

Habitats near KML

Natural Reefs:

11' Mound

Depth: 10-15ft

Location: west of Long Key, 8 miles by boat from KML

Description: patch reef, outer edge of Hawk's Channel, good coral and fish diversity

3 Peaks

Depth: 60-80ft

Location: east of Tennessee Reef Light, 8 miles by boat from KML

Description: reef edge, 3 pinnacles along a ledge

Coral Gardens

Depth: 10-15ft

Location: east of Long Key, 6 miles by boat from KML

Description: near-shore patch reef with boulder, brain. and star corals with good fish diversity

Delta Shoal

Depth: 15-20ft

Location: 1 mile east of Sombrero Reef, west of Long Key, ~20 miles from KML by boat

Description: medium relief, separated spur and groove with nice fish diversity and invertebrates

East Turtle Shoals

Depth: 10-20ft

Location: west of Long Key, 9 miles by boat from KML, outer Hawk's Channel west on Tennessee Reef Light

Description: patch reefs with good coral and fish diversity

Tennessee Ledge

Depth: 30-50ft

Location: west of Tennessee Reef Light, 6 miles south of Long Key

Description: Habitat: low relief, slow sloping ledge with high fish diversity

Tennessee Reef

Depth: 70-90ft

Location: east of Tennessee Reef Light, 10 miles by boat from KML

Description: reef edge with large barrel sponges and corals with several fish including large snapper and grouper

Artificial Reefs:

Long Key Bridge Rubble Piles

Depth: 20ft

Location: west of Long Key oceanside, 7 mile ride from KML

Description: concrete slabs and I-beams from Long Key Bridge placed in Hawk's Channel in the 1970's

Shipwrecks:

Adelaide Baker

Depth: 23ft

Location: west of Long Key, 4 miles south -southeast of Duck Key

Description: Historical shipwreck with remains of a three-masted iron-rigged and reinforced wooden hull bark ship

San Pedro

Depth: 15-20ft

Location: east of Long Key, near Indian Key, about 9 miles from KML by boat

Description: with ballast stones, plaque, and replica cannons

Hardbottom:

Big Sponge

Depth: 6-7ft

Location: off Long Key State Park oceanside

Description: huge loggerhead sponges, solution holes, octocoral, invertebrates, juvenile fish

Burnt Point

Depth: 5ft

Location: west of Long Key bayside, 12 miles by boat from KML

Description: octocorals, sponges, very diverse hardbottom

Burnt Point Ledge

Depth: 6-8ft

Location: west of Long Key bayside, 12 miles by boat from KML

Description: rocky ledge along a solution hole, nurse sharks, high fish diversity

Conch Key Wall

Depth: 5-7ft

Location: west of Long Key, along old bridge wall by trap yard

Description: rocky/rubble bottom, with intertidal zone, sponges, octocoral esp. *Eunicia* spp., sea cucumbers, *Echinometra*, and brittle stars

Craig Key

Depth: 4-6ft

Location: off Channel Five bridge flat, 4 miles by boat from KML

Description: octocorals, small sponges, solution holes, seagrass patches

Fiesta Key

Depth: 5-7ft

Location: ~2 miles east of KML on the bayside

Description: large sponge die-off in 2007 from an algae bloom has left area pretty barren

Indian Key

Depth: 5-7ft

Location: east of Long Key oceanside, 9 miles from KML by boat, southern shore of Indian Key State Park, which has a self-guided tour of the island settlement (usually 1/2 day on its own)

Description: hardbottom and intertidal area with eroded limestone karst rock, several *Echinometra*

Long Key

Depth: 5-8ft

Location: off of Long Key State Park oceanside, 5 miles by boat from KML

Description: sheltered hardbottom location when winds are out of the north

Point

Depth: 4-7ft

Location: 1 mile east of KML bayside

Description: octocorals, small sponges, invertebrates, batfish, toadfish, milk conch

Sanctuary Preservation Areas and Research Only Areas:

Alligator Reef

Depth: 10-25ft

Location: east of Long Key, 12 miles by boat from KML

Description: SPA with low-relief spur and groove, grassbeds nearby inside the reef

Cheeca Rocks

Depth: 10-20ft

Location: east of Long Key, 4 miles beyond Alligator Reef, 15 miles by boat from KML

Description: SPA, great near-shore patch reef with boulder and brain corals and several fish

Coffins Patch

Depth: 8-20ft

Location: west of Long Key, 4 miles beyond East Turtle Shoals, 13 miles from KML by boat

Description: SPA, very nice patch reef with great fish and coral diversity

Sombrero Reef

Depth: 10-25ft

Location: 20+ miles west of KML, about an hour boat trip each way

Description: SPA, spur and groove with abundant marine life, nice corals and great fish diversity

Tennessee Reef

Depth: 12-30ft

Location: 2 miles east of Tennessee Reef Light, 8 miles by boat from KML

Description: ROA, low-relief reef edge with nice fish diversity and corals including several *Acropora cervicornis* colonies (permit only)

Banks and Flats:

Craig Key Flats

Depth: 0-5ft

Location: inshore of Craig Key hardbottom toward Channel Five Bridge, 4 miles by boat from KML

Description: flats with *Halimeda*, scattered grassbeds, *Porites diveracata*, bivalves, and invertebrates (echinoderms, urchins, sea stars)

Long Key Bight

Depth: 0-4ft

Location: oceanside of Channel Five bridge, 4 miles from KML by boat

Description: flats with scattered grassbeds with *Halimeda*, invertebrates (echinoderms, urchins, sea stars), bivalves, nurse sharks, bonnetheads, and rays

Old Dan Bank

Depth: 0-4ft

Location: 1 mile north of KML bayside

Description: *Halimeda*, *Porites diveracata*, invertebrates (echinoderms, urchins, sea stars), bivalves, strong tidal currents

Old Sweat Bank

Depth: 0-4ft

Location: 3.5 miles west KML bayside, near Long Key Viaduct

Description: *Halimeda*, *Porites diveracata*, invertebrates (echinoderms, urchins, sea stars), bivalves, strong tidal currents

Seagrass Beds:

Fiesta Key

Depth: 5-7ft

Location: ~2 miles from KML on the bayside

Description: grassbeds where there used to be hardbottom areas

Long Key

Depth: 8-15ft

Location: off of Long Key State Park oceanside, 6 miles from KML by boat

Description: grassbeds with sea biscuits commonly found

Tennessee Reef

Depth: 15-20ft

Location: north of Tennessee Reef Light, 8 miles by boat from KML

Description: deeper grassbeds in the middle of sand flats

Mangroves:

Koch Key

Depth: 1-5ft

Location: east of Long Key bayside, 8 miles by boat from KML, near Pederson Keys

Description: mangrove island surrounded by grassbeds, seahorses and Goliath Groupers have been spotted here

Zane Grey Creek

Depth: 3-10ft

Location: just south of KML, enter through Long Key Bight or with permission from Goshen College at their dock, a dive flag and extreme caution must be used at this site due to high boat traffic in canals

Description: mangrove canals with several species of fish, algae, and seagrasses