



South Berry Island Marine Reserve

Identification

Country The Bahamas

Marine ecoregion Bahamian

Boundaries

Between latitudes 25,347361 to 25,445507 and longitudes -77,697853 to -77,913453

Total area 1.86km²

Shoreline length 15.3km

Biophysical features

Geological features

Beaches, keys, marsh, submarine canyon

Terrestrial flora and fauna species

112 species of terrestrial plants; 5 species of land crabs, 3 species of seashore snails, 35 species of birds, 2 species of amphibians, 4 species of reptiles and 8 species of insects

Marine habitats

Coral reefs (low and high profile patch reefs), hardbottom, sand flats, mangroves, seagrass, shoals

Marine flora

Thirteen species of marine algae and 2 species of sea grass.

Marine invertebrates and fishes

Ninety species of fish (incl. parrotfish, snappers, grunts, groupers, cleaning gobies); 3 species of mollusks (incl. queen conch); 3 species of crustaceans (incl. spiny lobster); 14 species of cnidarians.

Marine turtles

Green and loggerhead

Endangered species

Graysby (stable), coney (decreasing), Nassau grouper (decreasing), green turtle (endangered), loggerhead turtle (endangered)

Management

Primary management institution

Department of Marine Resources

Other institutions that participate in management

Enforcing regulations: Royal Bahamas Defence & Police Force, Customs; Department



Implementing programs: National Implementation Support Programme (NISP); The Bahamas National Trust, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Bahamas Environment, Science and Technology (BEST) Commission.

Management objectives

Species and ecosystem protection, fisheries management.

Date of establishment of management framework 2009

Management programmes

Advisory committee

Funding sources

Government of The Bahamas, Bahamas Protected Areas Fund

Fisheries resources

Fish, queen conch and spiny lobster (refer to REEF database for additional info)

Fisheries regulations

Regulations on seasonal closures, size limits, gear, etc. for specific species: queen conch; spiny lobster, Nassau grouper, other groupers, bonefish, stone crab, sea turtles. Chapter 244, Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction and Conservation)

Coastal development

Construction allowed, most cays are privately owned

Issues or threats for accomplishing management objectives

Invasive species, illegal fishing, tourism-related activities (boating, sportsfishing, recreational diving, etc.), land ownership and development, insufficient resources.

Role of site in network

Site is a part of a Network of Marine Reserves managed by the Dept. of Marine Resources, The Bahamas National Protected Area System and the Caribbean Challenge (regional)

Legal framework

Year established 2008

Legal citation

Chapter 244; Fisheries Resources (Jurisdiction & Conservation), Section 13: Power to declare protected areas

Website http://laws.bahamas.gov.bs/statutes/statute_CHAPTER_244.html#Ch244s13

Primary responsible institution

Department of Marine Resources

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General information

The South Berry Islands Marine Reserve possesses one of the most important reef building coral found in the Caribbean (elkhorn coral), accompanied by 14 species of Cnidarians, 90 species of fish, 3 species of crustaceans including spiny lobster, 3 species of mollusks including the queen conch, one species of echinoderm, one species of annelid and one species of tunicate. The extensive shallow reef system steeply slopes to a deep reef system extending to a deep oceanic trench known as the Tongue of the Ocean. Two types of seagrass have also been documented within the reserve boundaries in addition to extensive mangrove creek systems and sand flats for bone-fishing. Areas within the site have been identified as a nursery for queen conch.