

RESOLUTION MEPC.98(47)
adopted on 8 March 2002
IDENTIFICATION OF THE SEA AREA AROUND THE FLORIDA KEYS
AS A PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SEA AREA

ANNEX 5

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THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE,

BEING AWARE of the ecological, social, economic, cultural, scientific and educational value of the sea areas around the Florida Keys, as well as the international shipping traffic and activities in the area,

NOTING that article 211(6) of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is further evidence of the will of States to co-operate in defining vulnerable marine areas requiring a higher level of protection than that which generally applies,

NOTING FURTHER that the Guidelines for Identification and Designation of Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas adopted under resolution A.927(22) set out procedures for designation of particularly sensitive sea areas and for adoption of measures to be applied in such areas,

RECOGNIZING that the Sub-Committee on Navigation, at its forty-seventh session, agreed with several associated routing measures for the waters around the Florida Keys for approval by the Maritime Safety Committee at its seventy-fifth session,

RECOGNIZING ALSO the intention of Member Governments to co-operate with the coastal State to determine measures to be applied in the proposed sea area as soon as possible,

HAVING CONSIDERED the proposal from the United States to designate the sea area around the Florida Keys as a particularly sensitive sea area,

HAVING AGREED that criteria for identification of a particularly sensitive sea area provided in resolution A.927(22) are fulfilled for the sea area around the Florida Keys,

IDENTIFIES the sea area around the Florida Keys as defined in the Annex to this resolution as a particularly sensitive sea area.

ANNEX

**GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE
SEA AREA AROUND THE FLORIDA KEYS**

In order to avoid the risk of pollution and damage to this unique, fragile, and pristine coral reef ecosystem, mariners should exercise extreme care when navigating in the area bounded by a line connecting the following geographical positions which is designated as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area:

(Reference chart: United States 11013, 1998 edition. *Note:* This chart is based on North American 1983 Datum.)

(1)	25°36'.85N	080°18'.50W	(16)	24°22'.30N	081°43'.17W
(2)	25°36'.08N	080°13'.08W	(17)	24°23'.00N	081°53'.50W
(3)	25°40'.27N	080°12'.05W	(18)	24°23'.00N	082°03'.50W
(4)	25°40'.30N	080°10'.74W	(19)	24°23'.42N	082°20'.52W
(5)	25°39'.11N	080°08'.98W	(20)	24°22'.00N	082°48'.00W
(6)	25°38'.81N	080°08'.03W	(21)	24°18'.00N	083°05'.00W
(7)	25°38'.77N	080°06'.87W	(22)	24°18'.00N	083°09'.00W
(8)	25°39'.70N	080°06'.85W	(23)	24°33'.00N	083°09'.00W
(9)	25°45'.00N	080°06'.10W	(24)	24°37'.00N	083°06'.00W
(10)	25°38'.70N	080°02'.70W	(25)	24°46'.00N	083°06'.00W
(11)	25°22'.00N	080°03'.00W	(26)	24°46'.00N	082°54'.00W
(12)	25°06'.38N	080°10'.48W	(27)	24°45'.80N	082°48'.00W
(13)	24°56'.37N	080°19'.26W	(28)	24°44'.00N	081°55'.00W
(14)	24°37'.90N	080°47'.30W	(29)	24°51'.00N	081°26'.00W
(15)	24°29'.20N	081°17'.30W	(30)	24°55'.00N	080°56'.00W

(31) From the point of 24°55'.00N 080°56'.00W, the boundary then follows the boundary of Everglades National Park in a southerly then northeasterly direction through Florida Bay and Buttonwood Sound. (The precise boundary coordinates for this area is going through a process for technical verification; however, international shipping is not likely to navigate in this area due to water depths.)

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