

**BISCAYNE NATIONAL PARK FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN
WORKING GROUP**

**DRAFT DOCUMENT: DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS (DFC)
AS OF APRIL 19, 2004**

**ISSUE GROUP 1 – POPULATIONS OF FISH & SHELLFISH IMPACTED
BY FISHERIES ACTIVITIES**

Indicate ranking of NEW TITLE here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #1.1

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

Initial ranking of this DFC: mean: 4.75 (NO RE-RANKING NECESSARY)

Ranking	5	4	3	2	1
Number	15	5	0	0	0

Action Steps for DFC 1.1:

What should be done?	How?	Specifics
Define/examine previous record for key indicator species	Utilize scientific biological sampling, dockside surveys, species specific harvest data	Establish baseline Review historical data Annual summary Five year analysis Ten year assessment
Monitor the following key species: bonefish, permit, tarpon, shark, snapper, grouper, snook, lobster, shrimp, crabs (blue & stone), mullet (finger), bait species, seatrout, redfish	Same as above	Same as above

Implement restrictions by species	Establish local/stakeholder advisory panels to develop and review management regulations (existing and proposed) for specific species (not standing committees)	Five year analysis
Implement additional restrictions in adjacent State & Federal waters		
Distribute end-of-season sampling card to license holders to monitor populations		

Ranking Action Steps for DFC #1.1-

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Additional steps?:

ISSUE GROUP 2: LAW ENFORCEMENT, EDUCATION AND COORDINATION

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

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

Initial ranking of these DFCs: mean: 4.81 (NO RE-RANKING NECESSARY)

Ranking	5	4	3	2	1
Number	17	4	0	0	0

Note: Education and enforcement are key components to making the entire plan work. To accomplish this, we need to establish a funding structure.

Actions for DFC 2.1.1-2.1.3:

1. Establish a permit system for fishing within BNP. Under the permit system:
 - a. Permit is for fishing from land or from water
 - b. Purchasers of permit required to view 1-hour informative video on rules and regulations pertaining to fishing and boating within Park
 - c. Permit holders that fish from boat put sticker on boat; can obtain more than one sticker per permit if can document owning multiple boats
 - d. Differentiate between locals and visitors
 - e. Coordinate efforts with ENP and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (BNP should develop a relationship with Florida FWCC in which these funds fund FWCC enforcement officers operating in BNP).
 - f. Funding generated by permit earmarked solely for enforcement and education.

2. Education [concerning both (1) rules and regulations and (2) importance of being an ecologically-responsible park user]
 - a. Place signage and materials in English/Spanish/Creole at all public access ramps and fuel docks leading to BNP explaining all fishing and general regulations pertaining to all vessels using Park waters
 - b. Coordinate with appropriate media outlets to disseminate rules and regulations
 - c. Education at all school levels, clubs, vendors, etc.
 - d. Earmark 10% of collected funds to community outreach programs to reach youth

3. Enforcement of Rules and Regulations
 - a. FWCC officers should be cross-deputized to enforce federal and state regulations in BNP
 - b. Establish and enforce strict penalties for all violations, particularly for repeat offenders
 - c. Devise and utilize creative law enforcement approaches
 - d. Stricter penalties for violations; violations enforced (particularly with repeat offenders)

Indicate ranking of Action Steps for DFC 2.1.1-2.1.3 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Additional steps?:

ISSUE GROUP 3 – COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITY

SUB CATEGORY 3.1 Numbers of commercial fishers within the Park

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #3.1.1: Reduce adverse impacts of commercial fishing

Indicate ranking of DFC #3.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to DFC 3.1.1:

