



September 27, 2019

Chairman Robert Spottswood  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
620 S. Meridian Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Chairman Spottswood:

On behalf of America's millions of recreational anglers and boaters, along with the fishing tackle and boat manufacturing industries, we write to you in strong support of the science plan proposed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) to achieve the management goals of Biscayne National Park (Park). We urge the Commission to proceed with its approval without delay to encourage fishery improvements within the Park boundaries as quickly as possible.

Our organizations have long been engaged in the development of regulations for the Park, having been involved in the development of the General Management Plan (GMP), which was finalized in 2015. We were discouraged that the final GMP recommended an extensive marine reserve that prohibited boating and angling access without first considering other, less restrictive options that could also increase size and abundance of fish stocks within the Park.

We have greatly appreciated the efforts of your agency to address the Park's needs through solutions that avoid large-scale closures within such an economically and ecologically important area. We applaud FWC and the Park for the development of the groundbreaking science-based proposal that is currently under consideration. FWC is renowned as a leader in fisheries management, and this innovative plan, based on sound scientific principles, continues that legacy.

As such, we request that the agency proceed without delay in approving the proposed science plan that includes Park-specific bag and size limits for important fish species and that the Park give the plan sufficient time for evaluation of its effectiveness once implemented before considering any other management alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and for all you do to ensure that Florida remains the "Fishing and Boating Capital of the World."

Sincerely,

Glenn Hughes, President  
American Sportfishing Association

Chris Edmonston, VP Government Affairs  
BoatU.S.

Jeff Angers, President  
Center for Sportfishing Policy

Patrick Murray, President  
Coastal Conservation Association

Jeff Crane, President  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Guy Harvey, Chairman  
Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation

Nehl Horton, President  
International Game Fish Association

Thom Dammrich, President  
National Marine Manufacturers Association