

13.0 APPENDICES

APPENDIX A



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

March 15, 2013

F/SER4:JK/pw

(Sent via Electronic Mail)

Dan Kimball, Superintendent
National Park Service
Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks
40001 State Road 9336
Homestead, Florida 33034

Dear Mr. Kimball:

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reviewed the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) assessment prepared by Everglades National Park (Park) and provided by letter dated December 20, 2012. The letter describes the Park's intention to develop a Programmatic Seagrass Restoration Plan (Plan) aimed at enhancing marine resource stewardship in Florida Bay, Everglades National Park, Monroe County. The Park believes this approach will allow for more efficient and effective management and protection of public trust resources within Florida Bay. The Park expects to publish the Plan for public comment in mid-2013. The Park's initial determination is that implementation of the Plan would have a beneficial effect on EFH, especially seagrass, which also is a Habitat Area of Particular Concern (HAPC). The Park requests concurrence with this determination as well other items NMFS would like the Park to address in the Plan. As the nation's federal trustee for the conservation and management of marine, estuarine, and anadromous fishery resources, the following comments and recommendations are provided pursuant to authorities of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act).

Seagrass Impacts in Everglades National Park

The Park estimates that 1,722 to 2,870 acres of seagrass have been damaged in Florida Bay from propeller scarring and vessel groundings, and over 327 miles of propeller scars have been mapped. Additional damage to seagrass is in the form of "blow holes," which result from vessels powering out of a shallow area. Most injury sites occur in waters less than 2 feet deep and are usually near channels or passes where boat traffic is frequent. The Park quantifies and discusses impacts to seagrass in a report *Patterns of Propeller Scarring of Seagrass in Florida Bay* (2008).

Seagrass in the Park is Essential Fish Habitat

Collectively, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) or the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) identify seagrass as EFH for several species, including adult white grunt (*Haemulon plumieri*); juvenile and adult gray snapper (*Lutjanus griseus*); and juvenile mutton snapper (*Lutjanus analis*). SAFMC and GMFMC identify seagrass as an HAPC for several species within the snapper/grouper complex. HAPCs are subsets of EFH that are either rare, particularly susceptible to human-induced degradation, especially important ecologically, or located in an environmentally stressed area. In addition, SAFMC and GMFMC identify Florida Bay as an HAPC.

Seagrass habitats directly benefit the fishery resources of the Florida Bay by providing nursery habitat. These habitats are part of a habitat complex that includes mangroves and hardbottoms and supports a diverse community of fish and invertebrates. Seagrass also provide important water quality maintenance



functions (such as pollution uptake), stabilize sediments, attenuate wave action, and produce and export detritus (decaying organic material), which is an important component of marine and estuarine food chains.

Best Management Practices to Avoid Potential Adverse Impacts and to Monitor Restoration Performance

The EFH assessment identifies seven best management practices to avoid or minimize impacts to seagrass or other estuarine habitats that could inadvertently result from the proposed restoration activities. NMFS agrees these BMPs would reduce the likelihood of seagrass impacts. NMFS recommends the Park augment these BMPs with the following practices to minimize the interim loss of habitat functions that can result from collecting donor seagrass:

- Repeated harvest from donor sites within a calendar year should not occur (Fonseca et al., 1998).
- Harvest from areas with fast currents should not occur because harvesting in such areas can initiate an erosion scarp that could spread and damage the donor bed (*sensu* Partiquin, 1975).
- To the maximum extent possible, the environment at the donor site should match the conditions at the restored site for salinity, sediment types (percent silt and clay, percent organic material, surface sediment particle size for the upper 3 centimeters), tidal current speeds, wave exposure, and temperature (Fonseca et al., 1998).
- The donor beds should be located on shallow, sandy shoals where *Halodule* grows at densities of at least 3,000 shoots per square meter (Fonseca et al., 1998).
- Harvest of donor seagrass should be spaced at no more than 3-foot radius intervals from the outer edge of any core taken (Smith, K., personal communication; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL, June 3, 2010).
- The maximum core size diameter should not exceed 20 centimeters (Smith, K., personal communication; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee, FL, June 3, 2010).

NMFS recommends June 1 to September 30 as the optimum time of year to conduct seagrass surveys that will be part of the monitoring used by the Park to assess the success of its restoration actions. This recommendation balances the physical factors that maximize the ability to detect seagrass during sampling (essentially water clarity) and the time of year that supports peak biomass and distribution. Seasonal changes in temperature and light are the two most common drivers for seagrass production and biomass maxima and minima (Duarte, 1989) in temperate and tropical seagrass meadows (to name only a few: Sand-Jensen, 1975; Ott, 1980; Dennison, 1987; Nelson and Waaland, 1997; Brouns, 1987; van Tussenbroek, 1994, 1995, 1998). Several peer-reviewed publications refer to seasonality of seagrass or a seagrass growing season for *Halophila decipiens* (Bell et al., 2008; Fonseca et al., 2008; Hammerstrom et al., 2006; Hammerstrom and Kenworthy, 2003; Kenworthy, 2000), *Halodule wrightii* (Virnstein, 1982; Kowalski et al., 2009), *Syringodium filiforme* (Short et al., 1993; Fry and Virnstein, 1988; Kenworthy and Schwarzschild, 1998; Fourqurean et al., 2001), and *Thalassia testudinum* (Gras et al., 2003; Chambers et al., 2001; Fourqurean et al., 2001).