What should be done?	How?	Target Date
<p>Establish a limited, qualified non-transferable commercial permitting system for the next 5 years in BNP</p> <p>a. Show landings in 744 for any or of the last 3 years</p> <p>b. No transfers and lose it if non-use or not renewed</p> <p>c. Plan and develop system so that after 5 years, assess situation, then put a transferable permit (if appropriate) system in place that:</p> <p>i. Includes fishermen with qualified landings in BISC (weed out) in zones 744.4/744.5/744.8</p> <p>ii. Use it or lose it</p> <p>iii. Consider banning wing nets targeting food shrimp</p>	<p>By NPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - can only renew permits gotten in 1st year - Charge \$100 for permit when first offered and every subsequent year 	<p>Implement initial permits right away (when plan is implemented)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - then after 5 years evaluate and implement transferable permit ASAP
Identify areas being trawled for shrimp to help later identify management actions and identify areas of user conflicts	NPS must work with commercial fishermen	ASAP
Restrict traps from sensitive areas (hard bottom); Limit to sand and grass bottom	Make a new Rule	ASAP/upon implementation of FMP
Establish Boat standards –	Make a new Rule already inspected by Coast Guard so no need to put more duties on NPS	ASAP/upon implementation of FMP

Indicate ranking of Action Steps for DFC 3.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
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Your Ranking (check only one)					
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Additional steps?:

SUB CATEGORY 3.2 *Bycatch amount and bycatch-related mortality associated with commercial fishing gear*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #3.2.1: Minimize adverse effects of bycatch mortality

Indicate ranking of DFC #3.2.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to 3.2.1:

What should be done?	How?	Target Date
Establish inspection program to check for proper equipment/gear use have frequent visual inspection of bait, roller-frame trawls	- <u>At least semi-annual</u> inspections by NPS/State -Issue certificates of passing inspection or decal	ASAP
Investigate new technologies that can reduce bycatch	Researchers work with shrimpers	ASAP
NPS should consider stricter gear standards on trawl equipment	Consult with trawlers/shrimp fishermen to identify gear that is damaging, place restrictions as appropriate	Put in place when FMP implemented, so figure out restrictions during scoping/drafting period
Perform more public outreach/education to ensure commercial fishermen are <u>aware</u> of regulations and adverse		

effects (in English & Spanish)		
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Indicate ranking of Action Steps for DFC 3.2.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Additional steps?:

ISSUE GROUP 4- RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY

SUB CATEGORY 4.1 *Number of recreational fishers within the Park*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #4.1.1: Minimize and control the adverse impacts of recreational fishing to habitat and fish populations including bycatch mortality.

Indicate ranking of DFC 4.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to 4.1.1:

What should be done?	How?	By Whom?	Target Date
\$25.00 fee for usage of Park per boat (Boat access fee, for all boaters regardless of fishing)	Via permit process	BNP \$2.00 state fishing stamp	As soon as Plan is approved
Eliminate mini	Park regulation	BNP	Same as above

season	State law		
\$25.00 boat fee will generate revenue to increase the number of law enforcement personnel to monitor and enforce Park fish regulations	By initiating \$25.00 boat fee for NP use	BNP	Same as above
Separate navigation channels from recreating in the Park (i.e. if someone is only trying to get through the Park and does not stop, he/she should not be required to have a decal or permit)			
Park permit	Via permit process Reduced entry by permit	BNP	As soon as Plan is approved
Education received at time of sticker issuance -ensure recreational fishers know what "bycatch" is			

Indicate ranking of Action Steps for DFC 4.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Additional steps?:

SUB CATEGORY 4.2 Spearfishing impacts (Previously under HABITAT category)

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

4.2.1 Reduce spearfishing harvest of large fish by spearfishers

4.2.2 Reduce likelihood of spear related habitat damage.

Indicate ranking of DFC 4.2.1 and 4.2.2 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

4.2.3 Increase safety of spearfishing gear. (group indicated this may not belong here)

How would you rank deleting DFC #4.3.3 from this section and recommending it be considered under the General Management Plan (GMP) (it was noted that this is about safety, not about fishing):

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to 4.3.1-4.3.2:

What should be done?	How?	By Whom?	Target Date
Eliminate use of any gear but Hawaiian Sling	Change regulations and improve enforcement Eliminate air equipment for all spear fishing	BNP	As soon as Plan is complete

Prohibit the use of scuba gear by spearfishers			
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Indicate ranking of Action Steps for 4.2.1 and 4.2.2:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Additional steps?:

ISSUE GROUP 5: *HABITAT CONDITIONS*

FACILITATOR'S NOTE: The small group changed the organization of the section.

