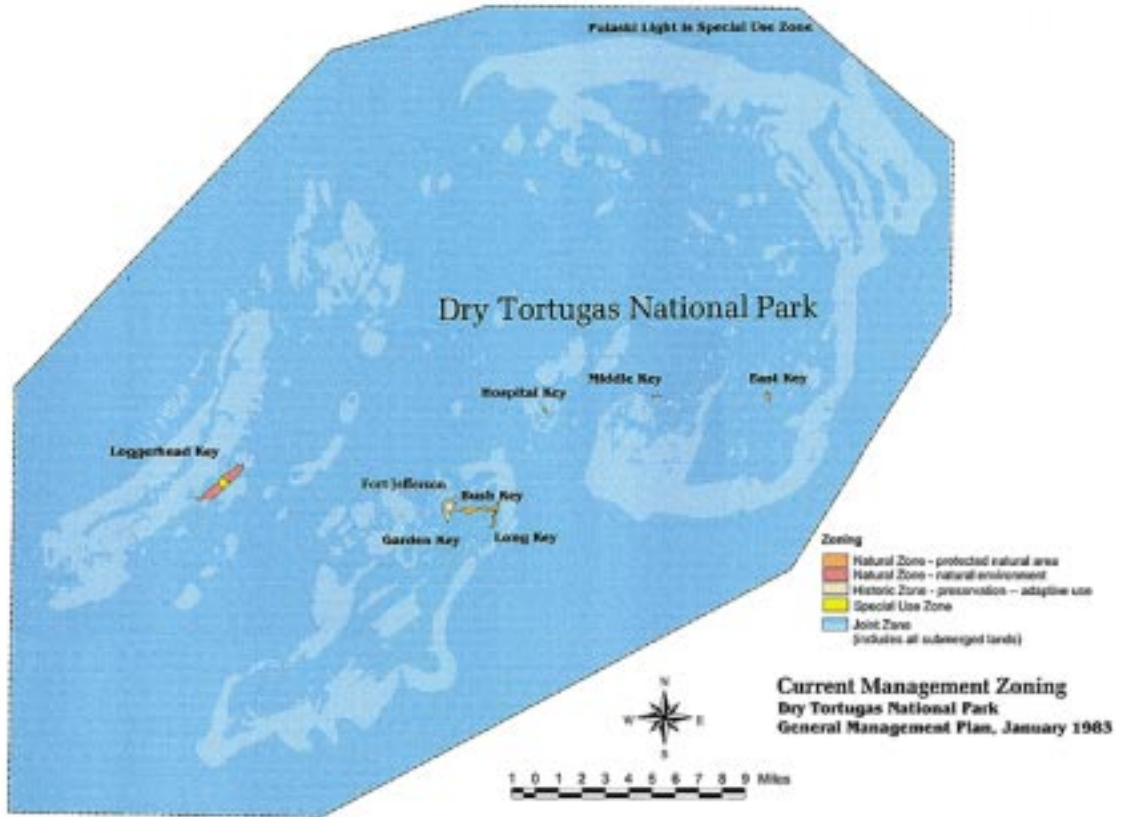
The park is significant because it:

- contains historic Fort Jefferson, a militarily and architecturally significant 19th century fort;
- protects the historic Loggerhead Key lighthouse, and the historic Garden Key harbor light;
- possesses one of the greatest concentrations of historically significant shipwrecks in North America, with some vessels dating back to the 1600s;
- maintains one of the most isolated and least disturbed habitats for endangered and threatened sea turtles in the United States;
- supports the only significant North American sooty and noddy tern nesting colonies on Bush and Long Keys and harbors the only frigate bird nesting colonies in the U.S. on Long Key;
- serves as an important resting spot for migrating birds;
- provides unique opportunities to view tropical seabirds;
- protects the least disturbed portion of the Florida Keys coral reef ecosystem;
- presents outstanding potential for education, recreation, and scientific research related to the park's exceptional marine resources;
- offers a sense of remoteness and peace in a vast expanse of sea and sky;
- affords an opportunity to understand and appreciate a rare combination of natural, historic, marine, and scenic resources.

PARK PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

PARK MAP

The 64,657 acre national park encompasses a cluster of 7 coral reef and sand islands, surrounded by shoals and water. Garden Key is the site of historic Fort Jefferson.



PARK FACILITIES

National Park Service development is limited to Garden Key and the central portion of Loggerhead Key.

All administrative and maintenance facilities are on Garden Key, within or adjacent to historic Fort Jefferson. New development and rehabilitation of existing facilities is designed to minimize intrusion upon the historic structures and historic scene.