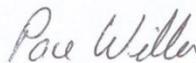
Closing

The EFH assessment provided by the Park meets the requirements of 50 CFR 600.920(e)(3), and NMFS agrees with the Park that implementation of the Plan would have a beneficial effect on EFH. Accordingly, NMFS offers no EFH conservation recommendations for the proposed seagrass restoration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We look forward to providing a technical review the Programmatic Seagrass Restoration Plan. Related questions or comments should be directed to the

attention of Ms. Jocelyn Karazsia at 400 North Congress Avenue, Suite 120, West Palm Beach, Florida, 33401. She may be reached by telephone at 561-616-8880 x207 or by e-mail at Jocelyn.Karazsia@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,



/ for

Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

cc:

NPS, Fred_Herling@nps.gov
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APPENDIX B

ENP SHRMP Restoration Project Checklist



Incident Number: _____

INITIAL RESPONSE

- Initial Response Report (IRR) Date Completed: _____
- Initial Responder:
- Notifies Biological and Cultural Resource Branch Chiefs
 - Considers Emergency or Interim Restoration Measures
 - Notifies Permitted Commercial Towing Operator (If Vessel Present)
 - Considers Enforcement Options (If Vessel Present)
-

VESSEL REMOVAL

Vessel Removal Yes No Date Completed: _____

If Yes:

- Towing Operator Receive Authorization/Approval from ENP Ranger and Branch Chiefs
 - Towing Operator Follow Vessel Removal Guidelines
-

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

Natural Resource Assessment by Biologist Date Completed: _____

Equipment Needed

Completed IRR
Snorkel or Scuba Gear
Underwater Camera
Underwater Video Camera
Measuring Tape
Waterproof Paper

Natural Resource Assessment Report Date Completed: _____

Cultural Resource Assessment by Specialist Date Completed: _____

Equipment Needed

Completed IRR and Previous Assessment Results (if available)
Snorkel or Scuba Gear
DGPS Unit
Underwater Camera
Waterproof Paper

ENP SHRMP Restoration Project Checklist



Cultural Resources Report Date Completed: _____

Cultural Resources of Significance Present? Yes No

If Yes → Postpone Damage Assessment, Coordinate with Appropriate Agencies, and Follow Appropriate ARPA Protocols

If No → Proceed with Detailed Vessel Damage Assessment

Assessment of Vessel-Related Damages by Biologist

Damage Classification Date Completed: _____

Site Mapping Date Completed: _____

Visual Assessment Date Completed: _____

Bathymetric Surveys Date Completed: _____

Modeling and HEA Date Completed: _____

Damage Assessment Report (DAR) Date Completed: _____

Equipment Needed

Completed IRR and Previous Assessment Results (if available)

Snorkel or Scuba Gear

Survey-Grade DGPS Unit

Metric Ruler

Waterproof Paper

Float or inflatable boat

Quadrat(s)

Depth Sounder

If Violator Identified, Contact PSRPA Case Team

Organize and Import All Records (Photos, Videos, Notes) into ENP Seagrass Habitat Restoration Geodatabase by Incident Number

Submit All Reports, Records, Data, and Forms to Biological and Cultural Resource Branch Chiefs for Process and Storage

ENP SHRMP Restoration Project Checklist



Management Monitoring

Equipment Needed for Turbidity Monitoring

Water Sampling Device
Turbidimeter
GPS Unit
Field Datasheets

Equipment Needed if Sediment Placement Techniques Utilized

Snorkel or Scuba Gear
Survey-Grade DGPS Unit
Waterproof Datasheets
Quadrat(s)
Float or Inflatable Boat
Underwater Camera
Depth Sounder
Transect Tape(s)
Stakes/Weights
Metric Ruler

Equipment Needed if Seagrass Transplantation Techniques Utilized

Snorkel or Scuba Gear
Survey-Grade DGPS Unit
Waterproof Datasheets
Quadrat(s)
Float or Inflatable Boat
Underwater Camera
Smaller Quadrat

Equipment Needed if Bird Stakes/Fertilizer Spikes Utilized

Snorkel or Scuba Gear
Survey-Grade DGPS Unit
Waterproof Datasheets
Quadrat(s)
Float or Inflatable Boat
Underwater Camera
1/2-inch diameter PVC Pipes
Wood Roosting Blocks (2x2x4 inches)
Reflective Tape (optional)

APPENDIX C

Leave No Trace Principles

To enhance the wilderness experience and to help preserve the park's unique values, Everglades National Park encourages park visitors to comply with the leave no trace principles described in the *Leave No Trace Seven Principles* manual (NPS 2013c, Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics 2012). The seven principles are mostly applicable to camping and hiking within the park. As a result, only those leave no trace principles applicable to the SHRMP are provided below. For applicability purposes, some of the leave no trace principles were modified and supporting information modified and/or added.

❖ Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area that you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible.

❖ Travel and Work Spaces

- Concentrate use on existing boat channels.
- Focus activity in areas where submerged aquatic vegetation is absent.

❖ Site Maintenance

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect the site for equipment used during the damage assessment, restoration, and monitoring protocols. Ensure that no equipment is left at the site (exceptions include restoration alternatives such as sediment tubes, bird stakes, fertilizer spikes, planting units, etc).

❖ Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic resources.
- Leave all natural resources as you find them (unless authorized by project permits).
- Swim as much as possible to avoid trampling of substrate.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not alter the environment (unless authorized by project permits).

