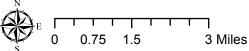


Moser Channel Banks Wildlife Management Areas and Red Bay Banks Conservation Area



Moser Channel Banks WMAs protect seagrass and hardbottom habitat that support a diverse assemblage of corals, sponges, macroalgae, and seagrasses. Decreases disturbance to these benthic habitats from vessel impacts. The majority of the banks have moderate prop scarring. This habitat type is not currently well represented in the existing FKNMS marine zones.

Red Bay Bank CA protects large, contiguous, interconnected, shallow seagrass and hardbottom habitats that support diverse sponge assemblages, queen conch and reticulated sea star populations, along with rose coral, finger coral, ivory bush coral, and other corals that are not usually seen on reefs. Habitats connect juvenile fish populations with their offshore reef-associated cohorts. Includes many shallow areas that have been impacted by prop scarring and other boat injuries. Protection will reduce the occurrence of prop scarring and other boat-induced injuries.

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.

Middle Keys Region