The park's remote location requires that it be self-sufficient for solid waste removal, electricity, water and wastewater.

The NPS supply vessel, *MV Activa*, makes weekly trips from Key West to bring mail, groceries, and supplies, and to transport employees and others on official business.

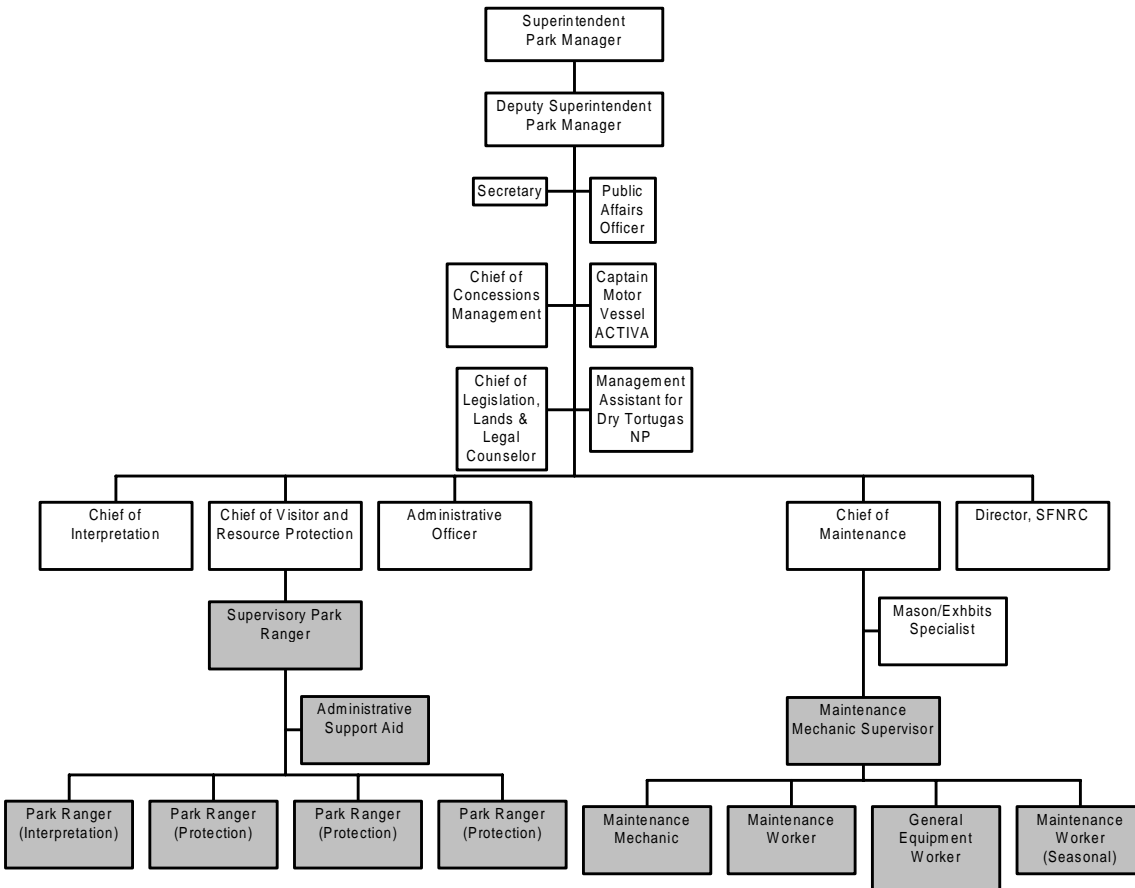
DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITIES

- Visitor center in Fort Jefferson
- Self-guiding tour of Ft. Jefferson with 19 wayside exhibits
- 11 site campground/picnic area
- Dockhouse and dock
- Swim beach and snorkeling area
- 15 housing units for park employees, cooperative researchers and volunteers

The *Activa* provides transportation to and from the park for employees, and provides logistical support for transporting mail, groceries, and operational supplies.



PARK ORGANIZATION



Shaded boxes denote park staff stationed at Dry Tortugas National Park. Unshaded boxes indicate park management and administrative staff for both Dry Tortugas and Everglades National Parks. The *MV Activa* and its crew, based in Key West, are part of the superintendent's staff to provide transportation and logistical support for Dry Tortugas National Park.



Magnificent frigate birds nesting in the Dry Tortugas.