❖ Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed wildlife.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

❖ Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous and yield to others when using existing boat channels.
- Let nature's sounds prevail and avoid loud noises.

APPENDIX D

Initial Response Report (IRR)



Date: _____ Start Time: _____ Stop Time: _____

Name of First Responder: _____ Incident Number: _____

Weather Conditions

Wind Speed (mph): _____ Wind Direction: _____

Precipitation: Yes No

Water Visibility: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Other Comments: _____

Impact Site Location

Is the site accessible?: Yes No

DGPS Coordinates: _____ DGPS Format: _____

Maps or Drawings Provided?: Yes No

Vessel Location Relative to Impact Site (e.g., N, S, E, W, Inside): _____

Other Comments: _____

Description of the Incident and Resulting Damage

How was the Damage Discovered? _____

Hazardous Material Spill Present? Yes No

If yes, provide description: _____

Photographs Taken (enable date/time stamp)? Yes No

Video Collected? Yes No

Type of Vessel Damage: Prop Scar Blow Hole Other _____

Approximate Area of Impact (units): _____

Sediment Pile or Plume Present? Yes No

Other Comments: _____

Potentially Affected Natural Resources: Seagrass Hardbottom Mangroves Bare Sediment

Surrounding Natural Resources: Seagrass Hardbottom Mangroves Bare Sediment

Initial Response Report (IRR)



Responsible Party/Vessel Information

Vessel Name: _____ Size of Vessel (ft): _____

Vessel Registration Number: _____ Number of Engines: _____

Description of Vessel: _____

Vessel Operator Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): (H) _____ (M) _____

Is Responsible Party Vessel Owner? Yes No

Vessel Owner Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Permanent Address: _____

Telephone Number(s): (H) _____ (M) _____

Towing Operator Removal Recommendations

Response Actions Taken:

IRR (mandatory)

Map/Drawings

Photos Number of Photographs Collected: _____

Video Number of Video Segments Collected: _____

After-the-Fact Damage Restoration (e.g., sediment stabilization, secure uprooted seagrass, etc)

Description: _____

Vessel Marked

APPENDIX E

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FORM (ESF)
DO-12 APPENDIX 1
(Revised June 2004, per DM)

Today's Date: **February 14, 2012**

Date Form Initiated: **1-23-12**

This form should be attached to all documents sent to the regional director's office for signature. Sections A and B should be filled out by the project initiator (may be coupled with other park project initiation forms). Sections C, D, E, and G are to be completed by the interdisciplinary team members. While you may modify this form to fit your needs, you must ensure that the form includes information detailed below and must have your modifications reviewed and approved by the regional environmental coordinator.

A. PROJECT INFORMATION

Park Name: **Everglades National Park**

Project Title: **Enhancing marine resource stewardship in Florida Bay**

PEPC #: **40553** NEPA #: **L7615-FY12-004** NHPA #: **H4217-FY12-004** Wilderness #: **TBD**

Project Type: **Seagrass Restoration (OTHER); cultural resource and wilderness resource protection**

Project Location: County, State: **Monroe, Florida**

Project Leader: **Bill Perry**

Administrative Record Location: **EVER Planning and Compliance Office**

Administrative Record Contact: **Brien Culhane, Chief, Planning and Compliance**

B. PROJECT DESCRIPTION/LOCATION

(To begin the statutory compliance file attach to this form maps, site visit notes, agency consultation, data, reports, categorical exclusion form (if relevant), or other relevant materials).

Project Purpose: Develop an integrated plan to assess natural, cultural and wilderness resource damage in Florida Bay that result from vessel operations and establish protocols to restore seagrass and benthic resources.

Each year, thousands of boats visit Florida Bay, a submerged wilderness area which supports extensive areas of seagrass habitat and potentially contains submerged cultural resources. The shallow nature of the Bay makes it vulnerable to vessel groundings and propeller scarring damage, which has been occurring with increased regularity over the years. Recovery of natural resources from minor injuries occur over time from natural processes, but large individual injuries or areas with extensive repeated and cumulative injuries could take decades without management action/intervention. When damage is extensive, recovery of the natural quality of wilderness as well as the important habitat that seagrass supports is dependent on active restoration. These include activities to restore bathymetric contours, stabilization of injury sites, replacement of seagrass, and post-restoration protective measures. A programmatic plan is needed to organize and efficiently carry out resource restoration activities to protect these important park resources, Programmatic environmental compliance requirements, including NEPA, NHPA, NAGPRA, ARPA, ESA, EFH, the Wilderness Act, and others need to be included in the protocols to be developed in this plan. This plan will provide management guidance and strategies for addressing boat groundings and other areas damaged by propeller scars or other activities impacting resources, with an emphasis on seagrass and benthic restoration.

Project Description: The project consists of developing a programmatic seagrass restoration plan for Florida Bay, to facilitate participation of volunteers (for simpler projects), and agency, non-governmental organizations (NGO) stewardship of seagrass resources in Florida Bay. The plan will identify "hot spot" (high priority) areas using ENP technical reports, existing aerial photography, law enforcement reports, and existing GIS data. Prioritization will be based on where restoration needs are highest for future restoration activities. The plan will include NEPA compliance and establish standard operating procedures for restoration and monitoring of benthic resources. These efforts will increase the ease with which the public, through volunteer efforts, could take on restoration activities within the Bay. The project will also include coordination and oversight of activities currently in the 19jj damage recovery process that will be managed under the NP System Resource Protection Act.

