

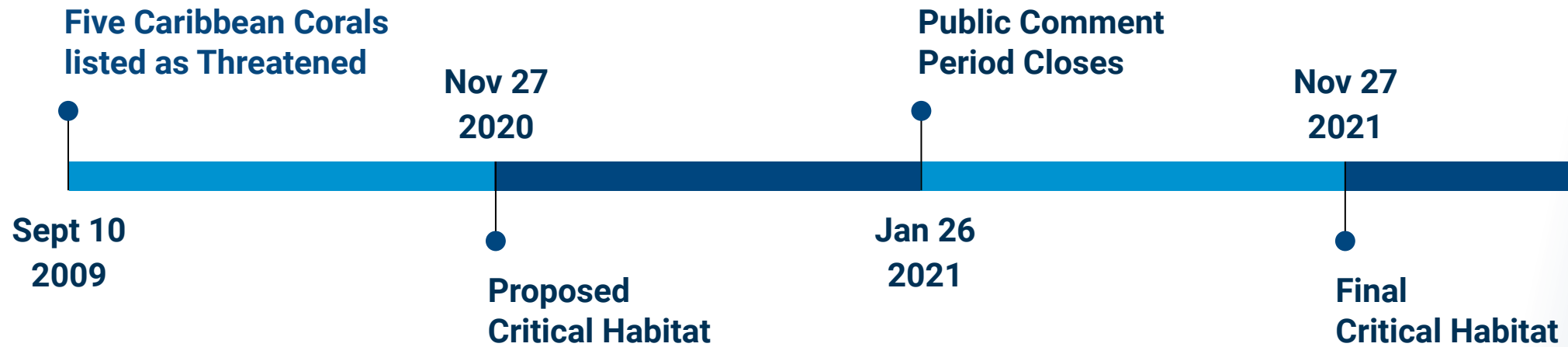


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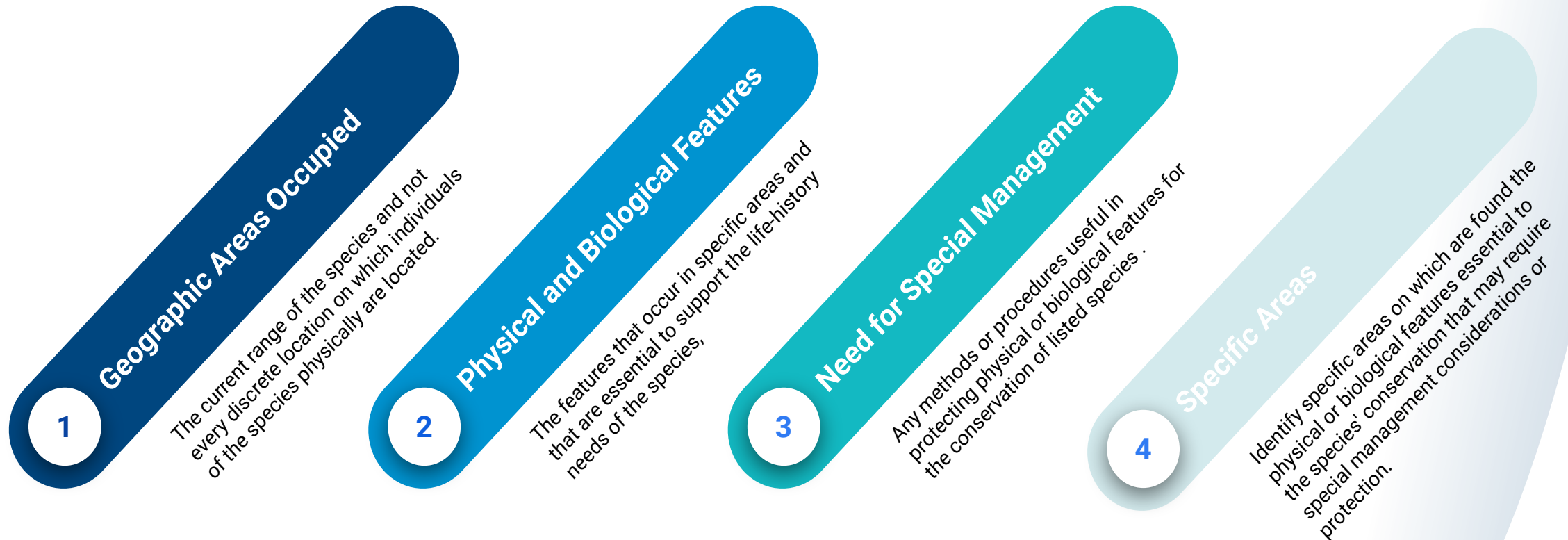
Southeast
Regional Office

