

# Issue: Evaluate no-take effects in Reserve

## Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS)

### Tortugas Ecological Reserve (TER)



#### NCCOS Program Goals & Objectives

**NCCOS Strategic Goal 1.3**  
Determine the effectiveness of coastal managers' decisions in NOAA-protected areas

#### Issues & Problems

**NCCOS Societal Stressor 2.2**  
Determine the social, economic, and biologic effects of human activities on specific coastal ecosystems

#### Research Response

**NCCOS Project Title**  
"Characterization of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve: Establishment of a Baseline and Measurement of the Effect of Establishment of a Reserve"  
Mark.Fonseca@noaa.gov NPD Project Code 02F00010

#### NMSP Management Need

Determine the ecological and economic consequences of establishing a reserve



Performance Measures

Characterization

Fish size, abundance, coral cover, trophic dynamics, rebound from trawling pressure

Compare surveys on randomly selected, fixed transects among protection zones over time

**Achievement of outcome:** Determine whether the creation of the TER has significantly improved fish size, abundance, and diversity

#### Adaptive Management & Research Refinement

