



General Management Plan Update

Dear Friends of Biscayne National Park,

As the new Superintendent at Biscayne National Park, I am enthusiastic to work on completion of the General Management Plan, which will guide the park's decision-making for the next two to three decades. Because the plan will have long-lasting impacts, the park's staff carefully reviewed more than 18,000 comments we received on the 2011 Draft General Management Plan. Many of those comments had thoughtful suggestions that prompted us to reexamine certain aspects of the plan.

In conjunction with key partners, including the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), we continue to use the best available science to develop a supplemental plan with one, or potentially more, modified alternatives. We expect to have the supplemental plan available this fall, and will immediately seek additional public comment. We will widely publicize the public meetings which will follow the release of the draft supplemental plan. Please contact the park at bisc_mailing_list@nps.gov if you wish to remain informed about the planning process.

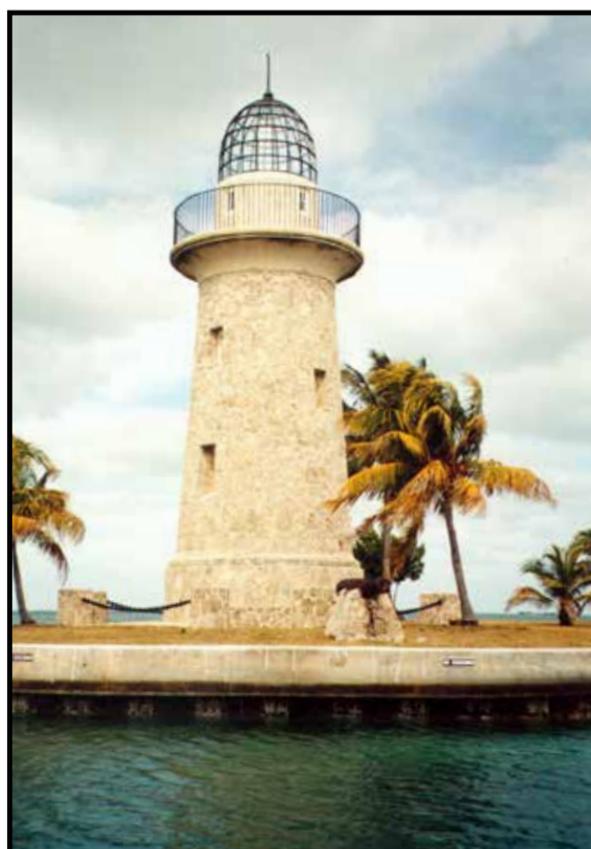
Biscayne National Park has a beautiful array of resources and is truly a gem of the National Park System. It is a park deeply loved and appreciated by generations of visitors. It is served by passionate and talented staff and volunteers, and actively supported by its partners and the greater Miami area. I look forward to working with everyone on continuing to refine the park's General Management Plan.

Sincerely,

Brian Carlstom
Superintendent, Biscayne National Park



Next Steps



1	Determine new adaptive management techniques in consultation with partner agencies; WE ARE HERE
2	Release the supplemental plan for a 60-day public comment period
3	Publicize and hold public meetings
4	Evaluate and analyse comments and write the <i>Biscayne National Park General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement</i>
5	Release the <i>Biscayne National Park General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement</i>
6	Publish the Record of Decision for the <i>Final Biscayne National Park General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement</i>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 DENVER SERVICE CENTER – MORGAN MCCOSH ELMER, PLANNING
 12795 WEST ALAMEDA PARKWAY
 PO BOX 252287
 DENVER CO 80225-0287

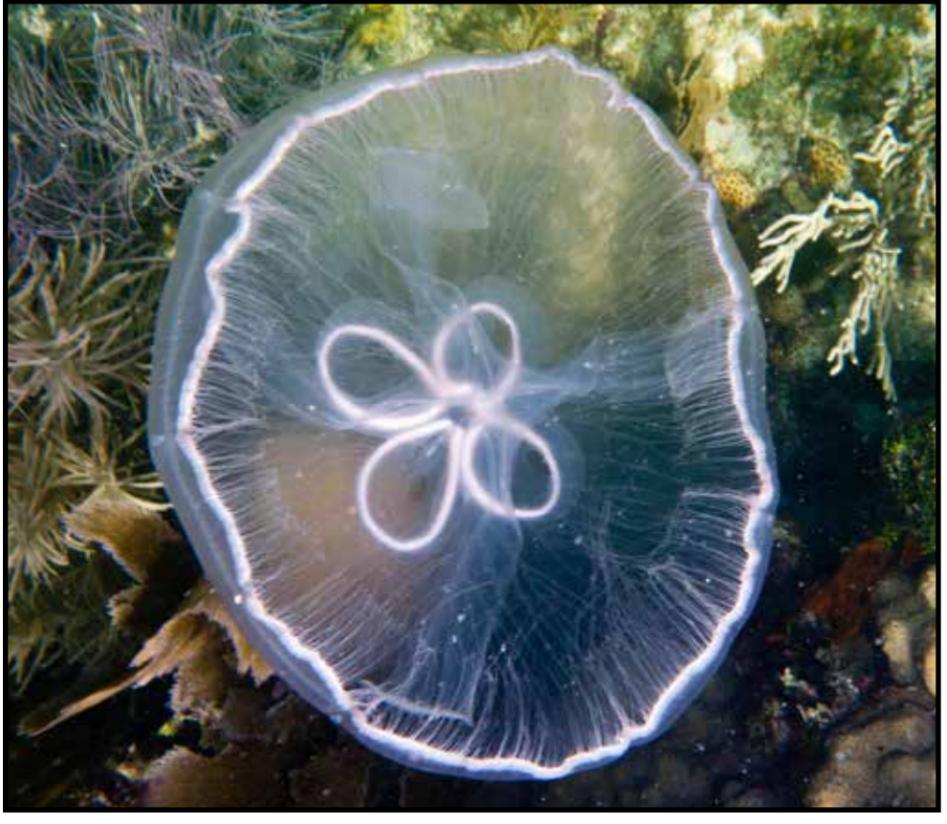
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Thank you for your interest in Biscayne National Park!



Biscayne National Park has been engaging the public and stakeholders in our General Management Plan process for more than a decade. In 2011, we released the Draft General Management Plan and sought public input. We reviewed more than 18,000 public comments on a wide range of subjects, including a number of comments from federal and state agencies. Many of the comments raised concerns about potential restrictions on boating and fishing that would have resulted from some of the new zoning that was proposed.



The park continues to consult with our partners, evaluate available science, and explore the use of various management tools, as we develop a new alternative or alternatives that would be less restrictive to boating and fishing, while still achieving broader visitor experience goals. As part of this process, the park is pursuing an adaptive management and phased implementation approach that will provide a flexible framework for achieving the desired goals. Adaptive management allows for incorporating lessons learned after a plan is implemented. The plan's strategies and actions will be fine-tuned based on observing and evaluating the degree of success achieved. To provide additional site-specific and technical expertise, the park is collaborating with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to develop potential strategies, as well as criteria for evaluation and modification.

CURRENT STATUS

BACKGROUND