Sub Category 5.1: *Marine Debris*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #5.1.1: Minimize adverse impacts to habitat from monofilament, stainless hooks, sinkers, traps, nets, trash, ropes, anchors and lines

Indicate ranking of DFC 5.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to 5.1.1:

What should be done?	How?	Target Date
Partner with programs like Clean Marina program		ASAP
Incentives for good behavior (reduced fees?)		

Required education program before Park use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Videos • In-school programs • Sticker to indicate completion or signed "contract" (like 3 sisters for manatees) 	
TV/Radio public information re: debris (\$ like in hotels)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work w/NGOs, local groups, networks, DJs, etc. • Hotels run on their in-house channel 	
Monitoring program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with organizations that already have programs • Work with Park users 	
Prohibit non-biodegradable materials used for fishing that are non-retrievable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regulations 	
Signage that educates re: marine debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School projects • Park "make a sign" contest • Work w/NGOs to sponsor signs • Apply for grants 	ASAP
Marine debris clean-ups (derelict trap clean-ups)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with students, groups, etc. • Park organized activity • "treasure hunt" for key debris 	
Place discard receptacles (monofilament, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner with existing programs • Create own receptacles • "Design a can" 	

PLEASE NOTE: Spawning season closures: belongs elsewhere but our group thought a good idea (maybe under populations?)

Indicate ranking of Action steps for #DFC 5.1.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking					

(check only one)					
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Additional steps?:

Sub Category #5.2: *Direct Fishing Impacts*

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION #5.2.1: Minimize adverse impacts to habitat from: lobster divers, roller trawlers, prop damage, anchor damage, groundings, spearing and traps

Indicate ranking of DFC 5.2.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					

Action Steps to 5.2.1:

What should be done?	How?	Target Date
Research Park topography for fragile (define) areas (e.g. reefs, grass, sand-grass interface) and map.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial survey • Underwater survey • Use existing habitat maps and ground truth to update 	ASAP – like within 3 months
Conduct study to gain knowledge on habitat impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review areas of current use (fisherman reports and other user reports) • Underwater survey • Commission marine bio team • Establish RNA (Research Natural Area, completely protected) as control 	ASAP – like within 3 months of above
Mark fragile habitat areas with signs/lights or computer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buoys • Beacons • Lights 	Within 6 months of #2
Create buffer zones around sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit harmful gear (regs) 	Same time frame as #3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark areas with signs/buoys • Put on map to distribute at marinas, Park, etc. 	
Zone Park (designate certain areas for certain activities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from users • Stakeholder group to designate areas • Consider fragile areas (completely protect some of those) 	Through FNP/GMP process (within 2 years)
Eliminate mini-season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regs for closure of BNP 	2004 season
Eliminate spearfishing - or sling/polespear only - or no powerheads (analogy to hunting or other items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regs to stop spearfishing in BNP 	
Gear standards for roller trawls and inspections so gear rolls not drags	<p>Establish workable standards and inspection process for all gear used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Length • Width • Height • Roller diameter • Finger bar spacing 	
BNP licenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS/FWC partnership to sell licenses – use mail, internet, locations 	
Any state regs on commercial lobster apply to BNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have BNP issue parallel regs – adopt FWC regs 	Continuously
BNP sets fine \$ if NPS catches State regulation violators (incentives for enforcement)	Community service in the Park as a consequence of violating any of the new rules	Continuously

Indicate ranking of Action steps for DFC 5.2.1 here:

Value	5	4	3	2	1
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Your Ranking (check only one)					
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Additional steps?:

ISSUE GROUP 6: RECREATIONAL FISHING EXPERIENCE

Actions

- 1 - Collect baseline data on (1) what is required for a “quality” experience and (2) what proportion of fishers are having a quality experience
- 2 - Provide a feedback critique system for BNP fishermen and fisherladies

You are being asked to rank the following concept:

This entire section of “Recreational Fishing Experience” should be moved to the General Management Plan (GMP) and the actions suggested above should be incorporated in the GMP (possibly in a section entitled “Recreational Experience” which would include the fishing experience).

Value	5	4	3	2	1
Your Ranking (check only one)					
