Title: Establish and implement a Marine Protected Area zoning framework for areas of special interest within the Our Florida Reefs region to enable sustainable use, reduce user conflict, and improve coral reef ecosystem conditions. Tools that could be used to improve coral reef habitat may include no-take reserves, no anchor areas, restoration areas, and seasonal protection for spawning aggregations.

Objective: The intended outcome of this action is to create a zoning framework that encourages ecosystem productivity, to improve ecosystem function and reduced extractive uses, conserve existing habitat and surrounding habitat.

Background: This recommended management action is being put forth because there are user conflicts, unsustainable uses of the resource, direct impacts to reefs from ships, boats, debris, anchors, disruptions to spawning aggregations, and the continued documentation of degradation to the reef ecosystem, and altered reef community structure, including a general lack of recreationally and commercially important reef fish. Different areas within the OFR region of interest will benefit from different management actions.

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Title: Create and fund one SEFCRI-wide mooring buoy program as a more coordinated and cost effective way of protecting reefs from anchor damage.

Objective: The intended outcome of this action is to create a single mooring buoy authority for the Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach, and Martin counties with lower costs. Benefits with implementation of this recommended management action include lower installation and maintenance cost per buoy with better buoy planning, which will further reduce anchor damage.

Background: This recommended management action is being put forth because of the current, high costs associated with maintain existing buoys.

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