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**National Park Service and  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Joint Statement on Biscayne National Park's General Management Plan  
September 21, 2012**

Representatives from the State of Florida and the National Park Service met to continue consulting on Biscayne National Park's General Management Plan several times from July through September. Both agencies made progress to resolve differences and develop joint solutions. Discussions focused on the long term goals the park is trying to accomplish, as well as an analysis of possible management strategies for the proposed Marine Reserve Zone. Both the State and the NPS agree on the importance of achieving these goals to help restore and preserve a portion of the park's coral reef while continuing to offer unparalleled recreational opportunities to Florida's residents and visitors.

The State and the NPS are jointly examining a wide range of management strategies that could possibly achieve these goals. These options include varying degrees of access for the diversity of visitor experiences, including snorkeling, boating, wildlife viewing, and fishing. The NPS is committed to additional public involvement should any of these management strategies differ substantively from what was released to the public in 2011. FWC and NPS are dedicated to moving forward with this process in a timely and collaborative manner.

For further information, please contact: Mark Lewis, Superintendent Biscayne National Park at (305) 230-1144; or Amanda Nalley, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 850-410-4943