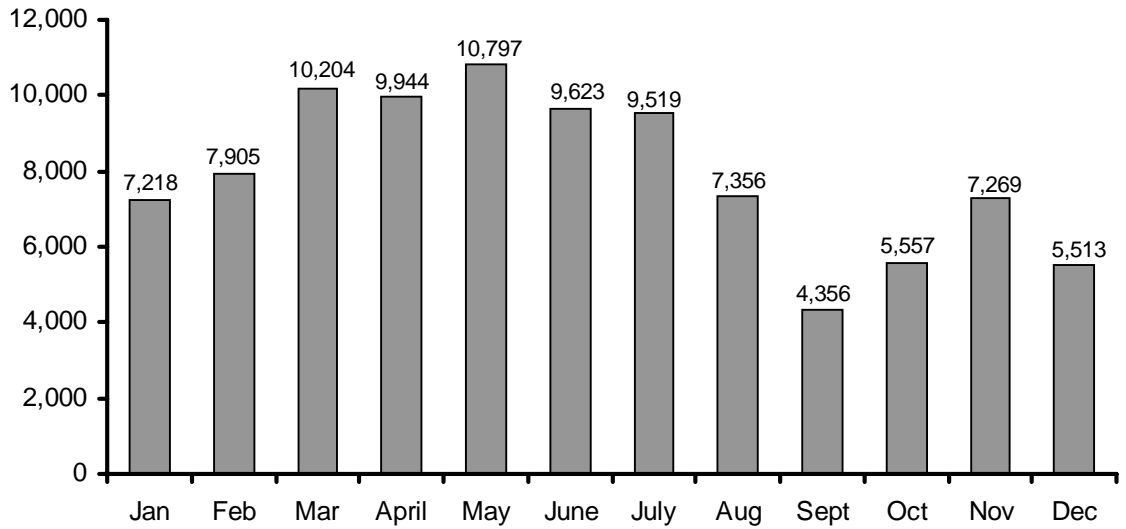


Dry Tortugas National Park can only be reached by boat or seaplane.

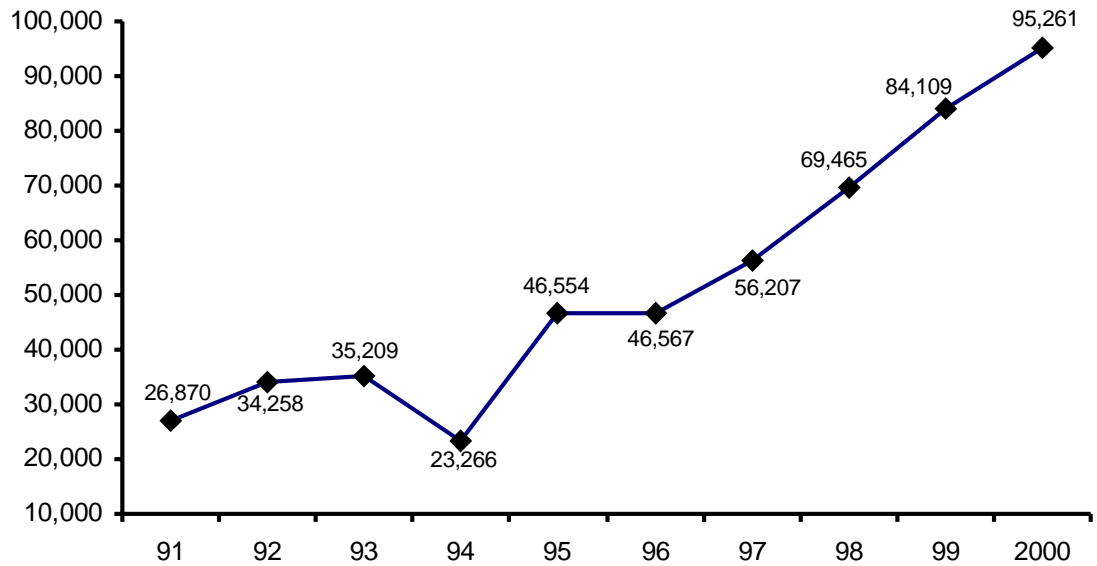
PARK VISITATION

2000 MONTHLY VISITATION

The majority of visitors come between March and July. During this period visitation averages 327 people per day.



10 YEAR VISITATION 1991-1999



Over the past 6 years, park visitation has more than quadrupled, rising from 24,000 visitors in 1994 to over 95,000 visitors in 2000. This increased popularity is stressing park facilities and is threatening park resources, visitor safety, and the quality of the visitor experience.



GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

The National Park Service completed a Draft General Management Plan Amendment and/Environmental Impact Statement for Dry Tortugas National Park. The plan sets forth the management philosophy and direction for the park for the next 15-20 years. Development of the draft plan was coordinated with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary's Tortugas 2000 planning and the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's *National Action Plan to Protect Coral Reefs*.

The preferred alternative (Alternative C) would provide a high level of protection to park resources by:

- establishing a carrying capacity for visitors and resources at specific sites
- using commercial services to structure and disperse visitor use; and,
- designating approximately 46% of the park as a Research Natural Area, where consumptive uses such as fishing would be prohibited and other uses carefully limited.

Six public meetings were held in Florida and Washington DC to receive comments on the draft plan. The comment period closed on August 1, 2000. Public comments were overwhelmingly in favor of a management plan at least as protective as the preferred alternative. Sport fishermen, who maintain that properly regulated recreational fishing has no negative impacts on fish populations, have expressed op-

position to Alternative C. Several commenters have expressed concern about limiting the ferry concession to one vessel, and also about the requirements for interpretation, education, and intra-park transportation that would be placed upon the concessionaire. Environmental organizations generally support the preferred alternative, although some believe the Research Natural Area should be larger.

The planning team evaluated public comments and was preparing to modify the proposed action in response to comments at the close of the fiscal year. Upon approval of the Final GMP amendment, (anticipated in February 2001), a number of actions, including rule-making, installation of mooring buoys and preparation of a concessions contract prospectus will be necessary to implement the plan. A draft GMP Implementation Plan has been prepared.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force cited NPS/NOAA cooperative planning for the Tortugas as a model for protecting coral reef ecosystems.

The Final GMPA is available on the Internet at www.nps.gov/drto/planning.

FORT JEFFERSON PRESERVATION TRUST

Fort Jefferson has suffered continuing deterioration over the years due to harsh weather and climatic conditions, and is in need of major masonry repairs. In 1998, the Fort Jefferson Preservation Trust was established, as a nonprofit organization, to aid the National Park Service in its efforts to stabilize and prevent the deterioration of the fort.

In May 1999, Fort Jefferson received a major grant under the President's Save America's Treasures Program that will be matched with an ongoing non-Federal fund raising effort to address major structural rehabilitation and stabilization needs. The grant of \$970,400 is a challenge grant to attract additional support on a matching funds basis, with the potential to provide nearly \$2 million in desperately needed work on the

massive fortress. In recognition of this urgent need, the park has entered into a cooperative relationship with the Fort Jefferson Preservation Trust and the National Park Foundation to raise private and corporate funds that would allow major stabilization work to proceed.

The proposed stabilization work will help to structurally safeguard a nationally significant historic monument. The fort is the base of operations for the park's preservation, interpretation, research and law enforcement/patrol of the pristine marine environment of the Tortugas region. As such, public and private assistance will not only help preserve Fort Jefferson, but will also:

PARTNERSHIPS

DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK

- enhance protection of ocean systems from contamination, degradation, and other abuses; and
- defend biodiversity through habitat protection.

MIAMI NATIONAL PARKS COMMUNITY PARTNERS PROGRAM



Members of the Miami Community Partners create a mission statement while meeting at Dry Tortugas National Park.

The National Park Service, in partnership with the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and several multi-cultural organizations, created the Community Partners Program to engage diverse populations in park visitation, the workforce, park planning, park protection and in

decision-making. The Miami National Parks Community Partners Program is a community-based task force, which includes the four South Florida National Parks and a number of local organizations. It is one of five such groups organized in major cities around the country.

Over the past year, the Miami Community Partners worked on increasing the number of visitors from under-represented and culturally diverse segments of the population to the national parks, by identifying interested groups and organizing special interpretive programs and tours. They also worked on advancing National Park Service employment recruitment efforts. One of the monthly meetings was held at Dry Tortugas National Park. The meeting involved an overnight camping outing and an opportunity to learn the history, and issues surrounding this remote site. The group developed a mission statement and selected program coordinators.

FLORIDA KEYS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Dry Tortugas National Park has a close working relationship with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS). There is shared recognition of the mutual influences between park and sanctuary administration, including water quality, the coral reef tract, operations and management. The park is a formal participant in the

FKNMS' Water Quality Steering Committee. The FKNMS is an active partner in the ecosystem restoration effort. The two agencies continued their collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency in the production of "Waterways". This half-hour television show airs widely in the region and explores the natural resources and environmental issues of South Florida.

The NPS and the FKNMS are continuing an interagency planning effort to protect sensitive Tortugas habitats. The Dry Tortugas National Park General Management Plan Amendment will determine ways to enhance resource protection while continuing to provide high quality visitor experiences. The FKNMS' Tortugas 2000 effort will establish a marine ecological reserve to protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.