The propeller scarring report completed by the SFNRC in 2008 (SFNRC Technical Series 2008:1) provides an estimated length of mapped propeller scars in Florida Bay of 527,498 meters total length (Figure 1). The mapping effort does not document all propeller damage in the Bay, but is estimated to represent 10% to 17% of the total area damaged. In terms of the scope of benthic impacts, this represents an area between some 1,564 to 2,607 acres.

To account for 'blow holes', where boaters power out of a shallow area, another 10% of the total area, or 156 to 260 acres should be added as potential restoration area. A large grounding site, such as the Marlow (2,153 sq ft) is about 0.05 acres, so adding 50 grounding sites (10 per year) to the annual restoration plan would add 2.5 acres to the estimate of mapped bottom damage.

Based on this, the total potential area for restoration for scarring and grounding damage can be estimated as between 1,722 and 2,870 acres. These sites are mostly in shallow waters (< 2 ft deep), usually in the vicinity of channels or passes through banks (Figure 1), where boat traffic is frequent. Although this estimate represents the scope for the stewardship plan, the actual amount of restoration activity will directly depend on availability of restoration funding and volunteer effort during the spring and summer field season that is available for open water seagrass restoration activities.

Given the public interest in seagrass restoration in the park, a 30-day scoping/comment period, using the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website to make the public aware of the project and get their early input, though there will not be a public meeting associated with project scoping. Scoping and consultation with all affected agencies associated and tribes with natural and cultural resource management and future restoration project permitting and other approvals (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida State Historic Preservation Office, Monroe County Department of Marine Resources, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Tribe of Florida), as well as the park's Wilderness Committee approval, will be required for this project.

- The park IDT will draft and finalize a fact sheet for this public comment period which will occur at the beginning of the project (the fact sheet will be posted on the park website and PEPC, and be distributed to public and stakeholder e-mail lists and the media/interested parties e-mail list maintained by the park Public Information Officer).
- After 30 day comment period, the IDT will gather comments, collate and create brief summary of public and agency comment received, and provide that information to the project consultant for use in developing the plan.
- Relevant information received from this public comment period will be used to make modifications to the scope of the plan.
- Once the consultant completes development of the draft plan ready for public review, they will be responsible for developing hard copy and CD copies of the draft plan for public distribution.
- One (1) public meeting will be held during the draft plan 30-day review period; the consultant will be responsible for developing products such as powerpoint presentation posters, maps in coordination with the IDT.
- The park will be responsible for posting draft plan materials on the PEPC site for public review.
- The consultant will be responsible for gathering and analyzing all information received during the draft plan public review/comment period and producing a summary of the input received including identification of substantive comments received from the public, stakeholder groups, agencies, and tribes (the IDT will work closely with consultant to resolve conflicts or differences among input received).
- The consultant would be responsible for developing the final plan and all associated products.

A statement of work will be developed for the Denver Service Center to solicit a qualified consultant to undertake development of the document and provide coordination and management services. The contract will be for one year to accomplish the project objectives. The project sponsor is the South Florida National Parks Trust, through the Coastal Shipping Fund and Florida Bay Stewardship Fund. The staff position in Everglades National Park responsible for scoping and consultation with appropriate federal, state, and local regulatory agencies will be the supervising Marine Biologist for the Key Largo Interagency Science Center. This staff member will also be responsible for NEPA and permit compliance for the project.

The project will be implemented under the following conditions to ensure that all adverse impacts will be minor or less:

- The park shall require adherence to standard measures for the protection of manatees that are appropriate to the project.

- The park shall require adherence to standard measures for the protection of smalltooth sawfish and sea turtles, including the use of no-wake zones and monitoring.
- Divers will maximize the use of their buoyancy control vests to float over the donor and transplant sites to minimize the potential impact of walking on the seagrass beds.
- If sediment bags are used, bags will be filled on shore, transported to near the sites on a shallow draft boat, and taken to the actual placement areas on small floats at higher tide to minimize possible impacts to the surrounding seagrass beds.
- Turbidity screens will be in place during this work and turbidity measurements will be taken to ensure water quality is not impacted.
- If any cultural material is encountered during seagrass plug harvesting in the Park, (historic shipwrecks, anchors, etc.), that area should be abandoned and another area found, as the seagrass helps protect these resources. Chief of Cultural Resources should then be contacted.

Project Objectives:

