

BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
PLAN
WORKING GROUP

DRAFT DOCUMENT: DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS (DFC)

ISSUE GROUP 1 – POPULATIONS OF EXPLOITED FISH & SHELLFISH

(1.1-1.3 all combined for DFC)

SUB CATEGORY 1.1 *The abundance and average size of fish (that are subject to take and spend a significant portion of their lives within the Park) relative to those fish in similar fished habitats outside the Park*

SUB CATEGORY 1.2 *Future abundance and average size of fish within the Park (that are subject to take and spend a significant portion of their lives within the Park) relative to current levels*

SUB CATEGORY 1.3 *The long-term abundances of spiny lobster, blue crab, stone crab and pink shrimp within the Park*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Abundance and size of key / indicator species are increased over a five-year period.

ISSUE GROUP 2 – COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITY

SUB CATEGORY 2.1 *Numbers of commercial fishers within the Park*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Limit number of commercial fishers to current levels

SUB CATEGORY 2.2 *Bycatch amount and bycatch-related mortality associated with commercial fishing gear*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Commercial bycatch is limited to current levels

ISSUE GROUP 3 NEW- RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY

Note: This entire Category could possibly be moved under Category 1.

SUB CATEGORY 3.1 *Number of recreational fishers within the Park*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Limit impacts of recreational fishing

SUB CATEGORY 3.2 *Amount and related mortality of bycatch from recreational fishing*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Limit recreational bycatch

SUB CATEGORY 3.3 *Spearfishing impacts (Previously under HABITAT category)*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

1. Reduce spearfishing harvest of large fish spearfishers
2. Reduce likelihood of spear related habitat damage.
3. Increase safety of spearfishing gear.

ISSUE GROUP 4 HABITAT CONDITIONS

SUB CATEGORY 4.1 *Impacts from roller-frame trawling*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

1. Improve knowledge of effects of trawling on bottom communities and habitats.
2. Current fleet in good working condition; rollers cannot be or are not modified to drag the bottom.
3. Capability of regulations based on documented research

SUB CATEGORY 4.2 and 4.3 (newly combined) *Frequency of derelict spiny lobster and crab traps and trap debris on benthic habitats and Frequency of lost or discarded hook and line fishing gear*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Reduce densities and impacts of ghost traps and unsightly dangerous monofilament/lines/ropes below current levels. (result: pleasant visual experience underwater (natural diving))

SUB CATEGORY 4.4 *Habitat impacts (e.g., broken, injured and over-turned coral) due to lobster divers*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

1. Reduce/eliminate human impacts on habitat during lobster sport season
2. Users are aware of regulations and user's potential impacts on habitat

ISSUE GROUP 5 RECREATIONAL FISHING EXPERIENCE

SUB CATEGORY 5.1 *Quality of experience of Park visitors engaged in recreational fishing*

SUB CATEGORY 5.2 *The portion of flats fishers experiencing a "private and tranquil"*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

None was identified. The quandary was that this is very subjective.

ISSUE GROUP 6: LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION AND COORDINATION

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

1. Park rules and regulations are enforced effectively and uniformly.
2. Increase funding for and number of law enforcement officers over current levels.
3. Education and outreach efforts have fostered voluntary protection of Park resources by building support for rules and regulations and responsible behavior on the water.