CORAL REEF PROTECTION

On June 11, 1998, the President signed Executive Order 13089 directing federal agencies to take actions to assist in protecting coral reefs, to fully consider the impacts of their actions on coral reefs, to further scientific research, including mapping and monitoring, and to undertake international initiatives for the same purposes. In October 1998, the first meeting of the Coral Reef Task Force established under the Order met at Biscayne National Park. Dry Tortugas National Park actively participated and will continue to be active in implementing the terms of the Order. Utilizing existing relationships with the Bahamas National Trust and contacts with World Heritage Site managers, the park will also pursue implementation of the Order's provisions with respect to international cooperation.

PERFORMANCE AND RESULTS FOR 2000

PRESERVE PARK RESOURCES

This section of the annual report summarizes Dry Tortugas National Park's accomplishments in Fiscal Year 2000. The park's mission goals describe the desired future conditions that would best fulfill the park purpose and are expressed in terms of resource condition and visitor experience. Long-term goals and annual goals provide steps for achieving progress towards the mission goals over a five-year period. All goals are tied to service-wide goals established for the National Park Service.

Mission Goal: All natural resources and associated values are protected, restored, and maintained in near pristine condition.

By September 30, 2002, 40 acres of disturbed park land is restored.

Since the 19th century, exotic plants have been introduced to Loggerhead Key, altering the island's native plant population. By 1980, Australian pine (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and Agave (*Agave sisalana*) had out-competed most of the native plant communities. Native plant and wildlife populations suffered. Habitat for ground nesting birds was severely restricted and sea turtles encountered many obstacles to reproduction.

Upon the establishment of the Dry Tortugas as a National Park in 1992, resource managers began to assess the alterations to the communities of Loggerhead Key with the intent of restoring the island back to pre-settlement conditions. In 1995, the NPS began to actively remove the two dominant exotic species, *Agave* and *Casuarina*, along with several lesser exotic plant species.

Eradication was accomplished utilizing prescribed burning and herbicidal treatment. Disturbed areas have been monitored and retreated on a recurring basis to facilitate restoration. As of 2000, all of the exotics had been removed from Loggerhead. The transformation has been remarkable; the reduction in the numbers of exotics has led to a corresponding increase in the numbers of native species.

Accomplishments

- Conducted prescribed burn on northern Loggerhead Key in November 1999, completing a series of planned burns.

By September 30, 2002, breeding populations of loggerhead and green sea turtles increase.

Accomplishments

- Entered into cooperative agreements with:
 - the University of Florida's Center for Sea Turtle Research to monitor nesting sea turtles, and
 - the University of Miami's Rosensteil School of Marine and Atmospheric Science to summarize the physical oceanography, larval transport, and park fisheries in order to develop a Tortugas Site Characterization to help guide future management decisions that may impact the park's natural resources.
- Collected sea turtle nesting data for the sixth consecutive season.

By September 30, 2002, fish and avian populations, including breeding populations of sooty and noddy terns, brown pelicans, boobies and frigate birds, lobster and conch populations and coral reef and other benthic-type communities remain stable.

National Park Service biologists visually assess the bird life at the park. The Florida Marine Institute assesses lobster populations to ascertain abundance, distribution, size and fecundity. In 1999, the NPS funded the Florida Marine Research Institute to establish 3 new coral reef monitoring stations inside park waters. These will become part of the greater U.S. Environmental Protection Agency/Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Coral Monitoring Program.

Accomplishments

- Completed an intensive rat abatement program at Loggerhead Key, Garden Key and Bush Key.

Mission Goal: All submerged and land based cultural resources have been identified, documented, protected, and or stabilized.

By September 30, 2002, metal is removed from 30 of the 180 embrasures in the Fort and they are re-bricked.

A major restoration goal is to replace the original iron gun shutters that were designed to close after artillery was fired to provide protection from incoming enemy fire. The shutters have expanded during the process of corrosion, displacing the surrounding masonry.

Accomplishments

- Purchased 80,000 bricks, at a cost of \$102,320, to be used for embrasure work.
- Completed stabilization of five embrasures.
- Initiated crack monitoring program of historic fort fabric

By September 30, 2002, 3 structures listed on the List of Classified Structures are in good condition.

Fort Jefferson's masonry has deteriorated because of the harsh marine environment. In some areas, large sections of the outer brick wall have fallen into the moat. In addition to stabilization of the fort's walls, other efforts are underway to improve the condition of classified structures where feasible. Examples include preservation work on the sally port and its granite arch and repairs to cistern structures.