- A programmatic seagrass restoration plan will be completed to include generalized assessment and restoration methods that will meet integrated resource stewardship goals and NEPA, NHPA and Wilderness MRA compliance for the activities described in the plan. While in general NEPA, NHPA and Wilderness Minimum Tool analyses require site-specific detail, many protocols and procedures can be assessed in the plan with the goals describing many situations/conditions likely to be found at future restoration project sites, and ensuring program consistency and streamlining future compliance efforts that may be required for some projects. Upon completion of this plan, future restoration projects will require review by the compliance office to determine if the project is adequately covered in site-specific detail in the plan. The compliance office will either determine that a project is covered by the plan or that additional coordination or consultation is required (e.g., ESA Section 7, NHPA, Wilderness Act minimum requirements) before a restoration project can be implemented (it is anticipated that much of the needed compliance for future restoration projects will be covered in the plan).
 - The plan will include a decision matrix to determine the appropriate pathways to consider for conducting the range of anticipated restoration activities including activities and projects, either more complex or unique, that may require additional site analysis and compliance activities.
 - The plan will be developed using existing information, including GIS data for benthic and cultural resources, water depth, critical habitat, wilderness designation, and current seagrass scarring patterns.
 - Severity and type of scarring and geographical location will be used to establish thresholds for intervention, recommend restoration priorities, specify restoration methodologies, and identify permitting and compliance issues. The consultant will develop standards and guidance in the plan for assessing and categorizing the severity of the groundings and scarring, and will include in the plan an initial determination/categorization of severity of groundings and scarring. Severity of grounding and intensity of scarring were analyzed in the SFNRC seagrass scarring report, and in recent reports on the monitoring program from the PTZ. The Park will identify the available datasets for this task and deliver them to the project consultant.
 - The restoration plan will identify and describe “hot spot” (or priority) areas where volunteer/partnership restoration activities could occur and where more complex projects/activities could be undertaken. Methods will include multivariate map and analysis, described elsewhere in this document to create site priorities for restoration of SAV.
 - The restoration plan will include a description of activities that can be undertaken by volunteer efforts to assist with restoration of seagrass damage.
 - The restoration plan will include a section that describes how future boat groundings in Florida Bay will be assessed and restored (Objective 2 below, outlines the steps to fulfill this component).
 - Restoration activities in the plan will be developed in full consideration of NEPA requirements and the mandates and policies of the National Park Service and Everglades National Park. This includes evaluation and stewardship of cultural resources under the mandates and policies of National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106 and Section 110), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). When important cultural resources are found at a seagrass restoration site, measures consistent with applicable laws and policies will be included in the restoration project.

- The bottom of Florida Bay is designated Wilderness under the National Wilderness Act, part of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Wilderness that comprises most of ENP. This conservation category for the bottom of a Bay, excluding the water above is unique and presents unique issues regarding compliance with the Wilderness Act that the plan will need to consider and analyze. The proposed project, to develop a plan that provides a framework for seagrass restoration work in Florida Bay, will describe actions that will impact designated Wilderness resources, in beneficial and perhaps adverse ways. Work recommended in the plan will occur over a multi-year period, with multiple, short- and long-term effects on Wilderness character. The plan will support projects that are consistent with NPS Management Policies to "...reestablish natural functions and processes in human-disturbed components of natural systems in park..." and that are considered appropriate in the context of NPS Wilderness Policy (RM 41): "Management intervention should only be undertaken to the extent necessary to correct past mistakes, the impacts of human use..." The plan will include strategies for conducting restoration projects taking into account minimum requirements and minimum tools analyses for how best to maintain the area in a state 'untrammled by man' and 'retaining its primeval character and influence'. Prior to initiating site restoration activities, the Park's Wilderness Committee will evaluate the appropriateness of proposed restoration activities on designated Wilderness in Florida Bay.
- Develop a standard operating plan (SOP) for restoration techniques for use in Florida Bay. The SOP will include:
 - A description of standard techniques used for repairing and restoring seagrass damage, ranging from prop scars to boat groundings will be developed. The techniques presented will take into account the best information and methodologies available from other shallow-water parks and protected areas plans, including but not limited to Biscayne National Park, Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve, and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.
 - A description of standard techniques used for restoring underwater cultural resources damaged by boat groundings integrating protection of natural and wilderness resources. The techniques described will take into account the advice and recommendations from the Cultural Resources Branch Chief, ENP, and the NPS Submerged Resources Center
 - A rapid damage control plan, for rapid response to grounding incidents that includes interim measures that can be taken to minimize impacts during the interval between the incident and full restoration activities. Interim measures will be described for both natural and cultural resources and consider wilderness character..
 - Considerations of seasonality, location, and site-specific conditions to enhance success of restoration efforts.
 - Outline restoration project team requirements to accomplish the types of projects identified in the plan (i.e., # of people; skills, as applicable; equipment needs; time requirements; cost estimates, etc.)
 - A description of the permitting process including agencies (local, state and federal), contacts, and information required for permitting. For critical habitat, need to define the intersection of where we are likely to be mostly working (i.e. less than 2 ft, and generally far away from mangroves), with the critical habitat maps for sawfish and manatee. For other TE species, use our existing mitigation procedures for sea turtles and for crocs.
 - The SOP will include consideration of signage and/or temporary area closure to ensure the success of the restoration.
 - A flow chart/decision tree will be developed to provide clear guidance on how to best address the types of projects (perhaps 3-4 types of projects) that will be described in the plan (e.g., it might say "if the scar occurs in x zone, and is of y severity, then z methodology would be used"; perhaps data sets of primary benthic types and two categories of depth: more and less than 2 feet MLW, would be all that is needed). This product will take into account the range of potential restoration projects (from the simple to the very complex) taking into account the possibilities that a project will need to consider natural, cultural, and/or wilderness resources that need to be protected and restored.

- Develop an SOP for performing assessments of benthic damage from vessel impacts, including field surveys, high-resolution aerial photography, data collection methods, and reporting (contractor will coordinate with BISC, DRTO, FKNMS and others to develop a strong, consistent assessment process).
- In order to meet the mandate of NPS to protect cultural as well as natural resources in an integrated manner, the project consultant should develop an SOP for performing cultural resources inventories during grounding damage assessments, including field methods, data collection methods, and reporting. The mandates and policies of National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) will be integrated into the SOP.
- Develop an SOP for monitoring restored sites following restoration activity to determine the success of restoration efforts and to systemically develop lessons learned and identify ways to improve restoration projects over time. This would include recommendations on types, frequency, timeframes, and methods for monitoring.
- Estimate number of projects and work effort per year that could be accomplished under this plan, using past performance/activity over last 3-5 years to inform the estimate (i.e., number of park-managed projects, number of NPCA-led projects, number of other projects that might be initiated by other parties, etc.)