Proposed Critical Habitat for 5 Caribbean Corals

Timeline

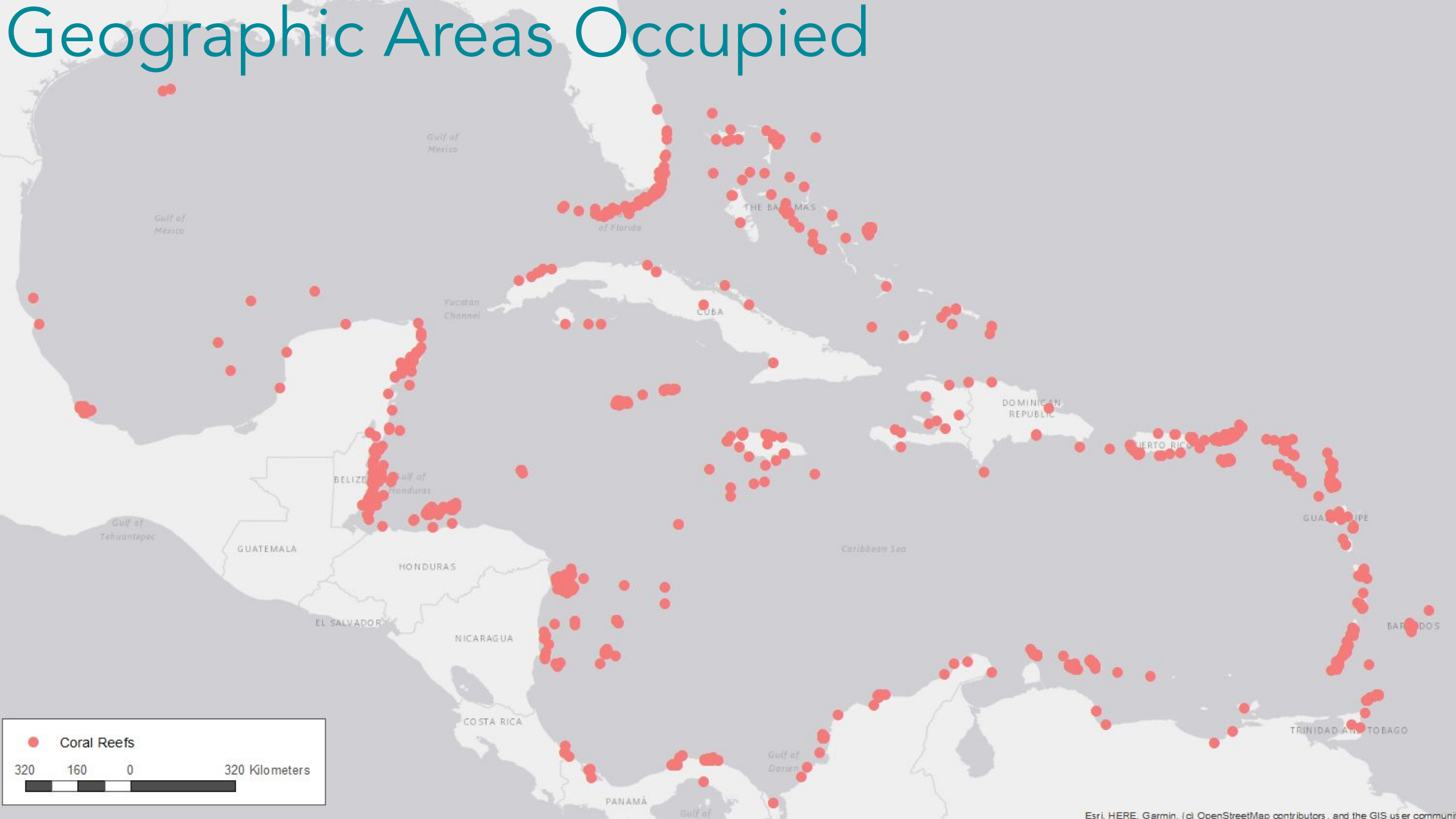


Stepwise Approach



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Geographic Areas Occupied



Physical and Biological Features

Reproductive, recruitment, growth, and maturation habitat. Sites that support the normal function of all life stages of the corals are natural, consolidated **hard substrate** or dead coral skeleton free of algae and sediment at the appropriate scale at the point of larval settlement or fragment reattachment, and the associated **water column**. Several attributes of these sites determine the quality of the area and influence the value of the associated feature to the conservation of the species:

