

# Biscayne National Park: General Management Plan

## *Robust Boating and Fishing Access Must be Maintained*

**Legislative Objective:** Congress must protect boating and fishing access at Biscayne National Park. The National Park Service is proposing a General Management Plan, which directs park uses and operations. The current preferred alternative, endorsed by park managers, would establish a 10,522-acre marine reserve – or no fishing zone- and several “no combustion engine zones” which act as de facto no-fishing zones because their large size renders the shoreline waters inaccessible. The boating and fishing community seeks to prevent the establishment of a marine reserve and provide necessary safeguards for access to shoreline fishing, before a final General Management Plan is finalized.

### Background

- Located adjacent to Miami, FL, Biscayne National Park is the largest marine park in the National Park system and is one of the country’s largest urban recreational fishing areas.
- Biscayne National Park supports approximately **10 million** angler trips per year.
- The National Park Service is proposing to prohibit fishing in **10,522 acres** of the park’s waters. This creation of a “marine reserve” is draconian and fails to utilize existing fishing regulations for effective resource management.
- The General Management Plan proposals establish a “no combustion engine zone” along the entire shoreline corridor, which hinders boating and fishing access, and creates “de facto” closure of the park’s waters.
- The Park’s General Management Plan could establish operating precedent for boating and fishing access for the next twenty years. Florida is the number one boating and fishing state, with substantial economic implications to the entire marine industry. The proposed closures would inhibit visitor access, discourage Park visitation, and implement draconian management policies.



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