Figure 1. Areas in red are mapped propellor scars in Florida Bay (Source: Patterns of Propellor Scarring of Seagrass in Florida Bay, SRFNC Technical Series 2008:1).



Preliminary drawings attached? **No**

Background information attached? **Yes**

Target compliance completion date: **TBD**

Projected advertisement/Day labor start: **TBD**

Construction start date: **n/a**

Is project a hot topic (controversial or sensitive issues that should be brought to attention of Regional Director)? **No**

C. RESOURCE EFFECTS TO CONSIDER:

(Please see section F, Instructions for Determining Appropriate NEPA Pathway, prior to completing this section. Also, use the process described in DO-12, 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G) to (G)(5) and 5.4(F) to help determine the context, duration, and intensity of effects on resources.)

Identify potential effects to the following physical, natural, or cultural resources	No Effect	Negligible Effects	Minor Effects	Exceeds Minor Effects	Data Needed to Determine/Notes
1. Geologic resources – soils, bedrock, streambeds, etc.	X	X			Localized, short-term no effect to negligible adverse effects from site restoration work Bill Perry
2. From geohazards	X				
3. Air quality	X				
4. Soundscapes		X			Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects from n during site restoration work Bridget Litten
5. Water quality or quantity		X			Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects from increased turbidity during site restoration work Long-term, minor beneficial effects from restoration w enhancing seagrass continuity and function Bill Perry
6. Streamflow characteristics	X				
7. Marine or estuarine resources		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects during restoration work Long-term, minor beneficial effects from seagrass rest Bill Perry
8. Floodplains or wetlands	X				
9. Land use, including occupancy, income, values, ownership, type of use	X				
10. Rare or unusual vegetation – old growth timber, riparian, alpine	X				
11. Species of special concern (plant or animal; state or federal listed or proposed for listing) or their habitat		X	X		See answer to #7 (above) Anticipate that Sec 7 consultation process with U.S. FV NMFS will indicate localized, long-term, minor benefi effects on ESA resources Bill Perry, coordinating wit Sonny Bass and Skip Snow regarding T&E species
12. Unique ecosystems, biosphere reserves, World Heritage Sites			X		Long-term, minor beneficial effects to Florida Bay Res that are part of the park's International Biosphere Rese and world Heritage Site designations
13. Unique or important wildlife or wildlife habitat		X	X		See answer to #11 (above) Bill Perry, coordinating w Sonny Bass and Skip Snow regarding species
14. Unique or important fish or fish habitat /Essential Fish Habitat		X	X		See answer to #11 (above) Bill Perry (consultation is NMFS regarding Essential Fish Habitat)
15. Introduce or promote non-native species (plant or animal)	X				
16. Recreation resources, including supply, demand, visitation, activities, etc.		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects from n temporary restriction of areas during installation and re period Long-term, minor beneficial effects from seagrass rest Fred Herling
17. Visitor experience, aesthetic resources		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects from n temporary restriction of areas, and presence of signs, b stakes, etc. during installation and recovery period. Long-term, minor beneficial effects from seagrass rest Bridget Litten
18. Archeological resources		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on archeological resources from site restoration activities Long-term, minor beneficial effects from documenting understanding and protecting archeological resources; appropriate mitigations identified through the Section I process would be built into restoration project workpla Melissa Memory
19. Prehistoric/historic structure		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on prehistoric/historic structures from site restoration activ Long-term, minor beneficial effects from documenting understanding and protecting prehistoric/historic struc appropriate mitigations identified through the Section I process would be built into restoration project workpla Melissa Memory
20. Cultural landscapes		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on archeological resources from site restoration activities Long-term, minor beneficial effects from documenting understanding and protecting archeological resources Melissa Memory
21. Ethnographic resources		X			Long-term, negligible beneficial effects from documen understanding and protecting ethnographic resources Melissa Memory
22. Museum collections (objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections)		X			Long-term, negligible beneficial effects from conservi displaying museum collections associated with restorat projects Melissa Memory

23. Socioeconomics, including employment, occupation, income changes, tax base, infrastructure	X				
24. Minority and low income populations, ethnography, size, migration patterns, etc.	X				
25. Energy resources	X				
26. Other agency or tribal land use plans or policies	X				
27. Resource, including energy, conservation potential, sustainability	X				
28. Urban quality, gateway communities, etc.	X				
29. Long-term management of resources or land/resource productivity		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on wilderness character (trammeling) from site restoration activities Long-term, minor beneficial effects to seagrass, wildlife cultural, archeological, submerged wilderness resource from restoration project activities Bill Perry, Dave Fowler
30. Wilderness – suitability, recommended, potential, designated		X	X		Localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on wilderness character (trammeling, undeveloped) from restoration work Long-term, minor beneficial effects to wilderness character from restoration work (naturalness) Dave Fowler
31. Other important environment resources (e.g. geothermal, paleontological resources)?	X				

D. MANDATORY CRITERIA

Mandatory Criteria: If implemented, would the proposal:	Yes	No	N/A	Comment or Data Needed to Determine
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?		X		
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		X		
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?		X		
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		X		
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?		X		
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		X		
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?		X		During Section 106 compliance for restoration projects, necessary mitigations through programmatic agreements or project-specific requirements would be identified.
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		X		
I. Violate a federal law, or a state, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		X		
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		X		
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		X		
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		X		

For the purpose of interpreting these procedures within the NPS, any action that has the potential to violate the NPS Organic Act by impairing park resources or values would constitute an action that triggers the DOI exception for actions that threaten to violate a federal law for protection of the environment.