- (1) **Substrate** with presence of crevices and holes that provide cryptic habitat, the presence of microbial biofilms, or presence of crustose coralline algae;
- (2) Reefscape (all the visible features of an area of reef) with no more than a thin veneer of **sediment** and low occupancy by fleshy and turf **macroalgae**;
- (3) Marine water with levels of **temperature, aragonite saturation, nutrients, and water clarity** that have been observed to support any demographic function; and
- (4) Marine water with levels of anthropogenically-introduced (from humans) chemical **contaminants** that do not preclude or inhibit any demographic function.



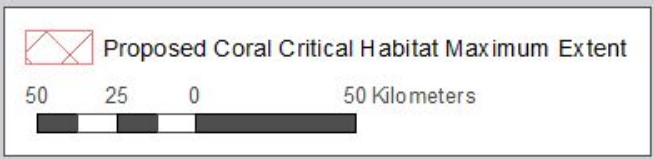
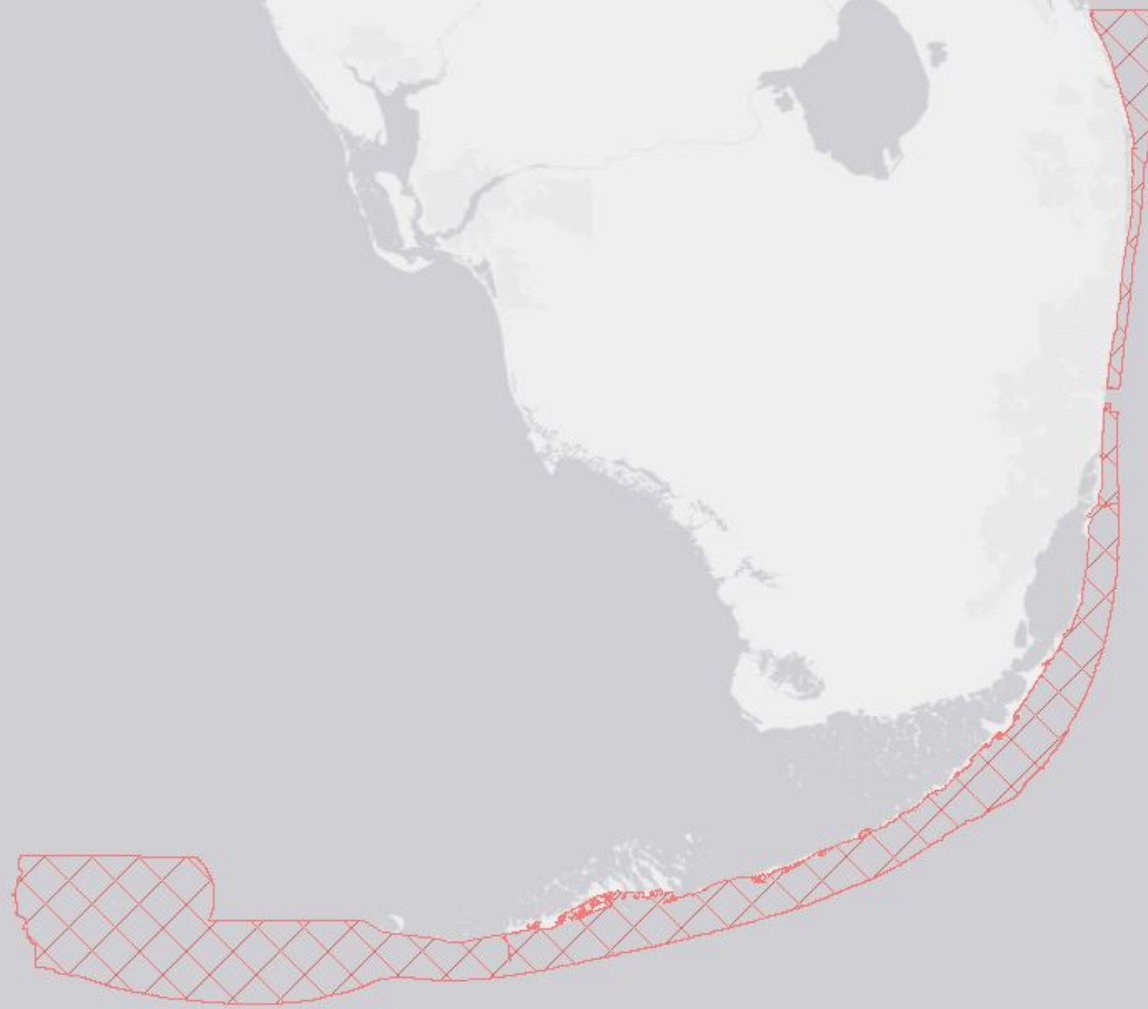
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Specific Areas