Accomplishments

- Replaced the historic slate roof on the old superintendent's quarters.
- Cleared the small powder magazine of invasive vegetation.



Ongoing work to stabilize Fort Jefferson's masonry.

- Completed tuck pointing of 16 parade ground arches.
- Rehabilitated the fort's sally port stone portal and replaced its hinge gudgeons.
- Examined the potable water cisterns and completed repairs to all internal and external surfaces; installed pressurized pump station.
- Completed archeological assessment of Loggerhead Key.

By September 30, 2002, 45 of the recorded submerged cultural sites in 30' or less of water are not degraded due to human activity.

The Dry Tortugas contain one of the largest assemblages of shipwreck sites in North American waters. These sites provide a rich archeological record spanning more than 4 centuries of international economic and political activity in the area. NPS archeologists have compiled site information into a database that has facilitated analysis of wreck sites as an interrelated collection. Knowing resource condition and how it changes on a continuing basis is fundamental to the park's ability to manage its resources and perpetuate their integrity.



Park staff rescue a Loggerhead turtle on Loggerhead Key

Mission Goal: Available park facilities, infrastructure, and services are sufficient to support operational needs, park staff; appropriate recreational opportunities are safe and adequate for visitors and employees.

PROVIDE FOR THE PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE OF THE PARK

By September 30, 2002, 95% of park visitors are satisfied with appropriate park facilities, services and recreational opportunities.

To assist the National Park Service in complying with the Government Performance and Results Act, a visitor survey was conducted in Dry Tortugas National Park in June 2000. The survey results indicated that 93% of park visitors were satisfied with appropriate facilities, services, and recreational opportunities. This is 1% percent under the FY 00 goal of 94% visitor satisfaction.

The National Park Service manages over 50 active Incidental Business Permits (IBPs) that provide commercial services within Dry Tortugas National Park. In May 1999, a moratorium was placed on new or expanded commercial services until the general management planning process is completed and implementation of its decisions is underway. Current permittees are allowed to continue their business operations as set forth in their permits.

Park visitation increased by 20% in 2000.

Accomplishments

- Installed new park benches.
- Maintained all visitor and administrative facilities in a safe and sanitary condition.
- Maintained electric, water and sewer services on both Garden and Loggerhead Key.

- Re-plumbed sections of the reverse osmosis system.
- Completed water sample testing to ensure compliance with state water system regulations.

By September 30, 2002, the rate (19.80) of visitor accidents/incidents is reduced by 10% to 17.82.

Accomplishments

- Responded to 24 incidents requiring Emergency Medical Services and 5 Search and Rescue incidents.
- One park ranger and a critical-hire administrative support aid obtained EMT-B certification.
- Constructed and equipped park medical care facility.
- Tested water quality at designated swim beaches in accordance with Director's Order 83.
- Installed new radar and GPS systems in both primary patrol vessels.
- Completed a comprehensive review of fire suppression equipment; replaced all defective extinguishers, including 4 large wheeled units, and installed an emergency pumping cache at Loggerhead Key.
- Began hazardous materials evaluation of Garden Key North Coaling Dock dump site.



Dry Tortugas National Park has a small campground on Garden Key.

2000 Commercial Services

Type of Activity	# of IBP's	Passengers
Transportation, incl. -ferries -cruiseships -snorkel/dive charters	15	51,665
Air Taxi	2	8,662
Guided Nature Tours/ Birding	9	3,717
Fishing Guides	21	135
Sailing	11	102
Total	58	60,935

By September 30, 2002, reliable and cost effective radio and telephone communications exist for 24 hours per day, 365 days per year for organizational and operational needs and employee and visitor safety.

Because of the remote nature of the Dry Tortugas, it is extremely difficult to provide and maintain reliable telephone communications. There are no telephone lines to the island, so the park depends upon a collection of radio/telephone links that are dependent upon six different relays, as well as a photovoltaic power source. The radio-telephone (RTI) system was inoperable for much of the year. The alternative satellite sys-

tem was operational, but far more costly to operate. All of the systems are dependent upon technology and components that are adversely influenced by the harsh salt environment.

Accomplishments

- Maintenance, problem diagnosis and repair of communication systems was ongoing throughout the year using NPS and contract personnel.
- Established a service contract with local vendor to provide fast response to downed equipment and service.

Park Mission Goal: Visitors understand, appreciate, and are inspired by the park's historical and natural resources, and they support the protection of these resources.