E. OTHER INFORMATION

(Please answer the following questions/provide requested information.)

Are personnel preparing this form familiar with the site? **Yes**

Did personnel conduct a site visit? **Yes** *(If yes, attach meeting notes or additional pages noting when site visit took place, who attended, etc.)*

Members of the project IDT have participated in numerous site visits to areas of Florida Bay individually and in small groups that will be considered in this project.

Is the project in an approved plan such as a General Management Plan or an Implementation Plan with an accompanying NEPA document? **Yes**

If so, plan name: **1978 Final Everglades National Park Wilderness Recommendation/Environmental Statement, 1979 Everglades National Park Master Plan and 1981 Everglades National Park Backcountry Management Plan**

Is the environmental document accurate and up-to-date? *(If no, you may need to prepare plan/EA or EIS.)*
FONSI ROD *(Check)* Date approved:

Are there any interested or affected agencies or parties? **Yes**

Did you make a diligent effort to contact them? **Yes* (*will occur following initial IDT evaluation and input on the project. This will include posting information about the project and public involvement opportunities on the park website during initial project scoping, in an e-mail to the public and park stakeholder groups, and press release. A 30-day public comment period will be held during scoping).**

Has consultation with all affected agencies or tribes been completed? **No* (*will occur following initial IDT evaluation and input on the project).**

(If yes, attach additional pages re: consultations, including the name, dates, and a summary of comments from other agencies or tribal contacts.)

Agencies and Tribes to be contacted include but are not limited to: Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida State Historic Preservation Office, Monroe County Department of Marine Resources, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Project will be presented to the Everglades Wilderness Committee once a draft plan is underway to insure timely input and review while the plan is being developed and after it's been drafted regarding Wilderness Minimum Requirement Analysis and Minimum Tool Analysis issues and concerns. During earlier stages of the project IDT members that are also on the Wilderness Committee will serve as liaisons, and will bring information to the IDT as appropriate regarding wilderness matters.

Melissa Memory, Chief of Cultural Resources at Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, will review project information and forwarded to appropriate staff in Southeast Region for review and input regarding Section 106 and other cultural resource requirements. Melissa will coordinate completion of Section 106 requirements for this project. Consideration will be given to develop a Section 106 programmatic agreement (PA) for projects that would be implemented following plan completion and the decision matrix developed as part of the plan would identify potential projects that would fall under the PA and those that would not (and require project-specific consultation).

Biologists (Bill Perry in consultation with Sonny Bass and Skip Snow) will make Section 7 determinations and conduct consultation as necessary with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

Biologists (Bill Perry in consultation with Sonny Bass and Skip Snow) will make Essential Fish Habitat determinations and conduct consultation as necessary with the NMFS.

Are there any connected, cumulative, or similar actions as part of the proposed action? (e.g., other development projects in area or identified in GMP, adequate/available utilities to accomplish project)? **No**
(If yes, attach additional pages detailing the other actions.)

F. INSTRUCTIONS FOR DETERMINING APPROPRIATE NEPA PATHWAY

First, always check DO-12, section 3.2, "Process to Follow" in determining whether the action is categorically excluded from additional NEPA analyses. Other sections within DO-12, including sections 2.9 and 2.10; 3.5; 4.5(G)(4) and (G)(5), and 5.4(F), should also be consulted in determining the appropriate NEPA pathway. Complete the following tasks:

conduct a site visit or ensure that staff is familiar with the site's specifics; consult with affected agencies, and/or tribes; and interested public and complete this environmental screening form.

If your action is described in DO-12 section 3.3, "CE's for Which No Formal Documentation is Necessary," follow the instructions indicated in that section.

If your action is not described in DO-12, section 3.3, and IS described in section 3.4, AND you checked YES or identified "data needed to determine" impacts in any block in section D (Mandatory Criteria), this is an indication that there is potential for significant impacts to the human environment, therefore, you must prepare an EA or EIS or supply missing information to determine context, duration and intensity of impacts.

If your action is described in section 3.4 and NO is checked for all boxes in section D (Mandatory Criteria), and there are either no effects or **all** of the potential effects identified in section C (Resource Effects to Consider) are no more than minor intensity, usually there is no potential for significant impacts and an EA or EIS is not required. If, however, during internal scoping and further investigation, resource effects still remain unknown, or are at the minor to moderate level of intensity, and the potential for significant impacts may be likely, an EA or EIS is required.

In all cases, data collected to determine the appropriate NEPA pathway must be included in the administrative record.