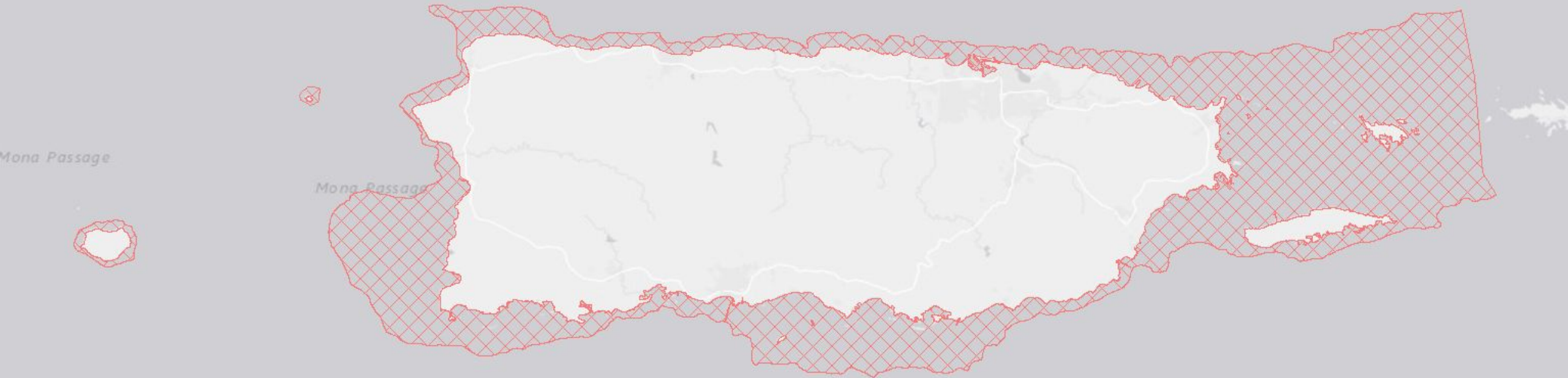
Latin Name	Common Name	Depth Distribution	U.S. Geographic Distribution
<i>Dendrogyra cylindrus</i>	Pillar coral	1 to 25 m	Southeast Florida from Lake Worth Inlet in Palm Beach County to the Dry Tortugas; Puerto Rico; USVI; Navassa Island
<i>Orbicella annularis</i>	Lobed star coral	0.5 to 20 m	Southeast Florida from Lake Worth Inlet in Palm Beach County to the Dry Tortugas; FGB; Puerto Rico; USVI; Navassa Island
<i>Orbicella faveolata</i>	Mountainous star coral	0.5 to 90 m	Southeast Florida from St. Lucie Inlet in Martin County to the Dry Tortugas; FGB; Puerto Rico; USVI; Navassa Island
<i>Orbicella franksi</i>	Boulder star coral	5 to 90 m	Southeast Florida from Lake Worth Inlet in Palm Beach County to the Dry Tortugas; FGB; Puerto Rico; USVI; Navassa Island
<i>Mycetophyllia ferox</i>	Rough cactus coral	5 to 90 m	Southeast Florida from Broward County to the Dry Tortugas; Puerto Rico; USVI; Navassa Island