By September 30, 2002, 60% of park visitors understand and recognize the significance of the park's historical and natural resources.

The future of Dry Tortugas National Park is dependent upon an informed and involved public, as well as responsible resources management. To meet this goal, the National Park Service provides a variety of orientation and educational opportunities through interpretive services and programs.

Dry Tortugas National Park has one park ranger position specializing in interpretation; this position was vacant for most of FY 2000. Because of the small interpretive staff size, all park employees, including commissioned park rangers, maintenance workers, and administrative staff have frequent contacts with visitors and are responsible for promoting an awareness and understanding of the park's significance. Traditional ranger-led programs, while desired and valuable,

cannot be offered on a daily basis. Most of the guides with the permitted ferry services. In light of budget and staffing constraints, emphasis is shifting towards non-personal interpretive services and media, such as television, exhibits, waysides and publications that have the ability to serve a broader audience. The future development of an interagency visitor center in Key West will also increase visitors' opportunities for information and education regarding the park. Park rangers contact vessels upon entrance to the park, providing boaters with an orientation to visitor opportunities and park regulations.

The park's volunteer program is an important tool for meeting the greatly increased visitation and resource management needs. Volunteers are active in supporting vital park functions, including facility maintenance, grounds-keeping, resource protection, research, habitat improvement, and visitor services. The main focus of the volunteer program is on Loggerhead Key. Volunteers work in pairs, in stints lasting from one to six months, and live in a small house on the island. They are responsible for resource protection and interpretation, grounds-keeping, and maintenance of island facilities, including a generator, fuel and water systems, equipment, and several buildings. New emphasis is being placed on using volunteers on Garden Key, where deferred maintenance projects are being accomplished.



Sea turtle researcher Russell Reardon presents a program on turtles for park visitors

cannot be offered on a daily basis. Most of the guided tours of Fort Jefferson are conducted by

The Public Affairs Office for Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, located at Everglades National Park, responds to telephone and mail requests for general park information and manages the maintenance and updating of the park's web site. Commercial filming activities are also managed by the Public Affairs Office.

The park's educational efforts are assisted and enhanced by its partnership with the Florida National Parks and Monuments Association (FNPMA). The Fort Jefferson visitor center bookstore is staffed daily by an FNPMA employee, who disseminates park information and provides visitor orientation. The Association supports the park's interpretive and education programs, special events, and publications.

Accomplishments

- 24,674 visitors were contacted at park visitor center.
- Implemented Junior Ranger Program.

- Maintained park web pages, and the expanded web site for the Dry Tortugas General Management Plan Amendment, with up-to-date information and in accordance with NPS Internet publication policy.
- Prepared and input content for new "Park Profiles" databases on ParkNet, the official National Park Service web site, which went on-line in August 2000.
- Recorded 98,082 "hits" on www.nps.gov/drto.
- 104 volunteers worked 6,689 hours in the park.
- Park rangers contacted approximately 1,670 vessels upon entrance to the park, providing boaters with a park map, orientation to visitor opportunities and park regulations.
- Park law enforcement rangers encountered and addressed 21 violations involving a threat to park resources.

Mission Goal: Dry Tortugas National Park is a responsive and efficient organization, enhancing managerial capabilities through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

**ORGANIZATIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS**

By September 30, 2002, 5 of 14 housing units classified as being in poor or fair condition are removed, replaced or upgraded to good condition.

Most park employees live in apartments built into the casemates of Fort Jefferson. Out of 14 housing units, 11 are constructed within the historic walls as part of the structure. Problems associated with this type of construction include water leaks through the sides and top of the casemates and the continual flaking of mortar, white-wash and pieces of brick. The quarters have a limited life span and do not meet code. A prototype housing unit, which utilizes an independent roof and wall system, was completed in 1999 to address these ongoing problems. Two additional housing units are in the former engineer's quarters. Two 4-plex units, in Key West, Florida, were acquired in 1999 from the Department of the Navy. Following rehabilita-

tion, these units will provide housing for a larger staff, as well as a temporary administrative site on the mainland.

The park is making progress towards the achievement of this goal. A full-time housing officer, duty stationed at Everglades National Park, manages the housing program. Funding for housing replacement and historic housing rehab has been requested, as has repair/rehab funding for non-historic housing.

Accomplishments

- Refurbished Quarters #2
- Purchased energy-efficient gas appliances for Garden Key housing.
- Used volunteer help to begin debris removal from Key West housing units, prior to rehabilitation work.
- Obtained quotes and began rehabilitation work on Key West housing units.