RECOMMENDED NEPA PATHWAY

Categorical Exclusion without Documentation

Categorical Exclusion with Documentation

Environmental Assessment (EA)

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

H. OTHER COMPLIANCE/CONSULTATIONS

ESA

Any Federal Species in the project Area? **Yes**

If species in area: **No Likely to Adversely Affect**

Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

Question	Yes	No	Details
A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area?		X	Exempt from compliance with executive order: Statement of findings approval date:
A.2. Is project in wetlands?	X		Exempt from compliance with executive order: project exempt from Statement of Finding requirement as it will have beneficial effects on wetlands (NPS Procedural Manual #77-1 – Wetlands Protection, 4.2.1(h) ; February 2008) Statement of findings approval date: n/a
B. COE Section 404 permit needed?		X	Issue Date: Expiration Date: Request Date:
C. State 401 certification?		X	
D. State Section 401 Permit?		X	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?		X	
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?		X	Required Date: Reviewed Date:
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?		X	
H. Any other permits required?		X	Permit Information:

Other Permits/Laws

Question	Yes	No
A. Consistent with Wilderness Act if Wilderness, or Not Applicable otherwise?	X	
B. Wilderness minimum requirement (tool) decision needed?	X	
C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?		X

D. National Trails concerns exist?		X
E. Air Quality consult with State needed?		X
F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes)	X	
G. Other:		X

Wilderness Compliance

Question	Yes	No	
A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?	X		Florida Bay is designated as submerged marine wilderness per the park's 1979 wilderness designation
B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?	X		Florida Bay is designated as submerged marine wilderness per the park's 1979 wilderness designation
C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?	X		Project will allow for protection of wilderness resources consistent with the Wilderness Act of 1964 and NPS policies
D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)?	X		There is potential for localized, short-term negligible adverse effects on wilderness resources
E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)?	X		There is the potential that motor boats and equipment would be considered in during restoration activities
F. If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right.	X		As described above, project products and SOPs will fully consider and develop minimum requirements analysis and protocols to be followed
G. Other Information: _____		X	

Data Entered By: Fred Herling, Park Planner

I. MITIGATING MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN PROJECT

- If previously unknown sites or artifacts are encountered during installation, Chief of Cultural Resources shall be contacted at 305-242-7755.
- The NPS will adhere to the standard protection measures for sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish (attached), including the use of no-wake zones and monitoring during the transportation of crews/materials and installation of bird stakes.
- The NPS will adhere to the standard manatee protection measures (attached) that are appropriate to the project.
- Others (TBD as the plan is developed).

Enhancing marine resource stewardship in Florida Bay

G. INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM SIGNATORIES

All interdisciplinary team members sign as directed or deemed necessary by the Superintendent. By signing this form, you affirm the following: you have either completed a site visit or are familiar with the specifics of the site; you have consulted with affected agencies and tribes; and you, to the best of your knowledge, have answered the questions posed in the checklist correctly.

Interdisciplinary Team Leader signature	Name	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
	FRED HERLING	NEPA COMPLIANCE, PLANNING	2-14-12
Technical Specialists signatures	Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
	Bill Perry	Ecology, Wildlife	
	Jonathan Taylor	Contract Management	2/2/12
	Melissa Memory	Cultural Resources	2/1/12
	Dave Fowler	Resource Protection, Wilderness	
	Bridget Litten	Interpretation/Education	1/31/12
	Mike Savage	Facility Management	
	Sonny Bass	Wildlife Biologist	

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Technical Specialists signatures	FRED HERLING	NEPA COMPLIANCE, PLANNING	
<i>Bill Perry</i>	Names Bill Perry	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
	Jonathan Taylor	Ecology, Wildlife	2/1/12
	Melissa Memory	Contract Management	
	Dave Fowler	Cultural Resources	
	Bridget Litten	Resource Protection, Wilderness	
	Mike Savage	Interpretation/Education	
	Sonny Bass	Facility Management	
		Wildlife Biologist	

Enhancing marine resource stewardship in Florida Bay

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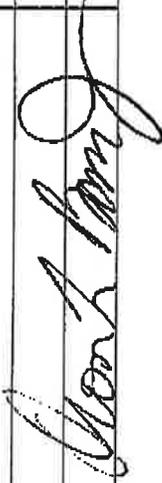
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Technical Specialists signatures	Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
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	Jonathan Taylor	Contract Management	
	Melissa Menoxoy	Cultural Resources	
	Dave Fowler	Resource Protection, Wilderness	2-3-12
	Bridget Litten	Interpretation/Education	
	Mike Savage	Facility Management	
	Sony Bass	Wildlife Biologist	

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Technical Specialists signatures	Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
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	Jonathan Taylor	Contract Management	
	Melissa Memory	Cultural Resources	
	Dave Fowler	Resource Protection, Wilderness	
	Bridget Litten	Interpretation/Education	
	Mike Savage	Facility Management	
	Sonny Bass	Wildlife Biologist	

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Technical Specialists signatures	Names	Field of Expertise	Date Signed
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	Jonathan Taylor	Contract Management	
	Melissa Memory	Cultural Resources	
	Dave Fowler	Resource Protection, Wilderness	
	Bridget Litten	Interpretation/Education	
	Mike Savage	Facility Management	1-31-2012
	Sonny Bass	Wildlife Biologist	

J. SUPERVISORY SIGNATORY

Based on the environmental impact information contained in the statutory compliance file and in this environmental screening form, environmental documentation for this stage of the subject project is complete.

*Note: The project will be forwarded for recommendation and approval following completion of the plan and related products to be developed for this project.

Recommended:

Brien F. Culhane, Chief, Planning and Compliance	Telephone Number	Date
	305-242-7717	

Approved:

Superintendent Dan B. Kimball	Telephone Number	Date
	305-242-7712	