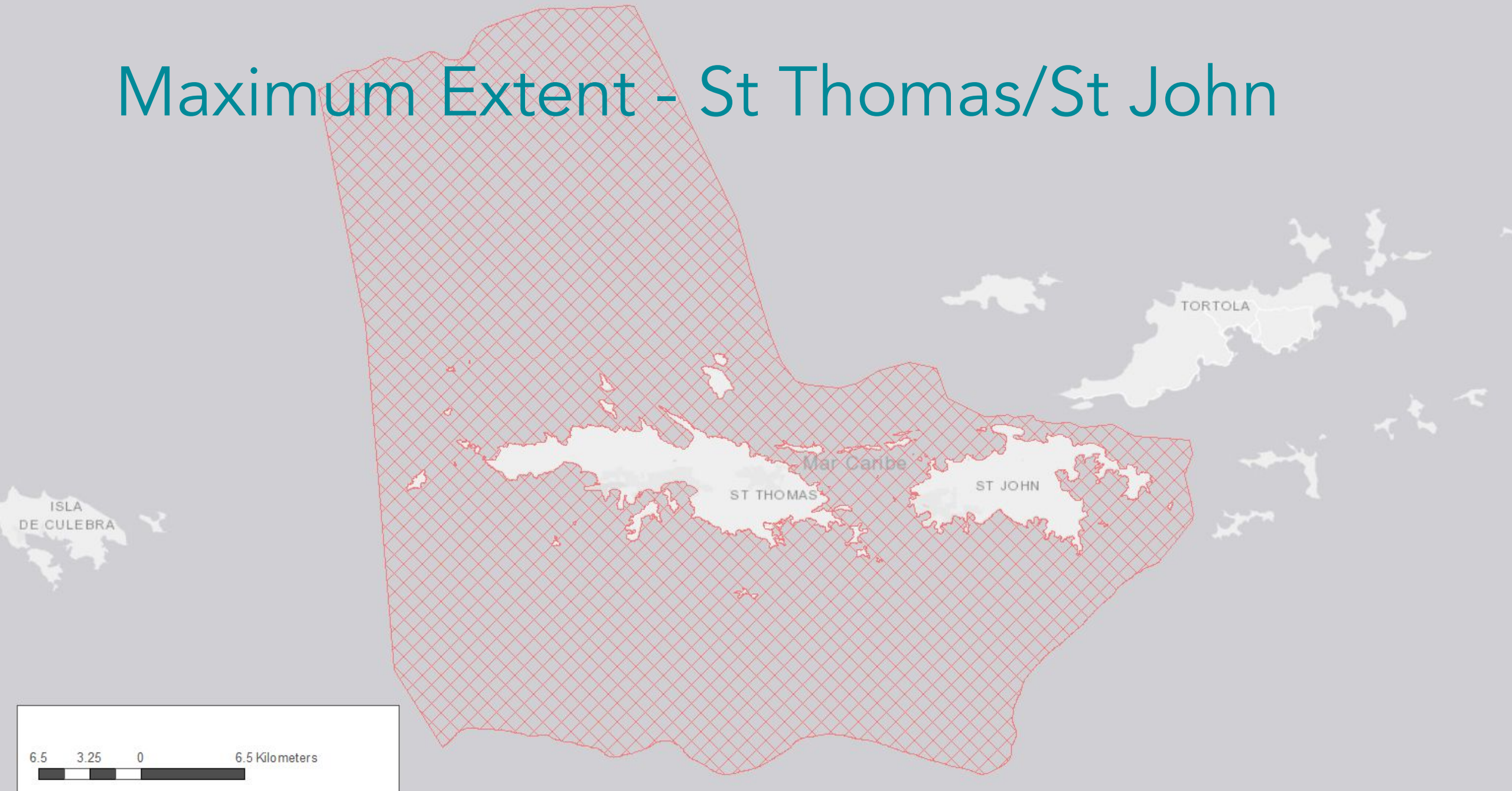
Maximum Extent - Florida



Maximum Extent - Puerto Rico



