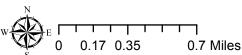


Conch Reef Sanctuary Preservation Area and Conch Reef Special Use Area/Conservation Area



Conch Reef SPA protects an area with diverse coral species and one of the best developed reef wall systems in the Florida Keys. It contains good conch habitat and has historically contained well developed stands of pillar coral. This zone was originally designed to limit consumptive activities and separate users engaged in different activities.

Conch Reef SUA protects an aggregated patch reef system with limited spur-and-groove development and a well developed reef wall system that contains historic populations of ESA-listed elkorn, staghorn, and pillar corals. Also includes associated hardbottom and seagrass habitats that support queen conch and lobster populations. This zone encompasses the Aquarius Reef Base underwater laboratory. This zone was originally established to limit use and allow scientists to differentiate impacts caused by use and those caused by changing environmental conditions.

This map contains proposed marine zone alternatives for public comment. Proposed marine zone alternatives do not reflect agency decision at this time. For more details about the proposed alternatives and zone descriptions, including associated regulations, see Section 3.3 and 3.4 of this DEIS.

Upper Keys Region