**FY 2000
FINANCIAL
SUMMARY**

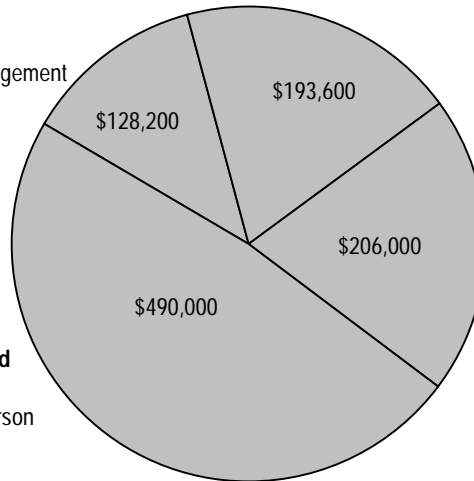
BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS - \$1,017,800

Administration

- Support functions, such as:
- Park management
 - Budget
 - Contracting/procurement
 - Payroll
 - Personnel
 - Property management

Visitor Services

- Visitor center/bookstore
- Ranger-led and self-guided activities
- Interpretive exhibits
- Visitor protection activities



Resource Management and Preservation

- Stabilization of Fort Jefferson
- Protection of submerged cultural resources
- Resource management and protection of natural resources, including initiative to advance coral reef initiative

Facility Operations and Maintenance

- Operation and maintenance of visitor facilities and facilities supporting the park's operational and administrative needs, including:
- Visitor center
 - Interpretive exhibits
 - Boat dock
 - Campground
 - Employee housing
 - Utility systems and equipment
 - Maintenance shops/storage
 - Offices

FUNDING FOR SPECIAL INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS

Saving America's Treasures Program	970,400
Hazardous Materials Removal.....	97,500
Cyclic Repair/Rehabilitation.....	92,000
Equipment Replacement.....	12,000
Public Land Corporation (SCA).....	11,135
Fee Demonstration.....	6,525
Volunteer Program.....	3,400

FEE REVENUES

Campground Fees.....	\$18,183
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NPS Mechanic Al Walsh and Park Ranger Roy Appugliese investigate a sailboat grounding near Long Key.

**FY 2001
BUDGET AND
GOALS**

Resource Management and Preservation:\$774,600

- Resource management and protection activities to address threats to natural resources, including the most pristine segment of the only U.S. continental coral reef, consisting of staghorn coral, patch reefs, sand flats, and seagrass beds.
- Stabilization and preservation of Fort Jefferson.
- Protection of submerged cultural resources.

Annual Goals - by September 30, 2001:

- Forty acres of disturbed land is 80% restored.
- Breeding populations of loggerhead and green sea turtles increase.
- Nine non-threatened and endangered species populations remain stable.
- Metal is removed from 24 embrasures and they are re-bricked (increase of 6).
- Two structures on the List of Classified Structures are in good condition (no increase).
- The condition of 45 submerged cultural sites has not degraded.

Visitor Services:\$249,200

The National Park Service manages and provides a variety of visitor services that offer opportunities to experience and learn about the unique natural and cultural resources of Dry Tortugas National Park, including:

- Operation of visitor center/bookstore in historic Fort Jefferson, interpretive exhibits, campground on Garden Key.
- Ranger-guided and self-guided activities.
- Management of visitor activities supported by commercial services, including ferry and sea-plane transportation, sailing, guided snorkeling, diving and recreational fishing, and photographic and birding workshops.
- Visitor protection activities to provide for the protection, safety and security of park visitors, employees, commercial services permittees, and public and private property.

Annual Goals - by September 30, 2001:

- Ninety-five percent of park visitors are satisfied.
- The visitor accident/incident rate is reduced by 8% to 18.22.
- Fifty-five percent of visitors understand the park's significance.

Facility Operations and Maintenance:\$248,000

- Operation and maintenance of facilities for visitor use, such as the visitor center in Fort Jefferson, interpretive exhibits, boat dock and campground.
- Operation of facilities that support the park's administrative and operational needs, including utilities, equipment, employee housing, maintenance shops, storage, and offices.

Annual Goals - by September 30, 2001:

- By September 30, 2002, reliable and cost effective radio and telephone communications exist for 24 hours per day, 365 days per year for organizational and operational needs and employee and visitor safety.

Park Administration:\$26,200

This program area includes management staff and administrative support functions for the park, such as budget, contracting and procurement, property management, and human resources.

TOTAL:\$1,298,000



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CARES FOR SPECIAL PLACES SAVED BY THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE OUR HERITAGE.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR • NATIONAL PARK SERVICE