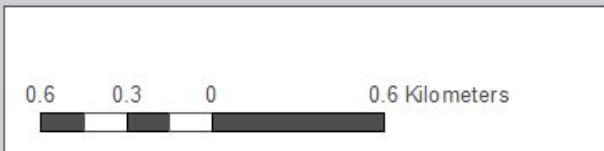
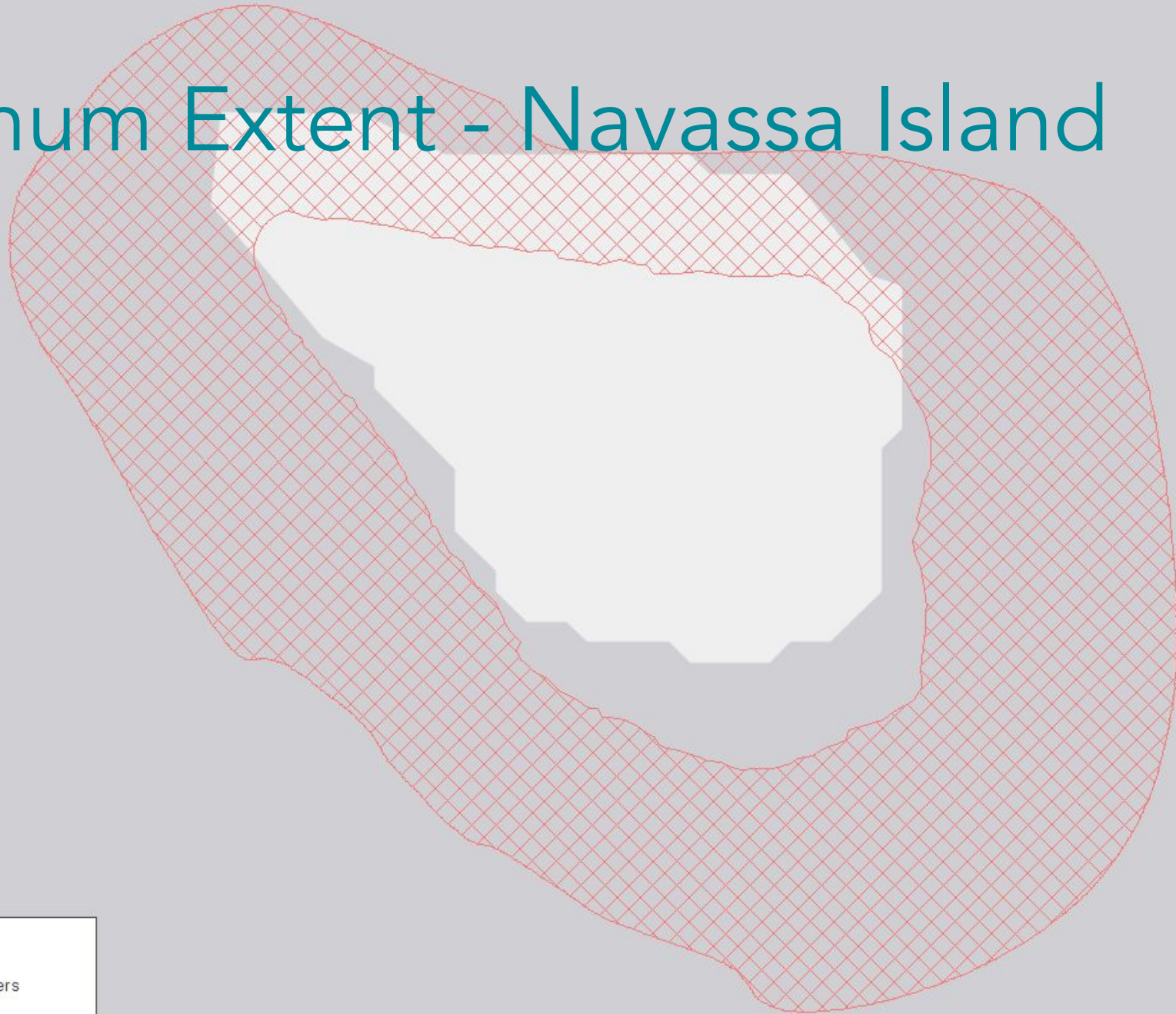
Maximum Extent - St Thomas/St John



