

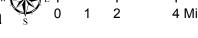
Western Sambo Sanctuary Preservation Area and Eastern Sambo Special Use Area/Conservation Area

Western Sambo SPA protects a large area of interconnected nearshore and midshelf patch reefs, and a well-developed bank reef with a prominent spur-and-groove habitat along with associated seagrass and hardbottom communities. This zone provides a corridor for the migration of juvenile and adult fish and invertebrate populations. This area meets the advisory council goal to protect large, contiguous, diverse, and interconnected habitats, including for fish moving inshore to offshore through their life cycle. Eastern Sambo SUA protects a well-developed spur-and-groove bank reef that formerly contained thickets of ESA-listed elkhorn and staghorn corals and important breeding populations of queen conch. This zone was originally established to serve as a shallow reef community in an area of good water quality, in comparison with Tennessee Reef, which is located in an area of poor water quality opposite of Florida Bay.

Note: Western Sambo is currently designated as an ecological reserve in Alternative 1, however the regulations applied in this area are similar to those applied in sanctuary preservation areas as shown here.

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.



Lower Keys Region