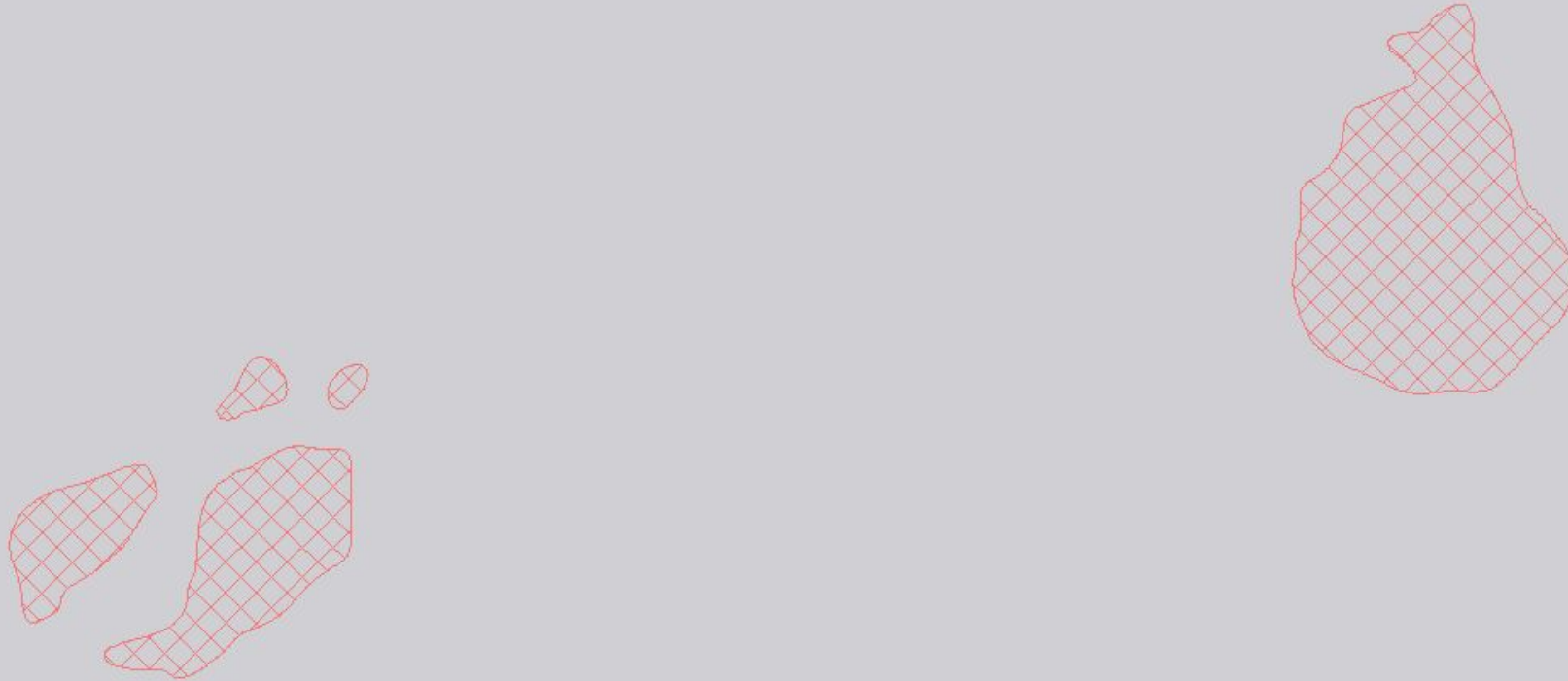
Maximum Extent - St Croix



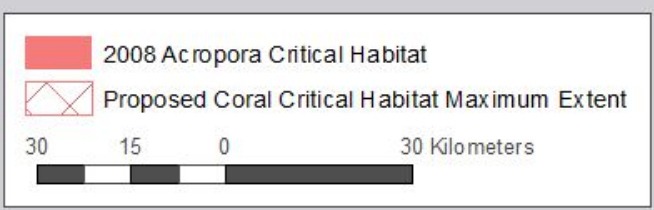
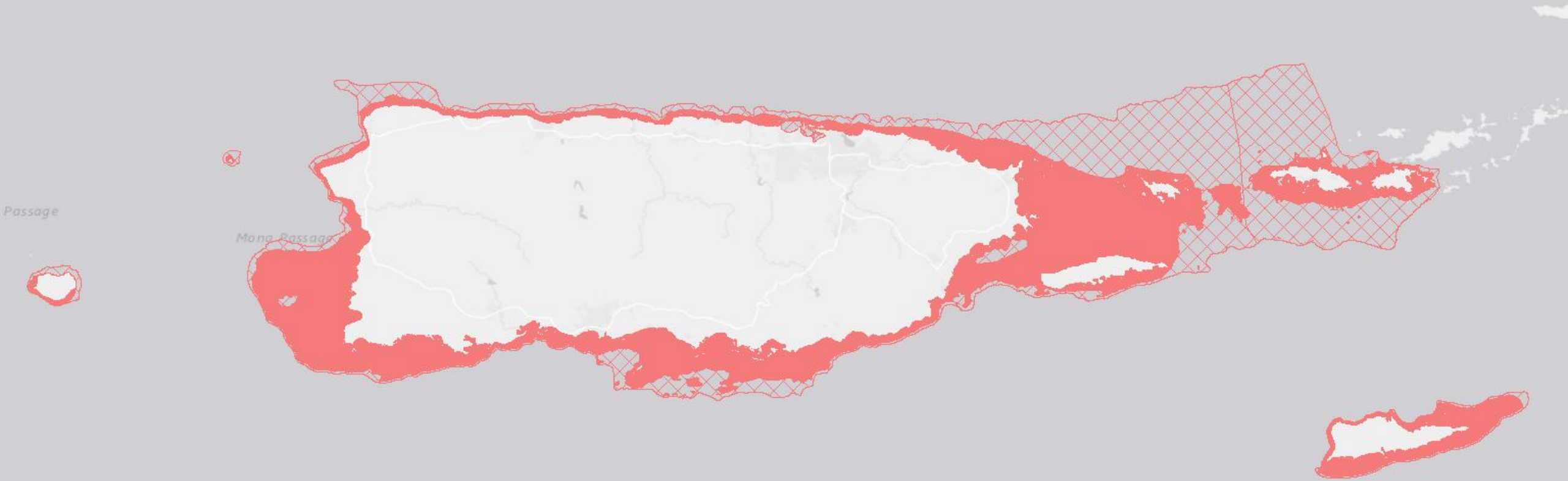
Maximum Extent - Navassa Island



Maximum Extent - Flower Garden Banks



Proposed CH vs. Acropora CH



What's Not Critical Habitat?

Essential Feature not present

Naval Air Station Key West

Managed Areas (e.g., dredged navigation channels, shipping basins, vessel berths, and active anchorages)

Artificial Substrates (e.g., AToNs, seawalls, wharves, boat ramps, fishpond walls, pipes, submarine cables, wrecks, mooring balls, docks, and aquaculture cages).

South Florida Ocean Measuring Facility



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Activities that May Affect the Proposed CH

Coastal and in-water construction

Channel dredging

Beach nourishment/shoreline protection

Water quality management

~~Protected area management~~

~~Fishery management~~

~~Aquaculture~~

Military activities



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Public Comment

www.regulations.gov

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